

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting 17th October 2018

RSPB Leighton Moss Education Room (The Holt) at 2pm

AGENDA



1. Welcome and apologies
2. Introductions
3. Presentation by Jarrod Sneyd, RSPB, about Warton Mires
4. Changes to Executive Committee membership
5. Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives
6. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
7. Minutes of meeting held on 21st March 2018
8. Matters arising
9. AONB Budget revised 2018/19 (report circulated) **Decision required**
10. AONB Development Plan Document (report circulated)
11. AONB Management Plan Review (report circulated) **Decision required**
12. National Review of Designated Landscapes (report circulated)
13. AONB Planning work update (report circulated)
14. AONB Grants Fund update (verbal update)
15. AONB Delivery Plan update by AONB Team and partners – verbal updates
16. Bittern Award 2018 – request for nominations
17. Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs (verbal update)
18. Any Other Business
19. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

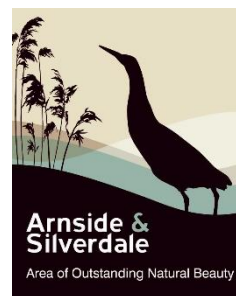
Tea and coffee will be served
4.30pm finish

Arnsdale & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 2.00pm
RSPB Leighton Moss



MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen	Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company)
Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)	Beetham Parish Council
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)
Sue Harrison	CLA
Gemma Wren	National Trust
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District
Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council

In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Paul Haggin	Cumbria County Council
Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Lorayne Wall	South Lakeland District Council

Apologies:

Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB
Cllr Phillippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Nigel Goodrich	Lancaster City Council
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr George Taylor	Arnsdale Parish Council
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Cllr Pete McSweeney	South Lakeland District Council
Ailsa Gibson	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Tony Riden	AONB Countryside Officer

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1** Apologies are listed above. Each person present introduced themselves. It was noted that following Eve Hall's retirement Ailsa Gibson would be the new representative for North Lancashire Bridleways Society. The AONB Manager has written to thank Eve for her service on the Committee.

2 AONB Geology Audit and Assessment

The AONB Manager and AONB Officer introduced the Geology Audit and Assessment project, which will deliver an action within the AONB Team Business Plan. Professional geological consultants Cuesta Consulting Ltd have been commissioned to carry out a thorough geology audit and assessment of the whole AONB, bringing together existing knowledge and information and examining both solid geology and active geomorphological processes. This will provide a robust evidence base for the AONB Management Plan review and also provide detailed information to inform future funding bids for geology projects. The outputs of the Audit and Assessment will be a plain English geological story and detailed geological framework for the area, an assessment of the natural capital value of the geodiversity of the AONB and an evaluation of how it influences natural beauty, landscape character, biodiversity and cultural heritage, along with guidelines, recommendations, digital maps and photographs.

ACTION: All to contact AONB Officer if there is any existing knowledge or contacts to pass on to the Consultants

ALL

3 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017

Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) proposed approval, Fiona Allan (Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust) seconded, unanimously agreed by all members. The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 18th October 2017.

4 Matters arising

- 4.1** (3.1) Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) asked for an update on the art project for Arnside Knott. The AONB Manager reported that this was the 'Places and Spaces' project part of the Headlands to Headspace Landscape Partnership Scheme being led by Morecambe Bay Partnership. Deco Publique who are managing the project had been liaising with the AONB Manager and various landowners. A number of both temporary and permanent art pieces and performances and sites had been considered, with some being discounted. Several pieces were still under discussion but no final decisions had been made.
- 4.2** (8.2) Ann Kitchen asked about progress on the appointment of an ecologist by the National Trust. Gemma Wren (National Trust) reported that this was still going ahead but will be taken forward later in the year.
- 4.3** (13.12) Ann Kitchen updated the Committee that habitat restoration and access management works being undertaken by Natural England at Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve were going well.
- 4.4** (10.1) Ann Kitchen suggested that a report be produced for each of the Parish Councils detailing the work completed within each parish by the AONB Team in advance of each annual parish budget meeting.

ACTION: to prepare parish reports going forward

AONB Manager

- 4.5** (9.1) The AONB Manager updated the Committee on the Heritage Lottery Fund Resilient Heritage bid – an application has been drafted ready to

discuss with the Chairs of the Bittern CIC and Landscape Trust in the coming weeks, following which an application will be submitted.

