

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
26TH MARCH 2009

Recommendations from Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Countryside Service and Implications of taking on Additional Land

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Cultural Services Manager which highlighted resource implications for the Countryside Service taking on additional land.

Members noted that a high proportion of land had been placed with the Countryside Service through Section 106 agreements and that the Council continued to take on land without increasing staffing levels.

The Cultural Services Manager advised Members that by utilising Section 106 monies a post could be funded to appoint a member of staff to the Countryside Service to produce a management plan for the sites managed by the Countryside service and co-ordinate the required maintenance, under the terms of the S106 agreements.

The Committee noted that the Council had a statutory duty to maintain the land that it owned and that it was inspected by Natural England who monitored the management of the land. Furthermore it was noted that the Countryside Service had been successful in gaining awards for the land it managed, most recently for the grazing animals project.

Recommended to Cabinet:

To endorse the proposal to utilise Section 106 monies, to ensure that sufficient manpower resources are available when new land is acquired.