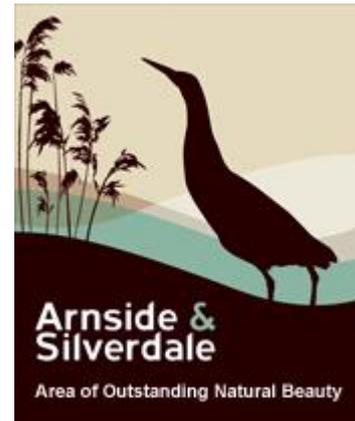


Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Executive Committee meeting

2pm, 11th November 2020, via Microsoft Teams



AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Minutes of meeting held on 16th October 2019
3. Matters arising
4. AONB Team work programme update (report circulated)
5. AONB Budget 2019/20 and 2020/21 (report circulated)
6. Planning protocol and work programme update (report circulated) **Decision required**
7. Local Government Reform (document circulated)
8. Bittern Award 2020
9. Brief updates from partners
10. Update from the National Association for AONBs
11. Any Other Business
12. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

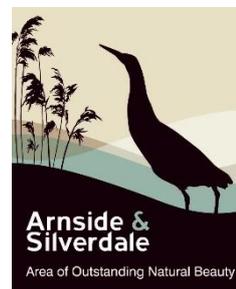
Latest 4pm finish

Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 2.00pm
RSPB Leighton Moss



MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Cllr Helen Chaffey	South Lakeland District Council
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Cllr June Greenwell	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Keith Halford	Arnside Parish Council
Joan Jackson	NFU
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen (Vice Chair)	Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Co)
Cllr Pete McSweeney (Vice Chair)	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)	Beetham Parish Council
Richard Miller	RSPB (substitute)
Julian Oston	Farming/Landowner (Dallam Tower Estate)
Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Andrew Tait	CPRE (Friends of the Lake District)

In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Dougie Watson	AONB Countryside Officer
Damian Law	South Lakeland District Council
Adam Briggs	NFU

Apologies:

Richard Camp	Lancaster City Council
Ruth Colbridge	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Ailsa Gibson	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Sue Harrison	CLA
Cllr Iain Harbison	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB

Sam Stalker
Rachel Whaley
Cllr Phillippa Williamson

National Trust
Cumbria County Council
Lancashire County Council

1 Welcome, apologies and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone, and each person present introduced themselves. Apologies received are listed above.

2 Presentation by Glen Swainson: Gait Barrows NNR management plan review 2019-24

- 2.1 The presentation began with a few facts and figures about Gait Barrows NNR, its key habitats and species, the historic environment and the conservation management work carried out.

Gait Barrows is a 'core area' for biodiversity central to the AONB. It is recognised that through partnership working to restore habitats and natural processes and developing 'ecotones', this will contribute to achieving Lawton's aspirations for habitats to be "Bigger, Better and more Connected".

A review of the Gait Barrows site management plan is currently being undertaken. The new Gait Barrows Management Plan 2019-24 will go out to public consultation in November. The documents will be available to view on the AONB website and a drop-in session will also be held at the Gaskell Hall in Silverdale.

3 Changes to Executive Committee membership

- 3.1 The Chair welcomed new members Cllr Keith Halford (Arnside Parish Council) and Cllr June Greenwell (Lancaster City Council) and thanked their predecessors for their valuable contributions.

4 Annual re-endorsement of user Groups, Business and Farming representatives

Under the terms of the Constitution, representatives of the local interests are subject to annual re-endorsement by the other members. The current members – Ailsa Gibson (User Group: NLBS), Brian Jones (User Group: Ramblers), Ann Kitchen (Business: BCCIC), Craig Russell (Business: Beetham Holiday Homes) and Julian Oston (Farming/landowner: Dallam Tower Estate) - were re-endorsed en bloc.

5 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- 5.1 Under the terms of the Constitution, the Chair is to be elected from among the voting members of the Executive Committee. Nominations for the position were requested. Cllr Brian Meakin (Beetham Parish Council) indicated that he was willing to stand for a further year. This was the only nomination and he was elected unanimously as Chair. The appointment is for one year.
- 5.2 Nominations for the two positions of Vice Chair were requested. Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) and Cllr Pete McSweeney indicated they were willing to stand for a further year. These were the only nominations,

and both were elected unanimously as Vice Chairs. The appointment is for one year.

6 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2019

- 6.1** The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 20th March 2019.

7 Matters arising

- 7.1** There were no matters to discuss.

8 AONB Budget 2018/19 outturn and revised 2019/20 (report circulated)

- 8.1** A report detailing the 2018/19 budget outturn and in-year changes to the 2019/20 budget was circulated.

The AONB Communications & Funding Officer confirmed that Lancaster City Council has rectified the 17/18 year-end discrepancy previously reported by making a contribution of the corresponding amount to the AONB reserve.

**AGREED: to note the report and approve the revised 2019/20 budget.
Proposed: Ann Kitchen (Bittern CCIC) Seconded: Andrew Tait (CPRE)**

9 AONB Team Business Plan (report circulated)

- 9.1** The AONB Manager apologised that the AONB Team Business Plan was not completed in time for the meeting. It will be circulated for comment as soon as possible.

ACTION: to circulate the AONB Team Business Plan for comment

AONB Manager

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

- 10.1** Damian Law (South Lakeland District Council) informed the committee that the AONB DPD was formally adopted by Lancaster City Council on 13th March 2019 and by SLDC on 28th March 2019. The two councils are now working closely to ensure the policies are being applied consistently across the AONB.

He also reported that the DPD had been submitted to the Royal Town Planning Institute for consideration in their Regional Awards for Planning Excellence 2019 and was delighted to report that it won the Spatial Planning category.

Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council) thanked the council officers and the AONB Team for their hard work and achievement and congratulated them on a well-deserved award.

The AONB Manager reported that there has been a lot of interest nationally in the DPD and that she had been asked to give a presentation on it at the National Association for AONBs Annual Conference. The work was also highlighted as an example of good practice and helped to inform some of the proposals in the recent Review of Designated Landscapes Report.

AGREED: to note the report on the AONB DPD

11 AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (report circulated)

- 11.1 Since the last meeting, the AONB Management Plan 2019-24 has been finalised and adopted by all four Local Authorities.

AGREED: to note the key matters arising from the report and to endorse the final AONB Management Plan 2019-24

Proposed: Cllr Keith Halford (Arnside Parish Council) Seconded: Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council)

12 National Review of Designated Landscapes (report circulated)

- 12.1 The Review, undertaken by a Review Panel led by Julian Glover, is the first independent review of designated landscapes in England since 1991 and it is the first time that AONBs have been included in the same review as National Parks.

The Review focussed on 5 areas

- Landscapes alive for nature and beauty
- Landscapes for everyone
- Living in landscapes
- More special places
- New ways of working

and 27 proposals have been published.

The AONB Manager welcomed the Review and in particular its proposals to strengthen AONBs (Proposal 24 "*AONBs strengthened with new purposes, powers and resources, renamed as National Landscapes*"). The report recognises the value of AONB designation and acknowledges the hard work and achievements of AONB staff, representatives and volunteers. It also makes a clear case for AONBs to expand their purposes and to receive more funding and resources.

- 12.2 Members of the Executive Committee were invited to discuss the Review proposals and the following comments were made:

'A change of name or a National Landscape Service could result in AONBs being subsumed by National Parks'.

'National Parks aim to encourage visitors, AONBs are about the landscape'.

'Encouraging access must not outweigh nature benefit' and 'only quiet recreation should be promoted'. 'There are many areas in National Parks where there is too much disturbance for nature recovery networks'.

'What makes an AONB special should be retained'.

'AONBs should be statutory consultees in planning matters'.

There was some concern that the Government has no obligation to implement the Report's findings. The AONB Manager reported that both Natural England and the National Association for AONBs (NAAONBs) had responded to the Report and that the Chair of the NAAONBs had already

met Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Margaret Paren, Chair of National Parks England and that the proposals are being taken very seriously at a national level.

The AONB Manager stated that regardless of what is happening at a national level, Arnsdale & Silverdale is already following up some of the proposals and will continue to do so. A meeting has been arranged in November with Richard Leafe, CEO of the Lake District National Park Authority. Ecologist Naomi Dalton, a shared appointment with the National Trust and AONB Partnership, is now in place and will be working on a Nature Recovery Plan for the AONB; and more work is being done on health and wellbeing projects with under-represented groups (e.g. the Dementia-friendly Walks for All project)

AGREED: to note the key matters arising from the report

13 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)

An update on the planning work undertaken since the last meeting was circulated.

