

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2002

SUBJECT: PATHS FOR ALL NETWORKS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

<p>Abstract: This report updates members on progress made to date in relation to path networks and proposes a way forward.</p>

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee –

1. notes progress with the Forfar and Arbroath path networks;
2. agree to consult on development of a third network around Brechin;
3. agree to meet design costs for Phase 2 of the Arbroath path network from the Planning and Transport Department's Capital Programme for 2002/2003, to a maximum of £3,000.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Committee at their meeting on 24 January 2002 noted progress with the Forfar and Arbroath path networks and authorised the Director of Roads to let a contract for Phase 1 of the Arbroath network.

3 FORFAR PATH NETWORK

- 3.1 The contract for Phase 2 of the Forfar Path Network is now nearing completion. A contract has now been let for signposting the network and is expected to be completed this summer.
- 3.2 A number of paths originally planned for inclusion in the network have been omitted at this stage as it has not been possible to conclude access agreements with landowners. Details of outstanding agreements will be reviewed following implementation of the Land Reform Act with a view towards their inclusion at a later date. Appendix 1 shows the paths included in the network and those excluded at this stage. The complete network at this stage, inclusive of roadside footways and minor roads is shown as Appendix 2.

4 ARBROATH PATH NETWORK

- 4.1 Phase 1 of the network is now nearing completion. A number of key routes around the periphery of the town have been upgraded and made more accessible. These are shown as Appendix 3.

- 4.2 Following consultation with the public, plans for a second phase of the network are being produced in consultation with the affected landowners. These plans will be presented to the public through a future area forum and at a separate workshop session. The finalised proposals, together with details of a funding package will be the subject of a future report.

5 A THIRD PATH NETWORK

- 5.1 It is proposed that the third path network in Angus should be developed around Brechin. There are currently proposals for path improvements in Brechin through the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund and as a result of discussions with the Caledonian Railway. There is potential to build on these projects creating links into the wider countryside.
- 5.2 In both Forfar and Arbroath the consultation and negotiation process has taken some considerable time. It is therefore recommended that this process should be started this summer in Brechin with a view towards implementing the network during the financial year 2003/2004. Proposals for the network will be the subject to a future report.
- 5.3 A rolling programme for implementing networks in the remaining burghs will be produced in due course. This will be the subject of a further Committee report.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Some initial in-house design work is required before a firm proposal for Phase 2 of the Arbroath path network can be progressed. Design fees will be limited to £3,000 and can be met from the Planning and Transport Department's Capital Programme for 2002/2003 – Paths for All Initiative. The cost of the initial work in respect of the Brechin network is not expected to be significant and will in any event be contained within the Planning and Transport revenue budget for 2002/03.
- 6.2 This report does not commit Angus Council to implement the results of any work on the networks. Details of costs and funding for Phase 2 of the Arbroath network and the proposals in respect of the Brechin network will be the subject of further reports to the Committee.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration, Director of Leisure Services and Director of Roads have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The creation of Path Networks has potential human rights implications in terms of Article 1 of the First Protocol (Protection of Property) and Article 8 (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life) of the Human Right Act 1998. Given the proposed use of Access Agreements and the wider public benefits, including enhancement of the rights and freedoms of others to enjoy the countryside and outdoor recreation, it is not considered that the Council would be infringing these Articles as A result of this report. In any event, the proposed actions are legitimate as they are within the

Council's powers (in particular Sections 2 and 3 of the Local Government (Development and Finance) (Scotland) Act 1963 and Section 30 of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967) and proportionate.

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/PC/IAL
5 June 2002

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport