

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
<b>Date:</b>	12 December 2013
<b>Title:</b>	Transforming our Country Parks – Case for Future Investment
<b>Reference:</b>	5362
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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#### 1. The decision:

That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources:

- a) 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.
- b) Subject to the production of a satisfactorily detailed business case, supports the inclusion of the Country Parks Transformation Programme, including further detail on the associated revenue implications in the consideration of the County Councils forward capital programme and formal budget setting process. This will include consideration of the optimum timing and weighting of capital investment to achieve the best outcome for the programme.
- c) Subject to approval by the County Council of the necessary capital allocation, approves the disposal of property assets within the Culture, Communities and Business Services Department, the total value of which will be re-invested in support of the transformation programme
- d) Endorses proposals to prioritise efforts to secure inwards investment through grant applications and partnership funding and the commencement of programme management arrangements immediately upon confirmation of any capital allocation.

**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 deterioration of assets and 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:**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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<b>Executive Member for Policy and Resources Councillor Roy Perry</b>	