

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

26 AUGUST 1999

SUBJECT: ANGUS PATHS FOR ALL NETWORKS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Abstract: This report updates members on progress in respect of the Paths for All Feasibility Studies (Stage 1 and Stage 2).

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) agrees to the Paths for All Partnership letting a survey/specification contract to cover part of Forfar at no cost to Angus Council;
- (b) contribute up to 50% towards the cost of undertaking three further public meetings as part of the Stage 2 (six Burghs) contracts, to be met from the Planning & Transport Department's Capital Programme, 1999/2000.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Planning & Transport Committee of 8 June 1999 agreed the principle of establishing a paths network around Forfar broadly in accordance with the study carried out by Halcrow Fox. The Committee also asked the Director of Planning & Transport to report back regarding funding available from the Paths for All Partnership to implement part of the Forfar Path Network prior to October 1999 (Report No. 576/99 refers).

3 STAGE 1 (FORFAR)

- 3.1 The Stage 1 (Forfar) Feasibility Study carried out by Halcrow Fox earlier this year, identified a potential network around Forfar. This network has been assessed and it is considered to be broadly appropriate. To take forward the implementation of the network, it will be necessary to undertake a more detailed survey of the routes and prepare a detailed specification of works. This may in turn suggest or dictate changes to the network. As Forfar is regarded by the Paths for All Partnership as a pilot project, the Partnership have offered to fully fund and let a contract for a survey/specification study for the areas around Forfar considered to have greatest potential, i.e. Balmashanner Hill area with links to both Forfar Loch and Restenneth Priory. It is anticipated that this contract would be completed by end September 1999.
- 3.2 As reported to the 8 June 1999 Committee, the Paths for All Partnership have finance available to implement network proposals. The deadline for implementation has been revised to end January 2000. It is therefore proposed that a package of proposals and associated funding be reported to Committee following the completion of the survey/specification contract, the cost of which will be met by the Paths for All

Partnership. Thereafter it is anticipated that works could be implemented prior to end January 2000, subject to Committee approval.

4 STAGE 2 (SIX BURGHS)

- 4.1 The contract to undertake a Feasibility Study for the remaining six Burghs has been let and it is anticipated that the results will be reported to the 26 November 1999 Committee. Members will recall that this study is funded 50% by both Scottish Natural Heritage and Angus Environmental Trust. Angus Council's contribution takes the form of in-kind project management.
- 4.2 The tender submitted by Halcrow Fox allows for three public meetings between the six Burghs. Experience gained by the pilot study in Forfar indicates that it is highly desirable that one public meeting be held in each Burgh. This would add £1,695 plus VAT and expenses to the contract. Should Angus Council prefer the six meetings option, it is likely that Scottish Natural Heritage would meet 50% of the cost, leaving the balance to be met by the Council.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In order that public meetings may take place in all six Burghs as part of the Stage 2 (six Burghs) contract, it is recommended that Angus Council contribute up to 50% of the additional expense from the Planning & Transport Department's Capital Programme for 1999/2000.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the studies could lead to a rolling programme of works. Partnership funding for these works has not yet been secured but will be sought and reported to Committee for consideration in due course. The scale of the eventual programme will be determined by the level of partnership and revenue funding able to be secured. Should funding be available and the Council agree to implement the works, it is likely to be programmed over a number of years but even if finance is not initially available, the survey information will remain valid and useful for a considerable period of time, perhaps until funds are made available.

6 CONSULTATION

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

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/SJR/KW
20 August 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport