

Leisure Task and Finish Panel Recommendations

(a) Future Management Of The Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve

- (1) That negotiations be entered into with Essex Wildlife Trust with respect to a new Management Agreement for the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve;
- (2) That the new Management Agreement be offered for a minimum of 20 years, preferably 25 years (in order to maximise opportunities for external funding) but that provision should be made for periodic, performance related break clauses;
- (3) That any new Management Agreement should allow for enhanced monitoring and evaluation of management practices and their effect on the flora, fauna and wildlife on the site, with more frequent direct reporting to the Council and the Grange Farm Trust;
- (4) That Partnership working with the Council's own Countryside Management Service, Countrycare, be formalised within any new Management Agreement to ensure the continuation of joint working;
- (5) That the Grange Farm Trust be fully consulted on any new Management Agreement to reflect their interest and the potential future extension of the Local Nature Reserve to include the provision of an Interpretation Centre;
- (6) That the future costs of managing the Reserve, with respect to the Annual Grant to Essex Wildlife Trust, be reflected in the New Agreement on the basis of current costs plus inflation;
- (7) That the Grange Farm Trust are asked under the terms of the new Management Agreement, to contribute proportionately to the management costs and also encouraged to invest in infrastructure improvements; and
- (8) That the final terms of any new Management Agreement be agreed by the Council's Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder;

(b) Future Management Options For Waltham Abbey Sports Centre

- (9) That, for the benefit of local people, the Council ensures Community use be retained at Waltham Abbey Sports Centre;
- (10) That the current direct management arrangements, (under the terms of the current Dual Use Agreement), would not represent Value for Money in the longer-term and as such the Council should be looking to achieve a reduction in risk and lower revenue consequences in any future arrangements, which may include the involvement of a third-party Leisure Management Contractor secured by open competition; and
- (11) That, given the fact that the School Governing Body have yet to identify a Preferred Management Option and mindful of the urgency needed to reach a final decision by September 2007, the review be concluded in the next municipal year by a Leisure Task and Finish Panel;

(c) Review Of Arts Development In The District

(12) That, whilst recognising the quality of the current Arts Development work undertaken by the Council's own Arts Team, the feasibility of third party delivery from suitably qualified and experienced Arts Organisations be actively explored, for part or all of the Service;

(13) That the underlying objectives and outcomes of any alternative future delivery option should be to increase access to, and participation in, the Arts for people of all ages and abilities within the Epping Forest Community; and

(14) That the feasibility of the alternative delivery of the Arts be undertaken by a Leisure Task and Finish Panel in the 2007/08 Municipal Year, with their recommendations going forward to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for consideration;

(d) The Council's Role And Involvement In Outdoor Events

(15) That the important part Community and Outdoor Events play in the life of the District, along with their value and benefit to local people, be recognised;

(16) That opportunities be maximised to:

(a) utilise events to raise the Council's profile;

(b) consult on Policy and Service Issues; and

(c) showcase the current quality of the services provided by the Council;

(17) That work be undertaken to improve the Council's presence at events, with the cost and implications to be reported to the Cabinet for consideration;

(18) That, whilst the Council already hosts a programme of Outdoor Events at North Weald Airfield, consideration be given to the Council becoming a more active provider of its own major events at the site in order to achieve increased profile and potential profit, while also recognising the risk;

(19) That a formal proposal for a trial event be developed, possibly a music or fireworks event, to be approved by the Cabinet;

(20) That further consideration be given to increasing capacity within the Council to provide advice and technical support to Community Event Organisers, in order to help ensure that such events still continue in the face of more rigorous Legal, Health and Safety and Insurance requirements; and

(21) That a formal appraisal be undertaken in liaison with all parties, such as the emergency services, to determine whether an Events Safety Action Group should be established for the District.