- 4.6** (15.1) The Bittern Award 2017 was presented to Bill Grayson at the AONB Conference in January for his valuable work in conservation grazing in the AONB over many years.
- 4.7** (13.10) Brian Jones (Ramblers) requested an update on the proposal for a public right of way diversion at the Moss Lane entrance to Trowbarrow LNR. The AONB Manager reported that this matter was still under discussion between the landowner, Network Rail and Lancashire County Council but reassured the Committee that updates were regularly requested by AONB staff.

ACTION: Sue Harrison (CLA) to raise the matter at the next Local Access Forum meeting

Sue Harrison

- 4.8** (17.1) Brian Jones (Ramblers) asked for an update on the potential for a Farleton Knott extension to the AONB. The AONB Manager advised that Natural England are currently reviewing their designation policies nationally and the outcome of this will determine what happens around future designations.

5 Election of landowner/farmer representative

The Executive Committee had one place for a landowner/farmer representative available. Following advertising of the vacant position since the last meeting three nominations had been received for: Fiona Lawton, Margaret Mackintosh and Julian Oston. Blind ballot forms were distributed (to be collected during the break). Candidate resumes had been circulated prior to the meeting and key points were read out.

6 AONB Business Plan 2018/19 (report circulated)

- 6.1** Brian Jones (Ramblers) suggested that more emphasis could be placed on maintenance as this is more cost effective than restoration in the long term (i.e. removal of trees that may undermine dry stone walls). This was noted.

AGREED: to approve the AONB Team Business Plan (2018/19 version) (Sue Harrison (CLA) proposed, Brian Jones (Ramblers) seconded, unanimously agreed by all.)

7 AONB Budget 2017/18 and 2018/19 (report circulated)

AGREED: to note the report and approve the revised 2017/18 budget and proposed 2018/19 budget (proposed Ann Kitchen (CIC), seconded Fiona Allan (Landscape Trust) unanimously agreed by all).

8 AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) (report circulated)

Lorayne Wall (SLDC) updated the committee on progress with the AONB DPD. After the last Executive Committee meeting, the DPD went out for a final six week formal consultation. 174 representations were returned from 99 people and are available, along with the Councils' responses on the SLDC website. 73 representations were positive, 26 felt that the DPD was unsound. The final plan has now been submitted to the planning inspectorate and an inspector appointed. The earliest that the DPD could be adopted is after full council meetings for both SLDC and Lancaster City Council in September.

AGREED: to note the report on the AONB DPD

9 Management Plan Review (report circulated)

- 9.1** The AONB Manager updated the Committee on progress with the Management Plan Review and outlined key steps that had been completed including establishment of the Review Group, consultations and evidence base preparation.
- 9.2** The AONB Manager proposed that, taking into account preparation work to date, local and national policy context and recommendations from Defra and the NAAONB, that the review process would focus on:
- Responding to consultation responses
 - Updating key issues and forces for change
 - Setting out in detail what the delivery of the AONB primary purpose (i.e. to conserve and enhance natural beauty) means on the ground in this area
 - Taking a clear ecosystem approach to ensure that the Plan results in a more resilient landscape
 - Setting out a framework for delivery of the Defra 25-yr environment plan and post-Brexit agri-environment scheme(s)
 - Restructuring and amending objectives and actions according to a 'logic framework' style approach
- 9.3** It is anticipated that Draft revised Management Plan and supporting documents will be available for public consultation from September 2018

AGREED: To note the report and approve the proposed scope of the AONB Management Plan Review (Gemma Wren (National Trust) proposed approval, Craig Russell (Business) seconded, unanimously agreed by all.)

10 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)

The AONB Officer gave an update on the planning work programme. Planning comments now reference the AONB DPD as this should carry more weight now that it has been formally submitted. The AONB Team will be responding to the Lancaster Local Plan publication document and the North West Marine Plan.

AGREED: To note the report

11 Volunteer Programme Update (report circulated)

The AONB Manager announced that the AONB Countryside Officer, Tony Riden would be retiring in September after almost 25 years. Tony was thanked for his commitment to the AONB and the achievements of the volunteer programme were acknowledged.

AGREED: To note the report

12 AONB Grants Fund update (report circulated)

The AONB Funding and Communications Officer updated the Committee on the AONB Grants Fund. Since the report was produced, two further grants had been approved, to Swifts in the Community for £300 for an upgrade to their database and to Arnside Archive for £1000 for a new display board about Arnside's Maritime Heritage.

