

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Officer Decision Record

### (Executive Decision)

<b>Decision Maker</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services
<b>Title</b>	Havant Thicket Reservoir Memorandum of Understanding
<b>Date</b>	11 May 2020

Contact: Jo Heath Email: jo.heath@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. The decision

- 1.1. To approve the progression of a Memorandum of Understanding with Portsmouth Water and Forestry England that expresses an intent to work together on the development and management of the Havant Thicket Reservoir.
- 1.2. Notes a further decision report which outlines details of the MOU will be produced ahead of the planning application submission.

#### 2. Reason(s) for the decision

- 2.1. The Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme provides an opportunity to complement existing outdoor recreational facilities in the area, with the presence of both Staunton Country Park next door and Queen Elizabeth Country Park only a few miles away.
- 2.2. The Countryside Service have expertise in operating country parks to a high standard with clear public benefits and a commercial emphasis that ensures their long-term operational sustainability.
- 2.3. It has been made clear that the costs of operating any facility would be met by the Water companies with no financial burden on Hampshire County Council.

#### 3. Other options considered and rejected

- 3.1. Not to progress the MOU. This would leave the options of future management to either Forestry England or a third party. Portsmouth Water have indicated that they would not wish to manage the visitor facilities. The expertise of HCC Countryside Service in managing similar facilities across the county as well as the good relationship with the local community nearby is recognised by Portsmouth Water. The Countryside Service on behalf of HCC would ensure that the visitor elements of the Reservoir complex would be of benefit to the local community and complement the existing community and visitor facilities.

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. N/A

**5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service**

5.1. N/A

**6. Consultation with Executive Member**

6.1 Councillor Woodward is in support of the proposal to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.

**7. Supporting information**

Map showing the location of the proposed Reservoir



**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felicity Roe', written in a cursive style.

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**Felicity Roe**  
**Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services**

**Date: 11 May 2020**

**Officer Decision Supported by:**

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**Councillor Seán Woodward**  
**Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage**

**Date: 11 May 2020**