

## Investment Board – 17 July 2019

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Investment Board** held on **17 July 2019** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr A L Williams

Cllr D S Efde	Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr A H Eves	Cllr C M Stanley
Cllr G J Ioannou	Cllr S A Wilson
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill	Cllr S E Wootton
Cllr Mrs L Shaw	

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr Mrs T L Carter

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs J R Gooding and I H Ward.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr Mrs C A Weston for Cllr Mrs J R Gooding

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

A Hutchings	-	Strategic Director
M Hotten	-	Assistant Director, Place and Environment
N Lucas	-	Section 151 Officer
M Power	-	Democratic Services Officer

### **154 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **155 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following non-pecuniary declarations were received in respect of Item 6 of the Agenda, Maximising the Potential of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park: Cllr A L Williams by virtue of being Portfolio Holder for Environment, a Roche South Ward Member and a member of the Friends of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park; Cllr M J Steptoe by virtue of being County Council Member for Rochford South Electoral Division and a Roche South Ward Member and Cllr M J Lucas-Gill by virtue of being a Roche South Ward Member.

### 156 MAXIMISING THE POTENTIAL OF CHERRY ORCHARD JUBILEE COUNTRY PARK

The Board considered the report of the Strategic Director on proposals for the development of a financially sustainable strategy for the ongoing use and protection of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

- The Friends of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park were approximately 200 in number. Recently they had raised funding for the Country Park in the region of £27,000.
- Working group membership should be diverse and ideally between four and seven Members; it would not necessarily be restricted to Members of the Investment Board. The Working Group could invite any Member of the Council to present their ideas to them.
- There would be a master plan approach to the future management of the Country Park; areas in the Park would be identified that would remain true to the environmental heritage and open woodland. Other areas would host permanent fixtures, for example play equipment, high ropes, a café and events space. There would be a programme of activities over a rolling period with a number of anchor events that would subsidise smaller community events. The business model would be crafted on a sustainable basis. It was proposed that the Working Group makes its initial report to the Investment Board at its December 2019 meeting.
- Some more significant, professional events might need a longer period of planning.
- The aim of the project was the long-term security and financial sustainability of the Country Park and the creation of an area that would enrich the experience of residents and visitors.
- When determining the strategy, a variety of options for collaboration with third parties, including social enterprise companies and charities, could be considered. From the strategy, an action plan to deliver the business plan would be drawn up.
- The Friends of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park were keen to widen the appeal of and access to the Country Park and would be able to contribute to discussions as part of the Working Group.
- The increased cost of maintenance as a result of development of the country park, would require additional funding streams.
- Members could send any ideas they have for potential events to officers.

- Details of the Country Park location and size were shown in the existing Cherry Orchard Country Park Management Plan in Appendix 1 to the report.

Members agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Assistant Director, Place and Environment would determine the membership of the Working Group.

### **Resolved**

That a Member Working Group be set up to develop a new strategy and action plan for the future development of Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park pursuant to the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 2 to the report. (SD)

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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