The AONB Officer was asked whether it is possible to work more closely with applicants in the planning process. Can help and advice be given before an application is submitted and/or supportive responses made endorsing an application?

The AONB Team unfortunately cannot provide pre-application advice to applicants and does not have the capacity to do so. Providing pre-application advice is the role of the Local Planning Authority. However, there is a longer term aspiration to work with the Local Authorities to produce a design guide for the AONB to support the implementation of the DPD if appropriate resources can be identified.

AGREED: To note the report

14 Volunteer work programme update (report circulated)

14.1 An update on the volunteer work programme including tasks undertaken, sites managed and events & training was circulated.

Dougie Watson has taken over the role of Countryside Officer on a one year contract to cover Helen Rawlinson's maternity leave.

A total of 1678 volunteer hours have been recorded since April.

AGREED: To note the report

15 AONB Grants Fund update

15.1 The AONB Grants Fund is run jointly with the Landscape Trust. In this financial year, grants have so far been awarded to the 'Westmorland Red Squirrels' and 'Grey Walls Historic Garden Restoration' projects.

16 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners

16.1 The Landscape Trust

reported that a first draft of the Landscape Trust Business Plan has been completed, along with management plans for each of their reserves. A photographic competition was held over the summer, with the 13 winning images featuring in a Landscape Trust 2020 calendar which will be available to purchase shortly.

16.2 Ramblers

Consultation on the proposed route for the section of the England Coast Path passing through the AONB has been delayed and is now due to be launched in mid-November.

16.3 Friends of the Lake District

reported they are currently leading a project to gain 'Dark Skies Reserve' status in Cumbria.

16.4 The Environment Agency

reported that as part of their work on reducing diffuse pollution in the Leighton Moss catchment area they are monitoring water quality with the help of South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

16.5 Arnside Parish Council

While the village has been successful in setting up Arnside Community Wheels – a demand responsive transport for residents of Arnside and Carr Bank – support from members was requested with the bid to save the local 552 bus service to Kendal by signing the petition which is currently circulating. Members were also advised of a Cumbria County Council consultation which is currently taking place on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders for Arnside.

16.6 South Lakeland District Council

is currently reviewing its district-wide Local Plan.

16.7 Cumbria County Council

Cllr Pete McSweeney reported that he has problems establishing who is responsible for clearing ditches, dykes and becks. Is it the Environment Agency or the landowner?

The AONB Manager offered to circulate any relevant information and put it on the AONB website advice pages.

16.8 Dallam Tower Estate

has been carrying out useful work on Catchment Sensitive Farming schemes.

16.9 Natural England

A review of the Gait Barrows NNR Management Plan is currently being undertaken and a Habitats Regulations Assessment has been completed for the proposed section of the England Coast Path

16.10 Bittern Countryside CIC

reported that the solar panels have been replaced at Silverdale School following roof repairs and that RSPB Leighton Moss is to increase the number of panels it has on the reserve. The CIC continues to work with

Westmorland Red Squirrels.

16.11 Beetham Parish Council

owns Sandside Cutting and has been carrying out tree felling on site.

17 Bittern Award 2019 – request for nominations

17.1 Each year the Bittern Award is presented to a group or individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the AONB. The AONB Manager asked for nominations for the 2019 award to be submitted by 1st December. The final decision will be made by the AONB Chairman and Manager, with the award to be presented at the AONB Annual Conference in January.

ACTION: to submit nominations for the Bittern Award by 1st December

18 European Garden Award

18.1 The AONB Manager was delighted to report that at the European Garden Awards in September, Arnside & Silverdale AONB was awarded second prize in the “Best Development of a Cultural Landscape of European Relevance” category for our work to research and promote the cultural landscape of the AONB.

19 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

19.1 It was decided that the AONB Manager would circulate the report via email.

AONB Manager

20 Any other business

20.1 This year is the 70th anniversary of Parliament passing the pioneering legislation that paved the way for the designation of the UK's 46 AONBs, and to commemorate this milestone, the National Association for AONBs commissioned a poem by the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage. We were delighted that he chose Arnside Knott to read the poem, *Fugitives*, for the first time.

