

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

24TH OCTOBER 2012

REORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE TEAM

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the implementation of the new Public Rights of Way maintenance team structure which was finalised in September 2012.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the reorganisation of the Economic & Rural Services business unit in 2010, the public rights of way team became part of the new Waste & Countryside Services business unit.
- 2.2 As a result of this change, the Assistant Director for Waste & Countryside Services identified the requirement to undertake a review of the public rights of way maintenance team to ensure maximum efficiency of service delivery whilst complying with the wider Council requirement for a minimum supervision ratio of one manger to five reports.

3.0 APPROACH

- 3.1 In considering the team structure a key consideration was the current condition of the network and the challenges of its future maintenance and management presented by the changing resource picture and wider government and Council priorities.
- 3.2 The approach developed centred around the requirement to ensure fulfilment of day to day maintenance duties whilst also addressing serious long term issues of obstruction of the network and delivering against the wider priorities of health and tourism, including the opportunity of securing external funding where possible.

4.0 NETWORK MAINTENANCE

- 4.1 In order to deliver the statutory maintenance function a new role of Area Ranger was created and seven positions created across the

county. The focus of the role is resolving day to day maintenance issues and each role has a designated geographical area of responsibility, within which the postholder will create and maintain relationships with local communities.

- 4.2 The role will be less practically focussed than the historic Countryside Ranger role and will resolve issues mainly through efficient use of county wide maintenance programmes, contractors and volunteers, undertaking work directly only where it is efficient to do so.
 - 4.3 The management of these posts is the responsibility of the newly created Senior Ranger. This role oversees performance management of the Area Rangers and has responsibility for ensuring county wide maintenance programmes are delivered.
 - 4.4 The pre existing core county wide maintenance programmes of ploughing & cropping, seasonal undergrowth, signposting and bridges are retained.
 - 4.5 A Public Rights of Way Technical officer role has been created to co-ordinate these county wide programmes as well as dealing with Development control on the network. This role will also oversee the CAMS system ensuring data quality standards are met and undertaking system development to better support the new way of working.
- 5.0 SERIOUS NETWORK ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 5.1 It was recognised that the areas of workload concerned with more serious network issues and wider projects aimed at securing funding and developing the network are particularly time consuming and complicated to undertake in conjunction with day to day maintenance activities.
 - 5.2 In order to enable this area of work to be efficiently undertaken a new role of Countryside Access Officer has been created. The role will deal with historically intractable problems, enforcement where necessary and will take the lead in wider project work. These roles report directly to the PRoW Team Leader.
- 6.0 COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS
- 6.1 As part of the formation of Waste & Countryside Services the Volunteers Co-ordinator was moved into a new Development &

Outreach team to better manage volunteer efforts across all of the Service's functions

- 6.2 The commitment of the Public Rights of Way team to volunteering remains strong and as part of the implementation of the new structure a review of volunteer activity will be undertaken with the aim of maximising opportunities for volunteering.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The team is now well set up to deal with the challenges of managing the network within North Yorkshire, a structure chart is attached at Appendix 1.

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Public Rights of Way Maintenance Team

