



**Environment and Transport Select Committee**  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**The Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust for the Management  
of the County Council's Countryside Estate**

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

Following the Recommendations of the Countryside Management Task Group, which reported to the Select Committee in March 2013, negotiations have taken place with Surrey Wildlife Trust. Attached is the draft report to Cabinet setting out terms of that agreement. The Committee is asked to comment on the terms before the report goes to Cabinet.

**Introduction:**

1. The Countryside Management Task Group set out a series of recommendations in its report of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to this Committee, the key ones relating to the Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) are set out below.
2. These recommendations are: i) The Strategic Director for Environment and Infrastructure reviews the contract between Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey County Council. This review should include
  - All aspects of the contract;
  - The development and measurement of more clearly defined outputs that ensure value for money;
  - A review of the governance arrangements; and
  - The development of a communication strategy to promote the benefit of the partnership arrangements to Members of the County Council and Surrey residents.
- ii) Specific management plans are created for iconic locations in Surrey.
3. Two progress reports have been brought to this Committee subsequently setting out the ongoing discussion. These discussions and more recent negotiations have now resulted in the terms outlined in the attached report.

4. The Committee has established a Members Reference Group which has met to consider the terms in advance of this Select Committee meeting, their comments have been incorporated into the attached report and its annexes.
5. The Committee is asked to comment on the principles and in particular the Governance including the Service Delivery Specification and the Key Performance Indicators.

<b>Recommendations:</b>
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8. That the Committee agrees the principles of the revised Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust before the report goes to Cabinet.

<b><u>Next steps:</u></b>
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9. That subject to changes agreed by the Select Committee Members, the report goes to Cabinet to seek approval of the revised terms.
10. A further report could be brought to the Select Committee in Spring next year before the terms of the revised agreement are finalised.

### **Appendices**

- Annex A Draft report for Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Annex B Cabinet Report Annexes

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### **Sources/background papers:**

- Countryside Management Task Group Report to ESTC 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
Countryside Management Task Group Report: Report on Progress, report to ETSC on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
Countryside Management Task Group Report: Report on Progress, report to ETSC on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013