

Date: 3rd March 2021

Report: Arrangements for AONB Board Joint Committee

Written by: Rob Fairbanks

Purpose of Report

To consider support from Surrey County Council Democratic Services for Public Meetings of the AONB Board and proposed arrangements for informal AONB Board meetings

Summary

At the Surrey Hills Board's AGM on 2nd September 2020, Members agreed that questions from members of the public should be a standing item at future AONB Board meetings, in line with Surrey County Council's Standing Orders for Local Committees. Public Questions were therefore an item on the agenda at the last AONB Board meeting on 2nd December 2020. However, SCC Democratic Services now further advise us that committee meetings in public session should be held on a secure Microsoft Teams platform and webcast in line with the Remote Meeting Regulations that came out on 30th April 2020. The AONB Unit does not have the access or expertise to use the Teams platform or to be able to webcast from the offices at Warren Farm Barns. It is therefore proposed that future Public Meetings of the AONB Board Joint Committee are supported by Surrey County Council's Democratic Services to ensure that we comply with the Regulations.

SCC Democratic Services are able to support two meetings of the AONB Board per annum at civic offices with the ability to webcast. It is recommended that these two meetings will be the September AGM and the spring meeting. Members will be able to attend in person or on-line.

It is proposed that the AONB Board continues to have another two meetings per annum, in summer and winter. These will be more informal opportunities for the AONB Board members and partners to network, share knowledge and develop ideas. These informal meetings could explore different topics and be hosted at a variety of locations across the Surrey Hills area, but they will still be an opportunity for partners to scrutinize the work of the AONB Board and family.

Recommendation

Members are asked to agree that:

- future Public Meetings of the AONB Board will be managed by Democratic Services, on Microsoft Teams and webcast
- there should be two Public Meetings per annum, with the next being the AGM on 1st September 2021
- that the AONB Unit will organize another two meetings a year for the AONB Board members and partners that will be used for networking and development purposes at various locations