

4 July 2019**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****ANNUAL UPDATE – SHERWOOD FOREST COUNTRY PARK****Purpose of the Report**

1. To allow members to consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the report and the presentation given.

Information

2. The new £5m Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre (SFVC), funded jointly by the County Council, the RSPB and a number of other partners including the Sherwood Forest Trust, Thoresby Estate and the Woodland Trust, was completed in summer 2018, and officially opened on 4 October 2018.
3. The RSPB will continue to run events in Sherwood Forest, including the hugely successful Robin Hood Festival, which this year is taking place between Monday 5th and Sunday 11th August.
4. This report and the accompanying presentation by the RSPB provide an update on the first period of operation for the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, and an overview of the proposals to develop the public offer in the coming year.

Other Options Considered

5. This process is tried and tested and provides Committee with valuable insight and opportunity to challenge the performance of the contract, the therefore the option not to present was not considered to be viable.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. The development of the Country Park continued throughout the past twelve months, with a growing customer base, footfall and sales. The RSPB continue to operate the park to a high standard and will continue to do so as we develop the park further, including building on the world renowned Robin Hood legend, and the opportunities presented by the New Visitor Economy Strategy for Nottinghamshire recently approved by Policy Committee.
7. The presentation focuses on key improvements and business performance from 2018/19, notably:
 - Park improvements
 - Visitor Centre Impact
 - Interpretation
 - Data capture and marketing

- Significant Events
- The 2020 vision
- Summary

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

9. There are no ongoing revenue costs associated with the contract.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That members consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within the report and the presentation given.

Derek Highton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mark Croston, Cultural Services Commissioning Manager, T: 0115 9932712, E: mark.croston@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments (AK 29/05/2019)

10. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (RK 03.06.2019)

11. There is no revenue budget for Sherwood Country Park, as management of the Park was passed to RSPB on 1st August 2018. NCC Officers will continue to work with estate management to ensure that the services are being provided in line with the contract specifications.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All