

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS BOARD**Item under consideration: THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL AND SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST TO MANAGE THE COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE****Date Considered: 26 January 2016****Key points raised during the discussion:**

- The board was asked to comment on the changes to the agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust to manage the Countryside estate. The item included the draft report to Cabinet and the 5 year Countryside Estate Business Plan.
- The Board acknowledged that improvements had been made to the management of the Countryside estate but significant concerns remained around the delivery of the 5 year business plan and the levels of investment that would be needed to gain any financial return.
- Concerns were also raised around the terms of the current contract with SWT. Members wanted assurance that clear rules were set out in the contract around profit sharing and clear mechanisms were in place to allow the county council to terminate if felt necessary.
- Overall the board had considerable reservations on this item as it currently stood.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet notes the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Boards concerns around the agreement between Surrey County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust to manage the Countryside Estate.

David Harmer

Chairman of the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board

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