

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET COMMITTEE**

DATE: **16TH OCTOBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

SUBJECT: **WEPRE PARK 10 YR MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1.00 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the Wepre Park 10 yr management and maintenance plan developed as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) second round submission.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The previous management plan for Wepre Park ran to 2009. Other plans in existence focus on woodland management and the Special Site of Scientific Interest.
- 2.02 In 2010/11 work began on a Heritage Lottery application. A 1st round pass was granted with £30,000 of development funding to submit a 2nd round application. A key element of the 2nd round application is the production of a 10yr management plan.
- 2.03 The 2nd round application was made on 31st August 2012 for c£750,000

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The Management Plan, which is available on the Council's website and in the Member's Library, outlines aspirations and actions for Wepre Park over the next 10 years and has been, in part, written with the HLF requirements in mind.

It includes an extensive section on the site history and overview of current use and management. Also included are the future use and management aims for the park and how the Plan will be monitored and reviewed.

- 3.02 The Management Plan vision:

The Wepre Park Management Plan will create a park that is welcoming, valued and enjoyed, whilst protecting its heritage and allowing the wildlife of the site to flourish.

The Plan will also promote activity which enhances people's understanding of Wepre Park and create a resource which is valued by the local community and attracts visitors from the communities living and working around the park, as well as attracting visitors from across the region.

3.03 The Management Plan aims and objectives are:-

a. To be a multifunctional facility which is safe, clean and able to be enjoyed by all through:-

- Developing and implementing an appropriate zoned management regime
- Attaining and keeping Green Flag status
- Ensuring access is free from obstructions and working towards improving standards across the site

b. To protect, enhance and maintain the Park's special wildlife qualities by:-

- Working towards SAC/SSSI favourable status
- Balancing the needs of the environment with that of the public
- Ensuring broader public awareness of the important natural heritage of the site

c. To protect, conserve and celebrate the sites heritage by:-

- Implementing HLF improvements
- Raising awareness of the Park's unique features

d. To enrich the Public's awareness of the sites special features is enriched through events, education, and interpretation by:-

- Developing an education plan
- Developing an interpretation plan
- Maximising the Visitor Centre's usage and appeal, by and to the public
- Broadening the range of events on offer to include all the features of the site

e. To maximise community involvement in the site by:-

- Supporting the Friends of Group in their development
- Developing links with schools and colleges
- Engaging with hard to reach sectors of the community
- Supporting a network of volunteers
- Providing a range of training opportunities

3.04 The Plan will also be used for submission for a Green Flag award for Wepre Park in 2014.

4.00 RECOMMENDATION

4.01 That the Cabinet approves the content of the draft Management Plan and delegate's authority to the Director of Environment, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Leisure to make any changes deemed necessary to meet the future needs of the Park.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Any increase in management costs will be met by Flintshire Countryside Service and will be offset by greater use of community groups and income generation, both through continued grant applications and making more use of the facilities.

6.00 ANTI-POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 The Management Plan will lead to positive environmental benefits for Wepre Park.

8.00 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

8.01 None

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The list of projects outlined in the Management Plan has been developed from extensive community and stakeholder consultation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Contact Officers:

Tom Woodall	Head of Countryside Services	01244 814931
Sarah Jeffery	Wepre Park Development Officer	01244 814931