

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	20th AUGUST 2020	CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR- (SERIVCE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	HANNAH PEATE EXT 5973. Hannah.peate@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee agrees to the Council entering into the Service Level Agreements (SLA) with the National Forest Company for the Get Active in the Forest Service (Appendix 1) and Environmental Education Project Service (Appendix 2) up to the 31st March 2021.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 For the Committee's to approve the Council entering into SLAs for the 2020-21 financial year with the National Forest Company which support the running costs for the Get Active in the Forest Service and Environmental Education Project Service, for the agreed outcomes attached in the appendices.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 None

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 For a number of years the National Forest Company has contributed into both the Get Active in the Forest Service and the Environmental Education Project Service which supports the services running costs; for agreed outcomes.
- 4.2 This financial contribution supports the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and that of the National Forest Company's Green Print which covers the key themes of Forest Environment, Forest Economy and Forest Society.
- 4.3 An SLA for the Get Active in the Forest Project has been prepared for the financial year 2020-21. The key outcomes are summarised below: -

- Delivery of the Walking for Health programme across South Derbyshire, including a plan of annual themed walks programme.
- Coordination and implementation of the National Forest Walking and Outdoor Festival.
- Delivery of Nordic Walking and Tai Chi opportunities in the District.
- Delivery of cycling opportunities across the District, including Friday cycling and Bikeability.
- Recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers who support the Get Active Services and hold volunteer appreciation events.
- Delivery of a range of outdoor activity opportunities including orienteering, archery and other activities through drop-in sessions and school and business visits.

4.4 The key outcomes for the 2020-21 SLA for the Environmental Education Project are summarised below: -

- Delivery of a range of events throughout the year.
- Engaging with schools through on-site and off-site visits.
- Delivery of activities to people from low social mobility areas in the District.
- Increasing opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Recruiting, training, and retaining Environmental Education Project volunteers.
- Delivery of outdoor outreach and on-site activities with Volunteers.
- Delivery of the District's free tree scheme.
- Delivery of Woodland Discovery Days.
- Supporting the District's Environmental Forum network

4.5 In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, adjustments to how work is conducted is being adapted to ensure delivery against the SLA's. This will be captured in the end of year reporting of both services to the National Forest Company.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The National Forest has agreed to contribute £11,000 to the Get Active in the Forest Service and £8,600 to the Environmental Education Service. It should be noted that the funding into the Environmental Education Service is also supported through sponsorship of £20,000 from Rolls-Royce making it a total of £28,600 in a joint agreement with parties into the service.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

6.1 There are no direct employment implications of this paper; other than those staff already employed by the Get Active in the Forest and the Environmental Education Project.

Legal Implications

6.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has reviewed the SLAs and is content that they proceed.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 The proposed contribution will support the Council to deliver services to the residents of South Derbyshire, and fulfil elements of Our Environment, Our People and Our Future of the Corporate Plan.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 The Corporate and Departmental risk registers will be updated with any risks identified if they arise from this report.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 The work, in partnership with the National Forest Company, will make positive contributions to the Active South Derbyshire Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2017-2022. And all key themes within the South Derbyshire Partnership's (SDP) Sustainable Community Strategy- Children and Young People, Healthier Communities, Safer Communities, Stronger Communities and Sustainable Development. The Environmental Education Project carries out consultations with local interest groups under the SDP banner. These documents were developed in consultation with South Derbyshire residents and organisations.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 The SLAs support targeted interventions with an insight led approach where appropriate. The wider general support will provide opportunities for all.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 Physical inactivity can cost the economy millions of pounds per year. By supporting the least active population to become active it will work to improve an individual's / community health and wellbeing and potentially reduce wider costs to society such as the health service.
- 7.4 By providing outdoor activities across a range of themes from cycling and walking to conservation tasks both these services contribute towards providing opportunities for people less engaged in gym or indoor sports.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.5 Where appropriate delivery of opportunities take place within local communities to reduce the barrier of rural isolation but also to enable people to cycle and walk to opportunities locally, which will potentially reduce traffic congestion and pollution.

Where possible Environmental Education project activities are aligned with the local bus services to enable wider participation. Activities also encourage participants to take an interest in learning about their local area and provide opportunities for people to learn more and engage in managing their local sites.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 This proposal will result in a joined up approach to the aforementioned Corporate and District-wide strategies; and support the County-wide approach to this partnership work, and enable the continuation of work through the Get Active in the Forest Service and the Environmental Education Project.

9.0 Background Papers

Draft agreement for 2020/2021.