AGREED: To note the report

13 AONB Communications activity update (report circulated)

The AONB Funding and Communications Officers updated the Committee on the Communications work that had been undertaken. The new parish boards will be going up in Beetham and Storth soon. The AONB Team are working with Lancaster City Council Information Governance Team to ensure compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by the required date of the end of May 2018.

AGREED: To note the report.

14 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners

14.1 National Trust

The NT is working with tenants to prepare long term estate management plans.

14.2 The Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company

reported that they are working with Morecambe Bay Partnership and University of Cumbria on a species reintroduction project.

14.3 CLA

reported that they are working at a national level to help ensure that farming can be sustainable post-Brexit.

14.4 The Environment Agency

reported that Natural England and the EA have been taken to judicial review due to water quality issues in Leighton Moss and Hawes Water. For example, evidence shows that there is currently too much phosphorous in Leighton Moss. They are hoping to reduce the amount of phosphate from septic tanks and agriculture. Rates are going down – but not quickly enough. There is a drop-in meeting at the Gaskell Hall on 12 April for local people to find out more.

14.5 The Landscape Trust

reported that they are developing their communications strategy. Changes have already been made to Keer to Kent. The Trust is buying 15% of Warton Mires to support the RSPB, who will manage the site as a single entity. Flood defences and footpaths on the site will be improved.

14.6 Beetham Holiday Homes

Craig Russell (Business) reported that they are preparing to put in a planning application to extend the site.

14.7 RSPB

had sent the AONB Manager a brief report to update the Committee about the Warton Mires project which was summarised. The land purchase is expected to be completed in early summer with financial support from Lancashire County Council. AONB Landscape Trust, Bannister Trust and the RSPB. The feasibility study is nearing completion with financial support from Natural England and the Environment Agency. Advice on planning permission and supporting documentation required has been sought and received from Lancaster City Council. A Countryside Stewardship

Application is to be submitted in April. A community event was held in Warton in 2017 and further community consultation is planned.

ACTION: to invite a member of RSPB staff to give a talk on the Warton Mires project at the next meeting

AONB Manager

15 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

15.1 The AONB Manager advised members that the National Association Chairman are liaising with Defra on future funding after Brexit and currently supporting AONBs with their Management Plan Reviews. Further information can be found at www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

ACTION: Craig Russell (Business) asked that Brexit be added to the agenda for the October meeting

AONB Manager

16 Any other business

16.1 The results of the ballot for the landowner representative were announced by the Chair. Julian Oston was duly elected to be the landowner representative on the Committee.

ACTION: to inform the candidates of the results.

AONB Manager

17 Dates for your diary

2018

29 March & 4 April: AONB Wild Project – Easter Holiday Land Art for kids workshops

24 – 26 July (tbc): Landscapes for Life Conference

15 – 23 September: Outstanding week

17 October – 2pm: AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss tbc)

2019

20 March – 2pm: AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss tbc)

16 October – 2pm: AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss tbc)

Signed Date:

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee 17.10.18

AGENDA ITEM 9

Report title: AONB Budget 2017/18 outturn and revised 2018/19

Report prepared by: Barbara Henneberry, AONB Communications and Funding Officer

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with details of the 2017/18 AONB budget outturn and revised 2018/19 budget

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report and approves the revised 2018/19 budget

Background

The 2018/19 budget has been revised to take into account of a number of changes and to enable effective delivery of the AONB Business Plan.

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Budgets - 2017/18 outturn and revised 2018/19

	2017/18 Budget reported to March meeting	2017/18 outturn	2018/19 budget agreed Mar 18	2018/19 budget revised Sept 18
EXPENDITURE		£		
Staff Costs				
Salaries, NI, Pensions	138100	137581	141084	139000 ¹
Travel and subsistence	1600	776	1600	1100
Training	1000	463	1500	1500
Sub-total	140700	138820	144184	141600
Accommodation / office equipment				
Repair and maintenance	500	0	500	700
Host authority central property charges	5200	4849	2200	1800
Cleaning	1000	866	1000	1000
Electricity	400	440	400	400
Other energy charges	700	728	700	700
Rent	3100	3120	3100	3100
Rates	2100	2061	2100	2300
Water services	100	136	100	100
Premises insurance	400	407	400	400
Telephones	2000	2286	2000	1000 ²
Office equipment	1000	518	1000	1000
Sub-total	16500	15411	13500	12500
Communications and events				
Printing and stationery	600	457	600	600
Exhibitions and events	5200	4770	1600	1600
Communications and publicity	2500	3018	3100	3100
Sub-total	8300	8245	5300	5300
Partnership running costs				
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1170	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2500	2500	2500

Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	7400	7400	7900	7600
Host authority recharges – other (provided in kind)	7200	7956	6900	6900
Employee related insurance	1900	1941	1900	2100
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	1200	1079	600	600
Petrol and derv	400	454	400	400
Vehicle licence	200	243	200	200
Transport related insurance	600	629	600	700
Equipment and tools	500	758	2000	2000
PPE (clothing and uniform)	300	0	300	300
Consultants	6600	2574	4600	11600 ³
Sub-total	30200	26704	29300	36300
Other Management Plan Implementation				
AONB projects and community engagement programme	11680	9191	6587	18171 ⁴
Local Nature Reserves management programme	12400	8103	19850	22400 ⁵
Sub-total	24080	17294	26437	40571
Reserve				
Contribution to reserve	2000	6000	2000	2000
Sub-total	2000	6000	2000	2000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	221780	212474	220721	238271
INCOME	2017/18 Budget reported to March meeting	2017/18 outturn	2018/19 budget agreed Mar 18	2018/19 budget revised Sept 18
Local authority financial contributions				
Cumbria County Council	8805	8805	8805	8805
Lancashire County Council	8275	8275	8275	8275
Lancaster City Council	15600	15600	16000	16000
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500	11500	11500

Income in advance b/f from previous year	1800	1768		1800
Less Income in advance c/f to following year		-1806		
Sub-total	45980	44142	44580	46380
Other income				
Defra grant	137800	137682	140191	140191
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	10700	8506	6500	6500
LNR grants income	12400	13253	19850	22400 ⁶
Natural England	2000	2000		3000 ⁶
Friends of the Lake District grant		500		
Awards for All				4100 ⁶
FIT payments	500	482	500	500
Income in advance b/f from previous year				
Less Income in advance c/f to following year (LNR budget)		-5150		
Sub-total	163400	157273	167041	176691
Reserve				
Transfer out of reserve	0	0	0	6500
Sub-total	0	0	0	6500
Host authority in kind				
Lancaster City Council in kind support	7200	7956	6900	6900
Lancaster City Council Central property budget	5200	4849	2200	1800
Sub-total	12400	12805	9100	8700
TOTAL INCOME	221780	214220⁷	220721	238271

AONB reserve	17/18
Balance as at 31/03/17	17757
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	2000
Additional contribution re Landscape Monitoring project to be spent in 2018/19	4000
balance in reserve at 31/03/18	23757

NOTES on 2017/18 budget outcome

* We are awaiting clarification from our accountant at Lancaster City Council on the final year-end adjustments which have resulted in a difference between total income & expenditure of £1746.

NOTES on 2018/19 budget changes

1. Salaries – adjustment due to retirement of AONB Countryside Officer and new postholder starting August 2018
2. Telephone contract with BT now comes under LCC contract giving significant savings
3. Consultants – the Geology Audit & Assessment project has spanned 2 financial years – we were able to treat £4000 from the 17/18 budget as income in advance to be spent in 18/19. Also, an additional contribution from Natural England of £3000 has enabled further work on the Landscape Monitoring Project.
4. AONB projects and community engagement programme – higher expenditure possible through additional income generated (see below) and savings on salaries and telephones. Projects include
 - running the volunteer programme,
 - ensuring the PROW and permissive path network was maintained and managed to a high standard
 - delivering a programme of land management and rural skills training events and hosting the AONB Hedgelaying Competition
 - working with the Landscape Trust to deliver a small grants fund, which supported 4 local projects
 - successful funding bid to Big Lottery Awards for All for the ‘Beautiful Birds’ project which will form part of the ‘Light up Lancaster’ festival
 - Providing a range of educational opportunities for schools including The Lost Words Initiative
 - AONB website re-fresh
 - Management Plan Review
5. Additional monies available to carry out work on the 2 LNRs (see below)
6. 2018/19 additional income generated
 - **£3000** from Natural England towards Landscape Monitoring Project
 - **£4100** from Awards for All towards the AONB ‘Beautiful Birds’ project which will form part of the ‘Light up Lancaster’ festival on 2/3 November
 - **£1800** brought forward from 2017/18
 - **£2550** Increased LNR income includes £5150 brought forward from 17/18 less adjustment for capital works moved to Year 2 of Trowbarrow scheme and £1000 towards costs of LNR warden leading educational visits
 - **£6500** transfer out of the reserve towards Landscape Monitoring Project, website refresh, tools & equipment and Management Plan Review

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 17 October 2018**

AGENDA ITEM 10

Title of report: Update on progress regarding the preparation of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document.

