

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
27TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme “Grow With Wyre”

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY:	Shared Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Promoting Economic Prosperity
CORPORATE PLAN KEY PRIORITY:	Regeneration
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Stephen Clee
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Steve Singleton Ext 2168
APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Economic Development and Tourism Manager to represent Wyre Forest District Council on the Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership Board formed to manage the “Grow with Wyre” Landscape Partnership Conversation Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet in asked to decide:

- 2.1 to approve the nomination of the Economic Development and Tourism Manager to represent Wyre Forest District Council on the Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership Board, formed to manage the “Grow with Wyre” Landscape Partnership Conservation Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 28th February 2007, Council agreed to contribute £15,000 per annum, by way of Partnership funding for 3 years, towards an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the implementation of the Forestry Commission’s Landscape Partnership Conservation Strategy for the Wyre Forest. Other funding partners in the application included Natural England, Wyre Forest and Bridgnorth District Councils and Worcestershire and Shropshire County Councils.

- 3.2 In May this year, the Forestry Commission (FC), was awarded £1.86 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the delivery of a £3.71 million Landscape Partnership Conservation Strategy, now known as “Grow with Wyre”. The total funding is over a 4 year period, including a year 1 Development Phase, which is subject to the approval of a further application to the HLF.
- 3.3 The Strategy aims to:-
- Preserve and manage the Wyre Forest for future generations
 - Restore the ancient Wyre Forest Landscape and associated ancient woodland habitats
 - Deliver interpretation of the Wyre landscape and raise awareness of its assets and an exemplar of broader environmental values
 - Identify the training needs to sustain traditional skills and practices
 - Enhance the value of the Wyre Forest in people’s daily lives
- 3.4 In return for its own financial contribution, the District Council is entitled to be represented on the specifically formed Landscape Partnership Board (the Board).

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The primary purpose of the Board will be to advise and support the development, management and delivery of the “Grow with Wyre” project for the benefit of the landscape and community as a whole.
- 4.2 At the time of drafting this report, the Terms of Reference for the Board are being finalised in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
- 4.3 The Cabinet is advised that the only the FC itself will be contracting directly with the HLF and the Board will be have an advisory capacity only. However, it is anticipated that the FC will at all time have due and proper regard to the recommendations and observations of the Board.
- 4.5 The Cabinet is advised that members of the Board should be nominated by their organisations on the basis that they have delegated responsibility for the monitoring and effective delivery of ‘Grow with Wyre’ and can make appropriate level financial decisions.
- 4.6 As the Board will provide advice and support only, ie not be contracted legally to the HLF, it is considered appropriate for the Council representation to be at Officer level subject to any appropriate consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional Financial Implications other than as stated in paragraph 3.1 above.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Terms of Reference for the Landscape Partnership Board are to be approved by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 There are considered not to be any significant risks relating to this proposal.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The project will help improve and develop this important natural resource in order for it to continue to be a major attraction and facility in the area. The Council's contribution has helped to draw down a significant amount of external funding to the area.

Background Papers

The Forestry Commissions Landscape Partnership Board Draft Terms of Reference

Consultees

CMT

August 2007