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## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

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- Paper Title:** Format of CLOAF 2018 and beyond
- Prepared by:** Pete Crane, Head of Visitor Services
- Purpose:** To seek the views of members over proposals to change the format of CLOAF administration and meetings to ensure ongoing effectiveness.

### Advice Sought

Feedback on our proposals to amend the working practice of the CLOAF Advisory Forum

### Background

1. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 is 15 years old this year and under the Act CNPA, as the access authority, has four duties:-
  - i. **Establish a Local Access Forum**
  - ii. Publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
  - iii. Uphold Access Rights
  - iv. Draw up a Core Paths Plan
2. The Act says that the role of the Forum is to advise the Park Authority, and any other body or person consulting the forum, on the following matters;
  - a. The exercise of access rights
  - b. The existence and delineation of rights of way
  - c. The drawing up and adoption of a Core Paths Plan
3. The Forum can also offer to give assistance in the resolution of disputes concerning the matters above, including the *use of core paths*. The Forum must also be consulted over Section 11 orders where the order is proposed for more than 6 days and making of byelaws.

4. In plain English, the Forum is not a decision making body nor one of governance. Its principal statutory purpose is to provide advice to the Park Authority on matters to do with outdoor access.
5. The Forum has consistently been regarded as an exemplar in how such a body is to be run and managed and extremely useful in the purpose of advising the CNPA over the years on such as the development of; a Core Paths Plan, Active Cairngorms and delivery of the Speyside Way Extension.
6. With the Core Path Plan agreed and in place for the National Park, along with an access strategy (Active Cairngorms) and quarter of the forum membership, including the chair, now coming to the end of their tenure we consider it appropriate to look at the most effective and efficient way of administering and maintaining engagement with this advisory group.
7. In the last five years we have seen a tendency towards levelling off in the number of access “cases’ raised with us and a decline in their seriousness, thereby the demands placed on the Forum have also reduced. It is against this background we must consider the most appropriate format for the CLOAF as we look ahead.

## **Proposals**

8. The following proposals are aimed at making our advisory forum more effective and efficient as CNPA, as access authority matures:-
  - a. Set membership at 12 as recommended in SNH guidance on Access Forums
  - b. Appoint a new chair at the Autumn 2018
  - c. Appoint three new members with experience and interest in land management to replace three vacancies
  - d. Confirm two current members who are at the end of their 3 year period wish to remain
  - e. Hold one meeting annually in Autumn to review outdoor access developments and challenges throughout the year and discuss Scottish Outdoor Access Code communication priorities for the year ahead
  - f. Develop a membership page on CNPA website that updates members on our role as the access authority and seeks comment and advice when required
  - g. Call additional meetings as and when required to advise CNPA (urgent S14 access obstruction issues and selected strategic policy developments).

- h. CLOAF may also convene meetings according to specific circumstances (with agreement from CNPA as secretariat).
- i. Operating procedures will be modified to account for the proposed changes

### **Objectives**

- 9. The aim is to maintain an efficient and effective and advisory group to support CNPA in our role as access authority. In addition we wish to ensure best use of digital media and web communications to widen engagement.
- 10. It is also worth noting that currently the forum has good representation from community and recreation interests but would benefit from more members with land management experience.

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