

Monmouthshire

Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP WORKING: GWENT REGIONAL ACCESS GROUP
MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE: 26 APRIL 2022

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update the Forum on partnership arrangements for the Gwent Regional Access Group

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the forum's consideration;
 - a) To note the progress on establishing the Gwent Regional Access Group and
 - b) Nominate representatives from the LAF to the group

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) is a collaborative project funded to March 2023 through Welsh Government's RDP ENRaW programme developing and delivering a common approach to managing green infrastructure, including the countryside access network, planning and delivering improvements to support community well-being. It is managed by a collaboration of local authorities, led by Monmouthshire CC, working with Welsh Government Natural Resources Wales and other partners. Further information is available [here](#).
- 3.2 The programme strands include access; to prepare a strategic access plan identifying missing links and areas where improvements are needed in the countryside access network both regionally and locally to enable people to lead active healthy lifestyles, provide economic opportunities and expand, where possible, the network available to cyclists and horse riders.
- 3.3 A ranger training scheme is supporting this and the programme includes funding to delivery access projects.
- 3.4 To assist this process a Gwent Regional Access Group is being established. Membership will be made up of the 5 local authorities Local Access Forums (LAF's) or where a LAF is not currently in place, representatives put forward by lead officers until a LAF is re-established. Each area will be able to put forward 2 to 4 representatives. The Group first meeting will be chaired by the Regional Access Officer and then the Group will appoint its own chair.
- 3.5 It is hoped the Group will advise on access projects and the strategic access plan and become part of the legacy of the GGGP programme to help coordinate access improvements and support future strategic funding bids etc.

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3.6 If members were minded to establish a LAF subgroup to consider future network improvements it might be useful if this group, or part of it, also formed the representation on the regional group.

4. AUTHOR:

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