

**Leisure and Culture Policy Development Advisory Group**  
**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Chowen (Chairman), Christine Costin, Ruth Fletcher, Billy Greening, Tony Hogben, Lynn Lambert, John Milne, Roger Noel, Bob Platt and Josh Potts

Apologies: Councillors: Chris Brown

31 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 18 September were received by the Group.

32 **WILDER HORSHAM DISTRICT**

The Cabinet Member advised the Group that working in partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) would bring expertise and practical support to the Wilder Horsham District initiative. He welcomed Dr Tony Whitbread, President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, to the meeting.

The Project Developer gave an overview of the proposed partnership, which was a five-year programme of measures to reverse decline and enhance wildlife. The creation of networks of protected land that allow habitats for species to expand was a key element of the proposal.

Implementation would be embedded in all Council services, in particular Planning, and include training for officers. Two SWT posts would be created to identify and deliver a nature recovery network and enhance existing landscapes. There would also be support for parish councils and community groups to help them improve their local natural environment.

The Group discussed aspects of the partnership and Tony Whitbread and officers answered a number of questions. Points raised included:

- SWT's Biodiversity Record Centre would be an invaluable resource
- The scheme would be closely monitored
- There were economic benefits to enhancing the landscape
- The Council's Local Plan review would include a 10% net biodiversity gain requirement from developers
- SWT would offer support to landowners, many of whom they already worked with
- The proposal included a tree replacement programme
- Horsham town and other settlements would benefit from the proposals.

The Cabinet Member said that this was a ground-breaking initiative, which could have a profoundly positive impact. The Group were in full support of the Wilder Horsham District partnership proposals.

33 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE LEISURE AND CULTURE  
PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan extract was noted.

*The meeting closed at 6.55 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm*

CHAIRMAN