

Decision Notice

Future use of GCC's Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres

Decision taken by Cllr Will Windsor Clive, Cabinet Member for Communities	Gloucestershire County Council
Date made:	19 May 2011
Date published:	19 May 2011
Call-in period finishes on:	26 May 2011
Details of Decision	
<i>The Cabinet Member was asked</i>	
To determine the future use of Outdoor and Environmental Sites at South Cerney, Wilderness, Buckstone, Plump Hill and Pwll Du	
<i>Following the representation period and after consideration of all the representations made during that period, the Cabinet Member made the following decision for the reasons stated:</i>	
On 28 February 2011, I confirmed future delivery of services for young people in Gloucestershire, following Cabinet decisions on 2 February, the end of the consultation period on 11 February, and County Council decisions on 16 February 2011.	
This decision was taken after extensive and thorough consultation with young people, staff and local communities about the Meeting the Challenge (MTC) budget proposals, scope of the proposed new targeted youth support service, and options for community asset transfer, and a separate parallel consultation on proposals for the future of outdoor and environmental education.	
I confirmed	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The service change proposals in respect of young people's services, including the budget reductions and establishment of the new targeted youth support service.2. The allocation of £300k to district councils to support community and voluntary sector to extend or provide activities/ provision3. That the new service will include capacity for outdoor education to priority groups of young people.	

4. That the new service will include capacity to support young people to achieve Duke of Edinburgh Award accreditation.
5. That the council should no longer directly provide outdoor and environmental education at the GCC-owned facilities and sites at South Cerney, Wilderness, Buckstone, Plump Hill and Pwll Du.
6. A request to officers to identify a range of options for the future use of the facilities and sites (at South Cerney, Wilderness, Buckstone, Plump Hill and Pwll Du), including their viability as centres for outdoor and environmental education businesses.
7. A request for a further report on options for the future use of outdoor and environmental education sites.

I requested, and received, expert independent advice regarding future options for the sites and this is summarised in the subsequent [report](#) on the future use of outdoor and environmental education centres, which was published on 11 May 2011.

Between 11 and 18 May 2011, I received the 97 representations, and these were made available for Cabinet to read.

The representations have come from schools, colleges, user groups, parents, children and concerned individuals. They cover all the current outdoor and environmental education centres and are supportive of the work they do. They show the strong feelings and high esteem that users have for these services, and express reservations about, and opposition to, the recommendations in the report for their future use.

I have taken these representations into consideration: I believe that these representations have not raised any new issues, and that they have already been addressed in the report.

I have carefully read and considered the report and the representations received, and I have noted the Equality Impact Assessment. I am aware of and have had due regard to the Council's equality duties (revised in April this year by the Equality Act 2010) requiring the Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination in its various forms in relation to those groups of people protected by the Act (which includes persons with a disability) and also to have due regard to advancing equality of opportunity and to fostering good relations.

I have also listened and responded to the petition, presentation and debate in full council on 18 May, and have added one more decision as a result of this debate (recommendation 2 below). It is my view that a long term, sustainable solution needs to be found to secure outdoor activities at South Cerney and that the recommendations of the report will secure that.

I have decided to

Reject the alternative option and

Take the recommended decisions for the reasons set out in the report, and add a new decision relating to South Cerney as follows:

1. That South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre is offered as a going concern through a suitable leasehold arrangement and in accordance with Gloucestershire County Council

Disposal Policy;

2. That in determining who to lease the site to, due consideration is given within lawful constraints to existing users, the local community in addition to other relevant factors.
3. That the Wilderness, Buckstone, Plump Hill and Pwll Du Centres are closed and offered for sale with vacant possession

Any members wishing to call-in this decision should submit a call in notice with the required number of signatures (six) to the Chief Executive (F.A.O. Jane Cleaver, Legal & Democratic Services) by 5 p.m. on the above date. The decision will be implemented on 27 May 2011 if no call-in is made.