Committee:	Lead Cabinet Member for Resources
Date:	16 September 2014
Title of Report:	Disposal of plots of Manorial Waste land to Ashdown Forest Trust
By:	Chief Operating Officer
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval for the transfer of Manorial Waste associated with
	Ashdown Forest to the Ashdown Forest Trust

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to approve the transfer of plots of land shown on plans 1,2 4 to 12, and 14 to 18 to the Ashdown Forest Trust, to be managed by the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The cost of the legal transfer will be met by the Business Services team.

1.2 The plots will be transferred at nil value.

1.3 The cost of any maintenance of the transferred plots (currently funded separately by the County Council) will be met through the existing budget allocated to the Conservators of Ashdown Forest.

1.4 To offset additional maintenance costs the Conservators will have the ability to issue licenses over the plots and to collect and retain licence fees.

2. Supporting information

2.1 On 25 November 1988 the County Council acquired the freehold of Ashdown Forest and plots of Manorial Waste including those shown on plans 11 to 18. The Forest is held by the County Council as Trustee under the terms of the Ashdown Forest Trust. Set up in 1988, this is a Charitable Trust. The Ashdown Forest is managed by the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest (The Board) who operate under the terms of the Ashdown Forest Act 1974.

2.2 On 29 November 1995 the County Council acquired the freehold of a further group of plots of Manorial Waste, shown on plans 1 to 10.

2.3 It was agreed at Environment Committee 4 March 1997 to transfer plots 1 to 10 to the Trust. It was agreed at the Conservation and Countryside Sub-Committee 11 October 1989 to transfer plots shown on plans 11 to 18. In legal terms the property holdings remain registered to East Sussex County Council rather than the Ashdown Forest Trust. In practice the Conservators have been managing the plots of Manorial Waste since the original Committee decisions

2.4 Plot 3 was lost through an adverse possession claim in 2004 and is no longer in the County Council's ownership. Plot 13 is no longer considered by the Conservators to be of direct benefit to the Forest and will not therefore be transferred.

2.5 The plots of Manorial Waste to be transferred either provide access to the Forest from the public highway or link different areas of Ashdown Forest. They have been identified by the Clerk to the Conservators as being significant in terms of the management of Ashdown Forest and required for that purpose.

2.6 The land has no financial value to the County Council due to its status as Manorial Waste which places a presumption against its sale.

2.7 To reduce the risk of encroachment and potential loss of areas of Manorial Waste and to clarify the status of the Manorial Waste as an Ashdown Forest Trust asset we propose to

transfer the land to the ownership of the East Sussex County Council as Trustee of the Ashdown Forest Trust.

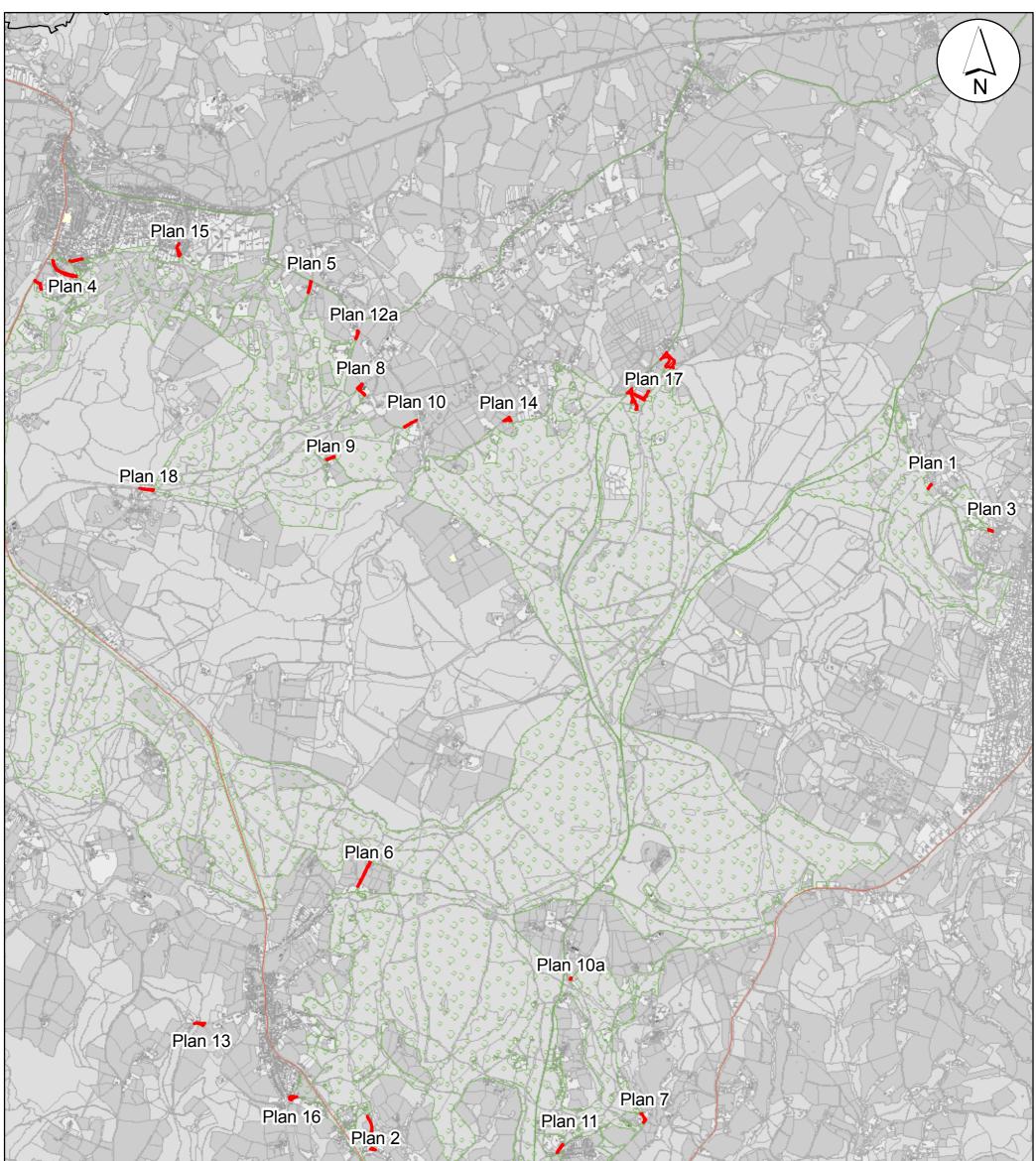
2.8 The two local Members have been consulted on the proposed transfer and have raised no objection.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations

3.1 To facilitate the effective management of the Manorial Waste shown on plans 1, 2, 4 to 12, and 14 to 18 to the benefit of the Ashdown Forest we recommend that the land be transferred to the ownership of the Ashdown Forest Trust.

KEVIN FOSTER Chief Operating Officer Contact Officer: Zoe Tweed, Senior Client Officer 01273 336104 Local Members: Councillor Roy Galley and Councillor Francis Whetstone

Background Documents: None



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Date:	28 August 2014	Map No:	1	St Annes Crescent Lewes	East Sussex County Council
Map Title:	Manorial Plots	East Sussex County Council County Hall			
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