



Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board
11th June 2015

**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

Following the reports to this Select Committee and Cabinet in December 2014 further work has taken place to amend the terms of the current Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust. The attached draft report to Cabinet sets out those amendments. The Board is asked to comment on the terms before the report goes to Cabinet on 23 June 2015.

Introduction:

1. Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Surrey County Council have agreed to work together to make the Countryside Estate self financing by 2021. The amendments to the agreement have been drawn up in order to make that process possible. The key areas of change are:
 - A new financial formula that encourages investment in income generating ideas and will develop plans for future investment and returns in that investment.
 - A revised Asset Management Plan for the built property, in line with the County Council's new format.
 - Reviewed Governance setting out clearly the process for seeking investment and agreeing future plans
 - A Revised Service Delivery Specification and Key Performance Indicators, which will be reported to the Partnership Committee, County Council Cabinet Member, Select Committee and SWT Council.
2. The Environment and Transport Select Committee established a Members Reference Group which has met to consider the terms in advance of this Board meeting. This group will continue to meet as the first set of income generating plans are developed for April 2016.
3. The Board is asked to comment on the attached draft report for Cabinet.

Recommendations:

4. That the Board agrees the amendments outlined in the report to Cabinet.

Next steps:

5. That subject to changes agreed by Board Members, the report goes to Cabinet to seek approval of the revised terms.
6. Officers will continue to work with the Member Reference Group to finalise the details of the Business Plan for April 2016.

Annexes

- Annex 1a Draft Cabinet Report: 23 June 2015
- Annex 1 Financial Formula
- Annex 2 Governance Arrangements
- Annex 3 Asset Management Plan (AMP)
- Annex 4 Performance Management

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Sources/background papers:

Report on The Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust to Manage the County Council's Countryside Estate to ESTC 15th December 2014.
The Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust for the Management of the County Council's Countryside Estate to Cabinet on 16th December 2014