

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Sir George Staunton Country Park Joint Management Committee
Date:	30 January 2015
Title:	Future Governance Report
Reference:	6445
Report From:	Jo Heath

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of the reasons why the Joint Management Agreement will not be renewed following the current agreement expiring on 31st March 2015.
- 1.2. In addition, the report will set out the future management arrangements and put forward the recommendation to explore opportunities to enable existing JMC members to continue to contribute to the future development and improvement of Sir George Staunton County Park (Staunton).

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The current Joint Management Agreement (Appendix 1) expires on 31st March 2015.
- 2.2. East Hampshire District Council notified Hampshire County Council that they would not be entering into a new agreement from 1st April 2015 for the following:

‘As part of the budget setting process for next year, consideration has been given to the Council’s future participation in the Partnership. I wish to provide you with early notice that it has been determined, in consultation with the local district councillor, that we will not be renewing the Partnership Agreement when it next comes up for renewal in 2015. We have very much valued the Partnership, but like all Councils have had to reach difficult decisions when reviewing where our input (staff and resources) can be used to best effect, given the need to make savings’.
- 2.3. Following a meeting between the JMC Chairman, Councillor Fairhurst, the Director Culture, Communities and Business Services (CCBS), Karen Murray

and Asst. Director CCBS, John Tickle, it was agreed that with only one other Partner the agreement was no longer tenable.

- 2.4. From 1st April 2015 will fully become one of HCC's Countryside Service Parks and subject to HCC Governance .

3. Finance

- 3.1. The estimated balance held in SGSCP reserve as at 31st March 2015 is £135,986. It is proposed that the final balance be transferred into the Culture, Communities and Business Services Cost of Change Reserve and be ring-fenced for use solely at Staunton. The Service would then put proposals to the CCBS Departmental Management Team who would consider them and release funds as appropriate. This process is already established for the Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight partnership
- 3.2. Possible projects for JMC Members to consider and help prioritise investing the reserves into include:
 - Restore path network throughout payzone and entry to Leigh Park Gardens. This could be completed in months rather than the 3 year schedule we are currently working towards;
 - Create an outdoor eating area – e.g. 'marquee' style structure, situated on Front Lawn, to be used by schools and visitors during peak season;
 - Improve outdoor play area as it is now over 12 years old and showing signs of age – some new additions and a few replacements would be welcomed by visitors; &
 - Renovate the remaining courtyard animal shelter (at the end of the wing, next to the small animal buildings) to make it fully accessible.

4. Future direction

- 4.1. Staunton is privileged to have Member support and wish this to continue in order to benefit the Park and local community.
- 4.2. It is proposed that a new group is established, with a clear purpose that will enable Members and others to act as advocates for Staunton and embark on fund-raising and high profile promotional activities.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. The Joint Management Agreement will cease on 31st March 2015 and will not be continued.
- 5.2. Identify and help prioritise which projects to invest the current reserve funds in.
- 5.3. A final JMC meeting is scheduled to agree the future arrangement for existing Members to contribute towards the development of Staunton.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearhmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&ref=Y&item_ID=6069&tab=2&co=&confidential	6069	2014-09-16
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This is a regular update report and therefore does not have any direct equalities impact implications. The Country Park complies with all equality legislation.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. This is a regular update report and therefore does not have any direct crime and disorder impact implications

3. Climate Change:

The Country Park supports the natural environment, by the use of recycling where possible and supports the use of natural materials to adapt to climate change.