

20th January 2015

Environment Committee

Thames Chase Trust

Report of: Roy Ormsby – Head of Street Scene

Wards Affected: All

This report is: Public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council had been providing funding to Thames Chase Trust since 1991, and was formed as one of the twelve Community Forests in 1990.
- 1.2 Engagement with Thames Chase over recent years has diminished this is mainly due to a number of requests to them not being met. Mainly how Brentwood Council received value for money for its £7,770 investment.
- 1.3 The Council has now received a proposal for the Trust, which is outlined in Appendix A. The request is to commence further engagement, and to identify how any future funding provided to the Trust can benefit our communities.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members approve the re-engagement between Brentwood Borough Council and Thames Chase Trust within existing budgets.**
- 2.2 That delegated power is given to the Head of Street Scene in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to work with the Thames Chase Trust on the development of a Management Plan to be brought to the next meeting of the Environment Committee**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Thames Chase Community Forrest (TCCF) was formed in 1990, and includes the London Boroughs of Havering, Barking & Dagenham, Thurrock, Essex CC and Brentwood.

- 3.2 National agencies such as Natural England and the Forestry Commission were also involved in the strategic management, and providing national support.
- 3.3 The Trust has had difficulties over recent years, with all Local Authorities considering the benefits of being part of the organisation, against reducing budgets. The TCCF is now managed through a voluntary organisation known as Thames Chase Trust, with operational management being delivered through a contract with the Forestry Commission.
- 3.4 The proposal in Appendix A is presented as a starting point for discussions, and the TCT are seeking to engage with the Council to identify what benefits, if any, can be brought through any partnership agreement.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 These will form part of the discussions with Thames Chase Trust.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To identify any opportunities to work in partnership with the Trust to seek benefits for the residents and visitors of the Borough.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 This will commence through discussions with the Trust

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 This is an opportunity to work with the voluntary sector, and across borders with other Local Authorities.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

Tel & Email: 01277 312/jo-anne.ireland@brentwood.gov.uk

- 8.1 If BBC agree to take part in the TCCF Delivery Group, there is budget provision in 2015/16 for the funding TCCF are seeking.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Christopher Potter, Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Services

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8.2 None.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 None

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A - Thames Chase Trust Proposal

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