

 Executive Committee 18th December 2019		Agenda Item No. 8
Title	Tach Brook Country Park Consultation Strategy	
For further information about this report please contact	Rob Hoof (01926 456302) robert.hoof@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Bishops' Tachbrook Ward	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	3 rd December 2014 Minute no.89 1 st November 2017 Minute no. -	
Background Papers	Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 Executive reports, titled 'Tachbrook Country Park', dated Dec 2014 and Nov 2017.	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
This will follow when the masterplan of the Country Park is submitted to the Executive for approval.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	28/11/2019	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	20/11/2019	Rob Hoof
CMT	28/11/2019	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt, Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	20/11/2019	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	20/11/2019	Andrew Jones
Finance	20/11/2019	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	28/11/2019	Councillor David Norris
Consultation & Community Engagement		
<p>This report is a request to approve the Consultation Strategy for the Tach Brook Country park and take the options for a masterplan to public consultation.</p> <p>The options for the masterplan will be based on the results of a 'high level' on-line survey that will be under taken in November/December 2019 to identify the features the public would like to see within the new Country Park.</p> <p>The principle of a Country Park was the subject of consultation through the Local Plan process.</p>		

Officers have met with Bishops' Tachbrook Parish Council to discuss the project and share information; and in 2018 Officers joined the Parish Council at two Neighbourhood Plan consultation events in the village and at Heathcote School, to share that information with the public and receive feedback.	
Final Decision?	No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) A masterplan based on the public consultation will be brought back to Executive for approval and approval to submit a planning application (if required).	

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029 was adopted in September 2017 that includes a policy and land allocation for a Country Park (Policy DS13).
- 1.2 This report provides Members with the proposed approach for engaging with stakeholders and the public in the design and development of a masterplan for Tach Brook Country Park ('the Country Park').

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Executive agrees the Consultation Strategy set out in (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 That Executive note that the online survey is already live on the Council's website.
- 2.3 That Executive notes that following the public consultation a masterplan for the Country Park will be produced and brought before them for approval; and for approval to submit a planning application (if required).
- 2.4 That Executive note that consideration has been given to the potential impact on the consultation should additional land become available to create a larger country park.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

Recommendation 2.1

- 3.1 Policy DS13 of the Local Plan identifies land for a Country Park between the southern edge of new development sites off Harbury Lane and Bishops' Tachbrook. The Country Park will address identified deficiencies in access to the countryside and natural green space in the area; and act as a green buffer to prevent further urban encroachment; provide for a range of recreational activities; and improve the ecological value of the area.
- 3.2 In 2014 the Executive agreed to acquiring the land for the Country Park and in November 2017 Executive approved the procurement of a Design Team to develop the concept and design of the County Park.
- 3.3 In 2019, Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited ('Wood') was commissioned to deliver a detailed masterplan for the County Park and Appendix 1 sets out their approach for engaging with stakeholders and

residents. The detailed design will be for agreed Country Park land north of the Tach Book.

Recommendation 2.2

- 3.4 The use of online surveys is standard practice when carrying out large scale public consultations, and it was considered prudent to progress this element of the project whilst seeking approval for the overall Consultation Strategy.

Recommendation 2.3

- 3.5 The masterplan will be brought back to the Executive for approval and for approval to submit a planning application (if necessary) to construct the Country Park. This would involve the procurement of a works contract to deliver the Country Park.

Recommendation 2.4

- 3.6 Wood have further been commissioned to investigate what additional features and functions stakeholders and the public would like to see if additional land, south of the Tach Brook, is secured in the future.
- 3.7 This work can be informed by the Consultation Strategy set out in Appendix 1, and will not require a separate consultation process.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council's Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		

The Country Park will be free to access providing opportunities for improved health outcomes	The Country Park will be maintained by the Council to a high standard, providing a quality public open space.	No impact
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
No impact	Proposal will recognise customer needs and will improve service provision in line with these.	The production of the masterplan will enable full costing to be produced.

4.2 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF strategy has a number of supporting Strategies. The impact of the recommendations within this report will help to deliver a valuable public asset in the long term.

Proposals will also support the aspirations of the Green Spaces Strategy for Warwick District 2012-2026. In particular recommendations B (improve), C (connect), D (involve), E (resource), F (sustain) and G (conserve).

4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies**

None

4.4 **Impact Assessments**

None

5. **Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 The budgetary requirements for this work was agreed by Executive at its meeting in November 2014. The underlying principle is that the County Park will be delivered through funding contributions secured from section 106 agreements associated with the housing developments north of the County Park. The planned funding to be received within the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the project is £2.857m. This is to cover the capital costs and a commuted sum for the subsequent management and maintenance of the site.

- 5.2 The delivery of the Consultation Strategy and resulting masterplan will be met by funds from s106 agreements.

6. Risks

- 6.1 There are no specific risks related to taking the options for a Country Park masterplan out to public consultation. However, it is possible that the consultation may raise public expectations as to what may be possible to be delivered with the limited available financial resources.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 An alternative option would be to proceed without additional engagement. This would risk the Council adopting a masterplan for the Country Park that has a negative impact on relationships with residents and the delivery of a park that does not meet the needs of future users.
- 7.2 An alternative option would be to reduce the engagement period. However, this would entail a risk that residents feel excluded from a key Council decision.
- 7.3 An alternative option would be to consider the possible extension to the country park as a separate consultative exercise and separate masterplan. This could cause unnecessary work and confusion with stakeholders.

8. Background

- 8.1 None.