

ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose

To present the annual report figures for 2020/21 and note the delay in the completion of the tabulated achievements for the Wye Valley AONB Unit.

Recommendations

That the JAC welcomes the Annual Report figures and awaits the finalised Annual Report on AONB achievements for 2020/21.

Key Issues

- The 2020/21 Annual Report figures are outlined below.
- There is a delay in finalising the full report tabulating the achievements of the year against the annual Work Programme. This will be presented to the next JAC.
- The AONB Unit has levered in over £12 for every £1 of local authority contribution during 2020/21.

Reasons

The Annual Work Programme Report for the AONB Unit is usually presented to the July JAC. However the Report is not yet complete due to other work commitments. The Work Programme Report will be finalised and presented to DEFRA, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the JAC at next meeting in November.

Implications

There have been a number of highlights in the 2020/21 that will be outlined in the Annual Report for the AONB Unit Work Programme. These were achieved despite the obvious disruption caused by the Covid lockdowns and restrictions, although these were captured through the Documenting Now project. The Wye Valley River Festival 2020 was successfully Re-Imagined and moved on-line; the Lower Wye Project Officer was recruited and co-ordinated Japanese Knotweed control and along with the seconded Catchment Advisor delivered farm plans and Natural Flood Management (NFM) works on a number of landholdings. The AONB volunteers and Youth Rangers continued to meet whenever possible, and creative on-line activities were made available for Youth Rangers and mindSCAPES participants during lockdowns. The mindSCAPE project also won a CPRE Gloucestershire Award. The Monmouthshire Wye Valley AONB Villages study got underway with Arup. The AONB Management Plan 2021-26 was completed. Several funders gave extensions including Welsh Government for Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places projects. The AONB 50th Anniversary programme was commenced. A number of funding bids and collaborations were developed that will bear fruit during 2021/21.

The overall turnover of the AONB Unit increased in 2020/21 from 2019/20, although this was mostly accounted for by the income and expenditure of the Wye Valley River Festival 2020.

The leverage of the AONB Partnership in 2020/21 means that for every £1 of local authority contribution, the AONB Unit has brought in over £12.

Wye Valley AONB Unit Accounts		2019/20	2020/21
Expenditure			
	Staff costs	211,010	206,732
	Unit Operating costs	22,202	20,623
	Core Initiatives	7,465	8,005
	AONB Projects	17,733	10,050
	Sustainable Development Fund	55,000	100,000
	Partnership projects	189,363	250,862
	TOTAL	502,773	596,272
Income			
	Local Authorities core contributions	49,002	49,002
	Defra AONB grant	130,614	137,645
	Natural Resources Wales Grant	49,600	49,600
	Sustainable Development Fund	55,000	100,000
	Income from other sources	218,557	260,024
	TOTAL	502,773	596,272

