

Agenda Item No. 4(e)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

5 May 2015

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

GREEN TONIC PROJECT – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

(1) **Purpose of Report** To report on the plan to deliver the Green Tonic Project via a Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Creswell, applying Protocol 8 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Countryside Service secured £30,000 of funding from the Public Health Resource fund for a project in the Clowne area of Bolsover District and will work with volunteers and people who are referred by health professionals as a means to improving their wellbeing. The project is to be run with the Support of Derbyshire County Council's Health and Communities officers.

Called "Green Tonic", groups of referred people and volunteers undertake practical countryside management tasks in the area around Clowne that give moderate activity and exercise that contribute to improved health and wellbeing.

The programme of work in 2015-16 will deliver:

- A minimum of 400 volunteer/referral work days with a desirable target of 480 work days, delivering 'conservation' or 'access' outputs on Countryside sites and/or rights of way.
- A register of a minimum of 70 individual local community volunteers with a desirable target of 100 volunteers.
- Quarterly reports of progress, including task details and volunteer sign-in sheets, and an annual report outlining the achievements of the year with photographic evidence.
- Volunteers/referrals to complete a wellbeing questionnaire on first attending and again after 6 months.

There is an established body of evidence that involvement in practical conservation tasks in the outdoors has a beneficial effect on the health and wellbeing of participants.

Groundwork is a federation of Trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, each working with their partners to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses in areas in need of investment and support.

Groundwork Creswell is the Trust operating throughout the Derbyshire Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership area covering all of Derbyshire and parts of Nottinghamshire. Its vision states:

“A society of sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, which respect the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper.”

Its project works aim to improve things in six ways:

- **Skills training and employment** - Helping people gain new skills and move towards employment.
- **Community work** - Helping to build strong communities able to influence local decision-making.
- **Improving Open Space** - Being passionate about improving green spaces.
- **Youth Development** – “Young people are our greatest asset. We want to make the most of their talents.”
- **Greener Living and Working** - Helping people and organisations to tackle climate change.
- **Home Efficiency Through Life Planning (HELP)** - Making householders feel safe and secure.

Working with Groundwork Creswell will provide an affordable way of achieving Derbyshire County Council and Countryside Service objectives around health outcomes, participation and conservation and environmental improvement. In addition:

- Groundwork Creswell is well established in the Clowne area and has good contacts with Derbyshire County Council’s Public Health Team, the Conservation Volunteers, Creswell Heritage Trust, NHS staff and the local community in Clowne and the surrounding area.
- It can establish this project quickly in the new financial year and deliver the project outcomes in the timescales.
- It is experienced in the management of volunteer tasks, activities and group and reporting results and outcomes of projects commissioned from it.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The total project cost is £30,000 which breaks down as follows:

- £22,000 Project costs, administration, etc.
- £8,000 (up to) project expenses on submission of suitable evidence – certified invoices, etc.

The Service Level Agreement will cover the project and the delivery of its outcomes.

A business case to place work with Groundwork Creswell under Protocol 8 of the Council's Financial Regulations has been approved by the Director of Finance and the Director of Legal Services. This recognises that Groundwork Creswell is an organisation that has the appropriate skills, knowledge and staff resources to undertake the work and deliver the project outcomes.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Malcolm Marshall, extension 39659.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves the placing of a work order for the Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Creswell for up to £30,000 under Protocol 8 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment