

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES		Subject: THE JOHN MUIR WAY LONG DISTANCE ROUTE
From: HEAD OF LAND SERVICES		
Date: 30 October 2012	Ref: KW/VA/HA	

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the ongoing role of Greenspace Development in ensuring North Lanarkshire's positive involvement in the development of the long distance route of the John Muir Way, scheduled to be launched in 2014, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Muir's death.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 John Muir was an explorer, botanist, geologist and environmentalist who was born in Dunbar in 1838. He is renowned for being a pioneer of the conservation movement and was pivotal in the establishment of the first National Park: Yosemite, California in 1890.

**3. Proposal**

- 3.1 The John Muir Way Long Distance Route proposal is a flagship project within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) initiative, carrying Scottish Government support. The planned route runs between Dunbar and Helensburgh via Balloch (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park). It will provide an extension to the existing John Muir Way in East Lothian.
- 3.2 In North Lanarkshire the route will lead from Castlecary in the east to Croy Hill in the west and will follow the line of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.
- 3.3 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is leading on the planning and delivery of the route on behalf of the CSGN, and has been advised by local authorities of the best route options which link together existing promoted paths and core paths. A key principle has been to minimise new path creation.

**4. Financial Implications**

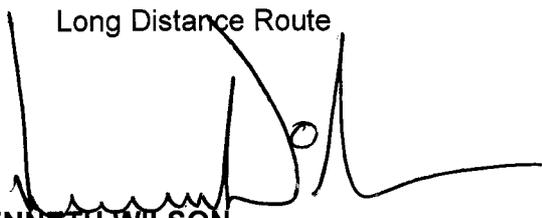
- 4.1 An Economic Benefits Study was commissioned by SNH earlier this year and it estimates that there will be:
- 9,300 potential coast to coast users in the first year
  - £3M of direct expenditure generated
  - 130 FTE jobs created or safeguarded in year one.

Over five years, coast to coast usage and day visitors could lead to:

- £25M of direct expenditure
- £42M of total economic impact,
- 1,090 additional FTE jobs created or safeguarded.

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 Committee notes the involvement of Land Services in the development of the John Muir Way Long Distance Route

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Wilson', written over the text of item 5.1.

**KENNETH WILSON  
HEAD OF LAND SERVICES**

Local Government Access to Information Act: For further information please contact (Vicky Abernethy 01236 780636)