

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

The Moray Council has a statutory duty to establish and facilitate at least one Local Outdoor Access Forum (L.O.A.F.) in its area.

The Council has set up one L.O.A.F. covering the whole of Moray.

The L.O.A.F. is an advisory body to the Council as the Area Access Authority. The Forum has no executive powers but plays an important consultative and consensus building role on outdoor access related matters across Moray. This includes involvement in:

- Moray Access Strategy Review
- Moray Core Path Plan Preparation and implementation
- Upholding access rights
- Raising awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code
- Procedures for conflict/dispute resolution
- Advising on planning applications/development plans

The Forum has set its own remit with the emphasis on practical and achievable aims and targets.

The Forum has 20 'Core' members with equal representation from 4 peer groups as follows:

- Public agencies e.g. Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage, Moray Council, NFU
- Landowners/Land Managers e.g. estate owners, farmers
- Community groups e.g. local access groups, Community Councils
- Access users/activity groups e.g. walkers, cyclists, horse riders, canoeists. One place here is guaranteed for someone representing less able and disabled interests

Prospective candidates are invited to submit applications to become 'core' members of the Forum. Members tenure lasts for 3 years.

Prospective candidates should ideally be resident in Moray but this is not essential. They should have a good familiarity with the areas' geography and its traditions. They may already be involved with path development, outdoor recreation or management of the access resource.

They should state in which group(s) they have expertise and can submit an endorsement from a body or organisation of which they are a member and which supports their appointment.

There are expected to be around four or five meetings per annum and 'core' members will be entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses to attend Forum meetings.

Prospective candidates should outline in approximately 250 words what skills and experience they have to offer the Local Access Forum. Appointment to the Forum will be made by a panel made up from current Forum members and the Council's Access Manager. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of this selection process.

Applicants are required to offer a referee who may be contacted to provide information to back up application details and to help determine suitability.