

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

22nd FEBRUARY 2007

DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE REORGANISATION

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview of the reorganisation to the Local Access Forum

2.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Director and Assistant Director of Business and Environmental Services (BES) have implemented a reorganisation of the Countryside Service as part of a wide ranging review.

2.2 The reorganisation focussed on greater management accountability and efficiencies, performance management improvements and importantly a delineation of responsibility around core business, policy development and front line services.

2.3 Accordingly this report seeks to inform on the change which will affect the Public Rights of Way Network and Staff (and volunteers) working on it.

3.0 PRINCIPALS

2.1 Strengthened management of the rights of way service.

Two team leaders have been created (See appendix 1). One team leader will be responsible for the definitive map, diversions and information technology. The other team leader will be responsible for the maintenance, enforcement and improvement of the public rights of way network. They will also be responsible for the Countryside Service Volunteers.

2.2 Developing a new way of working.

There will be three Rights of way officers and 9 rangers, this will allow the section to work in a more flexible and focussed way. We are currently finalising the exact way of working in conjunction with staff. The new way of working will be presented at the next Local Access Forum Meeting in May 2007.

2.3 Main Streaming of Open Access Work

There is now a need to build into everyone's work the management of Open Access Land. It makes sense to consider Open Access in all the work we do. We are looking to one of the rights of way officers to lead on this area of work for the section.

2.4 Higher Profile for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)

The Development and Countryside Service has a Policy section and moving the role of producing and implementing the RoWIP into this section will raise the profile and gives access to a larger staff resource.

4.0 OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 The Rights of Way and Access Service has the opportunity to completely revolutionise the way it works. To move from an area based system where levels of service differed greatly, to a service that delivers at a consistent level across the whole County, based on priorities and need.

4.2 With better use of Information Technology such as the CAM's data base, GIS etc, the service will be able to work in a more proactive manner to maximise the use of resources.

4.3 Further savings are likely to be made as a result of the central procurement of goods and services.

4.4 Targeting of work streams and issues as a whole rather than an arbitrary boundary drawn up based on staffing resources.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) This report is received for information;

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