

## **NATIONAL ACCESS FORUM: WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Purpose**

To stimulate discussion about the Work Programme for the Forum in 2018 and 2019.

### **Action**

***Members are invited to discuss this paper with a view to developing an agreed Work Programme for 2018 and 2019.***

### **Background**

1. Paragraph C13 of the NAF Operating Principles states that “a work programme will be agreed by the Forum each year. This programme will set out the main areas of work, the main outputs expected and what working groups are likely to be required”.
2. In practice, some of the work of the Forum is inevitably reactive to new and emerging problems; however, a Work Programme that recognises the need to accommodate this should provide a framework for proactive implementation.
3. There are various on-going issues, some of which were identified by the Land Reform Review Group in 2014. These include:
  - continued promotion of the Code, its improved implementation on the ground and the publication of good practice guidance.
  - raising awareness of the wider public benefits of public access for health and well-being when allocating budgets.
  - seeking to ensure that there are adequate resources to support the promotional and educational work required to improve the implementation of the Code - this includes supporting and encouraging the work of access authorities and their staff.
  - addressing specific issues. Examples include dogs (e.g. dogs not under control, commercial dog walking and dog fouling); blocked accesses/locked gates; the possibility of using a dispute resolution procedure for difficult cases; OS mapping of core paths; concerns about unauthorised mountain bike trails.
4. Following a recommendation by the Land Reform Review Group, Ministers have agreed to update their guidance to access authorities under section 27 of the 2003 Act.
5. The principal tools available to the Forum for addressing these issues are:
  - Its convening power – at its own meetings; through sub-groups; at meetings with LAFs; and by engaging with others;
  - Advice to SNH, SG officials and Ministers;
  - Publication of good practice guidance notes.

### **Draft Work Programme for 2018 and 2019**

6. The following draft Work Programme for 2018 and 2019 is put forward as a basis for discussion by Members of the Forum.

May 2018: Revised Ministerial Guidelines to access authorities (s.27)  
Ideas for future NAF/LAF joint meetings  
Unauthorised MTB trails  
Mediation/ long standing access issues  
Communications

September 2018: Unauthorised MTB trails  
Consideration of support for public access post-SRDP (?)  
[other suggestions]

2019: LLTNP camping byelaws  
Scottish Land Commission  
[other suggestions]

**Members are invited to discuss these proposals – e.g. by suggesting additional topics and indicating priorities**

7. As noted above, the Forum also needs to be able to react to emerging new priorities and so there will need to be flexibility in following this Work Programme. It is suggested that it continues to review this Work Programme annually.

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