

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 6 June 2024

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
N/A;

Corporate Priorities:
Protecting our environment;

Lancashire Local Access Forum - Revised Terms of Reference

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Victoria Welch, Tel: (01772) 534172, Democratic Services Business Support Officer,
victoria.welch@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

In January 2024, the Lancashire Local Access Forum agreed that the Forum's Terms of Reference should be reviewed and, where appropriate, revised. Now that the review has been completed, this report presents, for approval, the revised Terms of Reference of the Lancashire Local Access Forum.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the Lancashire Local Access Forum's revised Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Detail

The Lancashire Local Access Forum is an advisory outside body. Its primary purpose is to provide advice to the relevant authorities (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council) and to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation, in ways that address social, economic, and environmental interests.

At the meeting of the Lancashire Local Access Forum on 11 July 2023, members were asked to review the Terms of Reference and provide feedback for future discussion on possible amendments.



Members' comments regarding the Terms of Reference were subject to discussion at the meeting of the Forum on 30 January 2024, and it was agreed to amend the Terms of Reference to clarify the Forum's remit and responsibilities. This included:

- Updating references to the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs.
- Adding that the Forum shall have regard to 'proper liaison with forums and bodies of a similar nature in the interest of furthering the objectives of the Forum and lobbying for the interests of the Forum'.
- Clarifying the membership requirements to reflect the lead authority's right to terminate the appointment of a Forum member in favour of appointing an appropriate applicant to the Forum if, without the consent of the lead authority, they have been absent from all meetings of the Forum for a period of one year or two consecutive meetings.

The council has a statutory duty to establish and maintain a Local Access Forum. The Lancashire Local Access Forum is not a committee appointed by the Full Council and therefore it is the responsibility of Cabinet to ensure this statutory duty is met. Cabinet is asked to approve Lancashire Local Access Forum's revised Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Appendices

Appendix 'A', setting out the revised Terms of Reference, is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire Local Access Forum - Revised Terms of Reference

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal

Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on highways authorities to establish advisory bodies to be known as Local Access Forums.

Financial

There are no financial implications attached to the report or the contents within it.



Risk management

There are no risks attached to the report or the contents within it.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
-------	------	-------------

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