Report prepared by: Damian Law (South Lakeland District Council) and David Porter (Lancaster City Council)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To brief Executive Committee on progress and next steps regarding the preparation the Development Plan Document for the Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Executive Committee notes the key matters arising from the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council are preparing a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The two councils are working closely with the AONB Management and Executive Committee in the preparation of the AONB DPD. The AONB DPD will be the first of its kind.
- 1.2 The primary purpose of the national AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. When adopted, the DPD will form part of both authorities' Local Plans. It will bring up to date the existing planning policies for the AONB, and will ensure that both district councils' planning policies for the AONB are consistent. The DPD will identify sites for new housing and employment and will set out planning policies to ensure that development reflects the AONB designation and has the conservation and enhancement of the landscape at its heart.
- 1.3 The DPD will also be a key element in the delivery of the AONB Management Plan which was adopted in April 2014. Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) places a duty on all local authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs in carrying out their functions.

2.0 The Planning Process and the Plan

- 2.1 The process for preparing Development Plan Documents is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012). The NPPF requires local planning authorities must adopt the most appropriate development strategy based on a consideration of the alternatives, be deliverable and viable, and be consistent with national policy. The NPPF also gives specific guidance for development planning and decision making in relation to AONBs. It confirms that 'great weight should be

given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty' and that AONBs 'have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty'.

- 2.3 The DPD must define the area, set its purpose and the timeframe for the policies and allocations to operate. It must review the evidence available and set about collecting new evidence to fill any gaps. The DPD needs to assess the development needs for the area and the extent to which those needs can be met within a protected landscape. It must also consider the need and ability to provide for infrastructure, and for employment and community uses, including business premises, shops and open space. Importantly, the DPD must record and give protection to nature conservation, landscape and built heritage significances, and find the right balance between development and conservation.
- 2.4 The DPD sets out to achieve two main objectives over and above the preparation of the district wide plans that are being prepared (or are already adopted) in Lancaster and South Lakeland districts. These are to:
- allocate land for development, and identify land suitable for protection from development;
 - draft AONB-specific planning policies that supplement district-wide policies.

3.0 Formal Publication and Submission of the Plan

- 3.1 The earlier stages of preparation for this DPD include evidence gathering and public consultation: these are summarised in the report to PPCLG in February 2018. This culminated in the Publication of the AONB DPD for a final, formal 6-week representations period between 2 November and 14 December 2017, as required under Regulations 18-19 of the The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The publication stage was followed by the formal Submission the AONB DPD to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public, along with the representations made, on 28 February 2018, under Regulation 22 of the The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 3.2 In response, the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) appointed an Inspector, Mr Philip Lewis, to examine the soundness of the Plan and whether it meets the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and Associated Regulations. The examination hearings took place between 19 and 21 June 2018, attended by officers from both Councils.
- 3.3 Following the hearings, the Inspector wrote to the Councils confirming the need for modifications to make to the DPD sound, together with changes to two of the associated documents, the Local Development Schemes (LDS) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). These have been prepared and informally reviewed by the inspector so that the Councils may begin a formal consultation on the main modifications.
- 3.4 The Inspector has accepted the principles behind case put by the Councils in the Submission DPD for:
- Meeting the Duty to Co-operate requirements;
 - Objectively Assessed Needs for housing development;
 - Major Development;
 - The Development Strategy, including the use of a landscape capacity-led

approach to development;

- Open Space and Key Settlement Landscapes;
- 50% of all new housing in the AONB on sites of 2 dwellings or more to be affordable.

