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| Ongoing Right of Way Investigations | 8th November 2016 |
| To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Information | |

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| Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19) | |
| Strategic Theme | Building Prosperity |
| Outcome | Secure the area as NI's premier tourist destination |
| Lead Officer | Head of Tourism and Recreation |
| Cost: (If applicable) | N/A |

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on ongoing rights of way investigations.

Council's Coast & Countryside Unit (within the Tourism and Recreation Service Area) has initiated a number of Right of Way investigations following requests from members of the public.

The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 places a statutory duty on Council to identify, record and protect existing access opportunities along rights of way. It is on this basis that Council will consider undertaking an investigation when requested to do so. Council's role is very much that of an 'honest broker' with respect to any such investigation.

At present the following investigations are live;

1. Bath Road to Blue Pool, Portrush.
2. Causeway Street to East Strand, Portrush.
3. Shore Road to Lough Foyle, Greysteel.

In each case, user evidence forms have been forwarded to the complainants, historic mapping and aerial imagery has been consulted to facilitate the gathering and submission of any evidence that may exist to support the existence of a public right of way at these locations. In addition the landowners in each case have also been contacted. Staff from the Coast and Countryside Unit are liaising with Council's solicitor to consider the evidence submitted for each case. Some of these locations may also be the subject of planning applications or other issues which Council cannot take into consideration as part of the Right of Way Investigation. Members will be updated as matters progress.