

Appendix 1
Countryside Management Transformation Programme

Project	Purpose/Aim
1: Revision of the SWT Agreement	To review and amend the agreement between SCC and the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) to ensure that the parties are achieving best value for the countryside estate and the public; and to review the financial formula and agree savings in the agreement price.
2: Establishment of an Asset Management Plan for SCC' rural estate	To develop and agree an Asset Management Plan for the land and properties not part of the revised SWT Agreement (i.e. Farms and small holdings)
3: Establishment of the Surrey Nature Partnership (SyNP)	To support the establishment of a robust organisation that can lead on strategic environmental matters across the County working with a range of organisations to establish policy and deliver , e.g. local authorities, and the LEPs
4: Redefinition of SRP and Surrey Rural Strategy	To review the role and purpose of the Surrey Rural Partnership and to review the Surrey Rural Strategy following the establishment of the Surrey Nature Partnership and closer collaboration between countryside management organisations in Surrey - - [This project will be defined once all other projects and in particular project 3 – establishing the SyNP – have made some progress]
5: Establishment of a countryside communication plan for Surrey	To increase public awareness, engagement, understanding and participation in the Surrey countryside.
6: Leadership of the development of the wood fuel market in Surrey	To co-ordinate the Council's endeavours in the potentially (but not automatically) mutually beneficial areas of 'woodland' opportunity, in particular woodland management on the county council estate (managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust), development of land available at freehold sites and the Council as a energy consumer.
7: Support the establishment of the governance and management plan of the Surrey Hills AONB	To Establish the AONB Unit with a more sustainable funding stream and reduce the County Council's revenue costs while ensuring local authority input into the delivery of the statutory duty (i.e. developing and reviewing the management plan) with regard to the AONB.
8: Countryside Access Service Delivery Improvement Plan	More efficient/effective management of all work flows associated with countryside access work and employ 'bank staff' to process landowner led diversion orders, where a clear public benefit can be gained and full costs recovered

9: Establishment and approval of a business plan for the Basingstoke Canal	To establish a clear plan for the future of the Basingstoke Canal that reduces or removes the impact on the taxpayer; investigates opportunities for income generation; achieves local economic benefit; manages risks and limits liabilities; and is based on robust analyses and appropriate stakeholder engagement.
10: Identification and Establishment of plans for Surrey's Iconic Locations	To identify sites and provide plans for developing the visitor facilities at those sites.
11: Establish future SCC countryside management arrangements (including implementing the Countryside Management Project business plan), in line with E&I Future objectives	To provide to a more resilient structure/ range of structures that can attract enough income to ensure a sustainable future for Countryside Management in Surrey

Countryside Transformation Programme October 2013 Update			
Project	Progress Last Month	Progress for Next Month	Issues and new/increased risks
1: Revision of the SWT Agreement	Options discussed at Workshop with the Environment & Transport Select Committee on 27 September. Led to proposal to set up Task Group to focus on SCC's stewardship role of the Estate through the SWT agreement. The Task Group will lead to the development of a business plan for the countryside estate	Prepare report on options on how to improve visitor facilities (SWT) Set up SCC stewardship role Task Group Continue to develop options for governance, property, service delivery specification	None identified

2: Establishment of an Asset Management Plan for SCC' rural estate	The rural surveyors commissioned by EPM to review the way SCC's rural estate is managed have submitted an initial draft of their report. This needs further information and some rework.	Report due to be completed by the end Oct/beg. Nov. It will then be circulated for discussion on how the Rural Estate should be managed.	Rural surveyors have been delayed in their work. Should still be on target
3: Establishment of the Surrey Nature Partnership (SyNP)	SCC's role in relation to providing support to the SyNP has been agreed. SCC will provide funding for a part-time partnership support / assistant role and will provide some time from a project manager to plan and coordinate work once defined.	Run workshop to work through what the SyNP is trying to achieve (purpose and objectives) SyNP to draft job description for the part-time support role in order for SCC to start recruitment	SCC now agreed what support it will give to the Partnership but the type of work / contents of project is yet to be defined. This should be resolved with the forthcoming workshop. Although there is some delay in establishing the purpose of the Partnership, this is not expected to have an impact on having a business plan in Feb/Mar 2014.
4: Redefinition of SRP and Surrey Rural Strategy	This project will be defined once there is clarity about the role/purpose of the SyNP	The SRP is holding a meeting on 4 November to discuss the redefinition of its role / purpose.	none identified
6: Leadership of the development of the wood fuel market in Surrey	Wood chip and pellet boilers on SCC estate The first site for biomass boiler installation has been tendered, via the local M&E framework. They will sub-contract a biomass specialist. Woodland management by SWT of SCC woodlands	Wood chip and pellet boilers on SCC estate Tender response for Hazel House will be evaluated, with a view to contractor appointment. Discussions will be set up with potential fuel suppliers . Woodland management by SWT of SCC woodlands SWT and SCC will jointly develop	Biomass boiler procurement for SCC estate - the public sector has suffered an excessively high proportion of failures in biomass boiler installations. Wood fuel supply chain view is that this is due to public sector's heavy use of framework

