

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	25 September 2013
Title:	4881
Reference:	Management of Common Land at Yateley and Shortheath
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the approval of the submission of an application to the Planning Inspectorate for consent for the proposed fencing and other infrastructure at Yateley Common be deferred to a future Decision Day, to enable full consultation with local Members.
- 1.2 That the submission of an application to the Planning Inspectorate for consent for the proposed fencing and other infrastructure at Shortheath Common be approved.
- 1.3 That minor adjustments to the current plans at Shortheath Common, to either meet the needs of individual residential access points, or to follow best practice in any relevant issue be approved. This may include gate selection for equestrian access or the siting of cattle grids on traffic management grounds

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1 The fencing of Shortheath Common is required to enable the re-introduction of grazing on the common. Grazing will significantly enhance the management of these internationally important lowland heaths. As this site is a Common, consent will be required from the Planning Inspectorate for any works and therefore Executive Member approval is sought to proceed with an application for that consent. Local Members and the local management advisory committee have supported the proposals.
- 2.2 The decision to defer Yateley Common was agreed to enable further consultation to take place with local Members on the scheme.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 Grazing is one of a range of management tools considered for managing the common and was the favoured option of the public when put out to consultation alongside controlled burning, mechanical cutting and turf-stripping. In addition to having the most public support, it is also the preferred officer option in terms of ecological benefits, management efficiency and overall effectiveness.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

25 September 2013

**Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and
Countryside
Councillor Keith Chapman**