

Appendix A7

2019/20 Q4 and 2020/21 Q1 – ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Key Activities Q1
<p>Work towards the delivery of a new record office</p> <p><i>Officers have now obtained fee bids for the two distinct elements; firstly for the drafting of grant applications - £13,100, and secondly for design services (architectural, mechanical, electrical, structural and quantity surveyors) to develop the preferred option to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 3 - £56,600.</i></p> <p><i>A briefing paper is being prepared setting out options for way forward; this will be primarily focus on how the above will be funded, especially given the financial constraints arising from Covid-19.</i></p>
<p>Develop a rights of way strategy for the Island, promoting riding, cycling and walking.</p> <p><i>Rights of Way improvement plan has been produced and published on iow.gov.uk after consultation with key stakeholders.</i></p>
<p>By the summer of 2020, secure the future of the Island's geological collection by working with regeneration and investment partners on the future of Dinosaur Isle.</p> <p><i>Dialogue with remaining bidder is currently on hold due to Covid-19</i></p>
<p>Support the AONB Partnership with their work in maintaining and enhancing the Isle of Wight's UNESCO Biosphere designation.</p> <p><i>Following designation of biosphere status in June 2019, the council has supported the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership through submitting planning applications for Branstone Farm for proposals that overtly support the biosphere principles. It has agreed to provide accountancy support for a €1 million bid to highlight the profile of Unesco sites on both sides of the Channel which, if successful, will provide financial resources to the Biosphere initiative. Support has been provided through involvement in the Island's Visitor Charter, the post Covid-19 advice for visitors coming to the Island used biosphere as part of the campaign.</i></p>

Following the successful environment conference in 2018, develop and implement an environment action plan, by December 2019, that defines our commitment to protect our environment, improve green infrastructure and identify potential for growth of the green economy.

In February 2019 the Environmental Action Plan was presented to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Regeneration, Planning, Housing and the Environment. Within this update were the following eleven topics that would be progressed in 2019:-

- Future energy system
- Sustainable tourism
- Promoting the biosphere
- Promoting electric vehicles and low carbon fuels
- Conserving our water supplies
- Farming & rural enterprise
- Involving the community
- Reducing travel impacts
- Green business practices
- Circular economy (waste and recycling)
- Plastic-free Island

Progress against this plan includes the significant achievements of:-

- Introducing free parking permits for zero emission electric vehicles – this offer ended on 31 March 2020.
- Recognition of the Isle of Wight as part of Unesco's worldwide network of biosphere reserves – completed
- More than 60 businesses registered with the Green Impact Programme – awaiting update
- Implementation of Biosphere Action Plan - AONB Partnership has commenced delivery of Biosphere Management Plan
- Grant received from OLEV for on-street electric vehicle charge points - Currently progressing installation of ten on-street charge points, delayed by Covid-19
- Water conservation campaign agreed with Southern Water – delayed by Covid-19 (council staff involved in Covid-19 response)
- Active travel evaluations completed for the majority of schools - completed