

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
<b>Date:</b>	4 December 2013
<b>Title:</b>	Transforming our Country Parks – Case for Future Investment
<b>Reference:</b>	5393
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. The decision:

That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- 1.1. Endorses the strategic value of these facilities and the case for investment to transform and modernise the Country Parks to meet the needs of Hampshire's communities and visitors, and to protect the County's cultural heritage and natural environment.
- 1.2 Fully supports the principle of using targeted capital and partnership funding, over a five year period, to remove long term revenue dependency and deliver both future resilience for the Parks and good value for money.
- 1.3 Recommends more detailed consideration by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources including consideration of the necessary capital programme; capital receipt; and re-investment implications associated with this proposal
- 1.4 Endorses the need to support the programme by prioritising efforts to secure inwards investment through grant applications and partnership funding.

#### 2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. The Country Parks collectively provide unique, high quality countryside that over 1.2 million visitors enjoy every year. Despite being so well loved they are less able to meet people's needs and expectations today.
- 2.2. Through targeted funding more people will be able to visit and benefit from this unique resource. This will transform the services they offer and provide long term financial sustainability. A key objective of the investment is to

enable the Parks to become financially self sufficient in terms of operational revenue support.

**3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1. Do nothing. Continue to manage the Parks without capital investment in the transformation programme. This has the potential to result in a decline in visitor numbers and income affecting the long term financial future of the Parks.

**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:**

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**4 December 2013**

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