

Agenda Item	<b>10</b>
Report No	<b>CIA/54/18</b>

## **HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** City of Inverness Area Committee

**Date:** 22 November 2018

**Report Title:** Inverness and Nairn Local Access Forum Appointments

**Report By:** Director of Development & Infrastructure

### **1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to detail the work of the Local Access Forum and for the committee members to approve the appointment of new forum members.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to consider the applications submitted to fill the access taker vacancy on the Local Access Forum and to approve the appointment of the preferred candidate.

### 3. Introduction

- 3.1 Local Access Forums were created in Highland in 2005 as a duty of the Council set out in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- 3.2 The Local Access Forum advises The Highland Council on countryside access issues and provides assistance in resolving disputes in relation to the exercise of access rights, the delineation & existence of public rights of way and the amendment of the Council core paths plan.
- 3.3 The membership of the Inverness and Nairn forum is made up of 10 members of the public and three Highland Councillors. Representation is balanced across a range of interested groups in each of the following categories.
- **Land managers** – estate owners, crofters, farmers, foresters (3 representatives)
  - **Community groups** – community councils, environmental groups, local path development groups (3 representatives)
  - **Access takers** – walkers, cyclists, horse riders, canoeists (3 representatives)
  - **Disability access panel** – one representative.
- 3.4 Local access forums in Highland operate across the following geographical areas.
- Caithness
  - Sutherland
  - Ross and Cromarty
  - Skye and Lochalsh
  - Lochaber (including southern parts of Badenoch and Strathspey)
  - Inverness and Nairn (including northern parts of Badenoch and Strathspey)
- 3.5 The Council appoints members to the forum and this power is delegated to the area committees.
- 3.6 The forums meet twice a year but can meet more frequently should demand arise for the forums' feedback. Members of the Forum are entitled to claim travel and approved out of pocket expenses from the Access budget in the Development and Infrastructure Service.

### 4. Existing forum membership and new applicants

- 4.1 Existing members of the local access forum were asked if they wished to continue their membership of the forum for a further 5 year term. These members are detailed in **Table 1** below.
- 4.2 A press release and public notice was advertised in May 2018 for new members to fill the vacant places, again for a five year term and the applications received are summarised in **Table 2** below.
- 4.3 The Forum has 4 vacant positions; one each for a land manager, community group, access taker and disability access panel representative. 4 applications were received for the access taker role. Copies of these application forms are in **Appendix 1**.

For the remaining or subsequent vacancies on the Forum within the 5 year term Council officers will seek to invite suitable persons, agreed by the Forum members, to sit on the

forum. Such applications will come to the area committee for approval.

## 5. Implications

- 5.1 Resource – funding from within existing resources to cover meeting rooms, site visits, hospitality and travelling expenses.
- 5.2 Legal - none
- 5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - Membership of the forum is open to all those who qualify for one of the three membership categories.
- 5.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever - Forum members are encouraged to share transport to meetings and when site meetings are necessary an appropriate vehicle is hired to transport all Forum members to the site.
- 5.5 Risk – None
- 5.6 Gaelic - None

Designation: Director of Development & Infrastructure

Date: 16 October 2018

Author: Stewart Eastaugh, Access Officer

### Table 1

Existing members of the Local Access Forum

Name	Representative Group	Comments
Candy Cameron	Land manager	
Elizabeth Walsh	Land manager	Scottish Land and Estates
Hugh [Hamish] McBean	Community	
Tommy Hogg	Community	Nairn River Community Council
Harry Lakeland	Access taker	Ramblers
Iain Pocock	Access taker	
Liz MacDonald	Highland Councillor	
Andrew Jarvie	Highland Councillor	
Elizabeth McAllister	Highland Councillor	

### Table 2

Applications to the Local Access Forum

Name	Representative Group	Comments
Graham Tuley	Access taker	Scotways
Eve MacDonald	Access taker	
Bob Hemingway	Access taker	
Peter Evans	Access taker	Mountaineering Scotland