

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 18 July 2017

By: Chief Operating Officer

Title: Ashdown Forest Trust Fund

Purpose: To inform Cabinet of the movements on the Trust Fund during 2016/17 and the closing position as at 31 March 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to note the report and the Ashdown Forest Trust's Income and Expenditure Account for 2016/17 and Balance sheet as at 31 March 2017.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Ashdown Forest Trust, a registered charity, was set out by a 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

2015/16 Accounts

- 2.1 Subsequent to the 2015/16 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.

2016/17 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 2016/17 of £2,596 due to additional 'one-off' legal costs incurred because of an increase in the volume of Wayleaves granted during the year.
- 2.4 The main source of income to the Trust relates to the rent from Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club at £70,000 per annum. A new lease was signed with the Club in 2014.
- 2.5 The majority of the expenditure relates to the £65,100 annual grant paid to the Ashdown Forest Conservators.
- 2.6 The accumulative General Reserve totalled £157,266 at 31 March 2017.
- 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 31 January 2018, once the Independent Examiner report has been received.

3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Trust made an operating deficit of £2,596 during 2016/17 due to one-off costs. The General Reserve as at 31 March 2017 amounts to £157,266. 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



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/
members of

ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March
2016

Charity
no (if
any)

800437

Set out on pages

1 to 16

**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 matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below^{*)}

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn 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: Caroline Clarke

Date: 25/01/2017

Name: Caroline Clarke

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

ACA

Address: 99 Western Road,

Lewes,

East Sussex BN7 1RS

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose.

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight
material problems.

ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2016

| 2015/16 | Income | 2016/17 |
|----------|---|----------|
| £ | | £ |
| | Fees | 0 |
| (70,000) | Rent of Golf Course | (70,000) |
| (439) | Bank Interest | (276) |
| (70,439) | | (70,276) |
| | Less Expenditure | |
| 65,100 | Conservators of Ashdown Forest – Grants | 65,100 |
| 2,867 | Fees | 7,772 |
| (2,472) | (Surplus)/Deficit | 2,596 |
| | | |

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016

| 2015/16 | | 2016/17 |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| £ | | £ |
| 1,200,000 | Fixed Assets: Land and Buildings | 1,200,000 |
| 160,391 | Current Assets: Cash at Bank | 159,446 |
| (429) | Current Liabilities: Sundry creditors | (2,080) |
| 1,359,962 | | 1,357,366 |
| | Representing: | |
| 1,200,000 | Reserves | 1,200,100 |
| 159,962 | Endowment Fund | 157,266 |
| | General Reserve | |
| 1,359,962 | | 1,357,366 |
| | | |