

## Presentation –Basingstoke Canal Authority

Portfolio	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	n/a

### Purpose

**To receive a presentation from Basingstoke Canal Authority.**

### Introduction

1. The Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) manages and maintains the 32 mile long canal which serves Mytchett, Deepcut, Frimley and Camberley. It provides a unique facility for improving the quality of life of local residents, giving unrestricted access to open space and leisure opportunities for the community.
2. There are 4.2 million residents within a 60 minute drive of the canal and 700,000 within a 30 minute drive. It is estimated that 30% of Surrey Heath residents were assisted by the organisation in the past 12 months, but there is no accurate information.

### Service Level Agreement

3. The Council has an annual service level agreement with BCA, which sets out the expectation of either party in return for an annual grant currently standing at £10,000 per annum.
4. Within this year's agreement (2016/17) the grant will contribute towards meeting the organisations strategic priorities:
  - Ensure the Basingstoke Canal is accessible, welcoming and safe. A robust set of policies, procedures and work programmes to ensure safety for canal staff, users and local residents.
  - Achieve economic benefits around tourism and financial sustainability. A viable canal generating local economic, social and environmental benefits. A robust capital investment programme leading to medium term financial sustainability.
  - Improve biodiversity and landscape and achieve Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) target condition. Consider the biodiversity needs integral to other functions on the canal ensuring a balance of needs working towards an overall improvement in SSSI condition.
  - Improve the supply and management of water to sustain navigation and biodiversity. Continue with research to find additional sustainable water supplies for the canal and embrace technology to better monitor and predict management and change.
  - Engage the community in understanding and appreciating the canal. Develop a Basingstoke Canal identity which can be advertised across the network in a variety of media.
  - Develop volunteering opportunities. Provide an inclusive and wide range of opportunities for outdoor learning, training and involvement in the canal.

- Repair and improve structures to a standard that is long term and sensitive to heritage and environment. An Asset record, backed up by a programme of regular monitoring and inspections to inform annual work programmes and longer term financial planning.
5. Ongoing monitoring of the service level agreement takes place throughout the year by Council Officers and Council Representatives. The Council Representatives on BCA are Cllr David Lewis and Cllr Nick Chambers (sub).

#### Financial Sustainability

6. The Council values the work undertaken by our revenue grant funded voluntary organisations enormously. Despite the Council's ongoing commitment to these organisations, in the current economic climate no guarantees are available that the current funding levels will be able to be met in future years. The purpose of inviting our revenue grant funded organisations to the External Partnerships Select Committee is for Members to explore how the organisations are preparing themselves for future financial sustainability and what fund-raising strategies they are using to do this.
7. The reserves for the BCA at 31/3/15 were £336,474.

#### Recommendation

8. 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: Application Form  
Executive 12 January 2016: Grants to Voluntary Organisations Report

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