

Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee**Memorandum of Agreement – For Information****10 October 2013**

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County Council**Key Issue**

To update Members on progress with updating the Memorandum of Agreement.

Summary

A number of changes have occurred in the operation of the partnership since the Memorandum was last agreed in October 2008. The Memorandum has been updated in draft to reflect those changes; however the mechanics and relationships of the partnership remain unaltered. A draft paper is with partnership officers for consultation.

1 Introduction & background

- 1.1 Since the last Memorandum of Agreement in 2008 a number of changes have been made to the operation of the Basingstoke Canal Authority, particularly in terms of personnel and structure.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 The MoA has been revised to reflect changes in staffing. Most prominently the removal of the Canal Director post and replacement of that role by a Canal Manager to lead the BCA, and the extension of the two lead Countryside officers of the owning County Councils into strategic management of the Canal.
- 2.2 A number of proposed plans were not produced under the previous Canal management; the opportunity has been taken to reflect this and provide realistic updated schedule of these strategic documents. Most notably the Strategic Plan was never produced; it is proposed that this is replaced by a **Strategy** – the adoption of which is also an agenda item for this Committee.
- 2.3 The Service Plan will run out in 2014 and will need to be revised – the proposed option for revising into two documents (**Operational** and **Recreational** plans) is included within the **Strategy** and the draft MoA.
- 2.4 Officers of Partner Authorities at the *Joint Advisory Group* wished to consider the draft and where appropriate seek guidance from their Members before presenting the revised draft document for adoption. It was therefore recommended that there should be a consultation period.

3 What happens next

- 3.1 Partner authorities and organisations officers will review the draft, and make comments. A further report following the consultation period is likely to be made to the February meeting of the Committee.

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