

## ANGUS COUNCIL

RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE  
ROADS COMMITTEE

21 JANUARY 1999  
28 JANUARY 1999  
28 JANUARY 1999

### SUBJECT: PATHS FOR ALL NETWORKS - FEASIBILITY STUDY

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT IN CONSULTATION WITH  
DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF ROADS

**Abstract: This report seeks authority to appoint consultants to undertake a Feasibility Study to develop a Paths for All Network around Forfar.**

## 1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) agree to the principle of pursuing path networks around each of the seven Burghs and approve the consultant's brief;
- (b) authorise the Director of Planning & Transport in consultation with the Director of Recreation Services and Director of Roads to seek tenders for the two-stage study and to let the contract for Stage 1 (Forfar); and
- (c) asks the Director of Planning & Transport in consultation with the Director of Recreation Services and Director of Roads to report back to Committee, the results of Stage 1 (Forfar), together with details of the funding package for Stage 2.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In 1993 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) issued a public consultation paper titled "Enjoying the Outdoors" which invited comments and opinions from individuals and organisations throughout Scotland. This led in 1995 to the SNH policy document "Enjoying the Outdoors : A Programme for Action".
- 2.2 One of the principle outputs of the policy document was the formation of the Paths for All Partnership. Set up in 1996 the Partnership is a charitable company with a mission "to facilitate the creation of well designed, well managed and promoted networks of paths for walkers, horse riders and cyclists of all ages and abilities". The Paths for All Partnership is a part of SNH's Paths for All Initiatives.
- 2.3 The Paths for All Partnership have expressed interest in developing a pilot path network around Forfar.

### **3 PATHS FOR ALL NETWORKS : FEASIBILITY STUDY**

- 3.1 It is proposed that a consultant be appointed to undertake a feasibility study into the creation of a path network around Forfar. This network will be founded upon routes already in use and will commonly utilise existing public rights of way, tracks and "desire lines". A programme of works to create the network is expected to be recommended by the study. These are likely to include signposting; surface improvements; stiles and gates; and negotiations to secure routes to fill "gaps" in the network.
- 3.2 The consultant would also make contact with landowners and undertake consultations with local community and user groups to identify both the existing pattern of usage and inadequacies in the path network.
- 3.3 Subject to the satisfactory completion of Stage 1 (Forfar) and confirmation of partnership funding, Stage 2 (covering the remaining six Burghs) of the feasibility study would thereafter be undertaken.
- 3.4 Copy of the draft consultant's brief is appended to this report.

### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It is estimated that the cost of Stage 1 (Forfar) of the feasibility study will be in the region of £5,000 - £6,000. The Path for All Partnership have advised that they are prepared to contribute up to £5,000 towards Stage 1 (Forfar). Angus Environmental Trust (AET) have indicated that they are prepared to make up any shortfall. Angus Council's contribution will be 'in-kind' project management and assistance to the appointed consultants.
- 4.2 It is estimated that the cost of Stage 2 (six Burghs) of the feasibility study will be in the region of £20,000. AET have agreed to fund 50% of this sum up to a maximum of £10,000. An application to SNH will be made for the remaining £10,000. Again, it is anticipated that the Angus Council contribution will be 'in-kind' project management and assistance to the appointed consultants.
- 4.3 It should however be noted that the feasibility studies are likely to lead to a rolling programme of footpath improvement and creation works. It is anticipated that these works may form part of an omnibus application from the Paths for All Partnership to the New Opportunities Fund (Healthy Living Centres). Again, partnership funding would be sought for such a programme of works which would be the subject of a further report to Committees. It is also expected that there will be on-going maintenance costs which will have revenue implications. These will also be the subject of a further report to Committee.

### **5 CONSULTATION**

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

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The undertaking of a feasibility study is a necessary pre-requisite to both secure funding for implementation and ensuring that efforts are best directed towards the needs of local communities.
- 6.2 Furthermore, Paths for All Networks will build upon those already being developed as part of the Angus Millennium Forest. In addition, it is likely to be an important element of the Angus Access and Recreation Strategy and the Physical Activity Action Plan, part of Angus Health for All, both which are under preparation.

