

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **26 June 2018**

Report By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of Report: **Ashdown Forest Trust Fund**

Purpose of Report: **To inform Cabinet of the movements on the Trust Fund during 2017/18 and the closing position as at 31 March 2018.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to note the report and the Ashdown Forest's Trust Income and Expenditure Account for 2017/18 and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Ashdown Forest Trust, a registered charity, was set out by declaration of Trust in 1988. East Sussex County Council is the trustee and agrees grants made to the Ashdown Forest Conservators, from the Ashdown Forest Trust Fund.

2. Supporting Information

2016/17 Accounts

- 2.1. Subsequent to the 2016/17 accounts being approved, the independent Examination process has now been completed in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2.2. The Examiner's report is attached as Appendix A. It does not identify any issues that require any further action by the Council as the trustees.

2017/18 Accounts

- 2.3. The Trust's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are set out in the attached Appendix B. The Income and Expenditure Account shows an annual deficit in 2017/18 of £3,332 due to additional legal cost for wayleaves and encroachment issues.
- 2.4. The main source of income to the Trust relates to the rent from the Royal Ashdown Golf Club at £70,000 per annum. A new lease was signed with the Club in 2014.
- 2.5. The majority of expenditure relates to the £65,100 grant paid to the Ashdown Forest Conservators.
- 2.6. The accumulative General Reserve totalled £153,935 at 31 March 2018.
- 2.7. A formal annual report and statement of accounts will be compiled in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) by the end of January 2019, once the Independent Examiner report has been received.

3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The trust made an operating deficit of £3,332 during 2017/18 due to legal costs. The general Reserve as at 31 March 2017 amounts to £153,935. This fund is available to finance expenditure which meets the Trust's objectives.
- 3.2. Cabinet is recommended to note the final accounts for the Ashdown Forest Trust.

KEVIN FOSTER
Chief Operating Officer

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LOCAL MEMBERS
Councillor Galley, Stogdon, Tidy and Whetstone

ESCC MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF CONSERVATORS
Councillors Barnes, Stephen Shing, Stogdon, Tidy and Whetstone

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st March 2017	Charity no (if any)	800437
Set out on pages	1 to 42		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

19/1/18

Name:	Caroline Clarke
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACA
Address:	99 Western Road
	Lewes
	BN7 1RS

Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2018

2016/17	Income	2017/18
£		£
0	Fees	0
(70,000)	Rent of Golf Course	(70,000)
(276)	Bank Interest	(87)
(70,276)		(70,087)
	Less Expenditure	
65,100	Conservators of Ashdown Forest - Grants	65,100
7,772	Fees	8,319
2,596	(Surplus)/Deficit	3,332

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018

2016/17		2017/18
£		£
1,200,000	Fixed Assets: Land and Buildings	1,200,000
	Current Assets:	
159,446	Cash at Bank	156,405
	Current Liabilities:	
(2,080)	Sundry creditors	(2,370)
1,357,366		1,354,035
	Representing:	
	Reserves	
1,200,100	Endowment Fund	1,200,100
157,266	General Reserve	153,935
1,357,366		1,354,035