

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
19 APRIL 2018**

**AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive details of the progress of the AONB Management Plan review and next steps.

**2.0 PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 2.1 The formal notification of the intention to review the Management Plan was sent to the constituent local authorities and relevant organisations, as required by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- 2.2 Initial scoping work has been carried out to assess the degree to which the current Key Facts, General Principles, Key Issues, Objectives and Actions will need revision. In general terms, it is felt by the Team that all the sections listed above (apart from the Key Issues for the next 5 years) require relatively minor amendments.
- 2.3 Clearly one of the key factors for the Natural Environment, Historic Environment and Agriculture chapters, (although impinging on other topics as well) will be the progress and outcome of trade deals and changes to farm support mechanisms during and after the Brexit process. Current feeling is that, following the various announcements and policy consultation documents issued by Defra, the process of transition in the area of farm support may not be fully completed within the lifetime of the next Management Plan (i.e. before April 2024) and hence new Objectives and Actions need to reflect this transition stage rather than what may be the final position.

**3.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 In accordance with the revised Programme attached as Appendix 1, initial work will be done during April and May on revising the text of the individual topic chapters, and on compiling updated statistics for the 'State of the AONB' report. Scoping of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessments will also be started.
- 3.2 In a change from previous years, it is felt that it would be more efficient to hold Topic Group meetings as necessary *after* the initial revision work has been done. This would allow consultees to comment on a proposed text, as well as the number of Topic Group meetings to potentially be reduced if consensus emerged solely from the written consultation.
- 3.3 Following these informal consultation phases the revised chapters will be sent back to the Topic Group members, to ensure that their input has been accurately represented and that nothing has been missed. The revised chapters will also be circulated to JAC members. It is planned to do this by 6<sup>th</sup> August.
- 3.4 Following any further comments, the chapters and supporting information (Landscape Management & Priority Sites section, State of the AONB document, Action Plan, etc) will be further revised and the document prepared for public and stakeholder consultation.

- 3.5 The formal consultation period is proposed as 1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> November. In previous years special consultation events have been held but their attendance has at times been disappointing. It is not currently the intention to hold any events for this review of the Plan, but if a demand and suitable mechanism emerges as the Plan review process proceeds, then events will be arranged.
- 3.6 Following the end of the consultation period all the comments received will be compiled into a table, showing the comment and the amendments proposed to the Plan (if applicable). This table will be circulated to the JAC and Core Partners Group in January 2019, for their comments. It might be envisaged that a significant number of comments will be received on the topic of fracking, which will need more specific policy consideration within the next Management Plan.
- 3.7 Following any comments received from this final consultation, the final revisions will be made to the Plan. These will be discussed with the JAC Chairman, who will provide the final sign-off of the revised Plan.
- 3.8 The Plan will then be sent to the three constituent Local Authorities in time for formal adoption by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, and to Defra.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the progress and next steps detailed above be noted for information.

APPENDIX 1

2019 – 2024 AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW TIMETABLE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>
October 2017	Timetable and scoping for new Plan	AONB Manager & Core Partners Group
November 2017	Provisional timetable approved	JAC
November 2017	Notice to Review letter issued to Local Authorities	AONB Manager
April 2018	Book timeslot with Print Unit for design and production of Consultation Draft	AONB Manager
April/May 2018	Revision of Key Facts, General Principles, Objectives and Actions for each Topic section	AONB Manager
April/May 2018	Initial Scoping Review of SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessments	NYCC
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Revised Topic Sections sent to Topic Groups for initial comments. Update Evidence Base statistics	AONB Manager AONB Team
9 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Topic Group meetings held, as necessary; refining of SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessments	AONB Manager; NYCC
6 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Draft Plan chapters circulated to JAC and Topic Groups for final pre-consultation comments	AONB Manager
August 2018	Final revision of Draft Plan, following feedback	AONB Manager
31 <sup>st</sup> August 2018	Text to County Print for design/artwork	AONB Manager
1 <sup>st</sup> October – 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Formal public and stakeholder consultation	JAC, Local Authorities, partner organisations
November/ December 2018	Compilation and assessment of comments received from consultees	AONB Manager
January 2019	Circulation of proposed amendments to Core Partners Group and JAC (by email)	AONB Manager
January/February 2019	Revision of final Plan, following feedback	AONB Manager
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Approval of final Management Plan	JAC Chairman
February & March 2019	Adoption of new Plan by constituent Local Authorities	NYCC, HDC. RDC
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	Deadline for Plan to be adopted by constituent Local Authorities and sent to Defra	NYCC, HDC, RDC; AONB Manager
May – September 2019	Final formatting, artwork, printing and distribution of Management Plan document/CDs	AONB Manager