3.5 The main areas where modifications are required are to:

- Policy AS02 in respect of the setting to the AONB;
- Policy AS03, seeking 50% of all new housing in the AONB on sites of 2 dwellings or more to be affordable. In addition, modification to the way in which the Councils will apply its policy on affordable housing units and commuted sums. This has included the preparation of a new appendix to explain in more detail the Councils' approach to affordable housing delivery;
- Policy AS06, making it clearer how development proposals will be considered in Key Settlement Landscapes;
- Policy AS07, making it more consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012);
- Policy AS11, making it clearer how development proposals will be considered for camping, caravan and visitor accommodation;
- Policy AS12, making it clearer how development proposals will be considered for water, sewerage and drainage infrastructure in areas not connected to mains drainage;
- Policy AS14, in respect of the control of advertising and signage;
- Policies AS17- AS19 and AS21 – AS25 in respect of the mini-briefs to guide development on the allocated sites. For three of the sites (AS23, AS24 and AS25) some of the changes are informed by revisions to the Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- Delete Policy AS20, concerning the allocation of a site in Beetham, which has now been withdrawn by the owners;
- The Policies Map at Beetham and Sandside/Storth and Silverdale to reflect changes required after the examination hearings;
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment following a recent judgement in the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

3.6 Although the changes are many in number, they do not result in any compromises for the Councils. Instead, they are mostly detailed modifications to ensure that the Plan is completely up to date with current law and practice, and so that it will be sound. These changes will also help to ensure that the Councils can apply the policies of the Plan with confidence once it is adopted.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 The next steps are expected to take place to the following timetable, with some dates approximate.

- 11 October – 22 November 2018: Public Consultation on Main Modifications, Updated HRA's and SA
- Week commencing 29 November 2018: Return Representations to Inspector
- December 2018: Receive Draft Report from the Inspector for Fact Check
- January 2019: Inspector's Final Report Issued

- 26 February 2019 (South Lakeland) and 27 February 2019 (Lancaster): Report to Full Council with a view to Adoption of DPD

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Following the Submission of The Arnside & Silverdale AONB DPD, and attendance at the examination hearings, the Councils have prepared a number of modifications to the Plan. These are required to ensure that the Plan is sound and legally compliant. They have been checked by the Planning Inspector and will be subject to public consultation, prior to the Inspector finalising his report into the Plan. We expect to receive the inspector's report no later than January 2019, after which the Full Councils will be invited to adopt the DPD as part of both Councils' Local Plans.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 17.10.18**

AGENDA ITEM 11

**Report Title: AONB Management Plan Review
Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an update on progress with the Management Plan Review and an opportunity to consider the Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-24

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

(1) notes the progress to date with the AONB Management Plan Review; and

(2) approves the Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-24 for public consultation during October/November 2018

Introduction

The current AONB Statutory Management Plan requires review, in accordance with section 89(9-10) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; it is a requirement of the Act that the relevant local authorities jointly carry out a periodic review.

Background

The AONB Executive Committee agreed at their October 2017 meeting to formally conduct the required Review on behalf of the four relevant local authority partners.

It was agreed that a Review Working Group be established to support the AONB staff team to carry out the day-to-day work of the review process according to the approved Project Plan. The AONB Executive Committee approved the scope of the Review at their March 2018 meeting.

Review Working Group

A Review Working Group was established in late 2017 comprising the Chair of the Executive Committee, one representative of each of the principal local authorities and Natural England, the AONB Manager and AONB Officer and up to three representatives of the Executive Committee. The current membership of the group is as follows:

Chair of AONB Executive Committee: Cllr Brian Meakin

Executive Committee representative: Brian Jones

AONB Manager: Lucy Barron

AONB Officer: Sue Hunter

Natural England: Elizabeth Knowles

Lancaster City Council: David Porter

South Lakeland District Council: Damian Law/ Laura Chamberlain

Cumbria County Council: Rachel Whaley

Lancashire County Council: Elliott Lorimer

The group has overseen and supported the process so far and will continue to do so until the Plan is adopted.

Progress to date

The following key steps of the Review have been completed:

Phase 1 (Scoping and preparing for the Review):

- Announcement of Review – formal notification to Local Authorities – October 2017
- AONB Executive Committee approved Project Plan – October 2017
- Statutory Notice issued to NE – November 2017
- Review Group established and terms of reference agreed – December 2017
- Consultation workshop at AONB Conference – January 2018
- Expert input into Special Qualities Report – received February 2018
- Online consultation survey completed February 2018
- Statement of Community Involvement completed – February 2018
- AONB Executive Committee approved scope of the review – March 2018
- SEA Scoping Report completed and consultation undertaken – March 2018
- Final SEA Scoping Report prepared – April 2018
- Evidence Base preparation – key data and information collected – good progress made with mapping/ data analysis to contribute to State of the AONB Report

Phase 2 (Undertaking the Review):

- Biodiversity/Landscape and Heritage workshops held to inform and test Plan – May 2018
- Indicators developed – July-Sep 2018
- Draft AONB Management Plan developed completed – May-Oct 2018
- Environmental Report completed – Oct 2018
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) completed – Oct 2018
- Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan completed – Oct 2018

Next steps

The Review process will be continued in accordance with the Project Plan (albeit with a slightly adjusted timescale).

