

Environment Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 6 October 2014

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Review of Future of Countryside Sites

The Committee 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 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?

The Committee undertook site visits on 15 September to the following:

- **Charlton's Pond – Local Nature Reserve**
11.6 hectares / declared an LNR in 2004.
- **Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park Country Park**
103 hectares / established as a Country Park in the mid-1990s following the planting of approximately 300,000 trees on land formerly owned by ICI.
- **Wynyard Woodland Park**
144 hectares / established as a Country Park in 1987, following the opening of the Castle Eden Walkway in 1982.
- **Hardwick Dene and Elm Tree Wood - Local Nature Reserve**
12 hectares / declared an LNR in 2004.

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