

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Regulatory Committee
Date:	12 April 2017
Title:	Scheme of Authorisation for the Countryside Service
Reference:	
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Harry Goodchild

Tel: 01962 846044

Email: harry.goodchild@hants.gov.uk

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Countryside Services has been considering its current processes to try and streamline service provision and make efficiency savings. As part of that exercise, the ways in which decisions are made has been considered.
- 1.2 Within the Constitution at Part 2 Chapter 2, all regulatory functions have a dual delegation to both the Regulatory Committee and Chief Officers with responsibility for the subject area in accordance with Part 3 Chapter 4 Paragraph 2 of the Constitution.
- 1.3 Customarily, and notwithstanding this delegation, some minor and routine Countryside matters have previously been brought to the Regulatory Committee for determination, including Dedication Agreements, Public Path Orders and straightforward Map Modification Orders.
- 1.4 It is considered that it would be appropriate for Countryside officers to deal with some minor, uncontentious matters via the existing delegation to Chief Officers that have historically been presented to Regulatory Committee. This will help to streamline the current process by reducing the amount of officer time currently required to progress certain cases and will also help to reduce Regulatory Committee time spent on such matters. It is anticipated that both of these will have a benefit on service delivery whilst also making efficiency savings.
- 1.5 In proposing these changes, officers have taken into account feedback from Members, which indicate that in some instances, Members of the Committee have felt that items could be dealt with at officer level, without the need to present them to the Committee.
- 1.6 In order to effect the proposed changes, Countryside and Legal Services have worked together to formalise the extent to which functions can currently be decided and authorised. A new Scheme of Authorisation has been prepared which confirms the delegation within the Constitution to the Director

of Culture, Communities and Business Services and enables it to be implemented in a practical way.

- 1.7 Because this proposal simply reflects the current authority, no formal decision is needed as the Constitution already permits decisions to be made in this way. Members are simply asked to agree the content of the report and the Scheme of Authorisation. A copy of the Scheme is appended to this report (Appendix 1), for information.
- 1.8 Matters that are considered to be less straightforward have been specifically excluded from the Scheme of Authorisation. Examples are Rail Crossing Diversion or Extinguishment Orders and applications relating to Commons and Village Greens. It is still intended that such matters should continue to be brought before Regulatory Committee for consideration.

2 Recommendation:

- 2.1 That the contents of this report be noted and that the Scheme of Authorisation for Countryside Services appended to this report be agreed accordingly.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
This report does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because the proposal impacts upon the County Council in exercise of its statutory functions	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Scheme of Authorisation	Countryside Access Team Castle Avenue Winchester SO23 8UL

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder: N/A

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? **N/A**

3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? **N/A**

This report does not require an impact assessment but, nevertheless, requires a decision because the proposal impacts upon the County Council in exercise of its statutory functions