This coincided with a ‘National Moment’ when AONBs across the country formed hearts in the landscape to show their love for our precious landscapes and the health benefits being in nature brings. Members were encouraged to watch the video of the event at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC_2e_MHggM

Dates for your diary

Light up Lancaster

Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd November
5.30pm

Maritime Museum

AONB Hedgelaying Competition

Sunday 3rd November 2019
9.30am – 3pm

Arnside – just off the B5282

AONB Annual Conference

Thursday 23rd January 2020
9.30am – 3pm

The Gaskell Hall, Silverdale

AONB Executive Committee meetings

Wednesday 18th March 2020 2pm – 4.30pm RSPB Leighton Moss
Wednesday 14th October 2020 2pm – 4.30pm RSPB Leighton Moss

Signed Date:

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 11.11.20**

AGENDA ITEM 4

AONB Team work programme update

Report prepared by: Lucy Barron (AONB Manager)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with an update on the delivery of the AONB work programme

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report

AONB staff changes

Ruth Ainsworth, AONB Funding and Communications Officer left the AONB Team in May to take up a post as Communications Manager with the National association for AONBs. We thank her for her excellent work while with us, particularly on the WILD! Project and events such as the National Moment, and wish her the very best in her new role.

WE are delighted that Helen Rawlinson, AONB Countryside Officer, returned from maternity leave at 0.6FTE in June and that Dougie Watson, AONB Countryside Officer, has stayed on at 0.8FTE. This arrangement is confirmed currently until end May 2021 and we are seeking to extend it subject to funding confirmation.

Barbara Henneberry, AONB Funding and Communications Officer has announced her retirement from 5th March 2021. As this will be Barbara's last Executive Committee meeting, we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her sterling work since she joined the AONB Team in 2003. Barbara has made a huge contribution to the work of the AONB over the last 18 years. Just a few examples of her work include organising multiple AONB Apple Day events, managing the AONB website and communications, and managing the AONB's complicated finances. She will be very much missed, and we wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

AONB Team work programme update

While many activities have been affected by Covid restrictions, the AONB staff have continued to work on AONB Business Plan priorities throughout the pandemic, despite

various challenging personal circumstances, and we have adapted the work programme accordingly. I would like to formally thank all the staff for their flexibility, resilience, commitment, and extremely hard work throughout.

Since April 2020, key achievements of the AONB Team include:

Outstanding landscape rich in natural and cultural heritage

- We have worked, taking a landscape-scale approach, as a key or supporting partner in projects/steering groups including the Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership, Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, Warton Mires Steering Group and the Back On Our Map (BOOM) project.
- 7 overhead wires have been surveyed and assessed as part of the Underground for Visual Amenity scheme and 3 were submitted to Electricity Northwest for consideration. A preferred scheme has been chosen, the 'Warton to Barrow Scout scheme', and this is now being taken forward by Electricity Northwest. Subject to formal permissions being secured overhead wires will be undergrounded to improve the visual amenity along this route.
- A Draft Geodiversity Action Plan for the AONB has been produced to provide a framework for conserving, managing, and raising awareness of the AONB's geodiversity.
- We have carried out early work on preparation of a State of Nature Report and a Nature Recovery Plan for the AONB. This work is being led by Naomi Dalton, Ecologist (a shared post with the National Trust), who has now returned from furlough.
- Participation in early stages of Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilot
- Participation in the Colchester Declaration steering group, working across the national AONB network, including development of a cluster of coastal AONBs.
- We were involved in the development of a series of applications for the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, working with NGO partners. This was a two-phase process with bids over £250,000 being asked to submit a EOI and then if successful a full application, and bids under this amount being asked to submit a full application straightaway. One of the projects over £250,000 we were involved in, Meadow Makers, led by Plantlife, was successful at EOI stage and a full application was subsequently submitted in October. We are waiting to hear the outcome of this along with one other project under £250,000.
- Extensive scoping work and relationship building carried out for AONB verges project 'Bee on the Verge'.
- AONB tree nursery launched with 800+ acorns planted working with volunteers offering another opportunity for people to get involved in biodiversity projects.
- Ongoing conservation management of Trowbarrow and Warton Crag SSSIs via Countryside Stewardship agreements to maintain favourable condition status.
- Controlled spread of invasive cotoneaster through AONB volunteer work parties
- Carried out enhancement works on species-rich road verge in Sandside
- The AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) was shortlisted as a national finalist in the RTPi Awards for Planning Excellence 2020. The RTPi ran a virtual awards ceremony in May 2020, where the judges praised the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB DPD as "a pioneering and innovative approach to plan-making".
- Provision of independent landscape-related planning and policy advice to local authorities, including reviewing and making formal responses to planning applications, according to an agreed Planning Protocol. 88 planning applications reviewed up to 31.10.2020, with 41 formal responses submitted. Responses to consultations on River Basin Management Plan, British Standard for Biodiversity Net Gain, SLDC Local Plan,

