

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

Portfolio	Corporate
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

Purpose

To consider a presentation from Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, an organisation in receipt of a grant from the Council

Background

1. The Executive, at its meeting on 21 February 2012, agreed that the performance of each of the organisations receiving a Revenue Grant would be closely monitored during 2012/13 and a fundamental review of the grants would be carried out with a view to evaluating the effective use of funds. The External Partnerships Select Committee was asked to assist the Executive in the gathering of the information from the relevant organisations.
2. The Committee has scheduled presentations from organisations in receipt of these grants throughout the 2012/13 municipal year.

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

3. The Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership is comprised of representatives of the local authorities that border the Valley. The Partnership co-ordinates work in the Valley on behalf of the authorities and provides a focus for the efforts of other organisations and individuals by providing the essential valley-wide overview.
4. The role of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership is to deliver an expert, experienced and centralised resource to:
 - Co-ordinate projects and actions of involved parties to improve the countryside of the Valley;
 - Increase sustainable usage of the Valley, especially for informal outdoor recreation;
 - Ensure wildlife and landscape protection;
 - Provide site management expertise for landowners and authorities who do not have an in-house resource;
 - Sustain the open gap alongside the Blackwater River as an attractive, safe, sustainable and wildlife rich environment for informal countryside recreation.
5. The Partnership's core funding is provided by the local authorities bordering the Blackwater Valley. In 2012/13 the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership received a Revenue Grant of £10,000 from the Council.

Proposal

6. It is proposed that the Committee receives the presentation, followed by Members' questions and discussion.

Recommendation

7. The Committee is asked to consider the presentation and consider any future steps which Members would wish to recommend to the Executive and/or Council.

Background Papers: None

Author: Rachel Whillis 01276 707319
e-mail: rachel.whillis@surreyheath.gov.uk

Executive Head of Service: Richard Payne Executive Head - Corporate