

**MEETING** : **CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE** : **21 September 2012**

REPORT OF : Green Spaces Manager – Cheshire West and Chester Council  
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## **RESIGNATION OF CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL FROM CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

- 1 Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) has resolved to withdraw from the Cheshire Local Access Forum and to seek to establish an independent Local Access Forum that is focused upon the geographical limits of the borough of Cheshire West and Chester. As required, notice to this effect was given to the Secretary and Chair of the Cheshire Local Access Forum and Natural England on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.
- 2 Arrangements for a pan Cheshire Local Access Forum were considered to be an interim measure at the time of local government reorganisation in Cheshire and other 'founding' member authorities have previously opted out of joint Forum arrangements eg. Warrington and Halton.
- 3 Elections for membership of the present Cheshire Local Access Forum are scheduled to take place during December of this year, which presents an opportunity to pursue arrangements for a new Cheshire West and Chester Local Access Forum.
- 4 Cheshire West and Chester Council is now proposing that the time is right to seek to establish an independent Local Access Forum that is focused upon the specific access priorities and strategic objectives of the borough.
- 5 An independent Local Access Forum for CWAC would provide the following benefits and advantages:
  - Provide for a greater degree of focus upon relevant access matters specific to the borough of Cheshire West and Chester avoiding dilution across a wider geographical area
  - Broad representation of the varied cross section of interests attached to access and recreation focused upon the CW&C area.
  - Potential for increased level of locally targeted forum activity and tangible outcomes.
  - Development of a more innovative and dynamic approach to Forum business that reflects CWAC corporate objectives and aligned with the 'Altogether Better' agenda.
  - Locally distinctive branding providing greater opportunity to engage with local communities and prospective stakeholders.

### **RESOLVED**

**That Forum Members consider the report and any action required.**