**Item 9**

##### A close-up of a logo  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**AONB**

**Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Board**

7 June 2023

**Surrey Hills National Landscape Forward Plan 2023 - 2024**

**Purpose of the report:**

To present the 2023 – 24 work plan priorities for the Surrey Hills Board

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that:

1. Members are asked to approve the work plan for 2023 - 24

* + - 1. **Introduction:**

* 1. Although the fundamental purpose of the Management Plan will be to encourage co-ordinated action by all organisations, agencies and individuals, the Surrey Hills AONB Board has established a Surrey Hills group of organisations (the Surrey Hills Family) to help support the delivery of the AONB Management Plan’s Vision:

*The Surrey Hills is recognised as a national asset in which its natural and cultural assets are managed in an attractive landscape mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs, and commons. It provides opportunities for sustainable business enterprise and for all to enjoy and appreciate its natural beauty for their health and well-being.*

* 1. This work plan priorities for 2023 – 24 priorities deliver the adopted Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan (2020 – 2025) pillars:

Planning

Landscape Conservation and Enhancement; Access,

Enjoyment and Understanding

Growing the Surrey Hills Economy and

Advocacy, Partnership and Coordination.

1.3 The following Forward Plan identifies quarterly targets Q1 (April – June), Q2 (July September), Q3 (October – December). Q4 (Jan – March), The abbreviations are referenced in the AONB Management Plan.

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| **Pillar 1. PLANNING** | **Lead** | **Partners** |
| Influence planning policy and decisions by advising on the preparation of Local Plans and developments affecting the Surrey Hills* Advise local authorities on development proposals

Provide pre-application advice on major schemes.* An opportunity to generate income depending on capacity.

 AONB Boundary Review* Support Steering Groups and Comms Plan
* Formulate the Board’s position on extension areas in response to consultation
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| **Pillar 2. LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT** |  |  |
| Environmental Land Management Schemes to ensure more, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife,* Ensure the delivery of Farming in Protected Landscape (FIPL) projects, claims and payments.
* Develop and keep under review priorities with Panel
* Lobby Defra for National Landscape nature recovery/agri-environment funding after end of FiPL
* Seek to extend number of collaborative schemes
* Create FiPL newsletter

Support the development and extension of Farm Clusters across the Surrey Hills,* Develop terms of reference for farmer led Clusters for Greenscapes, Greensands and the North Downs Groups

Contribute to the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Local Nature Partnership* Ensure that Surrey Hills priorities are reflected in the LNRS and that Surrey Hills activities support the LNRS

Heathland Connections Nature Recovery Strategy in SW Surrey * Engage in strategy development.
* Support and grow farm cluster.
* Develop Heathland Connections website and promotional video on Surrey Hills web-platform

Big Chalk restoring calcareous (chalk and limestone) landscapes in southern England* Developing strategic bid to NHLF, coordinating local partners and aligning with LNRS

Conservation Volunteer programme * Promote Conservation Volunteer Handbook on website
* Deliver programme of work with volunteers
* Secure future funding for Society’s Projects and Volunteer Coordinator develop project pipeline

Reduce the impact of overhead power lines in the Surrey Hills * develop a new scheme proposal for UK Power Networks
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| **Pillar 3. ACCESS ENJOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING** |  |  |
| **Promoting public understanding and enjoyment of the Surrey Hills National Landscape*** Develop and update surreyhills.org website
* Establish unified Surrey Hills database and e-bulletin schedule amalgamating all family databases.
* Develop My Surrey Hills video campaign

Develop bid to NHLF to continue with Access for All programmePromoting sustainable countryside access to the Surrey Hills and volunteering opportunities * Promoted Routes Working Group - increase the number of promoted waymarked trails. Identifying hero trails and developing Conservation Volunteer role
* Mountain Bike Working Group – develop management policy for unauthorised mountain bike trails
* Byways Working Group Management of Byways to reduce damage and enhance user experience developing campaign to report and prosecute damage
* Promote sustainable transport campaign with rail and bus operators

 Inspire and engage new audiences through the Surrey Hills Arts programme.* Deliver Wonder Dusk (formally Harvest) as a major

community art celebration of nature and landscape through workshops and at Box Hill* Review EoI for Habitat project to Arts Council England
* Exhibit Habitat at Hampton Court Flower Show
* Support Surrey Hills as the regional Hub for National Significant project to Arts Council England
* Heathland Artwork exhibition at RSPB Farnham Heath

Inspire and engage new audiences for health and wellbeing.* Subject to funding, work with Surrey Heartland GSP pilot and develop proposal with Growing Health Together for Mental Health Improvement Fund

Promote Dark Skies* Deliver a Surrey Hills programme of events celebrating Dark Skies in September, ending with Wonder Dusk at Box Hill
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| **4. GROWING THE SURREY HILLS ECONOMY** |  |  |
| Support the development of Surrey Hills Enterprises CIC to increase its membership and contribution to Surrey Hills purpose.* Members provide the visitor experiences for the Surrey Hills featured on website
* Grow corporate membership and engagement to deliver environmental projects with the Surrey Hills Society

Deliver events program for the public and member businesses. ￼* Mentoring and graining programmes
* Pop up markets
* Wood Fair at Cranleigh in September

 Develop relationships and influence policy to secure investment opportunities that support the Surrey Hills purpose. * Advise local authorities on Shared Prosperity Fund priorities and allocations.
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| **5. ADVOCACY , PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION** |  |  |
| Business plan with agreed staff structure and budget to present to September AGMEnsure sound governance, reporting and monitoring of the AONB Management Plan through quarterly meetings of the Surrey Hills AONB Board* Quarterly reporting to AONB Board
* Annual report to DEFRA and partners
* Revised Constitution

Develop the Surrey Hills Trust Fund with the Community Foundation for Surrey* Seeking new Panel Chair and dedicated support

Promote the work of the Surrey Hills family* Partnership Tour
* Surrey Hills Symposium

Keep under review the Management Plan and contribute to policy, strategy and evidence base.* Respond to National Association, Defra and NE requests.
* Support Steering Group on National Landscapes branding
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