

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 26 March 2026
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Local Access Forum – Vale of Glamorgan Council Appointed Member (2026 to 2029)
Purpose of Report:	To confirm the Vale of Glamorgan’s appointed member for the Local Access Forum 2026 to 2029.
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Head of Democratic Services
Policy Framework:	This report is matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report requests Cabinet to confirm the appointment of the Council’s formal representative for the Local Access Forum (LAF). • Councillor Edward Williams was the Council’s appointed representative for the previous LAF established on 22nd November 2022, for a 3-year appointment which ceased 21st November 2025. • Councillor Williams has expressed a desire to continue as the appointed Vale of Glamorgan Member. • Cabinet is therefore asked to approve Councillor Williams appointment onto the Local Access Forum for a 3-year period, to commence from the date of the first meeting of the reconstituted Local Access Forum for 2026 to 2029. • The 3-year appointment may however be dependent on the Local Government Elections scheduled for May 2027. 	

Recommendation

1. That Councillor Edward Williams be reappointed as the Council's Elected Member representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Local Access Forum for three years, commencing from the date of the first meeting of the reconstituted Local Access Forum for 2026 to 2029.

Reason for Recommendation

1. In accordance with the paragraph 6 (1) of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001.

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 94(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 ("the Act") requires a local access forum ("forum") to be established by local highway authorities or, where the area to be covered by a forum is the responsibility of a National Park, the National Park authority ("appointing authorities").
- 1.2 Local Access Forums will advise bodies exercising functions conferred by the Act on issues concerning the improvement of public access to land and such other matters as may be prescribed by future Regulations.
- 1.3 Sections 94 and 95 of the Act empowered the Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament to make regulations to provide for the establishment and operation of a forum. These duly come under the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001.
- 1.4 Paragraph 6.- (1) of the 2001 Regulations states - Where the area of a forum falls entirely within the area of the appointing authority, that authority must appoint one (but may not appoint more than one) member to a forum who is either an officer or member of the appointing authority.
- 1.5 The report seeks Cabinet to appoint a Member to the Vale of Glamorgan's Local Access Forum.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Local Access Forum advises upon aspects of public access in the area, including public rights of way, and the new right of access to open country and registered common land. The Forum considers all forms of access, including horse riding, cycling and off road driving, and not just access on foot.
- 2.2 Work of the Forum includes:
 - advising on and helping with the preparation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
 - considering improvements to access and rights of way in the area.

- commenting on the Countryside & Rights of Way Act regulations and guidance which the Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament and Natural Resources Wales draw up.
- 2.3** There are certain issues upon which a Local Access Forum must, by statute, be consulted. These include:
- the preparation of draft maps of open country and registered common land;
 - the appointment of wardens as respect to access land;
 - the making of Byelaws relating to access land;
 - the preparation or review of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan; and
 - applications for long-term exclusions or restrictions to access land.
- 2.4** The report requests Cabinet to confirm the appointment of the Council's formal representative for the Local Access Forum.
- 2.5** Councillor Edward Williams was the Council's appointed representative for the previous Forum established on 22nd November 2022, for a 3-year appointment which ceased 21st November 2025.
- 2.6** Councillor Williams has expressed a desire to rejoin the new Local Access Forum, to be established at its first meeting scheduled to take place sometime during April or May 2026.
- 2.7** Cabinet is therefore asked to approve Councillor Williams appointment onto the Local Access Forum for the 3-year period. To commence from the date of the first meeting of the reconstituted Local Access Forum for 2026 to 2029.
- 2.8** The 3-year appointment may however be dependent on the Local Government Elections scheduled for May 2027.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** As a statutory consultee for the development and implementation of the Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the Forum will have an important role with informing the Council of certain aspects of Objective 1 and 2 of the Council's Corporate Plan, Vale 2030 - Creating great places to live, work and visit and Respecting and celebrating the environment. The Local Access Forum advises upon aspects of public access in the area, including public rights of way, and the new right of access to open country and registered common land.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** None as a direct result of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 Members of the Forum are able to claim financial reimbursement for travel expenses incurred for attending physical meetings and visits of the Forum.

Employment

- 5.2 None as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3 None as a direct result of this report.

6. Background Papers

None.