Lancaster Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Dark Skies Policy Consultation and the Government White Paper Planning for the Future also submitted.

- Participation in AONB/Defra Glover Review contact group.
- We have continued Dark Skies monitoring and working with Friends of the Lake District to evolve and plan the Dark Skies festival for next year.
- We have supported South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) with the Arnside & Silverdale Water Quality Project.

Vibrant and sustainable communities

- Provision of bespoke advice and support to landowners and managers on land management practices which help conserve and enhance the landscape and natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- Launched a farmer/landowner survey (working with NFU and local farmer networks) to strengthen relationships and gather more information about what support and advice farmers and landowners want and need to deliver nature recovery and landscape enhancement, as the foundation for a new land management network.
- Supported social forestry initiative Silverdale District Wood Bank.
- Provided advice and support to partners and Parish Councils to assist management of key visitor sites during and after lockdown.
- Continued delivery Gateway project to enhance visitor infrastructure and interpretation at Warton Crag Quarry. The new interpretation panels and stone bench will be installed in November. The Friends of Warton Crag volunteer group restarted in September.
- Delivered the AONB Grants Fund - run jointly by the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust, working together to support projects which conserve and enhance the AONB or connect people with the landscape. Awarded a grant of £2500 to Arnside Sailing Club towards the purchase of 9 paddleboards. In the first few months since acquisition, over 100 people (incl. 40 children) have had a go!
- Ongoing and continued support for the AONB Landscape Trust and Bittern CIC
- Supporting our volunteer network through lockdown, to avoid social isolation, and putting them in touch with local volunteer support networks if needed.
- Some AONB staff were involved in supporting the host authority in delivering emergency response for vulnerable people through welfare visits during the period of lockdown.
- Restarted the practical AONB Volunteer Programme in September with reduced numbers and Covid measures in place. Supported office based volunteers to work remotely through lockdown.
- Restarted AONB litter picks with Covid measures in place to coincide with Great British Clean Up.
- Responded to tragic suicide incident at Warton Crag in September, both in terms of immediate response assisting on the day, and the response afterwards in terms of site management. We have worked with the Samaritans to put up additional signage on site with the helpline number and hopefully this may help someone else in the future. I would like the efforts of Belinda Barclay, Local Nature Reserve Warden, to be formally recognised by the Committee. Belinda was on site with a volunteer group at the time and responded by administering first aid to try to save the man's life and then assisted the emergency services in their response.

A strong connection between people and the landscape

- Implemented the AONB Communications Strategy – provided and distributed a range of online, social media and printed communication and information materials. Increased communications activity has been delivered throughout the pandemic to support national messaging such as #StayAtHome and #EnjoySummerSafely
- Participated in online Landscapes for Life week resulting in lots of activity on social media.
- We now have 3618 followers on Twitter, 2503 followers on Facebook and 1133 subscribers to our e-newsletter. All these numbers are steadily increasing.
- AONB e-newsletter produced and circulated to subscribers every two months.
- Ongoing operation of the AONB Information Centre at Arnside Station (Aug onwards)
- Following a significant increase in the numbers of visitors to the AONB as a result of Covid travel restrictions, used social media and posters to promote the Countryside Code and Social Distancing messages and supported communities and landowners to deal with any issues
- Worked with the Yealands Parish Councils to develop, design and produce information panels to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism and improve the visitor experience. Now with the designers
- Continued essential maintenance and warden duties at Warton Crag and Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserves.
- Promoted sponsorship of fingerposts to raise money to manage the access network. This has already resulted in one sponsorship offer.
- Supporting Arnside School to carry out a school visit to Arnside Knott.
- Working with local artists business to produce family fun artworks and to organise a community exhibition at Pier Lane Gallery in Arnside.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 11.11.20**

AGENDA ITEM 5

AONB Budget 2019/20 and 2020/21

**Report prepared by: Barbara Henneberry (AONB Funding and
Communications Officer) and Lucy Barron (AONB Manager)**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

**To provide the Committee with details of the final outturn of 2019/20 AONB
budget and current AONB budget for 2020/21**

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) that the Committee notes the report

Background

The 2020/21 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 Budget 2019/20 and 2020/21

	2019/20 budget reported in March 2020	2019/20 outturn	2020/21 Budget proposed March 2020	2020/21 budget revised Nov 2020
EXPENDITURE			£	
Staff Costs				
Salaries, NI, Pensions	142900	139192	160500 ¹	168700 ²
Travel and subsistence	2800	2692	1100	1100
Training	2200	2529	1500	1500
Sub-total	147900	144413	163100	171300
Accommodation / office equipment				
Repair and maintenance	50	289	700	700
Host authority central property chgs	1800	1527	1800	1800
Cleaning	900	935	1000	1000
Electricity	400	324	400	400
Other energy charges	700	726	700	700
Rent	3120	3120	3100	3100
Rates	2330	2332	2300	2400
Water services	150	147	100	100
Premises insurance	355	355	400	400
Telephones	1300	735	1000	1000
Office equipment	380	485	1000	1000
Sub-total	11485	10975	12500	12600
Communications and events				
Printing and stationery	660	751	600	600
Exhibitions and events	1150	1194	1600	1600
Communications and publicity	3000	2990	3100	3100
Sub-total	4810	4935	5300	5300
Partnership running costs				
Executive Committee support inc Annual Conference	1400	1781	1400	1400
NAAONB Membership	2500	2619	2500	2500
Host authority recharges – Accountancy, internal audit & ICT	6500	6500	9600	0
Host authority recharges – provided in kind	8700	8722	6400	16000
Employee related insurance	1927	1927	1900	1100
Repair and maintenance (vehicles)	105	304	500	500
Petrol and derv	500	535	300	500
Vehicle licence	200	263	200	200
Transport related insurance	740	742	700	1200
Equipment and tools	700	617	1000	1000
PPE (clothing and uniform)	450	534	300	300
Consultants	0	0	9723	0 ⁵
Sub-total	23722	24544	34523	24700
Other Management Plan Implementation				
AONB projects and community engagement programme	20200	25265	25020	29203
Local Nature Reserves management programme	24400	17467 ³	33400	33526

Sub-total	44600	42732	58420	62729
Reserve				
Contribution to reserve	2000	7398	2000	2000
Sub-total	2000	7398⁴	2000	2000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	234517	234977	275843	278629

INCOME	2019/20 budget reported in March 2020	2019/20 outturn	2020/21 Budget proposed March 2020	2020/21 budget revised Nov 2020
Local authority financial contributions				
Cumbria County Council	8805	8805	8805	8805
Lancashire County Council	8275	8275	9000	9000
Lancaster City Council	16400	16400	30300	30600
LCC adjustments		-480		
South Lakeland District Council	11500	11500	11500	11500
Income in advance b/f from previous year <i>plus additional contributions towards increased salary costs</i>	4775	4775	7240	0 ⁴
Less Income in advance c/f to following year	-7240	0 ⁴		
Sub-total	42515	49275	66845	59905
Other income				
Defra grant	142602	142602	144598	144598
Parish Council contributions and contracting income	8000	8913	6500	6500
LNR grants income inc Gateway Project	37400	30294	16700	16700
Light Up Lancaster - Areti Trust grant	5000	5000		
Light Up Lancaster - Wilson Trust grant	1000	1000		
Light Up Lancaster & Morecambe – Areti Trust			10000	10000 ⁶
WILD! project – Areti Trust			5800	5800 ⁶
FIT payments	500	490	500	500
Income in advance b/f from previous year (LNRs)	3700		16700	12826
Less Income in advance c/f to following year (LNRs)	-16700	-12826		
Sub-total	181502	175473	200798	196924
Reserve				
Transfer out of reserve	0	0	0	4000 ⁴
Sub-total	0	0	0	4000
Host authority in kind				
Lancaster City Council in kind support	8700	8722	6400	16000 ⁷
Lancaster City Council Property Services funded R&M	1800	1527	1800	1800
Sub-total	10500	10249	8200	17800
TOTAL INCOME	234517	234977	275843	278629