A formal 6-week Public Consultation will be undertaken during October and November 2018 on the Draft Management Plan 2019-24, Environmental Report, HRA and supporting documents.

The State of the AONB will be finalised and published as an Evidence Base.

Following this, Phase 3 (Publishing Management Plan 2019-24) will start. A Final Draft of the Plan will be prepared taking account of consultation comments, to be approved and made available for final representations in early 2019, before submission to the local authorities for adoption.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 17.10.18**

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report Title: National Designated Landscapes Review

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron, AONB Manager (with information taken from published Defra Policy Paper Terms of Reference

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To inform the Committee about the national Designated Landscapes Review

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

(1) notes the key matters arising from the report

Introduction

In January 2018 the government published a 25-Year Plan for the Environment. It set out an approach to protect landscapes and habitats in England and committed to undertaking a review on National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

The review will be led by Julian Glover and supported by an advisory group; the members of the group have been announced as Nicola Blackwood, Lord Cameron of Dillington, Jim Dixon, Sarah Mukherjee, Dame Fiona Reynolds and Jake Fiennes. The review began in the summer and will report in 2019.

The Review is the first independent review of designated landscape in England since 1991 and moreover it is the first time that AONBs have been included in the same review as National Parks. Previous independent reviews have led to a positive and lasting legacy for the legal and policy framework governing designated landscape, The Review Panel is looking for bold ideas and practical solutions.

The Review presents a significant opportunity for AONBs to

- raise national profile and standing
- articulate both the challenges we face and our value to UK society
- position ourselves as integral to the successful delivery of key government policies on the future of environmental land management, the 25 Year Environment Plan, recently published Agriculture Bill and the forthcoming Environment Act 2020 and in the context of Brexit
- set out the case for changes needed in order to remain fit for purpose and to deliver to our full potential

Background

The terms of reference to guide the review have been published by Defra, including the following important statement:

“At the outset, it is important to state one thing the review will not do: propose reductions in either the geographic extent or the protections given to England’s designated landscapes.

The review aims not to diminish the character or independence of our designated landscapes, or to impose new burdens on them and the people who live and work in the areas they cover. Instead, its purpose is to ask what might be done better, what changes could assist them, and whether definitions and systems - which in many cases date back to their original creation - are still sufficient.”

The terms of reference later state:

“Our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are a great success. England is a more beautiful and more diverse place because previous generations took the care to campaign for their creation.

In 1945, the government set up a committee under Sir Arthur Hobhouse, who recommended that Britain establish national parks to preserve and enhance their natural beauty and provide recreational opportunities for all members of the public. In 1949, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act established these national parks, which the minister of the day described as “the most exciting Act of the post-war Parliament.” That legislation created a statutory framework for National Parks and AONBs. In brief, National Parks’ purposes are to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks. For AONBs, the primary purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

Now, as the oldest National Park approaches its 70th anniversary, comes a chance to renew this mission.”

Scope of the review

The review will consider National Parks and AONBs in England, including the role of these areas in relation to other places designated for environmental purposes and will respect the cultural and visual heritage of people, farms and businesses in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Objectives

The published objectives for the review are as follows:

“In the context of meeting both local and national priorities and wider environmental governance, the review will examine and make recommendations on:

- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
- the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25-Year Plan for the Environment
- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
- how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
- the financing of National Parks and AONBs
- how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
- how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
- how well National Parks and AONBs support communities

Expanding on work already underway, the review will also take advice from Natural England on the process of designating National Parks and AONBs and extending boundary areas, with a view to improving and expediting the process.”

Role of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB), individual AONB Partnerships and partner organisations and next steps

NAAONB are taking a lead in liaising with and advising Defra and the Review Panel throughout the review process and are coordinating the responses and approach from the AONB Family.

