

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
PART II

176. NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPORT HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT TEAM

1. On 16 July 2015, the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside gave approval to the transfer of services and funding of Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight (SHIOW) from its current Hampshire County Council hosting relationship to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to be fully operational from 1 April 2016. Approval was also given by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside to SHIOW's continued work to deliver certain elements of Hampshire County Council's sports development programme.

2. SHIOW is one of 45 County Sports Partnerships which operate across England. It is responsible for developing specific programmes which increase participation in sport and physical activity across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and it does this by working with a wide range of organisations. These include local authorities, schools and local universities, Sport England, Public Health and the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

3. Sport England, SHIOW's largest financial contributor, has recently asked the County Sports Partnerships Network to reduce its reliance on Sport England funding to 50% of turnover by 2017 as a collective target. SHIOW will be better able to work to contribute to this target when it has formal legal status and can enter independently into legal or commercial contracts.

4. SHIOW already has a recognised brand and work will be carried out to test its brand identity and, where necessary, make improvements. The brand will have the potential to attract new opportunities for external investment and strategic partnerships across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and possibly regionally and nationally. A move to an independent CIO provides an exciting opportunity to create a more diverse funding model for SHIOW and in turn provides the best chance of continuing to deliver quality services for Hampshire and Isle of Wight residents.

177. COUNTRY PARKS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

5. On 14 September the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside received an update on progress with the Country Parks Transformation programme and endorsed the start up of individual projects at Lepe Country Park and Royal Victoria Country Park.

6. The Country Parks Transformation programme aims to develop a suite of modern 21st Century Country Parks and includes all of the parks owned and managed by Hampshire County Council. Through capital investment and external

7. funding the parks will attract more people from Hampshire, and beyond, to visit more often, stay longer and return. By achieving this, the parks aim to become operationally financially sustainable.

8. Lepe Country Park is an important countryside recreational and educational resource and popular country park which attracts over 250,000 visits a year. Ambitious plans for Lepe are underway to develop a new visitor centre with café and staff accommodation on the land owned by the County Council. The new building will make the best of the coastal location whilst being positioned to withstand high tides and storm surges and provide an exemplar of building in constrained and challenging environments.

9. Royal Victoria Country Park is the first of the country parks to successfully receive grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of its transformation, demonstrating the importance of conserving the heritage of the country parks. The project will be completed by June 2018 and will see improved access to the Chapel Tower with its breath taking views of Southampton Water, a new multifunctional learning and performance space along with a kiosk and other facilities to entice people to visit and learn about the Chapel. Supporting this transformation will be improvements to the infrastructure to facilitate greater visitor numbers and encourage exploration of the wider park.

Further details on these items can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- New Governance Arrangements for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team (6727)
- Country Parks Transformation Programme Update (6876)

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