AONB reserve	19/20
Balance as at 31/03/19	31,472
Annual budgeted contribution into reserve	7398
Less transfer out of reserve	0
Balance in reserve at 01/04/20	38870

Notes:

¹ new pay model following a Job Evaluation by Lancaster City Council. Salary increases will be covered in the first instance by an increased financial contribution from Lancaster City Council, however a senior representative of the Council will be writing to other local authority partners to explain the changes and request a review of contributions.

² Countryside Officer role is now covered by Helen Rawlinson (0.6FTE) and Dougie Watson (0.4FTE), with a separate 1 year contract agreed for an additional 2 days per week for Dougie to deliver Biodiversity work stipulated by Defra in their grant offer.

³ Agreement from Lancashire County Council to extend the Gateway Project and allow certain elements to be delivered in 20/21

⁴ Advice from our accountants at LCC was to transfer monies into the reserve, rather than treat as Income in Advance

⁵ Virement to salaries to cover additional salary and superannuation costs

⁶ Areti Trust have confirmed monies will still be available next year as we are unable to deliver the projects in 20/21 due to Covid.

⁷ Our host authority, Lancaster City Council, has made changes to its accounting procedures which now mean that going forward they will cover the full cost of recharges.

**Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Executive Committee 11.11.2020**

AGENDA ITEM 6

**Planning protocol and planning work update
Report prepared by: Sue Hunter, AONB Officer**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To provide the Committee with a reviewed and updated Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership Planning Protocol for consideration along with an update on planning and development management work carried out by the AONB Team on behalf of the AONB Partnership.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee:

- (1)** approves the updated AONB Planning Protocol; and
- (2)** 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 mechanism 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.

Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership Planning Protocol

The AONB Planning Protocol sets out how the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and Local Authority partners will work together regarding planning matters affecting the AONB. The Planning Protocol has been reviewed in consultation with the local planning authorities, following the adoption of the AONB DPD and the revised National Planning Policy Framework, and has been updated – see attached.

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 2020/21 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 2020/21 (to 31/10/2020)

Arnside	26
Silverdale	18
Beetham	17
Yealand Conyers	1
Yealand Redmayne	4
Warton	21
Total within AONB	87
Outside AONB	1
Total no. applications	88
Responses submitted	41

The majority of responses include either no objections or recommendations on how to improve development proposals to be more in-keeping with the AONB. This constructive approach is resulting in improvements often being made which overall is resulting in positive outcomes compatible with the AONB purpose.

Of the responses submitted since the last Executive Committee report, 3 included formal objections to the proposed development. These applications are listed below, with the final planning decisions noted (where available):

- 20/00402/OUT – Application for erection of 3 dwellings and creation of vehicular access at Bank Barn, Crag Road, Warton. Amended application for the erection of 2 dwellings – **awaiting decision**
- 19/01581/FUL - Application for erection of one 2-bed dwelling with associated landscaping, re-grading of land and creation of a new access point at Land N of 27 Coach Road, Warton – **awaiting decision**
- 20/01038/FUL - Application for creation of a new vehicular access off Coach Road and construction of a driveway, erection of a stone boundary wall and gate and alterations to land levels at 29 Coach Road, Warton – **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:

- SL/2019/0848 – Application for detached single storey home office/garden store at Bramley Bay, Carr Bank Road, Carr Bank, Milnthorpe - **permitted**

Consultations responded to on behalf of the AONB Partnership

- River Basin Management Plan – Challenges and Choices
- British Standard for Biodiversity Net Gain

- LCiC Green Infrastructure Strategy
- SLDC Local Plan Review
- All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dark Skies - Dark Skies Policy Consultation
- Government White Paper - Planning for the Future

Other planning related work

- Attended online ceremony for RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2020
- Attended the South Lakeland Local Plan Review launch.
- Advising local authorities regarding a small number of enforcement cases
- Provided information to Natural England regarding the England Coast Path