

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**SHERWOOD FOREST VISITOR CENTRE AND COUNTRY PARK –
PROGRESS UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report and the accompanying joint presentation by the RSPB and the Council is to provide the Committee with a further update on progress following Committee approval in July 2015 to enter into legal agreements with the RSPB as partner to a) design, build and operate a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest Country Park and b) decommission the existing facilities.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. Culture Committee approved the commencement of a procurement exercise at its meeting on 1 July 2014 to seek a partner to develop, build and operate a new visitor centre for Sherwood Forest Country Park, and to manage Sherwood Country Park.
3. Following a detailed procurement exercise, the RSPB was selected as the preferred bidder. Culture Committee, at its meeting on 21 July 2015, approved the Council entering into legal agreements with the RSPB as its partner.
4. Contracts were signed with the RSPB on 16 November 2015. A presentation to the Culture Committee on 8 December 2015 highlighted the progress made and the next steps with this project and this presentation provides a further update.

Other Options Considered

5. The report is for noting only.

Reasons for Recommendations

6. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and legal advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

8. The impact on service users (visitors) will be positive as the new visitor centre will provide a much needed “fit for purpose” visitor experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Culture Committee notes the progress made on entering into legal agreements with the RSPB as partner to design, build and operate a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest Country Park, to decommission the existing facilities, and the next steps.

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Constitutional Comments

9. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 31/03/16)

10. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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.

Future of Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre – report to Culture Committee on 1 July 2014 (previously published)

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and Country Park – future development and management arrangements – report to Culture Committee on 21 July 2015 (previously published)

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and Country Park – progress update – report to Culture Committee on 8 December 2015 (previously published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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