

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
6th March 2017

AONB UNIT WORK PROGRAMME 2017/2018

Purpose

To seek members' approval for the proposed business plan for the AONB Unit during the forthcoming financial year.

Recommendations

That the JAC endorses the AONB Unit Work Programme 2017/2018.

Key Issues

- The attached table sets out the proposed business plan for the AONB Unit in the form of the Work Programme 2017/2018.
- This is focused on progressing the AONB Management Plan, development of the Wye Valley River Festival 2018 and continuing existing activities while developing new initiatives and funding opportunities.
- Welsh Government have confirmed that the allocation of the Sustainable Development Fund will remain at £55,000 for 2017/18.
- The budgets in the Work Programme have been approved by Defra, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and AONB Steering Group.

Reasons

The main tasks in the year ahead are:

- Promoting the use of the adopted AONB Management Plan 2015 - 2020.
- maintaining a high profile for the AONB, developing the Wye Valley River Festival 2018, alongside continuing activities such as the AONB Farming Awards, Youth Rangers and the final year of mindSCAPE
- delivering ongoing partnership initiatives, such as the Wye Valley Walk Partnership and the legacy of the Overlooking the Wye scheme
- developing and submitting new projects, partnership initiatives and funding bids for the future delivery of the AONB Management Plan including landscape scale partnership projects, pursuing the restoration of Lydbrook Bridge and supporting the Offa's Dyke Collaboratory
- Securing a new Memorandum of Understanding and medium term resourcing commitments from the AONB core funding partners.

Implications

Defra provided a four year grant allocation (2016-2020) while 2017/18 will be the final year of both the current Memorandum of Understanding between the Local Authorities and the three year grant from NRW.

Overall the AONB Unit business plan, based on the Work Programme, maximises the benefit for the local communities, the local economy and the outstanding landscape, while making best use of resources available. This is achieved by collaboration and leveraging in additional funding and resources wherever possible.