

# Job Title: Volunteer Joint Local Access Forum Member

## **Our Vision**

An innovative, ambitious and sustainable county, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy.

## **Our Outcomes**

We want everyone in Staffordshire to:

- Have access to more good jobs and share the benefit of economic growth
- Live in thriving and sustainable communities
- Be healthier and more independent for longer

## **Our Values**

Our People Strategy sets out what we all need to do to make Staffordshire County Council a great place to work, where people are supported to develop, the Strategy to ensure that the focus is on what is important to the organisation and the people it serves:

- Ambitious – We are ambitious for our communities and citizens.
- Courageous – We recognise our challenges and are prepared to make courageous decisions.
- Empowering – We empower and support our people by giving them the opportunity to do their jobs well.

## **About the Local Access Forum**

Local Access Forums (LAFs) are statutory advisory bodies that provide independent advice to local authorities and other bodies on managing and improving public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment whilst taking into account the needs of land management and nature conservation.

They play a key role in balancing the needs of landowners, recreation users and conservation.

A Joint Local Access Forum exists covering Staffordshire and Wolverhampton and as a volunteer member of this Forum, you will contribute to discussions on how best to improve public access to land within Staffordshire and Wolverhampton (excluding the Peak District National Park).

This is an opportunity to help shape local access policies and ensure that the needs of different stakeholders are considered in decision-making.






**Key responsibilities:**

1. Attend and actively participate in forum meetings (minimum 2 per year held in person) for up to three years.
2. Lead and contribute positively to strategic discussions and ideas, using specific cases for case study purposes wherever possible.
3. Provide input on access-related policies, proposals, and consultations including those consulted by Natural England.
4. Represent the interests of one or more different user groups, including walkers, cyclists, horse riders, landowners, and those with disabilities.
5. Work collaboratively and be keen to network with other members, local authorities, and external stakeholders.
6. Promote and support sustainable and responsible access to public open spaces and the countryside.
7. Publicise the Forum's work, engaging with the wider public and local communities to gather insights and feedback on access issues.
8. Adopt a balanced and fair approach taking into consideration the needs of land management and nature conservation alongside public access.
9. Support and demonstrate a positive approach to the forum.
10. Allow a photograph and brief biography and, optionally, an e-mail address to be made available to Members of the public and other interested parties for publicity purposes, including making this information available on any Forum website.
11. Regularly check that e-mail address and reply to messages requiring a response, conveying the broad content of e-mails to the Forum where appropriate.

**Political Restriction:** This position is considered as a Politically Restricted Post under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and subsequent amendments introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

**Person Specification**

A = Assessed at Application

Minimum Criteria for Disability Confident Scheme *	Criteria	Measured by
    	<b>Essential Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in public rights of way, countryside management, outdoor recreation, or land management.</li> <li>• Good communication and interpersonal skills.</li> <li>• Ability to consider different viewpoints and work towards balanced solutions.</li> <li>• Willingness to engage with local communities and user groups.</li> <li>• Commitment to attending meetings and contributing to discussions.</li> <li>• Live or work in Staffordshire or Wolverhampton.</li> </ul>	 A  A A  A  A A
	<b>Desirable Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience working with or representing user groups such as walkers, cyclists, horse riders, or landowners.</li> <li>• Knowledge of relevant legislation and policies related to countryside access.</li> <li>• Experience in stakeholder engagement or public consultation.</li> <li>• Previous involvement in voluntary or advisory roles.</li> </ul>	 A  A  A  A



If a disabled person meets the criteria indicated by the Disability Confident scheme symbol and provides evidence of this on their application form, they will be guaranteed an interview.

We are proud to display the Disability Confidence Symbol, which is a recognition given by Job Centre plus to employers who agree to meet specific requirements regarding the recruitment, employment, retention, and career development of disabled people.

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