



Executive Committee

No Specific Ward Relevance

22 July 2009

13. REVIEW OF ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE – EXTERNAL SUPPORT: RECOMMENDATION FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

1. Purpose of Report

To enable Members to consider a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the subject of the proposed review of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

Report

3. Background

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism's Annual Report at a meeting held on 14 January 2009. In this report, the Portfolio Holder identified that a review of the usage of the Countryside Centre and the Visitor Centre at Bordesley Abbey would be a timely piece of work that could be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee requested that the Portfolio Holder submit a scrutiny scoping document outlining the possible terms of reference for this review.

The submission of a scoping document was postponed until Officers could present further information to Members regarding the Countryside Centre. The Portfolio Holder has advised that it was unlikely that any further action needed to be taken by the Council regarding the Visitor Centre. However, owing to the submission of a report by Officers specifically regarding the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that it was relevant to submit this recommendation to the Executive Committee at this time.

4. **Key Issues**

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 8 July, Members discussed the proposal being submitted by Officers to the Executive Committee that the Council make available £10,000 to commission external consultants to undertake a review of the Countryside Centre. All Members agreed that a Task and Finish Group could be established instead of the Council commissioning consultants to undertake this review. They commented that a Task and Finish Group could undertake a thorough and independent review of this subject and for a fraction of the cost. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore urge the Executive Committee to consider requesting that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake this review.

5. **Conclusion**

Based on the information contained within this report the Overview and Scrutiny Committee request that the Executive Committee give due consideration to their recommendation.

6. **Background Papers**

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 14 January 2009.

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 8 July 2009.

7. **Author of Report**

The author of this report is Helen Saunders (Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer), who can be contacted on extension 3267 (e-mail: helen.saunders@redditchbc.gov.uk) for more information.