

WYE VALLEY NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Purpose

To present the revised programme for the Review of the Wye Valley National Landscape Management Plan.

Recommendations

That the JAC

- A. Endorses the revised programme for the review and publication of the National Landscape Management Plan
- B. Endorses the further refinement of the Special Qualities for inclusion in the Draft Management Plan.
- C. Recognise that the existing AONB Management Plan 2021-2026 remains valid until the new National Landscape Management Plan 2027-2032 is finalised and adopted.

Key Issues

- There has been further slippage in the Management Plan Review programme and a consultant has now been commissioned to assist with process.
- The public consultation draft Management Plan is currently being finalised with previously agreed draft policies retained but the Special Qualities have been further condensed and combined down to ten.
- The proposed public consultation period for the new Plan will cover 6-8 weeks in the autumn.
- The current Wye Valley AONB Management Plan (2021-2026) will remain valid until the new National Landscape Management Plan is adopted in 2027.

Reasons

Sections 89-90 of the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 require local authorities to review adopted and published AONB Management Plans every five years. The CROW Act

also requires local authorities to ‘act jointly’ in the preparation and review of AONB Management Plans.

Implications

Due to slippage with ‘in-house’ delivery of the Management Plan Review programme, a consultant has now been commissioned to assist with process. The appointed consultant also worked on the Malvern Hills National Landscape Management Plan, and has broad experience of the Management Plan process in both England and Wales.

At the previous JAC meeting the draft policies were endorsed along with the rationalisation of the Special Qualities from 27 in the existing Management Plan down to 18. The consultant has facilitated the further consolidation of the Special Qualities down to ten – as appended below. The five-theme structure of Nature, Climate, Water, People and Place remains along with the 50 Policies as presented at the last meeting.

The contextual text and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) are being prepared by the consultant, ensuring alignment with both Natural England’s and Natural Resource Wales’ respective Management Plan guidance, and other cross-border policy responsibilities.

Appended below is the revised programme for the Management Plan review. The Public Consultation process will last for 6-8 weeks in the autumn and include 3 open events at different locations and times across the National Landscape. This will enable a range of stakeholders to engage face to face as part of the public consultation.

Background

The CRoW Act 2000 (Sections 89 and 90) require local authorities to review AONB Management Plans within five years of the publication of a Plan. The Management Plan formulates their policy for the management of their AONB and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it.

The current Management Plan 2021-2026 is available on the National Landscape website <https://www.wyevalley-nl.org.uk/caring-for-wye-valley-aonb/management-plans/>

