1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

1. note the contents of this report;
2. agrees to an additional contribution of up to £25,000 towards the Arbroath Path Network, this expenditure to be met from the Planning & Transport Capital Plan for 2004/05.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Development of Paths for All networks is now progressing around four of the Angus burghs – Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin and Kirriemuir. The latter two are being developed as part of the Eastern Cairngorm Access Project (report No. 657/03 refers). Proposals for path networks around the remaining three burghs will be developed as part of the Council’s Core Path planning process (report 1013/04 refers). This report updates members on progress with the first two Paths for All networks, around Forfar and Arbroath.

3 FORFAR PATH NETWORK

3.1 Members were advised of progress with the Forfar Path Network at the Planning & Transport Committee on 28 November 2002 (report No. 1403/02 refers).

3.2 Since that time agreement has been forthcoming for one additional path. It is anticipated that this can be completed in the near future.

3.3 A leaflet to promote the leaflet was produced during spring 2003. Uptake of the leaflet at local outlets has been good, and supplies of the leaflet are now exhausted. It is proposed that a revised leaflet will be produced for spring 2005.

3.4 The Angus Environmental Trust have agreed to fully fund the cost of both the leaflet production and additional path works.

4 ARBROATH PATH NETWORK

4.1 Members were advised of progress with the Arbroath Path Network at the Planning & Transport Committee on 28 November 2002 and on 23 January 2003 (report Nos. 1403/02 and 99/03 refer).

4.2 Phase 1 and Phase 2 improvement works have been completed. Sign posting of the network and production of a map leaflet have been delayed awaiting the outcome of
ongoing landowner discussions. It is now expected that this work can be completed for spring 2005.

4.3 The need for a small amount of additional improvement work to the Phase 2 paths has been identified. It is proposed that this be completed during the current financial year.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cost of additional path works to the Forfar Path Network and of reprinting the map leaflet will be met by the Angus Environmental Trust.

5.2 The cost of additional path works to the Arbroath Path Network, plus signposting the network and producing a map leaflet is estimated to be £25,000. This can be met from the Planning & Transport Department’s 2004/05 capital budget for Paths for All.

5.3 The ongoing cost of maintaining the Forfar Path Network is being met by Leisure Services Department. The cost of maintaining parts of the Arbroath path Network which are not on land already managed by the Council is being met from the Planning & Transport Department’s Revenue Budget allocation for access to the countryside.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The creation of Path Networks has potential human rights implications in terms of Article 1 of the First Protocol (Protection of Property) and Article 9 (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life) of the Human Rights 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 rights as a result of this report. In any event, the proposed action is legitimate as it is 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.

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.

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/KW
4 October 2004

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport