

London Borough of Sutton**THE EXECUTIVE – 16 FEBRUARY 2009****DEVELOPMENT OF WANDLE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK****RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP**

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10/2/09

“Further to Minute 12/08, progress on developing the concept of the Wandle Valley Regional Park was reported. The report also covered possible future working arrangements, and the funding required for managing the Wandle Valley Partnership for a transitional period prior to the establishment of the Park.

The Joint Members’ Working Group, known as ‘Local Authorities along the Wandle’ (LAW), had considered a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which set out proposed working arrangements between the 4 boroughs and the involvement of the GLA until the Regional Park had been established. The MoU was not intended to be legally binding, but was a statement of agreement to work together in a co-operative manner. Decisions and recommendations would need to be ratified by each of the 4 boroughs’ cabinet committees and all the costs of the work arising from the Group would be shared.

The Joint Members’ Working Group had agreed that a rationalised, more formal organisational structure was now required. This would involve Groundwork London in a project management role, co-ordinating the work of the Joint Members’ Working Group, The Wandle Valley Steering Group and the Wandle Forum, with the Steering Group making recommendations to the Joint Working Group for approval. This would enable the 4 Wandle boroughs to collectively provide the necessary political leadership, acting in an advisory capacity on behalf of the 4 authorities. All stakeholders represented on the Wandle Steering Group and the Wandle Forum would be consulted on decisions on the future development of the Park.

The Joint Working Group had also considered costed options for the co-ordination of the next, transitional phase of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and details of their agreed way forward were reported. It was proposed that each authority should commit £7k in 2009/10 and 2010/11 as their share of the cost of Groundwork London managing the Wandle Valley Partnership over the transitional period.

Members discussed the future funding of the Regional Park and were advised that securing the long-term funding of the Park had been written into the Memorandum of Understanding as a proposed outcome. Funding for the Lee Valley Regional Park was tied up with the 2012 Olympics, so it was acknowledged that the objective of either: (a) repatriating the funds currently paid to the Lee Valley Regional Park; or (b) establishing the Wandle Valley Regional Park as the regional facility for south London, with south London authorities paying a precept towards its upkeep, would be a long-term goal.

Resolved: To note the report and RECOMMEND The Executive to:

- (i) agree the draft Memorandum of Understanding, as described in the report;**
- (ii) agree the proposed Wandle Valley Partnership arrangements, involving the Joint Members’ Working Group, Wandle Valley Steering Group, the Wandle Forum and Groundwork London over the transitional period;**

- (iii) **Endorse 'The Wandle Valley Regional Park - A Vision for the Future' as a basis for facilitating the development of the Regional Park over the transitional period;**
- (iv) **Agree the proposed boundaries of the Regional Park in Sutton for purposes of consultation with the Wandle Valley Steering Group, the Wandle Forum and other stakeholders."**

The Executive is **RECOMMENDED** to concur.