

Appendix 1			
Countryside Management Task Group Action Plan			
Recommendation from the Task Group	Actions	Progress to July 2013	Timescales
<p>The Partnership Contract with Surrey Wildlife Trust</p> <p>The Strategic Director for Environment and Infrastructure reviews the contract between Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey County Council. This review should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 	<p>A1 Commence negotiations with SWT over property management</p> <p>A2 Agree management of property</p> <p>A3 Review the financial formula</p> <p>A4 Review the governance of the SWT/SCC agreement</p> <p>A5 Review the Service delivery standards</p> <p>A6 Agree the future strategy for management of the Countryside Estate</p> <p>A7 Develop ideas for improving visitor facilities (see iconic Sites below)</p> <p>A8 Draw up a communication strategy to promote the Countryside Management and the benefits of partnership working</p>	<p>A1 and A2 Discussions begun to establish future management of built property</p> <p>A5 Service Delivery Standards are being reviewed along with the Governance arrangements. The latter to include a regular report to the Environment and Transport Select Committee.</p> <p>A5 SWT have set out proposals for a change in approach to woodland management, including improvements to stock surveying and information management, new practices for site rangers and the co-ordinated collection and secure storage of wood from woodlands to points of sale or for increased internal utilization for estate needs. Several woodland surveys have been conducted in the past year, to begin an inventory of the estate's tree stocks, to allow management for greater timber productivity, in balance with access and conservation objectives.</p> <p>A6 SWT has a draft strategy for their work which will form the start for a strategy for the</p>	<p>Report to Select Committee October 2013</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Council and Surrey residents. 		<p>Countryside Estate.</p> <p>A8 SCC has begun the Explore Surrey Campaign for Countryside Management, this will start the process of promoting Surrey's Countryside. The Campaign will be evaluated in the Autumn</p> <p>A8 SCC has a Countryside communications strategy which will be aligned with SWT's strategy as it is developed.</p>	
<p>The Smallholdings and Farms</p> <p>The Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency reviews the management arrangements for the Council's Small Holdings and Farm Estate to ensure that they retain value and maximise economic returns.</p>	<p>SF1 Review the management of the Smallholdings and Farm Estate.</p> <p>SF2 Undertake Wood Hub feasibility study to assess potential of under-utilised small holding and farm sites for development as wood hubs – with aim of increasing return to council from these sites and support wider objectives of woodland economy infrastructure and supply of locally sourced renewable heat to SCC estate.</p>	<p>SF1 Subject to agreement of Select Committee and Cabinet Member, will finalise the brief and go ahead with peer review of management of the Smallholding Estate.</p> <p>SF2 Some sites have been found to be feasible for wood hubs in respect of key issues including size, access, and Planning considerations. However, to achieve financially sustainable return on the investment required, the Council would need to significantly increase market demand, via its own estate, as there are sufficient sources of supply to meet current demand. These conclusions will be discussed further with internal departments and external stakeholders in the wood fuel market. An alternative business model for wood fuel market development is also being considered (see 'Rural Economy' section).</p>	<p>Report to Select Committee October 2013</p>
<p>Partnership Working</p> <p>The Strategic Director for Environment and</p>	<p>PW 1 Establish a complete register of partnerships that the County Council hosts and contributes to.</p>	<p>PW1 Register is in the process of being drawn up</p>	<p>Report to Select Committee July 2013</p>

<p>Infrastructure reviews and refreshes the approach to rural and countryside partnership working. This review should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A revised register of all partnerships within the County, setting out the purpose of each organisation and financial contributions and representation from the County; ○ That this register is reviewed on annual basis to ensure it continues to be relevant; ○ That a culture of partnership (rather than direction) is encouraged and fostered within the County; and ○ That Surrey County Council actively engages with the (new) Surrey Nature Partnership, with the County representative on this body 	<p>PW2 Support the establishment of Surrey Nature Partnership, e.g. establishing the Terms of Reference and strategic direction and setting up the Board.</p> <p>PW3 Working with networks across the County to establish greater collaboration in countryside management</p>	<p>PW2 Terms of Reference for the SNP will be drafted by the end of July</p> <p>PW2 SNP shadow Board to meet September.</p> <p>PW3 The Cabinet Member is facilitating a meeting in September of the chairmen of the main countryside networks to develop further collaboration across the County.</p>	<p>Further report to Select Committee in October</p> <p>September 2013</p>
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being the relevant Cabinet Member.			
<p>The Rural Economy</p> <p>a) The County Council maintains policies which enable residents to live and work in the rural community. This will require working with partners to facilitate both affordable housing and job opportunities (including apprentices).</p> <p>b) The County Council supports the development of the wood fuel industry in Surrey and encourages cooperation between the owners of smaller woods.</p> <p>c) The County Council prioritises the use of wood fuel in its own buildings, subject to approval of a business case.</p>	<p>RE 1 Working with the Surrey Rural Partnership (SRP), review the Surrey Rural Strategy and ensure it is still fit for purpose</p> <p>RE2 Work with SRP to ensure the needs of the rural economy are included in the Growth Strategies for the LEPs and the EU Fund Investment Strategies</p> <p>RE3 Build on Wood Hubs feasibility investigations to develop a more deliverable option for supporting management of smaller woodlands (inc SWT sites) and supporting the Council's wood fuel policy</p>	<p>RE1 Enterprise M3 (a LEP) Rural Group and SRP are exploring how SRP can take the lead in identifying issues and delivery of projects in the rural economy in their area.</p> <p>RE3 Financial appraisal of a local wood fuel ESCO has been conducted and will be discussed with internal departments and external stakeholders in the wood fuel market.</p> <p>RE3 Energy and Maintenance teams within SCC Property Services now have a screening process in place to appraise potential for conversion of boilers in need of replacement to wood fuel (chip or pellet). Several feasible sites have been identified with positive business cases developed by boiler suppliers</p>	<p>Review of The Rural Strategy completed by March 2014</p>
<p>Tourism</p> <p>a) Specific management plans are created for iconic locations in</p>	<p>T1 Locations identified Runnymede, site of the signing of the Magna Carta. Newlands Corner, Leith Hill</p>	<p>T1 Project Team for Newlands Corner established. SWT have employed a Commercial Development Manager to take on the development of sites on the Countryside Estate in partnership with SCC and others.</p>	<p>Progress report to Select Committee July 2013</p>

<p>Surrey. b) The Olympic Legacy is used as a catalyst for key decisions. c) Objectives are agreed with the AONB to reflect the strength and potential brand for Surrey.</p>	<p>BoxHill and Norbury Park Ockham and Chatley Heath</p> <p>Plans drawn up in priority order</p> <p>RE2 A cycling strategy and Tourism Strategy in development to make the most of the potential for attracting new visitors to the Countryside.</p> <p>RE3 The Brands for the AONB are promoted and their role within the range of brands for the County agreed</p>	<p>T1 Magna Carta Project Team established working with the National Trust to develop better visitor facilities at the site in Runnymede.</p> <p>RE2 Both strategies are in early draft. The Cycling Strategy will be considered by Environment & Transport Select Committee and Communities Select Committee Members in a private workshop on 19 July. The Strategy includes policies with regard to capturing the local business benefit of cycle tourism, particularly in rural areas, whilst managing the impacts of that increase on local communities and the environment. The Tourism Strategy is expected to go to Communities Select Committee in October or November 2013.</p> <p>RE3 The Surrey Hills Trademark has been licensed to Surrey Hills Enterprises to promote it to local businesses.</p> <p>RE3 The role of this and other brands is being included in the Tourism Strategy.</p>	
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