

Environment Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 25 November 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 on 3 November scrutinised a range of quantitative measures and qualitative information which can be used to help assess the Council's performance in relation to countryside sites. The performance information covered:

- Development of sites and facilities
- Management / maintenance
- Promotion / visitor information

Consideration was given to the possible reinstatement of Green Flag status to demonstrate the provision of excellent open space. In the past it has shown how good the borough is as a place to live and to encourage the residents to be involved.

The Committee next meet on 8 December where it is planned to have discussions with external service providers regarding the involvement of partnership working between the public, private and third sector to ensure nature-based and activity-based tourism and recreation benefitting local communities and the local economy.

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