AONB Lead Officers from across the country held a meeting on September 27th to discuss the review and make decisions on the approach to be taken and key points to be raised nationally.

Representatives from individual AONB Partnerships and partner organisations are currently being invited to meet with Panel members for wide ranging discussions to inform the Review. It is likely that one or more Panel members will wish to visit Arnside & Silverdale AONB over the coming months.

We understand that The Review Panel will shortly be issuing a ‘Call for Evidence’, to which we will be expected to respond.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 17.10.18**

AGENDA ITEM 13

Planning work update

Report prepared by: Sue Hunter, AONB Officer

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an update on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report on planning work

Introduction

The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and development management and planning are a key element in achieving this.

Background

The AONB Executive Committee is a consultee on planning matters, both planning policy and planning applications; it is not a decision maker. Planning decisions are made by the relevant local planning authority.

Planning policies for AONBs are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. AONB designation and the AONB Management Plan are material considerations in the planning process. Management Plans are adopted statutory policy of the local authority.

Planning applications

All planning applications within the AONB are reviewed and also any applications outside, but potentially impacting on, the AONB. Records are kept of all applications reviewed by the AONB Team and the responses made.

A summary is given below of the total number of applications reviewed in 2018 to date; the number of applications per individual parish is given. The number of formal responses submitted to the planning authorities is also given.

Planning applications reviewed so far in 2018 (to 30/09/2018)

Arnside	33
Silverdale	39
Beetham	50
Yealand Conyers	6
Yealand Redmayne	13
Warton	26
Total within AONB	167
Outside AONB	7
Total no. applications	174
Responses submitted	57

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee meeting, 8 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available):

- 18/00213/FUL Erection of a two storey dwelling (C3), alterations to existing access arrangements and extension to existing vehicular access road at Hawthorn Bank, Cove Road, Silverdale - **refused**
- 18/00280/FUL – Erection of a single storey detached dwelling at Land South of Dykes Lane, Yealand Conyers - **permitted**
- SL/2018/0253 Siting of 20 static holiday units to replace 20 touring pitches at Beetham Holiday Homes, Hale – **awaiting decision**
- SL/2018/0233 Three detached dwelling houses at High Close, Knott Road, Arnside – **awaiting decision**
- 18/00295/FUL Retrospective application for use of land as camping area to site two yurts with decking, decking area with hot tub, conversion of stable into facilities building and creation of car parking area at Hawes Villa, Moss Lane, Silverdale - **refused**
- SL/2018/0355 and 0356 Variation of conditions: extending opening time at Hollins Caravan Site, Far Arnside – **awaiting decision**
- 18/00976/FUL Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a part single part two storey detached dwelling with associated hardstanding to the front, construction of a raised terrace area to the rear and change of use of agricultural field to domestic curtilage at 5 Well Lane, Yealand Redmayne – **awaiting decision**

Formal objections made to applications reported at the last Executive meeting but where a planning decision had not been made at the time include:

- 18/00077/FUL Creation of hardstandings for 11 caravan pitches and associated access roads at Gibraltar Farm Campsite – **withdrawn**

Development of AONB DPD

The AONB DPD examination hearings, 19 to 21 June 2018 were attended by the AONB Manager and AONB Officer. Following the Inspector's response and need for modifications to make the DPD sound, there has been continued discussion with SLDC and LCC regarding the changes to certain policies, in particular AS02 –

Landscape (and the setting of the AONB), AS06 – Key Settlement Landscapes and AS11 – Camping, Caravan and Visitor Accommodation.

Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership

- Written representation submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for the Publication version of the Lancaster City Council Local Plan (2011-2031) – Strategic Policies and Land Allocation DPD and the Development Management DPD.
- North West Marine Plan, Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Draft Marine Character Assessment (MCA) Profile – MCA41 Morecambe Bay, MMO
- Draft Lancaster District Heritage Strategy

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Bittern Award 2018 Nomination Form

The Bittern Award is presented annually to an organisation, group or individual who has made an 'outstanding contribution' to Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

Your name:

Your organisation (if relevant):

Your contact details:

Who would you like to nominate for the Bittern Award 2018?

Please explain how your nominee has made an outstanding contribution to Arnside & Silverdale AONB (please continue overleaf if necessary)

Please e-mail your completed form to info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk or post to Arnside & Silverdale AONB, The Old Station Building, Arnside LA5 0HG.
Closing date for nominations 1st December 2018

Thank you!