## 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  
12 January 1999

Alex Anderson  
Director of Planning and Transport

## APPENDIX

**PATHS FOR ALL NETWORKS - FEASIBILITY STUDY****CONSULTANT'S BRIEF****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Consultants are invited to tender for the task of producing a feasibility report for the development of a "Paths for All" network around each of the seven Burghs of Angus (Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Kirriemuir, Monifieth and Montrose). The task will be let as two contracts:-

Stage 1 Forfar only (partnership funding already secured); and

Stage 2 The remaining six Angus Burghs (to be let subject to satisfactory completion of Stage 1 and confirmation of partnership funding).

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Angus Council is in discussion with the Paths for All Partnership; Scottish Natural Heritage; Angus Environmental Trust and Angus Health for All, with a view to establishing path networks around each of the seven Burghs of Angus.
- 2.2 Angus Council is currently preparing an Access and Recreation Strategy. It is expected that the results of this Study will form a key component of the Strategy.
- 2.3 In addition Angus Council is currently implementing the Angus Millennium Forest. This is a network of community woodland within and adjacent to the seven Burghs of Angus. Footpath networks within the Millennium Forest will be integrated into networks recommended by this study.

**3. GENERAL GUIDANCE AND KEY TASKS**

- 3.1 The object is to create path networks in the vicinity of each Burgh with a strong emphasis on interlinking circular routes but also indicating links to the wider countryside. It is expected that these networks will be based upon existing routes upgraded as necessary, with new routes included to complete networks. Similarly it is expected that the path networks will utilise a combination of existing public rights of way and routes where access would need to be secured.
- 3.2 The consultants must take into account the demand from all user groups of the potential network, including walkers, horseriders and cyclists of all abilities, and within practical constraints, develop proposals accordingly.
- 3.3 An important aspect of the network will be to encourage as many members of the communities as possible to take part in regular exercise. To this end, effective signposting and way-marking will be necessary. In addition, each Burgh should contain routes suitable for use by people of all ages and abilities. Such routes would typically contain little gradient; surfaces which are easy to walk on; and have provision for resting along the way. These paths would be used for GP "Referral to Exercise" under the Angus Health for All, Physical Activity Action Plan.

3.4 Key tasks to be undertaken as part of the study are as follows:-

- (i) Map all existing public rights of way; public footpaths; tracks; and desire lines in the vicinity of each Burgh.
- (ii) Make initial contact with all landowners/managers to discuss the potential of using routes crossing their land and to establish whether they would be prepared to allow access (in principle) where no existing right of agreement is in place.
- (iii) Undertake consultations with local community and user groups to identify both the existing pattern of usage and inadequacies on the path network.
- (iv) Devise path networks around each Burgh.
- (v) The specification of surface treatment will vary dependent upon the level and type of anticipated usage and its proximity to urban areas. A specification for the treatment of surfaces.
- (vi) A detailed plan is required of all potential routes indicating work (including all physical and promotional) required, with a detailed cost (estimated) breakdown.
- (vii) A short description of each route indicating terrain, width and suitability for different user groups.
- (viii) Identify any particular features of interest related to routes which can be used in promotional and interpretative material.
- (ix) Guidance on the suitability and cost of upgrading the proposed network to make paths suitable for use by bicycles and horses.
- (x) An assessment of likely on going maintenance requirements of individual routes.

#### **4.0 TIMESCALE**

- 4.1 Tenders should be submitted to reach the address noted below no later than 15 February 1999. The final report for Stage 1 (Forfar) must be delivered by 19 April 1999.
- 4.2 Progress reports will be required at suitably staged intervals to report on and review progress. Tenders should propose these report stages within the overall timetable.
- 4.3 Stage 2 (six Burghs) will only be let following satisfactory completion of Stage 1 (Forfar) and confirmation of partnership funding. It is however anticipated that will be let during summer 1999.

#### **5.0 SUBMISSION OF TENDERS**

- 5.1 Tenders should set out clearly the approach and methodology proposed for the work and must identify by name the staff who will be carrying out the work and the

time resources allocated to the study by each.

- 5.2 The submission should include two separate tenders (one each for Stage 1 and Stage 2).

Three copies of the study proposal should be submitted in the labelled envelopes supplied to:-

Director of Law & Administration,  
Angus Council,  
St. James House,  
St. James Road,  
FORFAR.  
DD8 2ZP