

Budget Scrutiny – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011

Action No. 167.4a

Re: Q14 – Recreation Services – Review resourcing of Parkforce Activities

The Committee requested details on the exact effects of this proposal would be on the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and what the Council currently paid for and what the Council intended to pay for under the budget cutting proposal (Action No. 167.4a). (*Cllr Engert*)

**The Council entered into a 2 year grant agreement 2009/10 – 2011, which expires on 31 March 2011, at £133k per annum. The key ingredients are:**

- **Delivery of Conservation/biodiversity education programme at Railway Fields.**
- **Conservation works and volunteering programme.**
- **Outreach work with schools and community groups, including annual bulb planting programme.**
- **Conservation walks and talks programme.**

**Officers have had initial discussion with BTCV based upon reduced Council grant aid support of £50k per annum, together with ‘in kind’ match funding from formalising BTCV tenancy of Railway Fields. A new 3 – 4 year grant agreement is proposed, to enable BTCV to seek and secure additional external match funding, and develop a more sustainable business plan**