



Executive Committee

All Wards

22 July 2009

ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE – REVIEW OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT

(Report of the Head of Leisure and Arts)

1. Summary of Proposals

To seek approval to commission external support to undertake a review of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** that

- 1) **up to the sum of £10,000 be approved from General Fund balances to commission the work; and**

subject to which, to RESOLVE that

- 2) **Officers commission an external consultant to support the review of the future management of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.**

3. Financial, Legal, Policy, Risk and Sustainability Implications

Financial

- 3.1 The financial implications are £10,000 to be allocated from General Fund balances.

Legal

- 3.2 Under Section 19 of the Local Government Act 1976, the Council has the power to provide such recreational facilities as it thinks fit.
- 3.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council the power to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of its area. This includes the power to incur expenditure.

Policy

- 3.4 No policy implications have been identified.

Risk

- 3.5 There are limited risks if Executive Committee does not approve the expenditure. Officers would continue to carry out the review. However, they would be restricted in potentially being able to provide Members with a comprehensive range of options for the future of the Countryside Centre.

Sustainability / Environmental / Climate Change

- 3.6 The primary focus of the review is to explore options to consider the longer term sustainability of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

Report

4. Background

The full Council on 23 February 2009 requested Officers to undertake further work relating to the Countryside Centre.

5. Key Issues

- 5.1 Officers presented to the Portfolio Holders on 12 June 2009 details of the current practices and activities that are facilitated from the Countryside Centre.
- 5.2 Following the presentation to Portfolio Holders, further exploratory work is required to:
- a) Consider potential options for how the centre can deliver value for money for the Council;
 - b) Identify alternative ways of delivering the service for the communities benefit;
 - c) Look at the length of contract period against the investment potential from prospective partners;
 - d) Define how best a contract specification can be packaged bearing in mind the number of activities that are currently managed from the facility.
- 5.3 Officers are seeking to procure external support to carry out the exploratory work.

6. Other Implications

- Asset Management - As part of the Asset Management Strategy services need to ensure that assets are delivering value for money which will form part of the review.
- Community Safety - None directly at this stage.
- Human Resources - None directly at this stage.
- Social Exclusion - None directly at this stage.

7. Lessons Learnt

None identified at this stage.

8. Background Papers

None indicated.

9. Consultation

There has been no consultation other than with relevant Borough Council Officers.

10. Author of Report

The author of this report is Ken Watkins (Head of Leisure & Arts) who can be contacted on extension 3384 (e-mail: ken.watkins@redditchbc.gov.uk).

11. Appendices

None.