

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Representation on Outside Bodies – Local Access Forum for Mid and West Berkshire, Crookham and Greenham Commons Commission, the South East Regional Assembly and Reading Urban Area Package		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Geoff Findlay	on:	26 May 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0783		

Purpose of Report:

To consider nominations to the bodies as listed below.

Recommended Action:

To agree the Council's representation on
(1) **The Local Access Forum for Mid and West Berkshire**
(2) **Crookham and Greenham Commons Commission**
(3) **The South East England Regional Assembly**
(4) **Reading Urban Area Package**

Reason for decision to be taken:

- (1) The Local Access Forum for Mid and West Berkshire was established in 2003. Appointments made at that time from the three Councils concerned (West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham) were for two years; thereafter appointments would be made for three years. The initial term of office has now expired, and an appointment needs to be made.
- (2) These appointments have to be made on an annual basis.
- (3) This appointment needs to be revisited following the change in control of the Council.
- (4) This appointment needs to be revisited following the change in control of the Council.

List of other options considered:

- None

Key background documentation:

- None

Portfolio Member:	Councillor Geoff Findlay
Tel. No.:	01635 871992
E-mail Address:	gfindlay@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details

Name:	Margaret Blaine
Job Title:	Policy and Research Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 519458
E-mail Address:	mblaine@westberks.gov.uk

Supporting Information

1. Local Access Forum (LAF) for Mid and West Berkshire

- 1.1 The LAF is a statutory advisory body established under the provisions of Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2002 (Statutory Instrument 2002 No. 1836. The Forum provides advice and guidance to the Councils and the Countryside Agency on ways in which the area administered by the Councils can be made more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation whilst having regard to social, economic and environmental issues.
- 1.2 The Forum consists of no fewer than 17 and no more than 22 members, who will include one Member representative from each of the three Councils. The members of the Forum will also represent a broad range of interests and experience in the recreational use of the countryside, land management and other relevant interests such as wildlife and heritage conservation, local transport, business, health, tourism, and the needs of young people, women, people on low incomes, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.
- 1.3 The Forum meets twice a year, with any additional meetings arranged by agreement with the Forum.
- 1.4 The venue for meetings rotates between Newbury, Reading and Wokingham.
- 1.4 The representative appointed in 2003 was Cllr Dr Royce Longton.
- 1.5 Cllr Royce Longton has expressed an interest in continuing in this role.

2. Crookham and Greenham Commons Commission

- 2.1 Under Section 7 of the Greenham and Crookham Commons Act the District Council has the power to appoint three members on the Commission, of which one person must be nominated by the Greenham and Crookham Conservation Volunteers (or if that Association ceases to exist such Association of bodies as appears to the Council to have purposes similar to that of the Association).
- 2.2 In October 2002 Mr (then Councillor) Tony Ferguson, Mr Derek Emes (Greenham and Crookham Commons Conservation Volunteer) and Paul Hendry (Countryside Manager, WBC) were appointed as the Council's representatives on the Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission until May 2004.
- 2.3 Following the initial appointment the Appointed Commissioners would hold office for a period of one year, ending on 31st May each year, at which time the appointments would need to be made again.
- 2.4 The appointed representatives will be required to attend one meeting per quarter.
- 2.5 Mr Tony Ferguson has expressed an interest in undertaking this role as the Council's representative, Paul Hendry has agreed to continue as the Officer representative. Derek Emes has agreed to continue as the Greenham and Crookham Commons Conservation Volunteer.

3. South East England Regional Assembly

- 3.1 The Assembly has responsibilities in the three key areas of advocacy, accountability and regional planning.

- 3.2 As Regional Planning Body, they are responsible for proposing strategic planning and transport policies to Government. They prepare, monitor and review Regional Planning Guidance for South East England.
- 3.3 The South East England Regional Assembly is the representative voice of the region. It comprises 112 members, including elected councillors nominated by the region's local authorities. There are also regional representatives chosen by the voluntary sector, environmental groups, faith communities, business and economic partnerships, education and cultural networks and town and parish councils.
- 3.4 The Assembly meets in full three times a year at locations around the South East. Its 27 strong Executive Committee meets seven times a year, and its Regional Planning Committee of 20 meets at least six times a year.
- 3.5 In 2003 Cllr Royce Longton was appointed to be the Council's representative on the South East Regional Assembly.
- 3.6 Following the by-election on 5th May 2005 the control of the Council changed, and the ruling party has asked that the appointment be revisited.
- 3.7 Councillors Keith Chopping and Jeff Brooks have expressed an interest in being appointed to this role.

4. Reading Urban Area Package

- 4.1 The terms of reference of the Reading Urban Area Package Joint Management are:
- a to co-ordinate the management of the Reading Urban Area Package funds;
 - b to co-ordinate the bids from its development and insertion into the relevant LTP to the implementation of agreed projects;
 - c to discuss related projects and proposals relevant to the Package area and agree joint actions where appropriate;
 - d to share information on development proposals and capital projects in each authority that could have an impact on the RUAP transport network;
 - e to promote mobility and access in the package area; and
 - f to co-ordinate cross boundary transport projects.
- 4.2 The Committee meets at least four times per year at venues alternating between Reading, Wokingham and Newbury.
- 4.3 A maximum of three Members is appointed from each authority to represent their Council on Reading Urban Area Package.
- 4.4 Following the election in 2003 Cllrs Sally Hannon, Royce Longton and Brian Bedwell were appointed to represent this Council.
- 4.5 Following the by-election on 5th May 2005 the control of the Council changed, and the ruling party has asked that the appointment be revisited.
- 4.6 Councillors Bedwell, Chopping and Longton have expressed an interest in being appointed to fulfil these roles.

Appendices

Appendix A – Terms of Reference for the Local Access Forum for Mid and West Berkshire.

Appendix B – RUAP Joint Management Terms of Reference and Protocol

Implications

Policy:	The proposal outlined in this report is not in contradiction to any of the Council's existing policies, including those outlined in the Corporate Plan.
Financial:	None
Personnel:	None
Legal:	None
Environmental:	None
Equalities:	Local Access Forum for Mid and West Berkshire, Crookham and Greenham Commons Commission, the South East Regional Assembly and Reading Urban Area Package promote Social Inclusion in line with the Council's Equalities Strategy.
Partnering:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Community Safety:	None

Consultation Responses

Members:	
Leader of Council:	Cllr Graham Jones
Select Committee Chairmen:	Cllr Quentin Webb
Ward Members:	N/a
Opposition Spokesperson:	Cllr Royce Longton
Advisory Members:	N/a
Local Stakeholders:	N/a
Officers Consulted:	Elaine Cox, Chris Gee, Steve Clarke, Paul Hendry, Annette Thomas
Trade Union:	N/a