

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Subject : Harnham Woodland for Sale
Committee : Full Council
Date : 5 Jul 2022
Author : Marc Read, Environmental Services Manager

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report requests the Council to consider the acquisition of a piece of woodland that has been made available for purchase in Harnham.

2. Background:

- 2.1. Salisbury City Council (SCC) were approached in Mar 2022 by Estates & Management Ltd on behalf of their client, who is looking to dispose of their freehold interest of a section of woodland in Harnham.
- 2.2. A report detailing the current condition, an estimate of costs to bring the area to a safe standard for public use and identifying future maintenance needs is shown at Annex A (Doc 86580).
- 2.3. Salisbury City Council already own the freehold to part of this woodland (Harnham Slope) so have a good understanding of the requirements to maintain the woodland to a good standard.

3. Costs & Value:

- 3.1. The estimated cost to bring this woodland safe for public use is in the region of £40,000. The majority of which is in relation to tree surgery works due to ash dieback.
- 3.2. There would also be legal fees connected with the purchase estimated to be £2,000-5,000.
- 3.3. If the Council determines to acquire this land then these costs would need to be met by the Council's reserves as no budget has been allocated to this in 2022/2023.
- 3.4. Whilst the woodland has not been valued, it is likely, due to its location and lack of development opportunity, e.g. for housing, that the estimated costs to bring the land into safe public ownership would be more than the land is worth.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- 4.1. The Council considers if it wishes to own this land, and if so, to make an offer of a nominal fee of £1.
- 4.2. The Council note the cost of bringing this land to SCC's standard for woodland areas and that this funding would come from its reserves.

5. Wards Affected: All

6. Background papers:

6.1. Annex A (Doc 86580) – Harnham Woodland Committee Report

7. Implications:

7.1. **Financial:** As outlined in the report

7.2. **Legal:** None

7.3. **Personnel:** None

7.4. **Environmental Impact:** As outlined in Annex A.

7.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** None