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 as per the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003.

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 and is guided by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003. The Forum has no executive powers but plays an important consultative and consensus building role on outdoor access related matters across Moray. The role of Forum and its members includes involvement in:

- Moray Access Strategy Review
- Moray Core Path Plan Preparation/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 no more than 20 members with equal representation from 4 peer groups as follows:

- Public agencies e.g. Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage, Moray Council
- 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 members of the Forum. An essence is placed on expertise and **enthusiasm** as they are crucial to the function and success of the Forum. Membership is for a three-year term, with the opportunity to renew upon completion.

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 outdoor recreation, land management or management of a access resource.

They should specify the peer group(s) in which they have expertise and may submit an endorsement from a relevant body or organisation of which they are a member, supporting their appointment.

Members are expected to attend four meetings per year, typically held quarterly in Elgin from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. The forum is exploring hybrid meetings where there may be an opportunity to attend meetings online. Members will be entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses to attend any additional Forum related meetings or business.

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 Officer. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the Moray Council Outdoor Access and Countryside Officer via Hector.Bryden@moray.gov.uk.

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE MORAY COUNCIL OUTDOOR ACCESS AND COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER BY *****.