

SUBJECT: WYE VALLEY AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2025

MEETING: Strong Communities Select Committee

DATE: 23 January 2020

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To inform the review of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2020-2025.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The committee is invited to consider the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 and identify any issues they wish the review to consider further.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Section 89 of CROW Act 2000 places a statutory duty on all local authorities to produce, jointly if appropriate, a management plan for any AONBs lying within their boundaries and to review them every five years.
- 3.2 The first statutory management plan for the Wye Valley AONB was produced in 2004 and covered the period 2004 to 2009. Its first review covered the period 2009 to 2014 and second review 2015 – 2020.
- 3.3 A third review has now commenced managed by the Wye Valley AONB Unit and overseen by the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee. The revised plan will cover the period 2020 - 2025.
- 3.4 The Joint Advisory Committee 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.
- 3.5 The Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan 2020-25 was published in October 2019 with a 10 weeks public consultation period. In addition, two public 'drop-in' sessions were held in December 2019 alongside meetings with key stakeholders to provide further opportunities for everybody to inspect and

comment on the new AONB Management Plan. By January 2020 a total of 21 organisations and individuals had submitted comments on the Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan. The consultation responses received to date are being assessed and will be reported to a future meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee.

3.6 Any comments this committee has at this stage would be welcome.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 The review of the plan will be subject to formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) and will provide a framework within which the primary purposes of AONB designation can be maintained sustainably.

4.2 Positive impacts identified through conserved and enhanced landscape and well-being of current and future generations through access to that landscape.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Not to contribute to the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025	None	Reviewing the AONB management plan every five years is a statutory duty under Section 89 of CROW Act 2000.	Whilst the AONB unit undertakes the review jointly on behalf of the partner authorities, the responsibility to adopt the resulting plan rests with the Council.
Contribute to the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025	Will ensure the management plan review reflects on the issues pertinent to the Monmouthshire part of the AONB	None	

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 Progress will be monitored against the finalised Management Plan Objectives and the Wye Valley AONB Unit's annual work programme / funding agreements reported to, and scrutinised by, the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 To inform members of the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 and identify any issues they wish the review to consider further.
- 7.2 The preparation of a management plan for the Wye Valley AONB and its periodic review is a statutory requirement as set out on the main report. The CROW Act also requires that the County Council, as with all relevant authorities, should have regard to the purposes of the AONB in executing any of its functions which could affect the AONB.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 There are no additional resource implications. The AONB unit is funded through local authority contributions from Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Forest of Dean Councils and grant aid from Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Defra.

9. CONSULTEES:

Chief Operating Officer MonLife
Chief Officer Enterprise

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation

Appendix 2: Draft Management Plan: <https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Public-Consultation-Draft-Wye-Valley-AONB-Management-Plan-2020-25.pdf>

Also available version showing proposed modifications from 2015-2020 plan: (<https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Public-consultation-DRAFT-Wye-Valley-AONB-Management-Plan-2020-25-changes-v2015-20.pdf>)

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