

## Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	Thames Chase Community Forest Area
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Paul Walker – Interim Director of Housing and Property
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Graham Williamson, Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration
<b>SLT Lead:</b>	Neil Stubbings, Strategic Director of Place
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Clare Brennan Clare.Brennan@Havering.gov.uk 01708434693
<b>Policy context:</b>	Havering Inclusive Growth Strategy 2020-2045 Havering Local Plan 2016-31 London Riverside Opportunity Area Planning Framework
<b>Financial summary:</b>	There are no direct financial implications. This report seeks authority to support a request from Thames Chase Trust (TCT) Board to formally extend the area within which they operate so

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	that it includes the urban areas within the Borough.  It is possible that Havering may benefit from funding from TCT over a larger area within the Borough.
<b>Relevant Overview &amp; Scrutiny Sub Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

People - Things that matter for residents X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy X

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

## Part A – Report seeking decision

### DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authority to support the request from Thames Chase Trust Board to formally extend the Community Forest area so that it includes urban areas within the London Borough of Havering.

### AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

#### Part 3.3 [Responsibility for Functions] of the Council's Constitution:

#### 3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team

##### General powers

(b) To exercise all the powers delegated to them personally and those powers delegated to Second Tier Managers and other staff members in their directorate where circumstances require and so far as legally permissible. Exercise of such powers should be recorded where appropriate. Where possible, a SLT member should give notice to a relevant staff member that he or she intends to exercise a specified power that is delegated to that staff member.

#### 3.4 Powers of Second Tier Managers

##### Contract powers

(a) To approve commencement of a tendering process for, and to award all contracts below a total contract value of £500,000 but above the EU Threshold for Supplies and Services.

### STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. The Land of the Fanns Partnership Scheme was a National Lottery funded initiative that included a range of smaller, predominantly voluntary sector projects centred on increasing participation in local history and the natural environment within the project area. Havering acted as the Accountable Body for the duration of the project which ended on 31.3.23.
2. On 1.4.23 Thames Chase Trust (TCT) became the Legacy Body for the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme.

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3. The area of the Thames Chase Trust Community Forest was therefore increased to 70 square miles on that date to ensure that the Community Forest area included the projects covered by the Legacy Board in what was the Land of the Fanns Project Area.
4. When the TCT area was extended, the urban areas in Romford, Hornchurch and Rainham were excluded. Appendix B shows the current area of the Community Forest.
5. TCT Trustees have now requested that the urban areas within Romford, Hornchurch and Rainham, in which they deliver a large amount of work, are formally included within the area of the Community Forest ( Appendix C)
6. Other urban areas such as South Ockendon and Aveley have been included in the Community Forest since 1990.
7. This change would bring TCT into alignment with the way in which the operational areas of the Community Forests are defined in the rest of the national network of England's Community Forests (ECF - Appendix A).
8. It will be beneficial for the Council because it would formalise TCT's work in these urban zones and enable them to do more for Trees for Climate in parks, greenspaces, golf courses, streets, housing estates and develop other initiatives in liaison with the Council and Voluntary Sector.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 1) Do not support the extension of the TCT area.

TCT's work within Havering would be limited and future initiatives and funding would exclude the urban areas within the Borough. The way in which the area of the Community Forest is defined would continue to be different from the way in which other forests within the National Network are defined.

### **PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

None.

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**NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER**

Name: Clare Brennan

Designation: Regeneration Manager

Signature: 

Date: 16-4-24

## Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Borough has no direct contractual or landlord/tenant relationship with Thames Chase Trust and this change will be governed entirely by the Trust's articles of association.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

There are no financial implications for the Council.

It is possible that the increase in area of the Community Forest may provide funding opportunities for the Council in the future.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

There are no HR implications or risks associated with the proposed extension of TCT Community Forest area.

### **EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

There are no direct Environmental or Climate Change implications or risks. However, the active development of the Community Forest could have significant Environmental and Climate Change benefits.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*None*

**APPENDICES**

<b><i>Appendix A - Plan: National network of England's Community Forests</i></b>	<b><i>Open</i></b>
<b><i>Appendix B – Plan: existing boundary of TCT</i></b>	<b><i>Open</i></b>
<b><i>Appendix C – Plan: proposed boundary of TCT</i></b>	<b><i>Open</i></b>

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**Part C – Record of decision**

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

**Decision**

Proposal agreed

~~Proposal NOT agreed because~~

**Details of decision maker**

Signed



Name:

Paul Walker

Director of Housing and Property Services

Date: 16.04.24

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



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