

Committee:	<b>Lead Cabinet Member for Resources</b>
Date:	<b>20 January 2015</b>
Report By:	<b>Director of Communities, Economy and Transport</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Badger Culling on Council owned land</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To consider a response to a petition calling on the County Council to save East Sussex County Council's badgers from culling</b>

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Lead Member is recommended to inform the petitioners that the County Council will continue to await the review of evidence from the current pilots by the Independent Panel of Experts in 2016 before expressing a view as to whether or not to allow badger culling on County Council land.

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## **1. Background**

1.1 The following petition has been submitted by Councillor Wallis: "*Calling on the County Council to save East Sussex County Council's badgers from culling*".

## **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this recommendation.

2.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate, petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred the petition to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources for consideration and to provide information to the County Council to help inform the debate. The Lead Member's decision will be reported to the County Council at its next meeting on 10 February 2015.

2.3 On 21 January 2014, the Lead Member for Resources considered a report proposing that a position be agreed regarding badger culling on County Council land. This was following a notice of motion from Councillor Scott which stated "*Noting the start of the badger cull in Somerset and Gloucestershire and the possibility that Defra may roll out the badger cull across the rest of the UK, East Sussex County Council agrees not to allow the badger cull to take place on any of its County owned or leased land given that the science is not proven nor conclusive that a cull of badgers is the answer to eradicating Bovine TB from the countryside.*"

2.4 The report recommended that the County Council note the report and await the review of evidence from the current pilots by the Independent Panel of Experts in 2016 before expressing a view as to whether or not to allow badger culling on County Council land. This position was agreed.

2.5 The report from 21 January 2014 outlines background information which is still current. The County Council's Ecologist has considered the situation; however it is not felt that any update can be given as the position has not changed.

## **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 The Lead Member is recommended to inform the petitioners that the County Council will continue to await the review of evidence from the current pilots by the Independent Panel of Experts in 2016 before expressing a view as to whether or not to allow badger culling on County Council land.

**RUPERT CLUBB**  
**Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Contact                    Kate Cole                    Tel. No. 01273 481621  
Officer:  
Local                      All  
Member:

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- The petition
- Lead Member report, 21 January 2014 - item 4: Notice of Motion: Badger Culling on County Council Land
- Minutes of 21 January 2014 Lead Member meeting