

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET MANAGEMENT, CULTURE AND HOUSING
AND
CUSTOMER SERVICES, SPORT AND LEISURE
CABINET MEMBERS**

NORMANBY HALL COUNTRY PARK – CAMPING FACILITIES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve further investment by the council towards improving the facilities for customers at Normanby Hall Country Park.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:
- The council has recently invested in improvements at Normanby Hall Country Park.
 - We have looked at other ways to improve the 'offer' for customers.
 - A proposal is presented for consideration.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has made a number of improvements to the visitor experience at Normanby Hall Country Park in recent years. These include the purchase of a new tractor train, provision of new woodland paths, new outdoor cafe furniture, provision of a woodland reading area, improvements to the play area, the new Changing Places facility and the Normanby at War exhibition. It is anticipated that work will also commence in the near future to provide a new Water 'Splashpad' Facility.
- 2.2 Officers and elected members continually discuss possible further ways to improve the park facilities for the benefit of customers. More recently, we have explored the possibility of improving the offer for camping and touring caravans etc.
- 2.3 **Camping Facilities**
- 2.3.1 The existing five van touring caravan site was opened at Normanby Hall in 2001. Feedback from caravan owners has indicated that the site would be much more attractive to them if electrical hook-up points were installed. There are currently no serviced facilities for camping.

- 2.3.2 A proposal to increase the number of touring caravan pitches from five to ten has emerged, each provided with hook up facilities for electricity as well as a further five serviced pitches for camping. This would allow officers to market the site more extensively.
- 2.3.3 This site did not require a licence under the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act, 1960 for the existing provision. However, extending the facilities as described would require a site licence. This would require a number of conditions to be met. These include:
- Upgrading of shower and toilet facilities at the golf clubhouse and the addition of a washing up area
 - Installation of controlled entry system to golf clubhouse for out of hours use
 - Installation of lighting for walkway between campsite and golf clubhouse
 - Refurbishment of the existing pathway between the campsite and the clubhouse
- 2.3.4 The estimated cost for the project described above would amount to around £100,000 including professional fees.

3 **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The following options are available for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.1.1 Option 1 – Agree to take forward the suggested project during the current financial year.

3.1.2 Option 2 – Agree to consider taking forward the suggested project during a future financial year.

3.1.3 Option 3 - Defer taking forward the project in question.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1**

4.1.1 Taking forward the project in question during the current financial year would ensure that sustained progress is maintained in improving the range of visitor facilities for customers at Normanby Hall Country Park. It is likely that the facilities could be available in readiness for the start of the 2015/16 season. Officers and members believe that the new facilities would prove popular with visitors, potentially leading to a boost in visitor numbers to the country park, including by visitors from outside the North Lincolnshire area.

4.2 **Option 2**

4.2.1 This would delay the delivery of the project in question, thereby deferring the potential benefits for park visitors. It is unlikely that the facilities could be available in readiness for the start of the 2015/16 season.

4.3 **Option 3**

4.3.1 This would prevent the delivery of the project in question. As such, there would be no additional benefits for park visitors.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 **Financial** – Taking forward the projects in question is likely to require capital expenditure of around £100,000. This is not included for in the current approved capital programme. However there are a number of approved capital projects that are likely to underspend against budget in the current financial year. These are sufficient to fund the project in question and will not be required to be slipped into future years. As such it is proposed that they are used to finance the delivery of the project described in this paper and that the capital programme is amended to reflect this.

5.2 **Staffing** – Any staffing implications will be given further consideration and be subject to future reports for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

5.3 There are no other resource implications requiring consideration.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 Officers have considered the proposals and feel that the projects in question would add value to the visitor experience at Normanby Hall Country Park.

7.2 Officers have consulted the management committee of the Normanby Hall Golf Club. They support progress of the works required to the golf club house.

7.3 The Director of Policy and Resources is happy to see the suggested projects taken forward as long as any expenditure is contained within the limits of the approved capital programme.

7.4 The Normanby Estate Company was consulted and agrees to the works going forward.

7.5 Feedback from customers at Normanby Hall Country Park suggests that they value ongoing investment by the council to improve the range and quality of visitor facilities offered.

7.6 There are no apparent conflicts of interest to highlight.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to take forward the projects set out in paragraph 2.3 during the current financial year.

8.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees to use underspends within the current approved capital programme to fund the project in question.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None