

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	19 January 2015
Title:	Draft Hampshire Countryside Access Plan
Reference:	6387
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Sarah Manchester

Tel: 01962 667921

Email: sarah.manchester@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1 That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside:

- i) Notes the Assessment of Needs, the work of the Culture and Communities Select Committee and its Task & Finish Group in guiding the process
- ii) Endorses the draft Countryside Access Plan 2015-25, pending the outcome of public consultation
- iii) Supports the proposal from the Task and Finish Group to transfer the current grant for access work of £47,550 to the Countryside Service in direct support of on-going volunteer projects linked to the Plan.
- iv) Approves the proposed public consultation on the draft Countryside Access Plan

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

2.1 The production of a revised Countryside Access Plan for Hampshire ensures that the County Council has a current strategy to focus resources where they are needed most during the coming decade. It will also ensure that the Council meets the requirements under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to review the existing Countryside Access Plan.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 Do nothing. The County Council could continue to carry out its functions without reviewing its long-term strategy. This would increase the risk of a

significant decline in the quality and usability of the Countryside Access Network in Hampshire, as the service would not be in a position to adapt its approach in the face of declining resources or changing public priorities. It would also risk challenge that the County Council is not complying with its legal duty regarding Rights of Way Improvement Plans.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. 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:
-----	19 January 2015
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside Councillor Keith Chapman	