

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	2nd FEBRUARY 2017	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
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SUBJECT:	ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE – VISION STATEMENT 2016-26	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Rosliston Forestry Centre Vision 2016-2026 be adopted to enable the next stage of the change process of management of the Rosliston Forestry Centre in 2018, to be taken forward.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The report outlines the vision for the Rosliston Forestry Centre for the next 10 years, which will include a new management option from 2018. The Vision will direct the Soft Market Testing Event for potential management companies, leading into the production of an Options Appraisal for that future management of the Centre. The draft Vision is attached as Annexe No.1.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) and the Forestry Commission (FC) jointly own Rosliston Forestry Centre, which is a key visitor attraction of 62 hectares within the National Forest. The site is managed through an executive partnership of the District Council and the Forestry Commission. Rosliston Forestry Centre was the first area to be planted as part of the National Forest in 1994, over 20 years later the time has come to review and redefine the future for the site. There have been a number of management & business plans and visions written since the site's inception and much has been achieved. This vision now has to drive the future of the centre forward.
- 3.2 Aurora Country Developments LTD has managed the site for over 20 years on behalf of the key partners. Working alongside the partners they have developed the site and helped build its reputation as a key visitor attraction within the National Forest. Their current contract ceases in 2018. This means there is a clear

opportunity for SDDC and FC to re-evaluate the site and its position within both organisations' strategic requirements. In order to identify options for the next 10 years, research is being carried out, looking at the past 20 years of site development, how the site correlates to other similar venues within its catchment area, market trends, new opportunities and threats etc.

- 3.3 The vision will inform a soft market testing event in March with potential management companies. This in turn will lead to the production of a detailed Options Appraisal in Spring 2017.
- 3.4 "The Centre should provide a warm and welcoming outdoor experience for its visitors, delivering a range of activities and space for all to enjoy." The Vision will be the means to bring a new outlook for both partners for their continued support and involvement for Rosliston Forestry Centre.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications in adopting the Rosliston Forestry Centre 10 Year Vision document. One of the key considerations within the Vision is to move towards a reduction in costs and if possible a situation where the site is cost neutral or makes a surplus.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Rosliston Forestry Centre's continued development as a community and visitor attraction contributes significantly to the People, Place and Progress themes in the new Corporate Plan and the strategic objective of improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Rosliston Forestry Centre contributes to the South Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy and, in particular, the themes of Health and Well Being and Sustainable Communities. It has become an important community facility providing a venue for many local people and groups.
- 6.2 The Vision represents an excellent opportunity to further enhance Rosliston Forestry Centre for the benefit of both the local community and visitors from further afield.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The adoption of the Vision will enable the current partnership of SDDC and FC to develop their project plan and Options Appraisal

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Draft 10 Year Vision for Rosliston Forestry Centre