

AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Purpose

To present the pre-consultation draft Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 and the revised programme for the preparation and publication of the Management Plan.

Recommendation

That the JAC endorses the 10 week public consultation period for the draft Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025.

Key Issues

- The JAC previously endorsed a balanced and proportionate review of the current Wye Valley AONB Management Plan (2015-2020).
- The pre-consultation draft Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 is appended.
- Members can provide comments to the AONB Manager on this pre-consultation draft before Thursday 18th July.
- The Management Plan review programme is appended which proposes a 10 week public consultation period commencing in late July for the draft Wye Valley AONB Management Plan.
- The Scoping for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRA) will run concurrently with the public consultation.

Reasons

The 5 year statutory review of the AONB Management Plan must be complete by the end of 2020. Each local authority will approve and adopt the finalised Plan under Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. The JAC previously determined that the existing Management Plan remains a sound foundation on which to base the next Plan. A proportionate and balanced review which modifies, updates and simplifies the existing Plan, but retains tried and tested policies and content, was seen as appropriate.

Implications

The pre-consultation draft Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 is attached. This has undergone a simple modification and updating of the existing Plan, retaining the tried and tested structure and policies where appropriate. Members and local authority partners have the opportunity to review and comment on this pre-consultation draft before Thursday 18th

July. Following any amendments, the Plan will then be published as the Public Consultation Draft.

The review programme for the Management Plan is attached. The next stage will be a 10 week public consultation period, from late July to early October. The Scoping reports for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRA) will run concurrently with the public consultation. The resulting comments will be assessed and assimilated into the revised draft AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 and presented to the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) in March 2020 for endorsement.

Background

The CRoW Act 2000 (Sections 89 and 90) require local authorities to publish AONB Management Plans, at not more than five year intervals, which formulate their policy for the management of their AONB and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it. The current Management Plan 2015-2020 is available on the AONB website <http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/index.php/about-us/management-and-guidance/management-plan-2015-2020/> .