

15. REPLACEMENT FOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITY LICENSING

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services seeking approval for a response to be submitted to the Scottish Government on developing a safety system for adventure activities in Scotland.

The Head of Area Services advised that the UK Government had decided to abolish the Adventure Activity Licensing Authority (AALA), the organisation responsible for licensing a number of adventure activities to young people across the UK. A statutory system would therefore be replaced with a voluntary system in England.

Scottish Ministers appreciated that adventure activities had an inherent risk which needed to be manageable and their view was for the replacement for the AALA in Scotland to be robust and reassuring. The Scottish Government was keen to increase opportunities for outdoor activities and had set out what they considered were possible options for creating a safe system for adventure activities in Scotland.

The Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Activities (SAPOE) advocated that any solution must incorporate an inspection system with an increase in the number of activities which would be included in the scope of the new arrangements. Therefore the current indication was that the statutory scheme was the preferred option for Scotland.

A copy of the proposed response was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and the Council Executive was invited to approve the response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the licensing of adventure activities in Scotland.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.