	<p>SWT have identified three sites for wood storage to build up commercially attractive amounts of timber from non-commercial compartments where work is done in-house.</p> <p>SWT have purchased a trailer to enable in-house teams to conduct management to get compartments into a commercial state</p> <p>SWT have got approval from Natural England to amend work programme at Sheepleas (felling and thinning work to commence Nov 2013)</p>	<p>'estate productivity' targets /KPIs for inclusion in the SWT contract (link to Project 1)</p> <p>SWT Woodland officer will assess further sites for wood resources to inform work programmes (link to Project 5)</p> <p>Wood hub at Trumps Farm</p> <p>Potential tenants will be consulted on their preferences for schedule for development.</p> <p>Domestic fuel (logs) market development</p> <p>Scoping of potential marketing exercise with small woodland contracts, domestic wood stove installers and SWT, linked to Surrey housing stock analysis.</p>	<p>orders (used to avoid time consuming OJEU tendering) which has resulted in poor quality contractors being appointed. However, SCC is choosing to continue with this procurement route i.e. main contractor then sub-contracts, in order to meet other council priorities.</p>
7: Support the establishment of the governance and management plan of the Surrey Hills AONB	AONB Staff, Officers Working Group and AONB Board reviewing the Constitution of the AONB	AONB Board to make decision on Constitution revised text and draft review of the Management Plan on 16 th October The Constitution and Management Plan then goes out for Consultation	none identified
8: Countryside Access Service Delivery Improvement Plan	<p>(1) CAMS: Still awaiting resolution of contractual issues from Procurement and Legal Services</p> <p>(2) Bank staff for landowner-led diversion orders: Approval to recruit gained</p>	<p>(1) CAMS: Sign revised contract and reissue purchase order</p> <p>(2) Bank staff: Awaiting new recruitment portal tool 'Talent Link' to go live and then start process.</p>	<p>(1) CAMS: If contractual issues not resolved, commence procurement process again</p> <p>(2) Bank staff: None</p>
9: Establishment and approval of a business plan for the Basingstoke Canal	First draft of business plan written and distributed to key staff in SCC and HCC for comment - awaiting comments Mytchett Lake Embankment	<p>Engage with HCC and volunteer partners over procurement of telemetry equipment</p> <p>Agree with EPM contractor for Detailed Feasibility / Design of Mytchett site</p>	<p>No new risks – same as last month</p> <p>HCC not agreeing with or contributing to proposed approach for an income</p>

	<p>strengthening works - sheet piling completed and commencement of works to increase freeboard in line with EA requirements</p> <p>Agreed specification for Southampton Uni students further investigations following from initial Water Balance study in 2012</p> <p>Agreed with SCC Procurement Category Specialist framework for the delivery of the remainder of structural repairs / rehabilitation works over 2014-17</p> <p>Discussion with Woking Borough Council concerning planned development incorporating the Canal in Woking</p> <p>Working with Engineering and Procurement colleagues ensured that SCC section of Canal has emergency cover in place at end of existing term contract (BCA are not able to provide a stand-by emergency contractor under HCC procurement regime in Surrey - HCC contractors will not supply cover in Surrey)</p>	<p>redevelopment</p> <p>Exploratory meeting with Canal & River Trust [30/10]</p> <p>Continue to work with Engineering and Procurement colleagues ensured that SCC section of Canal has emergency cover in place at end of existing term contract</p> <p>Scheduled management activities: Meeting with Canal Society [18/10], Conservation Steering Group [23/10], with EPM renegotiate terms of Mytchett site boat trip franchise [tbc]</p>	<p>generation led solution or wanting to divest themselves of the Canal before it can be made economically stable -</p> <p>Impact: Delay in implementing economic recovery solution, SCC and other partners incur additional costs</p> <p>Other Canal partners fail to make agreed contributions during recovery period</p> <p>Impact: BCA is unable to fulfil maintenance obligations, SCC / HCC incur additional costs</p>
10: Identification and Establishment of plans for Surrey's Iconic Locations	Newlands corner: brief for site design competition drafted and being reviewed by Commercial	Newlands corner: finalise brief for site design competition and prepare for competition process	None identified

	<p>Operations Manager at SWT Other sites identified: Leith Hill Chatley Heath, Ockham</p>	<p>Rest of project: continue with site identification</p>	
<p>11: Establish future SCC countryside management arrangements (including implementing the Countryside Management Project business plan), in line with E&I Future objectives</p>	<p>Countryside Management Partnerships Review: Final draft business plan presented to Lower Mole members steering group Revised JD's produced for new staff structure Revised JD's taken to Hay Panel Wider project: not defined yet</p>	<p>Countryside Management Partnerships Review: Reorganisation to take place as part of E & I future consultation Define wider project</p>	<p>Project needs defining</p>