

## **Environment Select Committee**

### **Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 5 August 2014**

#### **Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)**

##### **Review of Tree Preservation Orders**

The presentation of the final report with its recommendation for approval to Cabinet is on 4 September 2014.

##### **Review of Country Park Maintenance**

The Committee will agree the scope and project plan and receive a background report and presentation on 28 July before undertaking site visits in September. Members will be considering during this review:

- How can the Council build on its strong track record for developing and managing country parks, nature reserves and other countryside sites? What facilities, assets and activities should be developed and maintained, to maximise the community, environmental and economic value of these sites?
- Given the increasing budgetary pressures, what alternative management arrangements could be put in place for the Council's existing countryside sites, and how might the Council encourage greater partnership working between the public, private and third sectors to ensure the sustainable management of these sites in the future?
- How can these sites be developed, managed and promoted on an area-by-area basis for nature/activity-based tourism and recreation? For example, within the area of the Tees Heritage Park, or the area around the Tees Estuary covered by the North Tees Natural Network partnership?

Presentation of the final report with recommendations is scheduled for Cabinet on 12 March 2015.

##### **Other Work**

The Committee was provided with the annual overview and performance information for Environment Services at its meeting on 23 June 2014.