

Date: 21st March 2018

Report: Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan (2019 – 2024)

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Purpose of Report

To review the vision for the Surrey Hills AONB and to undertake a screening exercise to assess whether the AONB Management Plan policies are likely to a significant detrimental impact on Natura 2000 sites

To present dates for the Topic Groups and to update the programme for the review and adoption of the AONB Management Plan (2019 – 2024)

Background

Habitats Regulation Assessments and Appropriate Assessments (AA) are required under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) and the Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds), which apply to proposed plans or projects that may have a significant effect on a Natura2000 site, also known as ‘international’ sites due to their international legislative protection (which extends beyond Europe). Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive gives the following guidance on when HRA should be undertaken: ‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate

As the primary purpose of the AONB management Plan is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, the policies and programmes should not have a detrimental impact. In order to ensure this, Members are requested to undertake a strategic assessment of the AONB Management Plan to provide a framework for the forthcoming Topic Groups that will be reviewing the respective policies and projects. This will be used as part of the ‘screening’ process to identify if any of the emerging proposals are likely to have a significant detrimental impact and therefore would require a subsequent ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of these impacts.

At the AONB Board meeting, Members will be asked to support the expert panels. Annex 1 sets out the key dates and activities for the preparation, review, consultation, adoption and promotion of the new AONB Management Plan.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Agree the programme for the review and adoption of the new AONB Management Plan (2019 – 2024)
- Contribute to the Expert Panel

Date	Activity	Action
July 2018	Review AONB Board Constitution, including structure, representation, AONB team, chairing and funding formulae	Officers Working Group
July	Topic Groups. Thematic workshops to recommend changes to the statements of significance, policies and actions for each theme based on a review of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy and strategy context • evidence base • the delivery of AONB Management Plan (2014 – 2019) 	Expert Panels
August	Write up new consultation AONB Management Plan	AONB Director
August	Undertake a scoping report to confirm whether a Sustainability Appraisal is required by Natural England	Peer review
Sept	Agree Consultation Draft and consultation arrangements, including Survey Monkey and promotional events	AONB Board
Oct	Launch Consultation Draft.	AONB Chairman
Nov	Profile at Surrey Hills Symposium at Surrey University.	
Oct - Jan	Prepare reports for Constituent Bodies on Management Plan consultation, constitutional changes and business plan	Officers Working Group
March 19	Submit Report of Consultations and recommendations for amendments to Management Plan, business plan and governance arrangements to Board	AONB Director
April 19	Natural England Formal Comments on Management Plan	Natural England
April - July	Prepare reports for Constituent Bodies on Management Plan adoption, constitutional changes and business plan 2019 - 2024	Officers Working Group
September 19	Adopt new AONB Management Plan. To agree arrangements for publication and launch; adopt constitution and governance; and agree business plan	AONB Board AGM
October 19	Publish and launch Management Plan, including Executive Summary and web version	AONB Unit