

EX107. OUTDOOR ACCESS PROJECTS – ACQUISITION OF LAND

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services recommending the purchase of land at Main Street, Shieldhill and seeking authority, in the event that a negotiated purchase cannot be achieved, to purchase the land by a compulsory purchase order.

The Executive had, on 8 October 2013, agreed the purchase of land at Main Street, Shieldhill in order to replace a missing bridge needed to carry core path 018/686 across the Polmont burn. The Executive had also agreed to utilise compulsory purchase order procedures to obtain the land in the event that attempts to purchase the land by agreement proved unsuccessful. Since then, it had been determined that the purchase of an additional piece of land was required to achieve the intended purpose.

The Council is currently engaged in discussion with the landowner in regard to the purchase of the land by agreement. In the event that the discussions prove unsuccessful, it was recommended that this additional land be included in any compulsory purchase order procedures required to secure the area.

Decision

The Executive agreed to:-

- 1) request that officers continue in their attempts to purchase land by agreement with the landowner, and**
- 2) in the event that agreement is not reached, to approve the inclusion of the extended area in the Council's promotion of a Compulsory Purchase Order under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and subsequent referral to the Scottish Ministers, for the construction of the following project:**
 - (i) Footbridge across Polmont Burn to replace collapsed culvert.**
 - (ii) Path reinstatement and improvements along Core Path 018/686 between Main Street, Shieldhill and Bellsrigg Community Woodland, California.**