

SUBJECT: TREE AND SCRUB WORKS IN SUPPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN– SOUTH COMMON

DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: STEVE BIRD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES AND STREET SCENESS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Commons Advisory Panel on proposals relating to tree and scrub work, in support of the existing Commons Management Plan, and thus seek their views before this matter is considered by the Council's Planning Committee

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report constitutes a proposal to use volunteers to assist in the delivery of elements of the management plan for South Common.
- 2.2 Parts of the work that will be undertaken include work to trees and scrub areas, for which it is proposed to report and seek the permission of Planning Committee.
- 2.3 When reporting to the council's Planning Committee it is intended to include the views of this committee, which it is hoped will be supportive.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has in place a management plan for common land. Although not timetabled or funded in full, it recognises the need to take advantage of opportunities where these can be created to support its delivery.
- 3.2 Following a service review last year the council is now trialling a new post focused on developing opportunities for volunteering work on council owned public open spaces. As a part of the work of this post, the holder has reviewed existing management plans and assisted in creating new plans where appropriate.
- 3.3 The delivery of the work identified in these management plans has then been looked at, and where volunteers could be used to progress delivery, then an outline work programme has been developed.

4. The Proposal

- 4.1 In the case of the work programme for South Common, there are a number of works affecting trees and scrub areas that it is hoped to progress this late

autumn/winter.

- 4.2 The Volunteer co-ordinator is pleased to present an outline of, and details were necessary/appropriate, of the work proposed. (verbal with supplementary papers at the meeting).

5. Strategic Priorities

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The Council's management plans, and their delivery, supports its main aim of improving Lincoln's environment.

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Finance

There are no new financial impacts arising from support of this work. All costs are accommodated within the existing budgets.

6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules N/A

6.3 Land, Property and Accommodation

This work is in support of the existing management plan, previously agreed.

6.4 Human Resources

N/A

6.5 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights

N/A

6.6 Significant Community Impact

N/A

6.7 Corporate Health and Safety Implications

All H&S implications of using volunteers for this work have been assessed and are covered by risk assessments and method statements.

7. Risk Implications

7.1 (i) Options Explored

- To do the work- the preferred approach
- Not to do the work

7.2 (ii) Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach

Removal of trees and scrub is always sensitive. It may be that those that do not understand the work will assume that it is damaging the wildlife habitat. This will be mitigated by suitable publicity and notices on site when the work takes place. We will also look for support from partner organisations who are judged to be independent but have expertise in this area of work.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Commons Advisory Panel offer support to the proposal.