

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	<i>Felicity Roe</i> Director – Cultures, Communities & Business Services
Title:	Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve - Future Proposals

1. The decision:

- 1.1. Following consultation with Senior Officers and Members, this report recommends the following decisions for approval in relation to future proposals for Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve:
- Proceed with staff consultation.
 - Proceed with public engagement rather than a full consultation
 - Declare Haven Cottage as surplus to service requirements

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. The project seeks to develop a sustainable way of managing Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve (THNNR) for the future, both financially and environmentally. There is a growing need for investment to maintain the reserve and its habitats to meet statutory standards now and in the future.
- 2.2. A projected £1.8m funding gap has been identified over the next three years. Plans include, if agreed, the closure and sale of Haven House visitor centre including the Reserve's café and shop, which are currently subsidised and the sale of Haven Cottage.
- 2.3. The funds generated from the sale of both properties would be reinvested in supporting the Reserve - refocusing resources to place the site on a more financially stable footing for the future and to fund the continued protection of special habitats. There would be improvements to paths, bird hides and boardwalks for visitors alongside the provision of an improved visitor entrance.
- 2.4. Haven Cottage, a residential property on the site that has been vacant for 10 years, has been identified as surplus. The Cottage is not used for service delivery and, as a residential dwelling, has no significant potential for public service delivery. It is important to note that the sale of the residential cottage alone would not be enough to cover the costs of long-term sustainability financially of the Nature Reserve.
- 2.5. The closure and sale of Haven House will impact a number of staff, whose roles will no longer be required to manage and operate both the Visitor Centre and catering facilities currently on offer at Titchfield Haven. As a result, a process of staff consultation, in line with HCC HR guidance is proposed to start in September 2022 for a duration of 30-days.

- 2.6. Following this period, feedback and questions will be considered and will inform a report to the Executive Member in December 2022 when a final decision will be made on future changes at Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve.
- 2.7. Following advice from HCC Legal Team, it is recommended that the proposals have a thorough public engagement process but do not require a full public consultation. It is important to ensure as many current users and visitors are able to feedback on the proposals, to ensure the impact of the proposed changes is fully understood and to enable time for review and potential changes to be implemented as a result of the feedback received.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Full public consultation – see reasons above in section 2.7
- 3.2. Improve/maintain Haven House Visitor Centre – This would require significant investment and would be unable to generate the income required to support the Nature Reserve.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:
None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

None.

6. Supporting information:

A full business case has been reviewed by CCBS Director.

The following recommendations are approved:

Date:

- 1. Proceed with staff consultation.
- 2. Proceed with public engagement rather than a full consultation.
- 3. Declare Haven Cottage as surplus to service requirements.

20/07/22

by:

Felicity Roe, Director of Culture, Communities & Business Services
