

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism
DATE: 27th January 2010
SUBJECT: Marshside Nature Reserve
WARDS AFFECTED: Cambridge
REPORT OF: Mr Graham Bayliss, Leisure and Tourism Director 0151 934 2381
CONTACT OFFICER: Dave McAleavy, Head of Coast and Countryside 0151 934 2967
**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

Reports to Cabinet Member and Cabinet in 2005 presented the proposal to extend the Marshside Nature Reserve managed by the RSPB. It was agreed that the proposal should progress subject to an Outline Management Plan for the extended leased area being brought to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The land included in the proposed lease extension took in elements of that land formerly leased to the sand-winning company and land seaward of the sand-winning plant. Issues relating to the cessation of sandwinning at Marshside resulted in the project being held in abeyance, although the Heads of Terms were provisionally agreed. The RSPB is now keen to progress the completion of a new lease to incorporate the existing reserve and proposed extension.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the Cabinet Member approve the Outline Management Plan for the Marshside Nature Reserve Extension

KEY DECISION: No
FORWARD PLAN: No
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: On completion of lease arrangements

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There are no alternative options

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

The Legal Department have existing instructions to complete the lease arrangement subject to approval of an Outline Management Plan

Risk Assessment:

The ability of the Council to deploy staff or allocate resources to this area is limited, should the project not progress.

Asset Management:

The proposals have been agreed by Cabinet.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

A public consultation on the Outline Management Plan was undertaken by the RSPB

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		√	
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Report to Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism and Cabinet Oct/Nov 2005

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The report "Marshside Nature Reserve" was presented to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism on the 12th October 2005 and Cabinet on the 3rd November 2005 (Annex 1). The report considered revisions to the area of land to be leased to the RSPB at Marshside as well as the terms on which the land is to be leased. The report explained how the proposal would assist the RSPB in developing the nature conservation and tourism potential of the Marshside area and provide long-term security which will justify investment by the RSPB.

1.2 It was resolved:

- a. That the surrender of the existing lease and supplemental lease of land at Marshside Nature Reserve be approved:
- b. That the lease of the Reserve and adjacent land north of Marine Drive, currently owned and managed by the Council, to the RSPB on terms summarised in the report be approved:
- c. That a proposed Outline Management Plan for the area to be leased be brought to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism for approval:
- d. That subject to (c) above, the Technical Services Director be authorised to instruct the Legal Director to complete the new lease on the terms provisionally agreed with the RSPB:
- e. That the land subject to the terms of the new lease be declared a Local Nature Reserve.

1.3 This report requests that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism consider the attached Outline Management Plan (Annex 2) for approval to enable the lease arrangements to be completed.

1.4 Members should note that the Technical Services Director did issue instructions in December 2005 for the Legal Director to complete the new lease, subject to the Outline Management Plan being approved.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Members should also note that since 2005 the Coast and Countryside Service has lost the equivalent of 2.5 full-time staff to savings measures resulting in a reduction in service, especially away from the main tourism and nature reserve areas. The recommendations above continue to be the most positive option to improve the tourism opportunities and manage the nature conservation interests at Marshside.

2.2 The Sefton Coast Partnership HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme Stage 2 submission includes a key project at Marshside and Sefton Council as the lead agency on the project will be notified by HLF if the project is successful in March. The completion of the revised lease arrangements will allow the RSPB to start to consider the long-term investment of facilities and further enhancements to the nature reserve.

2.3 The sand-winning plant has now closed. A portion of the area of the plant adjacent to Marine Drive is identified as the possible location for improved visitor facilities for the RSPB at this location. This area is identified in the RSPB Outline Management Plan, but was not in the original area agreed as part of the Heads of Terms. This will require further discussion once the restoration of the Sand-winning plant area is completed,

although it is not an issue for the completion of the lease extension where it affects the responsibility of the Leisure and Tourism Department's responsibilities.

2.4 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside gives Local Authorities the power to declare Local Nature Reserves. Sefton will discuss with the RSPB the area of land that may be declared a Local Nature Reserve at Marshside.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The attached Outline Management Plan has been considered by the Head of Coast and Countryside and was subject to public consultation. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approve the plan.