

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Wednesday, 12 November 2014, 10.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

All County Councillors are invited to attend and participate

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اردو۔ اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی مشمولات کو سمجھنے سے قاصر ہیں اور کسی ایسے شخص تک آپ کی رسائی نہیں ہے جو آپ کے لئے اس کا ترجمہ کر سکے تو، براہ کرم مدد کے لئے 01905 765765 پر رابطہ کریں۔ (Urdu)

(Kurdish) کوردی سۆزانی. نەگەر ناتوانی تێبەگهی له ناوچەزکی نەم بۆلەگهی و دەستت بە هیچ کەس نەگات کە و ههیهگێزێتوه بۆت، تکلیه تەلەفۆن بکە بۆ ژمارهی 01905 765765 و داوای رێنۆینی بکە (Kurdish)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਸਮਝਣ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਇਸਦਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰ ਸਕੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ 01905 765765 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board
Wednesday, 12 November 2014, 10.00 am, County Hall,
Worcester

Membership

Councillors:

Mr R M Udall (Chairman), Mr C B Taylor (Vice Chairman), Mr R W Banks, Mr C J Bloore, Ms L R Duffy, Dr K A Pollock, Mr A C Roberts and Mr T A L Wells

Co-opted Church Representatives

Bryan Allbut (Church of England) and Francis Mohan (Roman Catholic)

Parent Governor Representatives

Ms C Richardson (Parent Governor) and Vacancy (Secondary)

Agenda

Item No	Subject	Page No
1	Apologies and Welcome	
2	Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip	
3	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case 11 November 2014). Enquiries can be made through the telephone number/e-mail address below.	
4	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (to follow)	
5	Member Update and Cabinet Forward Plan	1 - 6
6	Call-in: Transfer of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust	7 - 20

Agenda produced and published by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

To obtain further information or hard copies of this agenda, please contact Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris telephone: Worcester (01905) 76 6619, Kidderminster (01562) 822511 or minicom: Worcester (01905) 76 6399 email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agenda.aspx>

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 4 November 2014

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MEMBER UPDATE AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
 - a) receive an update on emerging issues and developments within the particular remit of each member of the OSPB, including an update on each Overview and Scrutiny Panel
 - b) consider the Council's latest Forward Plan in order to identify:
 - any items that it would wish to consider further at a future meeting; and
 - any items that it would wish to refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration

(a) Member Updates

2. In order to ensure that Members of the OSPB are fully informed about issues relating to scrutiny in Worcestershire, communication between Members is essential. To assist in this, it has been agreed that an item will be placed periodically on the OSPB agenda to enable each member to feed back on emerging issues and developments within their remit. This will also provide an opportunity to highlight possible future agenda items. Regard for the Council's statutory requirements in relation to access to information will be critical.

Areas of Interest

3. Members' areas of responsibility are as follows:
 - Adult Care and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Tom Wells
 - Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Lynne Duffy
 - Economy, Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Ken Pollock
 - Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Bob Banks
 - Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Andy Roberts
 - Localism and Communities – Chris Bloore
4. As part of their role, it was agreed by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) that scrutiny lead members should receive regular briefings from the Directorates they are shadowing. These briefings, alongside the Forward Plan (see below); can be used to help identify any emerging issues that may be appropriate for future scrutiny. Recognising that work across the County Council is of interest and value to all OSPB members, the notes from these briefings (where produced) are available to all members electronically.
5. Members may also be leading scrutiny task groups. It will be important for the OSPB to be aware of how each scrutiny is developing so that they can fully consider the final report. Members

should therefore give a brief update on the progress of the scrutiny.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairmen are asked to feedback on:

- **progress on the work of their Panels and any scrutiny task groups they are leading;**
- **key issues from the Directorate that may be appropriate for future scrutiny;**
- **performance information they have queries or concerns about;**
- **items in the Forward Plan which they consider may be possible issues to scrutinise; and**
- **any other issue which they feel is relevant/of interest to the OSPB.**

(b) Cabinet Forward Plan

7. Under the Council's revised arrangements for scrutiny, it was agreed that part of the remit of the OSPB and the four overview and scrutiny panels would be to undertake pre-decision scrutiny, in particular in relation to issues to be considered at Cabinet.

8. Accordingly, on 10 September 2009 the OSPB agreed that consideration of the Council's Forward Plan should be included as a standing item on OSPB agendas.

9. The Forward Plan is now a rolling electronic document. The latest edition of the Forward Plan available was 4 November 2014 (the date of publication of this Agenda) and is attached at Appendix 1.

10. For information, the currently programmed meetings of the Cabinet are:

- 20 November 2014
- 18 December 2014
- 8 January 2015

11. The Board is asked to consider the Council's latest Forward Plan in order to identify:

- **Any items that it would wish to consider further at a future meeting;**
- **Any items that it would wish to refer to the relevant overview and scrutiny panel for further consideration.**

Issues Suitable for Scrutiny

12. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria in order to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the

Supporting Information

Contact Points

Background Papers

scrutiny?

- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan (as at 4 November 2014)

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511
Or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this Report

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers,
Resources Directorate (01905 766619);
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of

- Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, 10 September 2009, 27 June 2013, 17 July 2013 and 25 September 2013

all of which are available on the Council's website at:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx>

[The Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)

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FORWARD PLAN

FORMAL NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY, AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF, CABINET (OR OTHER EXECUTIVE DECISION-MAKING BODY OR PERSON)

	EXPECTED DATE OF DECISION	PAGE NO.
Museums Opening Hours	17 November 2014	4
The Future of the Museum and Art Gallery, Worcester	17 November 2014	5
*Commissioning of Fleet Transport	20 November 2014	6
*Commissioning of Worcestershire Hub Shared Services	20 November 2014	7
*Increasing Capacity at Timberdine Nursing and Rehabilitation Unit	20 November 2014	8
*Resources Report	20 November 2014	9
Scrutiny Report: Food Banks	20 November 2014	10
*Council Provided Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability: Assessment and Support Planning Assurance (Redditch)	On or around 2 December 2014	11
*Council Provided Day Services for Adults with a Learning Disability: Assessment and Support Planning Assurance (Wyre Forest)	On or around 2 December 2014	12
*Selection of Provider for the Drugs and Alcohol Service	On or around 16 December 2014	13
Budget 2015/16	18 December 2014 & 5 February 2015	14
*Care Act 2014: To provide an update on the implementation and impact of ensuring compliance with the Care Act 2014	18 December 2014 or 8 January 2015	15
*Formation of a Joint Property Vehicle – Consideration of the Full Business Case	18 December 2014	16
*Proposed Closure of Sutton Park Mainstream Autism Base	18 December 2014	17
Quarter 2 2014/15 Performance Report	18 December 2014	18
*Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange	18 December 2014	19
*Commissioning of Learning and Achievement Services in Worcestershire	5 February 2014	20
*Consultation undertaken in respect of Increasing Capacity at Malvern Primary Schools for 2015 and 2016 Intake	5 February 2014	21
*Future Governance of Worcestershire Youth Music and the Music Education Hub	5 February 2015	22
*‘Called In’ Decisions or Scrutiny Reports	Within plan period	23
*Notices of Motion	Within plan period	24

New entries are shown in bold

Entries marked * are considered to be Key Decisions

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CALL- IN: TRANSFER OF KINGSFORD FOREST PARK TO THE NATIONAL TRUST

Local Member

Mr G Yarranton

Summary

1. In accordance with the Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) needs to consider the decision taken by the Cabinet on 16 October 2014 in relation to the transfer of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust. This decision has been called-in by 8 Members – see Appendix 1.

Background

2. Non-Cabinet Members have the power to call in Cabinet decisions in exceptional circumstances and normally only when there is evidence to suggest that Cabinet has departed from the principles of decision-making, as set out in Article 7 of the Constitution. If a decision is called in, it cannot be implemented until the call-in process is completed.

3. The called-in decision is considered by the OSPB, which then has the options set out in paragraph 8.

Cabinet Decision

4. On 16 October 2014, Cabinet RESOLVED (minute number 1625 refers) that:

- (a) the transfer of the freehold of Kingsford Park to the National Trust be approved; and
- (b) the authority to negotiate and agree the detailed terms and conditions of the transfer is delegated to the Director of Business, Environment and Community in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities.

5. The relevant agenda papers and extract of the minutes have been circulated to Members of the Board as Appendix 2 and are available on the County Council website at [this link](#).

Invitations to Attend

6. In accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a copy of which are available on the County Council's website [are available on the County Council's website](#), the following have been invited to attend the meeting:

- Signatories to the call-in
- Mrs L C Hodgson, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities
- Mr J P Champion, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning

Suggested Order of Business

- Head of Community and Environment
- Programme and Commissioning Manager
- The Local Member

7. The OSPB may wish to adopt the following order of proceedings:

- Presentation by members of the reasons for calling the decision in.

Members are reminded that paragraph 17.10 of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules states that "*The first 3 members exercising the right of call-in and who are not either local members or members of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, an Overview and Scrutiny Panel or Scrutiny Task Group established to consider a call-in, are entitled to attend any meeting of that Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, Overview and Scrutiny Panel or Scrutiny Task Group respectively considering the call-in and to speak but not vote.*"

- Questions and Clarification
- Response by the Cabinet Member/officer
- Questions and Clarification
- Any comments by the Local Member
- Any closing remarks by the Cabinet Member/officer
- Any closing remarks by those Members calling the decision in.

