



Communities Select Committee
14 November 2012

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets / Policy Development and Review

To scrutinise the Cabinet decision to support the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations and in particular, the £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre.

Introduction:

- 1 On 23 October, Surrey County Council's Cabinet made a decision in relation to support of the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations, in particular:
 - i. That all recommendations in the model resolutions 1-20, which includes the proposal for a National Holiday on 15th June 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary, be supported and endorsed.
 - ii. That a total £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre, with £3m of additional match funding to be raised externally, be approved in principle subject to appropriate project governance and management being put in place, the agreement of which be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games in consultation with the Leader of Council and the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 2 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Steve Cosser and Chris Norman) have called-in this decision for review by the Communities Select Committee.

Background

- 3 On 23 October 2012, the Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report detailing how the County Council would support the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations, including investment in a new visitor centre. A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at **Appendix 1**. The details of the Cabinet's decision are included as **Appendix 2**.
- 4 The call-in notice, attached at **Appendix 3**, requests that the select committee be given the opportunity to review the decision to agree in

principle a £5m contribution to the funding of a new visitor centre in Runnymede and, as part of this, consider the views of those opposing the building of the centre. The petition presented to the Cabinet in opposition to the new visitor centre is attached at **Appendix 4**, as well as a document sent to members of the Select Committee by Andrew Telford, Chairman of the Campaign to Protect Rural England – Runnymede District (**Appendix 5**).

The Call-in

- 5 The purpose of the Call-in is for the Committee to review the decision taken and decide whether or not it wishes to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration. If the Committee decides to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, the nature of the Committee's concern must be stated.

For Decision

- 6 The Committee is required to review the decision of the Cabinet to approve a total £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre (full wording provided in paragraph 1 (ii)). If the Committee disagrees with the decision, it may refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration. If the Committee supports the decision of the Cabinet, the decision will stand and no further action will be taken.

Next Steps

- 7 If the decision is referred back to the Cabinet, a meeting of the Cabinet shall be held within seven working days. The Cabinet can then decide to amend the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

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