

Full Council - Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Written question from Cllr Andre to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

At Full Council on Wednesday 21st November 2018, a resolution was passed in response to a motion brought by Cllr Debbie Andre as follows:

“That in accordance with Defra’s 25 year plan, the government is undertaking the Glover Review of designated landscapes. There is currently a call for evidence which closes on 18th December (2018), in respect of this review. This Council calls on the responsible Cabinet Member to undertake further research into, and to consider making representations to government about, the opportunities and threats that might be created for the Island by the possible creation of an Island Park.”

Can the responsible Cabinet Member tell us what further research has been done since Nov 2018 to fully consider this initiative and was evidence submitted to the Glover review by the responsible Cabinet member by the deadline given?

Response

I can confirm that officers, on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council, submitted a response to the Government’s Landscapes Review (also known as the Glover Review) on 18 December 2018. The outcome of this independent review is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>. As you’ll see from the attached submission, at the time the Council was not in a position to support the creation of an ‘Island Park’ (for the reasons given in response to Q20). Julian Glover and his team visited the island on 3 June 2019 and met a range of stakeholders to discuss a range of issues relating to the review. This undoubtedly included advocates of an ‘Island Park’ putting the case forward directly to the Review’s lead author.

Despite this the final report of the Glover Review was published in September 2019 and did not include reference to the creation of a national park on the Isle of Wight or to introduce a newly created designation such as the proposed ‘Island Park’. Given this lack of support for such a designation from the Review, and reflecting on the reasons for the award of Biosphere status, it was considered there was no justification to change the Council’s position or to the use of resources to progress the case for an ‘Island Park’ further. The key findings from the wider review will continue to be reflected in the continued development of our Island Plan Strategy, where we seek to achieve the right balance between economic, social and environmental issues.