Options available to the OSPB

8. Having heard from all parties and considered the decision called-in, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board will:

- (a) accept the decision without qualification or comment (in which case it can be implemented immediately without being considered again by the Cabinet); or
- (b) accept the decision (in which case it can be implemented immediately without being considered again by Cabinet) but with qualification or comment which the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility must consider and respond to; or
- (c) propose modifications to the decision or require a reconsideration of the decision (in which case the implementation of the decision is delayed until the Cabinet has received and considered a report of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board); or
- (d) in exceptional circumstances ask the Council to consider whether option (a) (b) or (c) is appropriate (in which case the implementation is delayed until after the meeting of the Council to which it has been referred and, if Council resolves option (c), the Cabinet has reconsidered the

matter having regard to the Council's view).

(The Council has no power to make final decisions in respect of matters which are the responsibility of the Cabinet).

9. Such exceptional circumstances may be if the decision called-in is one which the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board believes is one which:

(a) the Cabinet cannot in law take; or

(b) is reserved to the Full Council; or

(c) raises issues of such exceptional significance and public interest to justify reference to the Full Council, although the final decision will rest with the Cabinet; or

(d) is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1: Copy of the Call-in
- Appendix 2: (a) Agenda Report and (b) Extract of the Minutes of Cabinet 16 October 2014: Transfer of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust circulated to Members of the Board and available on the County Council Website at [this link](#).

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points:

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511 or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this Report

Suzanne O'Leary, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Resources Directorate (Ext 8673);

Email: so'leary@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Articles of the Constitution (November 2013)
- Constitution, Appendix 4: The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules
- Agenda and Minutes of Cabinet 16 October 2014

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Appendix 1

16thOctober 2014

Dear S. Mallinson

We the undersigned wish to call in the decision regarding: 6. Transfer of Kingsford Forest Park To The National Trust - Cabinet Meeting 16th October 2014.

We feel the manner in which the consultation is being carried out breaches the principles of decision-making.

- There was not full consultation in regard to car parking charges could be introduced after three years.

1. Peter McDonald
2. Graham Vickery
3. Luke Mallet
4. Andy Fry
5. Joe Baker
6. Robin Lunn
7. Paul Denham
8. Pat Agar.

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Cabinet
16 October 2014
6. TRANSFER OF KINGSFORD FOREST PARK TO THE NATIONAL TRUST

Relevant Cabinet Members	Mrs L Hodgson and Mr J Campion
Relevant Officer	Director of Business, Environment and Community
Local Member	Mr G Yarranton
Recommendation	<p>1. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Localism and Communities and Transformation and Change, recommend that the Cabinet:</p> <p>(a) approves the transfer of the freehold of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust; and</p> <p>(b) that the authority to negotiate and agree the detailed terms and conditions of the transfer is delegated to the Director of Business, Environment and Community in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities.</p>
Background Information	<p>2. Kingsford Forest Park comprises 85.4 hectares of mixed deciduous and conifer woodland, and lowland heathland at Wolverley near Kidderminster. It is owned and managed by Worcestershire County Council as part of its countryside estate and is principally used for informal recreation such as dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking, nature study, picnicking and other similar outdoor pursuits. It has a number of waymarked trails, two car parks and a toilet block. Current County Council activity consists of managing and promoting the site and overseeing the work of contractors and volunteers. The park falls within the Kinver Edge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) all of which is owned and managed by the National Trust, apart from Kingsford Forest Park. The park has a number of designations due to its nature conservation, landscape and historical interest which includes some "Rock House" structures and naturally occurring rock outcrops that have to be carefully monitored for safety reasons.</p> <p>3. A widely publicised Soft Marketing exercise held as part of the Countryside Service's Commissioning Review</p>

identified the potential to transfer Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust whilst securing public access and protecting its special characteristics in perpetuity. The National Trust was the only organisation providing a sustainable transfer option that met all of the essential criteria in this regard. It should be noted that the Soft Marketing exercise did not attract any interest from the commercial sector, probably due to the site's protected status, high levels of public access, challenging topography, relatively remote location and low potential for income generation.

4. Taking account of its constraints and liabilities, the restricted value of the site has been estimated at £75,000. However, it is considered that the annual saving of the entire current net expenditure of £29,383 which would be made in due course and the transfer of all liabilities associated with the site justify gifting the site to the National Trust.

5. Current expenditure is approximately apportioned as follows:

- £17k staff
- £7k toilet cleansing contract
- £3.5k maintenance and repairs
- £1k mowing contract
- £1k utilities.

6. It should be noted that the Trust's business model would not support taking on the leasehold of the site and it is the gifting of the site that enables the Trust to take on the future running costs and liabilities.

7. The proposal is therefore to transfer the freehold ownership of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust in order to contribute towards the Countryside Service Future Fit savings target of £265,000 by the end of 2015 and in furtherance of recommendations arising from the Countryside Service Commissioning Review. It is also in accordance with the Council's Operating Model.

8. Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to dispose of any land held by it in any manner it wishes, provided, in a case where the disposal is for a consideration less than the best that can be reasonably obtained, that it considers the disposal will help it to secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area and the undervalue does not in any event exceed £2,000,000. The Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent (England) 2003, which sets out the Secretary of State's conditions for disposal at an undervalue, as stated above, also advises that the Council should seek professional valuation advice in connection with the land and its disposal,

which it has done. It is considered that the proposed gifting of the site to the National Trust is in accordance with the Act.

Progress report

9. A number of informal discussions have taken place with the National Trust and agreement in principle to the transfer has been established on the basis of the freehold of the site being gifted to the National Trust.

10. The Corporate Landlord Board supported the proposed transfer on 19 September 2014 subject to endorsement by Cabinet.

11. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Localism and Communities and Transformation and Change, as well as the local member, are supportive of the proposal

12. Because the National Trust has similar site management objectives to the County Council, an Equality Impact Assessment screening suggests that there would not be any impact on service users including those with protected characteristics.

Terms and Conditions

13. The County Council would seek to make the transfer subject to the following terms and conditions:-

- National Trust undertaking to seek to confer inalienable status on the land
- National Trust confirming that they will maintain free public access and will not introduce car parking charges (should they wish to do so) for a minimum of three years after the transfer
- National Trust taking on legal responsibility for the County Council's England Woodland Grant Scheme and Higher Level Stewardship commitments on the site
- National Trust retaining the four waymarked trails on the site and the North Worcestershire Path, which passes through it
- Transfer of County Council staff to the National Trust would not need to take place and is not required by TUPE regulations
- Both parties would bear their own conveyancing costs
- The land being transferred would not include the timber yard, which is being disposed of separately to the current leaseholder at market value
- The County Council would seek to recover any other costs associated with the transfer provided to do so would not unduly risk the transfer not taking place.

Next Steps

14. Subject to approval by Cabinet, formal negotiations will be conducted with the National Trust to facilitate the transfer of the freehold of the site. It is recommended that confirmation of the final terms and conditions is delegated to

the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities in consultation with the Director of Business, Environment and Community. The aim would be to conclude the transfer by the end of December 2014.

Supporting Information

- Plan showing location and boundary of Kingsford Forest Park

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511
or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this report

Andy Maginnis, Programme and Commissioning Manager
(01905 766160)

Email: amaginnis@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Business, Environment and Community) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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Extract of the Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet on Thursday 16 October 2014 (at 10am)

Transfer of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust

The Cabinet considered a report proposing the transfer of the freehold of Kingsford Forest Park to the National Trust whilst securing public access to the Park and protecting the special characteristics in perpetuity. The report set out the details considered by the Cabinet and the reasons for the decision. The proposal would contribute towards the Countryside Service FutureFit savings target and was in furtherance of recommendations arising from the Countryside Service Commissioning Review. It was also in accordance with the Council's Operating Model. The transfer would be subject to a number of terms and conditions.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were made:

- (a) A soft marketing exercise had taken place and the National Trust was the only organisation to meet the required criteria
- (b) The annual on-going cost to the Council of Kingsford Country Park was just under £30,000, which would be a saving after the transfer of all liabilities to the National Trust. The land was valued at £75,000 and would be gifted to the National Trust in return for taking over responsibility
- (c) Clarification was provided by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that, under the proposed terms and conditions, the National Trust would maintain free public access to the Park in perpetuity. Free car parking would remain for three years, and then be reviewable by the National Trust
- (d) The timber yard would be disposed of separately to the current leaseholder at market value
- (e) The proposal was an example of how working with partners to transfer a Council asset could maintain a local amenity and keep open green spaces available to the public to enjoy whilst providing a saving to the budget
- (f) A member in attendance stated that the loss of the Forest Park was akin to selling the family silver and expressed concern that after three years car parking charges could be in place, thus discriminating against those who would not be in a position to pay. The transfer of the asset was not on a partnership basis but was full and final
- (g) A Cabinet Member responded that the proposal to transfer the Forest Park was great news for the county's residents. It was not correct to suggest that there would be charges to enter the Park. Access would be free and also there would not be any restrictions within the open space due to the prevalence of public bridleways and footpaths which were free at the point of use. Car park charges would be a matter for the National Trust after three years, but he believed there was alternative parking available. By transferring the asset to a trusted organisation the Council reduced its

ongoing revenue liability, the savings from which would help maintain support for the vulnerable.

RESOLVED: that

(a) the transfer of the freehold of Kingsford Park to the National Trust be approved; and

(b) the authority to negotiate and agree the detailed terms and conditions of the transfer is delegated to the Director of Business, Environment and Community in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities.