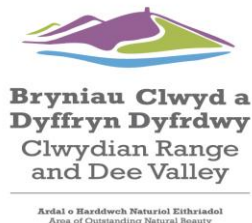


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Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE
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Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
Loggerheads Country Park, Nr. Mold, Denbighshire CH7 5LH

Ffon | Tel: 01352 810614 | **Ffacs** | Fax: 01352 810644
E-bost | E-mail: clwydianrangeanddeevalley@denbighshire.gov.uk
Gwefan: www.ahnebryniauclwydadyffryndyfrdwy.org.uk/
Web: www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/

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To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee

Date: 20 November 2015

Direct Dial: 01824 712589

Email: dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, Friday, 27 November 2015 at 10.00 am in Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1 PRESENTATION BY HOWARD DAVIES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AONBS**
- 2 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26 JUNE, 2015**
(Pages 5 - 14)
To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on the 26th June, 2015 (copy enclosed).
- 3 MINUTES OF THE AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD 16 OCTOBER, 2015**
(Pages 15 - 26)
To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the AONB Partnership held on the 16th October, 2015 (copy enclosed).



- 4 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 27 - 28)
To receive the Forward Work Programme for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee (copy enclosed).
- 5 DETERMINED AONB PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (Pages 29 - 34)
To receive a summary of AONB Planning Consultations for the period from April, 2015 to September, 2015 (copy enclosed).
- 6 OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE PRESENTATION**
To receive a presentation, "Our Picturesque Landscape", from the Senior Recreation Officer (DCC).
- 7 JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET** (Pages 35 - 46)
To receive a report by the Chief Accountant (DCC) (copy enclosed) on the Joint Committee Budget.
- 8 POTENTIAL NRW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP POST** (Pages 47 - 50)
To receive a report by the Senior Countryside Officer (copy enclosed) on the potential to establish a Community Partnership Post for the Southern part of the AONB in partnership with Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- 9 AONB PARTNERSHIP'S FRAMEWORK AND TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATING AND DOVETAILING WITH JOINT COMMITTEE'S LEGAL AGREEMENT REPORT** (Pages 51 - 64)
To receive a report from the AONB Officer (copy enclosed) on the AONB Partnership's Framework and Terms of Reference.
- 10 AONB PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION REPORT** (Pages 65 - 68)
To receive a report from the AONB Officer (copy enclosed) on the response to planning and development consultations referred to the AONB for comment.
- 11 MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION REPORT** (Pages 69 - 78)
To receive a report by the Senior Countryside Officer (copy enclosed) on the Consultation on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management.
- 12 ASPIRATIONS OF THE CEIRIOG VALLEY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AONB**
To consider a verbal report by the Chair of the Joint Committee.

13 FUTURE MEETING DATES

To consider possible dates for future meetings of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee:-

26th or 18th February, 2016
24th or 17th June, 2016
25th or 18th November, 2016

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Bernie Attridge
Derek Butler
Hugh Evans

Hugh Jones
Huw Jones
Ian Roberts

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CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE
26 JUNE 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held at County Hall, Mold on Friday, 26 June 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Hugh Jones (Chairman)

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Huw L. Jones, and Ian Roberts

APOLOGIES: Councillors Derek Butler and Hugh Evans

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: Martyn L Holland (DCC) and Carolyn Thomas (FCC)

Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), Lisa Jones (Solicitor/Deputy Monitoring Officer, DCC), David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer), Martin Howarth (Head of Countryside Services), Tom Woodall (Head of Countryside Services WCBC), Paul Mitchell (Countryside Officer, Natural Resources Wales), Steve Gadd (Finance Manager, DCC), Huw Rees (Countryside and Heritage Services Manager, DCC)

ATTENDANCE: Committee Services Officer (FCC)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 13 February 2015, were submitted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MINUTES OF THE AONB PARTNERSHIP

The minutes of the meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership held on 15 May 2015, were submitted.

Matters arising

Councillor Huw Jones referred to the presentation of the AONB Award for 2014 and expressed congratulations to Mr. Richard Jones, Countryside Skills, for the excellent work carried out in Corwen. He said that the award was well deserved for the work that had been undertaken by Richard over the years.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas commented on the positive progress being made between the Joint Committee and the Partnership which boded well for the future. Tribute was paid to the work carried out by Councillors Carolyn Thomas and Hugh Jones to build a positive relationship with partners.

During discussion the importance of recognising the value of volunteer work was emphasised. The benefit of using local contractors and creating local employment was highlighted and the need to upskill local people to carry on the excellent work undertaken so far.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **JOINT COMMITTEE OUTTURN AND ACCOUNTS 2014/15 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2015/16**

Mr. Steve Gadd, Finance Manager, introduced a report to provide an update on the AONB's financial position for 2014/15 and 2015/16. He explained that the report provided a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2014/15 (as detailed in Appendix 1) and the proposed budget for 2015/16.

The Finance Manager reported on the overall outturn position and advised that the underspend had been carried forward to be utilised in 2015/16. In response to a query concerning the information provided in Appendix 1, the Finance Manager explained that the April column referred to the 11 month term

The Finance Manager distributed a final copy of the Wales Audit Office Annual Return for the Year ended 31 March 2015 (as detailed in Appendix 2) for consideration and approval. He explained that the revised copy included the review carried out by Denbighshire County Council's Internal Audit Section. The Finance Manager explained that the approval and signing of the formal Wales Audit Office Annual Return was a statutory requirement prior to External Audit carrying out an audit of the accounts. He commented on the findings of the Internal Audit assessment and the conclusions which were summarised in the document and said that a minor manual discrepancy had occurred concerning VAT not being claimed against 2 receipts.

Councillor Bernie Attridge proposed that the Accounting Statement for 2014/15 and the Annual Governance Statement be approved. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Huw Jones and when put to the vote was agreed by the Committee.

Councillor Huw Jones asked that thanks be passed on to Paula O Hanlon for the work undertaken.

Members were asked to consider the proposed budget for 2015/16 which had been amended to reflect the changes in funding streams. The Finance Manager advised that the proposed budget would ensure financial stability for the Joint Committee over the next 12 months, however, budgets of all public sector bodies were under increasing pressure and future funding levels were uncertain. Mr. Howard Sutcliffe drew attention to the increased contribution from Wrexham which was welcomed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Financial Outturn for 2014/15 be noted;
- (b) That the Accounting Statement for 2014/15 and the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chair; and
- (c) That the proposed budget for 2015/16 be approved

5. **DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AONB PARTNERSHIP**

Mr. Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer, introduced a report on the AONB Partnership's Constitution and Terms of Reference. He advised that the AONB Officers Working Group had revised the original Terms of reference and Constitution from 2013 when the AONB was led by the interim Joint Advisory Committee. The new document for the AONB Partnership flows from the setting up of the Joint Committee and the Legal Agreement between the three Authorities. The Joint Committee were asked to consider and endorse the new Draft Constitution and Terms of Reference.

The Chairman commented that the document should give more focus on the partnership as the relationship between the Joint Committee and the Partnership was not sufficiently defined

Mr. Sutcliffe responded that it was early days and that we are trying to establish a framework with advice from Lisa Jones (DCC Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Gary Williams (DCC Monitoring Officer) which sets out the AONB partnership as a forum for bringing interested parties together.

Members felt that the framework needs to be widened together with a section on the relationship with the Joint Committee as various aspects are now different to the previous interim advisory committee.

Members felt that the following two areas of work need to be clarified in the governance framework:

- The Chair and Vice Chair have previously always been appointed from Local Authorities. Members of the Joint Committee expressed that the Chair could be from anywhere within the membership of the Partnership, rather always being from than the local authority.
- The opportunity to substitute should be available for all members of the Partnership. In other words, either do not have substitutes; or substitutes for all

Mr. Sutcliffe said he hoped that he would put a revised Framework and Terms of Reference to the next meeting.

The views and contribution of this Committee are sought in relation to the final draft following consultation with the Partnership.

The Chairman invited members to raise questions.

Councillor Huw Jones referred to the matter of substitutions and expressed the view that it was “unfair” that Members should have substitutions whilst other groups could not and said there should be equitable treatment for everyone.

Councillor Jones referred to paragraph 33 in the draft Constitution and Terms of Reference and commented on matters relating to planning and the uncertainty around the future structure of Councils. Referring to paragraph 34, Councillor Jones also sought further detail on the proposal to form a number of new Working Groups to deliver the Management Plan and other work and asked how many members would form the groups. Mr. Sutcliffe advised that the ideal number of members should be 5 to 8, however it was a matter for the Partnership to determine the membership.

An Officer Working Group would be convened to revise the Working Groups, this would then be proposed to the Partnership. The Partnership shall make the decision on who sits on the relevant Working Groups.

Lisa Jones advised that there is already a Terms of Reference set out for the Partnership and this was agreed at the same time as the Joint Committee Legal Agreement. What was not developed at that time was the Partnership's governing document, that is the 'framework' in which it makes its decisions but that this needs to be a collaborative development with the Partnership itself and its Chair. Miss Jones stated that she would be happy to work with the Partnership and Countryside Officers in order to assist in scoping out this framework if required; that further work needs to be done simplifying the current draft before the Committee, setting out its role and being clear on what could and could not be delegated, particularly in relation to planning and associated consultations. The document should focus on the Partnership, not on the Joint Committee, as this has already been taken care of in the Legal Agreement, and to clarify the relationship between the Partnership and the Joint Committee. She explained that the Joint Committee can review and monitor the membership of the Partnership, but that they are separate; that the proposed governance framework should make reference to the lines of communication between the two.

Referring to the issue of planning, Councillor Carolyn Thomas commented that delegated powers were currently given to a sub committee. She said that there was a need for input on planning applications from voluntary members.

During discussion it was emphasised that there was a need for clear guidance in the document to all concerned on what their roles and responsibilities were and what they could and could not do, especially for lay members and Elected Members. Planning issues were cited as an example as there was sometimes conflict between the Planning Committee and other bodies. The need for guidance for members of the Partnership to understand what they were looking at and what the aims were, was reiterated. Previously delegated powers have been given to Officers to respond to the lower level planning matters but that this process could be considered again as part of this work.

The Chair emphasised his understanding that as a Joint Committee we do not have any authority to delegate any of our powers to the Partnership or anybody else. Miss Jones confirmed that executive functions can be delegated but that the law sets out quite prescriptively (and limits) the persons that delegated functions can in fact be delegated to by the Executive, such as to Officers of an Authority or another Local Authority. Furthermore, any delegation of executive functions will not prevent the Authority itself ceasing to be responsible for those functions, that this will always be retained.

The Chair also raised concerns that if a response from either the Joint Committee or the Partnership went to a planning application and influences that planning application and there could be legal costs associated with a wrong decision being made. The Chair emphasised the need for clarity on who would be the statutory consultee (if any) and said that the process of who actually responded also needed to be made clear. He commented that there were potential risks that the Joint Committee should not expose its Local Authorities. A robust potential sub group which can give a good response may be the way forward.

Further clarity in relation to planning matters in particular was required, particularly if we allow the Partnership to make a response on our behalf, whether we are responsible for it. The Committee needs to make sure that as a Joint Committee we are not exposing ourselves to risk.

Councillor Martyn Holland also raised the issue of elected members on the Partnership commenting on the planning applications, but then they may then also be sitting on the subsequent planning committee. Miss Jones advised that those members are bound by the Code of Conduct but that members can take decisions (providing they do not also have a prejudicial interest) in subsequent meetings with other bodies; but that they needed to ensure they had not predetermined their position. This was of course different to the members of the Partnership who are not elected members, and that they were not bound by the Code of Conduct, but agree to be bound by the 'Accord'.

Councillor Bernie Attridge proposed that the amended draft Constitution and Terms of Reference be brought back to the Joint Committee after consultation with the AONB Partnership.

The Chairman requested that the draft Constitution or Framework (what ever it is to be called) and the Terms of Reference, be circulated to all members and any observations or comments be forwarded by email back to the Chairman and Councillor Huw Jones prior to sending to the Partnership for consultation.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft Constitution/Framework and Terms of Reference be circulated to all members and any observations or comments be forwarded by email back to the Chairman and Councillor Huw Jones prior to sending to the Partnership for consultation; and

(b) That the amended draft Constitution/Framework and Terms of Reference be brought back to the Joint Committee for ratification, following a proper consultation with the AONB Partnership.

6. MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

David Shiel gave a verbal update on the Management Plan consultation and advised that the consultation period ran between 4 May and 29 June 2015. Members were informed that five consultation meetings had been conducted across AONB and members of the public had been invited to attend a number of drop in sessions. He reported that there had been positive engagement and 22 responses had been received. The Management Plan had been sent to all Town and Community Councils, Local Authorities and key stakeholders. He reported on the next steps and said a consultation report would be submitted to the next AONB Joint Committee.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman introduced the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley (AONB) Annual Report 2014-15 and commented on the significant, wide ranging work that took place in the AONB in terms of improvement and benefits to local communities, facilities, and general physical well-being. He invited Howard Sutcliffe, AONB Officer, to present the Annual Report.

Mr. Sutcliffe commented on the limited resources available and the excellent value and range of projects provided and cited the Jubilee Tower and Llantysilio Visitor Gateway to the World Heritage Site as two examples. He advised that the AONB Officersc always welcomed further project proposals for funding from SDF fund, however, funds had almost been allocated for this year but there may be additional funds made available in January 2016.

In response to a request from Councillor Huw Jones, Officers provided further information on the work undertaken with young people on the Plas Madoc

project and Councillor Jones also again referred to the achievement of the AONB Award to Mr Richard Jones.

Officers also advised that opportunities were provided, in terms of staff support, to enable older people to visit places within the AONB which they may otherwise not have the means or confidence to explore on their own.

8. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Mr. Howard Sutcliffe introduced the Forward Work Programme. He drew attention to the items scheduled for consideration under the Strategic Plans 2014-16, and AONB Partnership. Further detail was provided to members on the Picturesque project.

The Chairman expressed the view that the Forward Work Programme should identify the outcomes that the Committee aimed to achieve and suggested that a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status be adopted to monitor performance.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme as submitted be approved;
- (b) That a RAG (Red, Amber Green) status be adopted in the Programme to monitor future performance.

9. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press or public in attendance.
(The meeting commenced at 10.00am and ended at 11.15am)

.....
Chairman



Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eiddadael
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Agenda Item 3

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Minutes of the Meeting

held on

Friday 16th October 2015

at

The Sports Pavilion, Corwen

at 10:00 am

AONB Partnership Members

Land Management Representatives

Sandy Archdale
Gareth Wyn Jones
Sharron Jones

Individual Interest Representatives

Helen Walker
David Davies
John I Roberts

Rural Interest Representatives

Christine Evans
Roger Cragg

Landscape Interest Representative

Michael Skuse

Historical Interest Representative

Tony King

Natural Environment Representative

Les Starling

Built Environment Representative

Philip Durrell

Business Interest Representative

Dewi Davies

Representing Clwydian Range & Dee Valley

AONB

Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer)
David Shiel (AONB Senior Officer)
Tony Hughes (AONB Planning Officer)
Helen Mrowiec (AONB Senior Recreation
Officer)
Karen Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer)
Ceri Lloyd (AONB Sustainable Development
Officer)

Representing Wrexham County Borough

Council

Councillor RJ Dutton OBE
Anna Irwin (Senior Conservation and
Environment Officer)

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Stuart Davies (Chair)
Councillor Huw L Jones
Councillor Merfyn Parry
together with
Huw Rees (Head of DCC Countryside &
Heritage Service)
Lisa Jones (DCC Solicitor/Deputy
Monitoring Officer)

Representing Flintshire County Council

Councillor Colin Legg
together with
Tom Woodall (Head of FCC Countryside Service)

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Observer

Paul Mitchell

Meeting Observers

Simon Collinge
Neville Howell

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies for Absence were submitted from: -

Councillor Hugh Jones, Councillor Lloyd Kenyon, Councillor Martyn Holland, Councillor Carolyn Thomas, Councillor Paul Cunningham, Mr Martin Howarth, Mr Peter Scarll, Mr Philip Thane, Mr Andrew Worthington

The Chair welcomed members and observers to the second meeting of the AONB Partnership, and introduced Anna Irwin (Conservation and Environment Officer for Wrexham County Borough Council).

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on May 15th 2015

2.1 Page 5 5.1

AONB Management Plan

Section 1.3 ("Who is the Plan for?") Relevant Authorities Partners of the AONB; Landowners and Land managers; and Local Communities,

Philip Durrell said that it had not been included in the minutes that he had suggested another section to be added under the same heading entitled '**Other External Users' or 'Visitors to the AONB'**

He went on to explain that the Plan would be of significance to the visitors of the AONB - whether they were visiting for passive tourism or activity holidays their interests should be acknowledged.

2.2 Page 6 5.1

Section 20

Reference to include Llantysilio Mountains

Councillor Bob Dutton proposed that the above amendments to be made to the minutes, and this was seconded by Councillor Merfyn Parry.

2.3 Partnership Meeting Dates

Meeting dates would be considered under 'Any Other Business'

Action

The minutes would be amended to include Philip Durrell's proposals

Subject to the forgoing amendments, the minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Show Case:

AONB Badge Scheme

Recently appointed AONB Sustainable Development Fund Officer, Ceri Lloyd, provided a brief show case (with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation). She explained that, the AONB Guides Project was originally initiated when the AONB Team was engaging with tourism businesses and outdoor providers

located within the Dee Valley. The outdoor providers had expressed an interest in gaining some enhanced knowledge and understanding of the landscape that they lived and worked in. Subsequently, the AONB Team had coordinated a bespoke course with the interested businesses.

The duration of the course was between 7 or 8 months which could be extended over the year. It included classroom presentations, practical work and an assessment for a variety of themes including guiding skills, historic environment, Welsh language and culture, biodiversity and moorland management. The sessions included partnership working with the County Archaeologist, Fiona Gale, and NRW Geologist, Raymond Roberts and DCC Biodiversity Officer, Lizzy Webster.

Some of the benefits of the course included:

- ✚ Local businesses gaining an extensive knowledge of the area that they lived and worked in
- ✚ participants of the course becoming ambassadors for the AONB
- ✚ Sharing knowledge gained with their customers

The Sustainable Development Officer emphasised that the scheme was an excellent way for outdoor providers/businesses to interact with the AONB Team and discover more about their locality.

Discussion ensued. Members agreed that the scheme was an excellent initiative. One member raised concerns that businesses sometimes move away from the area, and that it was essential that the course continued to operate. Another member enquired if the scheme could be opened up to other suitable interested parties for educational purposes.

The Sustainable Development Officer responded that it was anticipated that the scheme would be continued and developed further in light of the experience gained.

4. AONB Framework & Terms of Reference

The AONB Officer provided the background to the circulated document, explaining that the original Terms of Reference had been produced for the former AONB Joint Advisory Committee. With the formation of the new AONB Partnership, which comprised 3 Local Authorities (DCC, FCC, WCBC) a new framework and Terms of Reference had been created with advice from Denbighshire County Council's Deputy Monitoring Solicitor, Lisa Jones.

The AONB Officer introduced Lisa to meeting members, and she explained that a framework had been produced which in general terms explained the relationship between the Joint Committee and the AONB Partnership.

The Chair and the senior AONB Officers had met to consider the document and it was now being brought to the Partnership to be considered. One of the principle changes to the document was that the role of the Chair had been opened up to all members.

The Chair added that the proposed practice for responding to planning consultations (recommendations) was that the Joint Committee (JC) could only

delegate responsibility to officers and not the Partnership, therefore all planning responses would be sent out on behalf of the Joint Committee.

The AONB Officer explained that during the interim period the AONB Planning Officer had carried on responding to consultations and associated delegations on behalf of the AONB and the Partnership, in consultation with Councillor Hugh Jones, Chair of the Joint Committee.

- 4.1 In the ensuing discussion an issue was raised as to whether the Joint Committee could overrule a recommendation of the Partnership. The Deputy Monitoring Solicitor said that in theory the Joint Committee could overrule the partnership. However, the AONB Officer explained that it was highly improbable that that scenario would ever occur. Councillor Huw L Jones (Joint Committee Member) said that in the unlikely event of the scenario arising Partnership Members could ask to meet and discuss the situation with a Joint Committee Member and attend the Joint Committee Meeting.

The Chair explained that currently the Partnership was going through a transitional period and once the sub groups were convened, major planning applications would be considered by the Landscape and Built Environment Group.

It was suggested that all three Planning Committees should be notified when the sub group was convened to ensure that there was full understanding of the Partnership's role.

It was queried who could apply to be a Substitute Member for the Partnership, the AONB Officer responded that if members knew of an individual that they thought had the relevant knowledge and enthusiasm for the AONB, and that they were willing and able to substitute at meetings then members could volunteer that person.

The AONB Sustainable Development Fund was discussed and it was suggested that the Partnership should become more involved with the new projects coming forward. The Chair asked that all members consider any projects that they believed would be suitable projects to be funded through SDF to bring to the Sustainable Development Officer's attention. The Chair emphasised that were appropriate, it would be good practice for some projects to be brought forward by Partnership members and for them to be involved in SDF projects.

4.2 Page 4 Point 27

AONB Officers have the delegated authority to respond to planning and other consultation on behalf of the Joint Committee. They will consult the AONB Partnership Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group on significant applications

A member questioned the phraseology 'significant' and emphasised that all members must be aware of the parameters. It was explained that this would be defined in the Scheme of Delegation to be considered by the Joint Committee next month.

Action

The comment was noted by the Deputy Monitoring Solicitor

5. Appointment of Members to Partnership Subgroups

The AONB Officer provided a verbal update on the Partnership sub groups explaining that they would be convened to consider specific areas.

There would be 5 Sub Groups:

- 1. Sustainable Development Fund**
- 2. Landscape Character and Built Environment**
- 3. Land Management and Natural Environment**
- 4. Heritage, Culture & Communities**
- 5. Recreation, Tourism, and Business Engagement**

Forms to indicate members preferred group were circulated to Partnership members.

The AONB Officer explained that members were not obliged to sit on any of the sub groups. However, if members wanted to contribute further to the Partnership their assistance would be very much appreciated.

The Senior AONB Officer explained that the way in which it was envisaged was that the AONB Management Plan would be implemented and completed by the sub groups in partnership with other organisations e.g.

1	Sustainable Development fund	- Communities - Landowners/farmers - NRW
2	Landscape Character & Built Environment	- x3 Highways Departments - NRW
3	Land Management & Natural Environment	- North Wales Wildlife Trust - National Grid - Limestone Legacy Project - Conservation Work (if HLF bid was successful) - NRW
4	Heritage, Culture & Communities	- Industrial Archaeology - Menter Iaith - Minera Quarry
5	Recreation, Tourism & Business Engagement	- Visit Wales - Provision on horse riding to be considered - NRW

The Chair noted that members of the Local Authority Planning Committee could still be a member of the Planning Sub Group, as this had been adopted within the Legal Agreement.

6. Show Case:

Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB

Mr Michael Skuse provided a brief verbal update on the 'Friends of the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley' explaining that the Friends had been successfully launched on the 15th of July at Plas Newydd, Llangollen. The Friends now had 82 members, recruited through a membership leaflet that had been widely circulated in the area. One of the aims of the group was to try and make more people aware of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as most were unaware of what an AONB was. The Friends had arranged events, some jointly with other associations, and these had been well received. They were now registered with the Charity Commission with the object to conserve and care for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley designated an AONB and assist in the protection and improvement of its amenities for the benefit of the public, either alone or in conjunction with other bodies or organisations as the trustees shall think fit, including advancing knowledge and understanding about the special features of the landscape and its natural and cultural heritage. Michael went on to emphasise that it was still early days, and the Friends were taking things one step at a time. In the future the Friends could own land or other property and apply for grants for projects. One member had already suggested a possible pond clearing project. He emphasised that the Friends were completely separate from the AONB Management team, and invited Partnership members to consider becoming Friends and potentially active members of the committee. Michael thanked members of the AONB Team for their support and financial assistance through the AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

7. Welsh Government Consultation

Proposed Amendments to Secondary Legislation for Development Management

The AONB Planning Officer explained that the Planning Wales Act had received assent this year, and the Welsh Government (WG) was now consulting on proposed changes to secondary legislation and regulations to implement the Act. The Consultation related to three areas:

- 1. Statutory consultees**
- 2. Design & Access Statements**
- 3. Houses in multiple occupation**

The Planning Officer went on to explain that the 'Design and Access Statement' (DAS) proposals were the most applicable to the AONB. Welsh Government had recognised some of Wales' sensitive areas, but not National Parks or AONBs. The recommendation was that the lower threshold for DAS should be extended to AONBs and National Parks.

Discussion ensued, and it was queried whether areas outside the AONB but within its setting should be considered. The Planning Officer explained that it would be too complex to include the areas outside of the AONB. Other concerns were raised regarding regeneration from a business point of view and whether it would be restricted. The Planning Officer responded that Design and Access Statements could be an extra burden on business but would not hamper any decision on whether planning permission would be granted and would serve to improve design in the AONB.

The majority of members acknowledged that there was a shortage of housing in the locality and they debated how this could be overcome locally with developers in a way that would complement the AONB. The development of 'brownfield' land and the reuse of existing buildings were proposed as possible solutions.

RESOLVED

That the recommended response to be submitted to the Joint Committee to include reference to development of 'brownfield' land and the reuse of existing buildings.

“The Joint Committee welcomes recognition by Welsh Government of the merits of Design and Access Statements, and supports the need to clarify the scope and content of DAS to streamline the process and make them more relevant.

The intention to retain DAS for major developments across Wales and for smaller developments in Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites to reflect the fact that proposals in such areas ‘may have a significantly greater impact on the character of the area of higher sensitivity in which they are situated’ is also supported. However, the Joint Committee is disappointed that the greater sensitivity of Wales’ protected landscapes to development has not been recognised in the consultation document. The committee strongly believes in the need to encourage and specifically underline the need for high quality design in nationally protected landscapes, and considers the failure to give equivalent status to such areas in addition to Conservation Areas and WHS downgrades their importance and will undermine efforts to promote good design.

The Joint Committee would therefore recommend that the lower development threshold for DAS should also be applied to AONB’s and National Parks (Q.8)

The proposed lower thresholds for DAS in sensitive areas set out in the document would appear to be a reasonable balance between the need to recognise the sensitivity of such areas and making DAS more relevant and responsive. (Q.9)

The intention to incorporate a statement on design into Heritage Impact Statements proposed in the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill for works to Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument and Conservation Area Consents makes sense and will assist in reducing duplication when planning permission is also required. Extending these provisions to Registered Historic Parks and Gardens is also supported. (Q10)

The prescriptive nature of the regulations concerning the content of DAS has contributed to the ‘tick–box’ attitude to the process, and the committee supports the intention to simplify content and make it more relevant and meaningful by focussing on those design issues which are most relevant to the particular circumstances. (Q12.)

The Partnership would also wish to draw to the attention of Welsh Government the need to more actively promote the development of ‘brownfield’ land and the reuse of existing buildings.”

8. Draft Site Development Briefs

Cae Ffyddion, Dyserth and Ffordd Hendre/Maes Meurig, Meliden

The AONB Planning Officer gave a verbal presentation and explained that Denbighshire’s Local Development Plan (LDP) adopted in 2013 had allocated sites within Meliden and Dyserth for residential development.

The Planning Authority was now seeking to ensure high quality development of the sites through the preparation of site development briefs to guide future development. The sites were located outside the AONB but were considered to be within the setting of the protected landscape by virtue of their proximity to the AONB.

The Planning Officer emphasised that the central issue for the Partnership to consider was to ensure that any development had regard to the special qualities of the AONB and that any impact on views from the protected landscape would be mitigated.

Members acknowledged that the sites were in close proximity to the AONB. However, they also recognised that there was a shortage of housing for young people. The Planning Officer reiterated that the response was not to object to the proposals but to achieve the best possible design for the development. Concerns were then raised as to whether this would impact on the cost of the properties. The Planning Officer said that the response was not prescriptive and in the main referred to colour of materials, protecting existing landscape features - woodlands, trees and hedges and new landscaping.

RESOLVED

“The Joint Committee notes that Ffordd Hendre and Maes Meurig are allocated for development in the LDP and supports preparation of a site brief to guide future development.

One of the defined special qualities of the AONB identified in the draft Management Plan 2014 -2019 is ‘Remoteness and Wildness, Space and Freedom’, including the ability to experience ‘uninterrupted and extensive views from the high places within it.’ Both sites are clearly visible from the higher ground of the AONB to the east, notably Graig Fawr and Prestatyn Hillside, including the Offa’s Dyke National Trail. The impact of development which can interrupt important views from the AONB should therefore be a consideration in drawing up the site development brief, and the

Joint Committee is disappointed that the document does not recognise that the sites are within the setting of the AONB or the need to consider such impacts.

The committee would recommend that these issues should be included in the development brief. Section 4, which highlights the key LDP policies to be applied should specifically include Policy VOE2 and flag up that the sites are considered to be within the setting of the AONB. The need to ensure that the overall approach to development, particularly landscaping, has regard to the need to mitigate impacts on the AONB, notably on views from the higher ground of the protected area should also be emphasised in Section 5. Site Appraisal and Requirements and 6. Design Objectives. In addition, the committee would suggest that the brief should articulate the need for development to be based on a guiding principle which seeks to integrate and absorb the development into its predominantly rural surroundings from the outset.

Particular issues that the committee would wish to see emphasised throughout the document include:

- The importance of retaining and protecting existing landscape features - woodlands, trees and hedges – which will help soften views and break up the mass of buildings.**
- Recognising that the sites are quite ‘open’ in character in views from the AONB and ensuring that a specific landscape strategy is drawn up for the sites which responds to this by strengthening existing landscape features and providing additional landscaping to enclose and break up views. In this context, the references to existing natural boundaries and the need to strengthen them with additional planting is supported (paras 5.19 – 5.20).**
- The need for structural tree/hedge planting to be identified in the landscape strategy which should be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity and ideally in advance of development.**
- The colour and reflectivity of all wall finishes and roofing materials should be recessive in nature to help them blend into the rural scene in views from the higher ground of the AONB. In this context, the committee supports the suggestion that the materials (e.g. natural slate roofs and limestone walls) and built form of the development should reflect that of the nearby Meliden Ffordd Penrhwylyfa Conservation Area (para 5.23).”**

9. Urgent Items

9.1 Items Raised by member

Urban Interest Representative, Philip Thane

Philip Thane was unable to attend the meeting and the item was not considered.

9.2 **Item raised by the Chair**

Proposed electricity generator facility application submitted by Prime Energy Development Ltd to install 14 new generators near Greenfield Road, Ruthin

The Chair explained that the proposed generator facility planning application had been withdrawn. However, he said that similar types of generators were being erected all over the country due to a 'peak demand' for electricity.

9.2 **Partnership Members being included on the AONB Website**

The AONB Officer explained that the AONB Team had received some requests for information regarding Partnership members. Therefore it had been proposed that a group photograph of Partnership members would be uploaded onto the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB website with a short paragraph about the Partnership along with members' names – ***please note that no contact details would be shared, names only.***

RESOLVED

It was agreed that a group photograph that included members names only, would be uploaded on to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB website.

9.3 **Future Site Visits**


The AONB Officer explained that the AONB Team had received some very positive feedback following the Familiarisation Days that had recently been held at:


Gop Hill

Moel Famau/Jubilee Tower

Corwen/Pen y Pigyn

He added that it was an excellent opportunity for members to get acquainted in a less formal setting. More visits would be convened with visits to:

 Pontycysyllte World Heritage Site & Aqueduct

 Nercwys Forest

Action

The Communication Officer would circulate dates shortly.

10. Future Meeting Dates

The AONB Officer advised that there would be two meetings held annually for the **Full AONB Partnership** and these dates were agreed at the meeting as:

 Friday May 13th 2016

 Friday October 21st 2016

Sub groups would also be convened and meetings dates would be decided in due course.
Members would be emailed information regarding membership and meeting dates of the sub groups.

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Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Forward Work Programme November 2015 Update				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Timescale Not Started Red Started but limited Progress Amber Started and on track Green	Cost -ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
Finance				
Finance and Funding	To be a standing item on the Forward Work programme	Report to each JC		Neutral
Strategic Plans 2014-16				
Public Consultation on AONB Management Plan	Public consultations at: Locations in the AONB	Complete		Neutral
Communications Strategy	To assess monitoring and effectiveness of AONB Communication	Summer 2015 SDF Officer is now pursuing		Neutral
AONB Management Plan	To Sign off Management Plan	Autumn 2015		Neutral
Outreach and Volunteers strategy	To provide a policy statement, engagement plan and action plan	Summer 2015 Volunteers Strategy Internal consultation		Neutral
Business Plan	To write a five year business plan	Spring 2016		Neutral
AONB Partnership				
AONB Partnership	Establish Partnership	Complete		+ve
SDF Panel	Establish Panel for SDF Projects	Complete		Neutral
Constitution and Terms of Reference	Review Constitution and update and align with JC's Legal agreement	Summer 2015 Paper to JC 27.11.15		Neutral
Setting up of Sub Groups	To create relevant subgroups for delivery of Management Plan	Members Complete		+ve
Scheme of Delegation for Planning	Review scheme	Summer 2015 Paper to JC 27.11.15		Neutral

Forward Work Programme June 2015 Update Continued				
Project	Detail/Action Management Plan Reference	Timescale	Progress	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
Projects 2015-16				
Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley	Launch of an independent 'Friends Group'	Summer 2015 Complete 85 Members, flyer, badge etc created, constituted Registered as Charity		Neutral
Clwydian Range 30 th Anniversary	Celebration of Anniversary	Autumn 2015 Logo Dev, Trig Point		Neutral
AONB Tourism Strategy	To Implement the action plan	Autumn 2015 Staff attending Tourism and RDP Meetings		Neutral
Climate Change Programme	To implement and promote the new literature	Summer 2015 Plas Derw engaged- Target 12 schools. 6schools visited, 35 teachers and 465 children engaged in Flintshire		Neutral
The Picturesque	Joint AONB/WHS Bid for Landscape Scale HLF Project	Autumn 2015 Awarded £1.38 Million		+ve
Ederynion Tourism Strategy	To implement the action plan	Autumn 2015 SDF Fund engagement workshops		Neutral
AONB Icons				
World Heritage Site	Attend Strategic Meetings, further Collaboration between the two designations	Officers and Members on Board, Steering Group and Sub Groups		Neutral
Section 85 Organisations				
Planning	To review procedures for planning consultation. Produce an SPG for the AONB	Spring 2016 Paper to JC 27.11.15 on delegation procedures		-ve
Tranquillity	To investigate improvements to Dark skies	Spring 2016		-ve
Urbanisation	To enter into an agreement with NEWTRA and LA Highways to respect the rural nature of the AONB	Spring 2016		-ve
Tourism	Investigate how best to integrate the NE Wales and AONB Brands	Spring 2016 AONB Officer invited to NE Wales Officer Meet		Visit Wales E4G Neutral



SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2015

Code No.	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Response
21/2015/0206	Colomendy Centre Loggerheads, CH7 5LB	Erection of 9 safari tents & 1 Yurt with ancillary development	No objection in principle subject to temporary permission and additional landscaping	Granted 21/04/15
10/2015/0038	Deio Uchaf, Bryneglwys, LL21 9NP	Conversion of outbuilding to dwelling and new holiday chalet	No objection to conversion subject to design amendments; objection to new chalet unit.	Withdrawn 28/04/15
053325	Siglen Uchaf, Gwernymynydd, Mold, CH7 5LG	Outline application for the erection of 10 no. dwellings	No objection in principle subject to design, landscaping and affordable housing	
P/2015/0126	Cefn y Fedw, Penycae, LL14 1UA	Agricultural building over slurry lagoon and storage area.	No objection subject to suitable materials and landscaping	Granted 27/05/15
05/2015/0302	Carreg Afon & Carreg Afon Bach, Corwen, LL21 9EH	Amendment to vehicular access and change of use of land to residential	No objection in principle. Recommend alternative siting and landscaping.	
P/2015/0182	Onnen Fawr, Rhosllanerchrugog LL14 1UJ	Agricultural building for livestock	No objection	Granted 23/04/15
P/2015/0092	Tyn y Pistyll, Penycae, LL14 1TU	Installation and operation of solar farm	No objection in principle subject to additional planting of small groups of trees and hedgerows	Granted 12/05/15
08/2014/1110	Gwerclas, Corwen, LL21 0EW	New dwelling and access & parking area	Concerns expressed; suggest alternative siting or conversion of a suitable existing building	Granted 17/06/15
P/2015/0167	Nant Ucha Farm, Garth, LL20 7YH	Erection of free range egg laying unit	Concerns expressed, suggest alternative siting and materials	Granted 13/05/15
27/2015/0352	Bryntysilio Outdoor Centre, Llangollen, LL20 8BS	Extension and alterations to classroom building	No objection	Granted 22/05/15
03/2015/0088	The Old Bank, Llangollen, LL20 8NI	Listed Building Consent for non-illuminated hanging sign	No objection	Granted 27/05/15
17/2015/0351	14 Tai Newyddion, Llandegla, LL11 3BH	Erection of a single storey extension to front of dwelling	No objection; recommend landscaping	Granted 22/05/15
20/2015/0447	Penyberth, Pentre Celyn, Ruthin, LL15 2HH	Erection of a single storey extension	Suggest design amendments	Granted 24/06/15
053642	Plas Yr Esgob, , Cilcain, CH7 5PG	Erection of garage	No observations	
051165	Edelweiss, Gronant, LL19 9TL	Erection of 2no. dwellings	Concerns over scale and design; need to ensure trees are retained	Refused 20/07/15
09/2015/0392	Fron Grove, Bodfari, LL16 4DE	Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form holiday unit	No objection subject to condition to ensure the building is used for holiday use, and landscaping	Granted 28/05/15
16/2015/0310	Plot 1, Lon Cae Glas, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd	Erection of single dwelling (outline application	No objection in principle; siting to avoid loss of existing trees.	

Code No.	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Response
05/2015/0353	Pen Y Graig, Glyndyfrdwy, LL21 9HI	Resumption of residential use of dwelling and erection of extension	No objection in principle; suggest design amendments and landscaping	Granted 05/10/15
20/2015/0462	Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi,LL152LB	Erection of agricultural building	No objection subject to materials and landscaping	Granted 17/06/15
11/2012/0093/E N13	Clocaenog Forest, Saron to St. Asaph	North Wales Wind Farms Connection	No observations	
05/2015/0483	24 Uwch y Dre, Corwen LL21 OBS	Erection of car port	No observations	Granted 26/06/15
03/2015/0385	Tyn Dwr Hall, Llangollen, Ll20 8AR	Works to trees in TPO area W17	No objection	Granted 15/06/15
42/2015/0237	Former Anglia Builders Yard Dyserth, LL18 6BS	Conversion of offices/workshops to provide 19 apartments and erection of 13 employment units	No objection in principle; suggest design and landscaping amendments, retention of public parking and new cyclepath	
17/2015/0413	Mill Farm, Llandegla, LL11 3AW	Extension to side of dwelling and change of use of agricultural land	No objection subject to design amendments and landscaping	Granted 03/06/15
20/2015/0495	Llais Afon, Graigfechan, Ruthin, LL15 2EY	Replacement conservatory	No observations	Granted 06/07/15
47/2015/0488	Land south to Burwen, Rhuallt, LL17 OTE	Erection of a dwelling (Outline)	No objection subject to design and landscaping	Granted 17/06/15
P/2015/0343	Arqiva, Pennant Farm, Pontfadog, LL20 7AT	Installation of antennas, satellite dish and equipment cabin	Favour installation to be contained within the height envelope of existing mast	Granted 26/06/15
053681	Puckwana, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5JS	Flat roof extension and erection of double garage	No objection in principle; concerns about scale and design of garage and impact on existing mature trees.	Granted 29/06/15
P/2015/0335	Dee Farm, Newbridge, LL14 3JF	Conversion of outbuilding into residential unit	Suggest building would be better suited to holiday let accommodation and landscaping	Refused 08/07/15
053521	Hafod, Gwaenysgor LL18 6EP	Erection of single storey extensions to dwelling	No objection subject to materials and landscaping	Granted 06/10/15
21/2015/0282	Bryn Ffynnon Farm, Llanferres, CH7 5SH	Ancillary domestic building	Object; scale of building and no special agricultural or rural business case	Refused 02/07/15
47/2015/0464	Stella Maris, Tremeirchion, LL17 OUN	Extension and alterations to dwelling	No observations	Granted 15/06/15
25/2015/0321	Llyn Bran, Bylchau, Denbigh (Pant Y Maen)	Construction and operation of wind farm comprising 8 turbines	Object.	
15/2015/0395	Ty Isa, Eryrys, CH7 4DD	Two storey extension and change of use of land to residential	Concerns over scale of extensions, no objection to residential curtilage extension subject to landscaping	Refused 01/07/15 Appeal pending
42/2015/0563	The Glen, Dyserth, LL18 6BS	Erection of detached double garage	No objection in principle; suggest alternative siting	Granted 09/07/15
03/2015/0591	NatWest, 38 Castle Street, Llangollen, LL20 8RT	Installation of ATM and secure door	No observations	Granted 27/07/15
03/2015/0592	NatWest, 38 Castle Street, Llangollen, LL20 8RT	Installation of 1 internally illuminated ATM Surround	No observations	Granted 27/07/15
05/2015/0644	Mynachtyd Ucha, Glyndyfrdwy, Corwen, LL21 9BS	Erection of porch to front of dwelling (Listed Building)	Concerns expressed over design and impact on Listed Building.	Refused 07/08/15

Code No.	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Response
03/2015/0594	Gwynant, Abbey Road, Llangollen, LL20 8SW	Erection of 2 storey rear extension and attached garage	No objection, suggest design and materials amendments	Granted 23/07/15
03/2015/0593	4 Dolafon Villas, Llangollen, LL20 8SU	Change of use from former Hospital Annex to dwelling	No objection, suggest landscaping amendments	Granted 28/07/15
15/2015/0450	Craig Cottage, Eryrys, CH7 4DA	Extensions and alterations to dwelling	No objection, suggest design amendments	Granted 02/07/15
15/2015/0559	Craig Cottage, Eryrys, CH7 4DA	Change of use of land to extend residential curtilage	No objection	Granted 10/07/15
15/2015/0629	Glan Llyn, Eryrys, Mold, CH7 4BX	Erection of replacement detached garage	No objection, recommend materials and landscaping	Granted 16/09/15
20/2015/0607	The Barn, Pentre Coch, LL15 2YF	Single storey extension and construction of lake	No objection subject to materials and landscaping	Refused 11/08/15
15/2015/0586	Stoneycroft, Llanarmon Yn Ial, Mold, CH7 4QF	Variation of conditions relating to materials	No observations subject to colour of materials	Granted 01/07/15
47/2015/0130	Outbuilding at Rock Cottage, Tremeirchion	Conversion/extension to holiday accommodation (Amended plans)	Concern about scale of extensions, additional landscaping suggested	Granted 16/07/15
03/2015/0376	Stan's Store, Llangollen	Roof mounted solar panels	No objection subject to colour/reflectivity of panels	Granted 08/09/15
21/2015/0562	Bryn Hyfryd, Maeshafn	Extensions to dwelling	No observations	Granted 16/07/15
053828	Nannerch Lodge, Nannerch	Alterations and extensions to dwelling	No objection subject to amended materials	Granted 08/06/15
27/2015/0683	1 Lliddiart Annie, Llantysilio	Extension to dwelling	No objection subject to materials	Granted 12/08/15
17/2015/0669	Ty Newydd, Llandegla	Extension to dwelling	No objection subject to amended materials and landscaping	Granted 12/08/15
22/2015/0557	Outbuilding at Wern Fawr, Llangynhafal	Residential conversion (Amended materials)	Concerns expressed, suggest traditional lime render	
20/2015/0598	Genus Breeding, Llanrhydd	Agricultural building (Phase 1)	No objection subject to amended materials and landscaping	Granted 05/08/15
20/2015/0599	Genus Breeding, Llanrhydd	Agricultural building (Phase 2)	No objection	Granted 05/08/15
20/2015/0600	Genus Breeding, Llanrhydd	Agricultural building (Phase 3)	No objection subject to amended materials and landscaping	Granted 05/08/15
20/2015/0613	Genus Breeding, Llanrhydd	Agricultural building (Phase 4)	No objection subject to landscaping	Granted 05/08/15
20/2015/0614	Genus Breeding, Llanrhydd	New access (Phase 5)	No objection	Granted 05/08/15
053953	Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen	EIA Scoping – Quarry extension	Comprehensive LVIA required	Opinion issued 27/07/15
06/2014/1436	Hendre Bryn Cyffo, Gwyddelwern	Single 45m wind turbine	Objection – impact on setting and special qualities of AONB	
05/2015/0690	Ty Nant Woods, Carrog	Upgraded telecommunications mast	No objection	Granted 01/09/15
05/2015/0688	Fron Newydd, Carrog	Upgraded telecommunications mast	No objection	Granted 01/09/15
16/2015/0686	Land at Tyddyn Celyn, Llanbedr DC	New dwelling	No objection	
053850	Pioneer Stores, Cadole	Conversion to holiday cottages	No objection subject to landscaping	Granted 13/08/15
053751	Trigfa, Gwernymynydd	Replacement dwelling	Concerns about scale of development	
07/2015/0658	Ffynnon Wen,	Extensions to dwelling	No objection subject to additional	Granted

Code No.	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Response
	Llandrillo	and new garage/store	landscaping	05/08/15
P/2015/0493	Cefn y Fedw, Penycae	Agricultural building	No objection but suggest alternative siting and landscaping	Granted 03/11/15
053964	Elm Gables, Gwernymynydd	Extensions to dwelling	No observations	Granted 26/10/15
15/2015/0665	Graig Coch Isa, Mynydd Ddu	Replacement dwelling	No objection subject to amended materials and landscaping	Granted 08/09/15
21/2015/0672	Pen Dyffryn, Llanferres	Extension to dwelling and garage	No objection	Granted 26/08/15
15/2015/0747	Clover Grange, Llanarmon yn Ial	New domestic garage/store	No objection subject to amended materials and landscaping	
054145	Cilcain Village Hall	Heat pump	No objection	Granted 21/09/15
054061	Chapel House, Nannerch	Replacement chalet (Amended conditions)	No observations	
47/2015/0579	The Vicarage, Tremeirchion, LL17 0UN	New dwelling (Amended plans)	Further information required	Withdrawn 23/10/15
05/2015/0712	Corwen Hydro	Revised details of hydro power scheme	No objection	Granted 04/09/15
07/2015/0804	Land rear Dudley Arms, Llandrillo	New dwelling	No objection but suggest design amendments	Granted 02/10/15
051143	Mount Farm, Ffrith, LL11 5HU	Erection of 77m wind turbine (Additional information)	Maintain objection	
21/2015/0768	Cae Cymro, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LE	Extension to dwelling and garage	No objection subject to no impact on SSSI and control over materials	Granted 30/09/15
15/2015/0679	Tan Y Graig, Mynydd Du, CH7 4BR	Replacement dwelling, garage and new access	No objection, subject to further information on landscaping, design and impact on wildlife.	
15/2015/0831	Land adjacent to Bryn Tirion, Eryrys CH7 4BX	Variation of conditions for residential development	No observations	
08/2015/0835	Hendy, Cynwyd, Corwen, LL21 0HP	Erection of conservatory	No objection but suggest design amendments	Granted 13/10/15
05/2015/0817	Groeslwyd, Rhewl, Llangollen, LL20 7AJ	Extensions and alterations and demolition of barn	Concerns over scale and design; suggest design amendments	Withdrawn 03/10/15
15/2015/0616	Ty Isa Llanferres Mold, CH7 5SN	Conversion of barns to 2 dwellings and new access	Concerns over design and access; suggest design amendments	Refused 23/09/15
P/2015/0628	Tan yr Allt, Penycae, LL14 1UG	Roof alterations, dormer extensions and front porch	No objection but suggest design amendments	Granted 15/10/15
054036	Swn Yr Awel, Cilcain, CH7 5PG	Erection of extension	No objection subject to landscaping	
054199	Ty Capel, Gwaenysgor, LL18 6EP	Erection of two storey extension	No objection but suggest design amendments	
47/2015/0860	Land west of Abattoir site, Rhuallt	Lighting details for highways salt depot	No objection but suggest design amendments	Granted 28/10/15
054185	Ty Bychan, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5JW	Erection of porch	No objection	Granted 10/09/15
053964	Elm Gables, Gwernymynydd, CH7 5LQ	Single storey extension and raising of roof line (Amended plans)	No observations	Granted 26/10/15
20/2015/0901	The Barn Pentre Coch LL15 2YF	Erection of single storey extension to rear	No objection subject to matching materials	Granted 27/10/15
054183	Bay Tree Cottage,	Erection of single storey	No objection subject to views of	

Code No.	Site Address	Brief Description of Development	Summary of AONB Comments	LPA Response
	Llanasa, CH8 9NE	extension	Conservation Officer	
054171	Church View, Nannerch, CH7 5RD	Erection of single storey front extension and rear dormer	No observations subject to views of Conservation Officer	Granted 12/10/15
22/2015/0873	Land at Wern Fawr Llangynhafal LL15 1RT	Agricultural building for the housing of cattle	No objection but suggest alternative siting and landscaping.	Granted 21/10/15
25/2015/0636	Land East of Llyn Brenig, Nantglyn	16 turbine wind farm; revised scheme to increase turbine height from 100 to 110m.	Maintain objection	
12/2015/0656	Land adjacent to Clocaenog Forest, Clawddnewydd	Installation of single 49.9m high wind turbine	No observations subject to revocation of existing permission	
C14/O291/O4/L	Land near Bodelith Isaf, Llandderfel	Two 92.5m high wind turbines	Objection	Refused 19/10/15
42/2015/0932	Car Park at Graig Fawr Dyserth	Erection of height restriction barrier	No objection	Granted 16/10/15
03/2015/0915	77 Pengwern Llangollen, LL20 8AS	Erection of a car port	No observations	Granted 05/11/15
054237	Yr Hen Ysgubor, Cilcain, CH7 5NZ	Erection of porch	Concerns over design	Granted 27/10/15
P/2015/0675	Tower View, Froncysyllte, LL20 7PY	Two storey extension	No objection but suggest design amendments	Granted 21/10/15
17/2015/0935	Tafarn Y Garth Llandegla, LL11 3AA	Extension to agricultural building	No objection	
054154	Rhos Farm, Penyffordd, CH4 0JR	Erection of conservatory	No observations	
03/2015/0943	6 Pengwern Llangollen, LL20 8AS	Erection of single storey rear extension	No observations	Granted 27/10/15

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 27th November 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon /Huw Rees

Title: Joint Committee Budget and Outturn 2015/16

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position for 2015/16.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's financial position for 2015/16.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2015/16 (Appendix 1) and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

Members approve the transfer of the projected underspend to the AONB reserve account for use by the Joint Committee in future years.

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2015/16 and Reserve balances as detailed in Appendix 1. The AONB's gross expenditure budget is £418,219. The position is a forecast underspend of £9k.

The report also provides a copy of the signed Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 (Appendix 2).

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The proposed budget for 2015/16 was brought to the JC meeting in June and approved.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2015/16. Currently a £9k underspend is projected. If the position remains as an underspend it is recommended that this is transferred to the AONB reserve account for use by the JC in future years.

The financial position for 2015/16 is secure, however it must still be recognised that the budgets of all public sector bodies are coming under increasing pressure due to the economic climate and that future funding levels may not be relied upon.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The current budget is dependent on income from NRW and the three Local Authorities. NRW have confirmed their funding level for the AONB Programme 2016-2018.

Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

JOINT AONB COMMITTEE

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

Appendix 1

CORE - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st OCTOBER 2015

	Budget 2015/16 £	Forecast Outturn 2015/16 £
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	199,852	185,346
Training & Conference	500	1,355
Subscriptions	1,500	2,590
Insurance	936	936
Total Employee costs	202,788	190,227
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Vehicle Hire	400	400
Mileage	5,000	4,800
Use of Public Transport	300	500
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	5,700	5,700
<u>Other</u>		
Protective Clothing	800	800
General Equipment	150	150
Event Expenditure	5,000	5,000
Audit Fees	1,134	1,134
IT costs	900	900
Telephones	920	1,100
Publications	100	100
Total Other Expenses	9,004	9,184
<u>Projects</u>		
Grants	54,545	54,545
Total Project costs	54,545	54,545
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	272,037	259,656
INCOME		
NRW Salary Grant	-117,046	-117,046
SDF Grant	-54,545	-54,545
LA Funding	-100,446	-100,446
Private calls	0	-5
TOTAL INCOME	-272,037	-272,042
Total Net Expenditure	0	-12,386



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

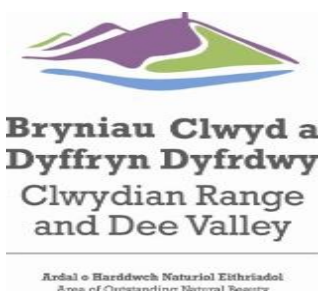
JOINT AONB COMMITTEE

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

Appendix 1

AREA - REVENUE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AT 31st OCTOBER 2015

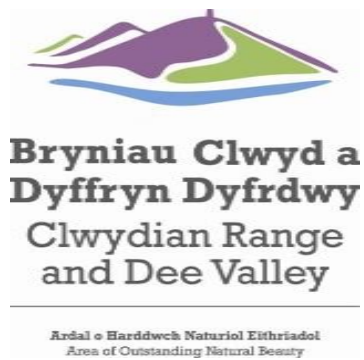
	Budget 2015/16 £	Forecast Outturn 2015/16 £
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Employees</u>		
Salaries	124,750	127,815
Insurance	574	574
Total Employee costs	125,324	128,389
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>		
Fuel	4,200	4,200
Fleet	11,500	11,500
Public Transport	400	400
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses	16,100	16,100
<u>Other</u>		
General Equipment	250	250
IT	250	250
Telephones	408	340
Internet	0	68
Advertising	360	360
Total Other Expenses	1,268	1,268
<u>Projects</u>		
Management Plan	5,000	5,000
Total Project costs	5,000	5,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	147,692	150,757
INCOME		
NRW Salary Grant	-11,466	-11,466
LA Salary funding	-136,226	-136,226
TOTAL INCOME	-147,692	-147,692
Total Net Expenditure	0	3,065



(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

RESERVE BALANCES AT 31st OCTOBER 2015

Budget underspend at 31.03.15	-10,440.67
Match funding balance at 31.03.15	-5,827.18
Balance of reserve at 31.10.15	<u><u>-16,267.85</u></u>



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Small local government bodies in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires local government bodies in Wales to make up their accounts each year to 31 March and to have those accounts audited by the Auditor General for Wales. Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 states that smaller local government bodies i.e. those with annual income and expenditure below £2.5 million must prepare their accounts in accordance with proper practices.

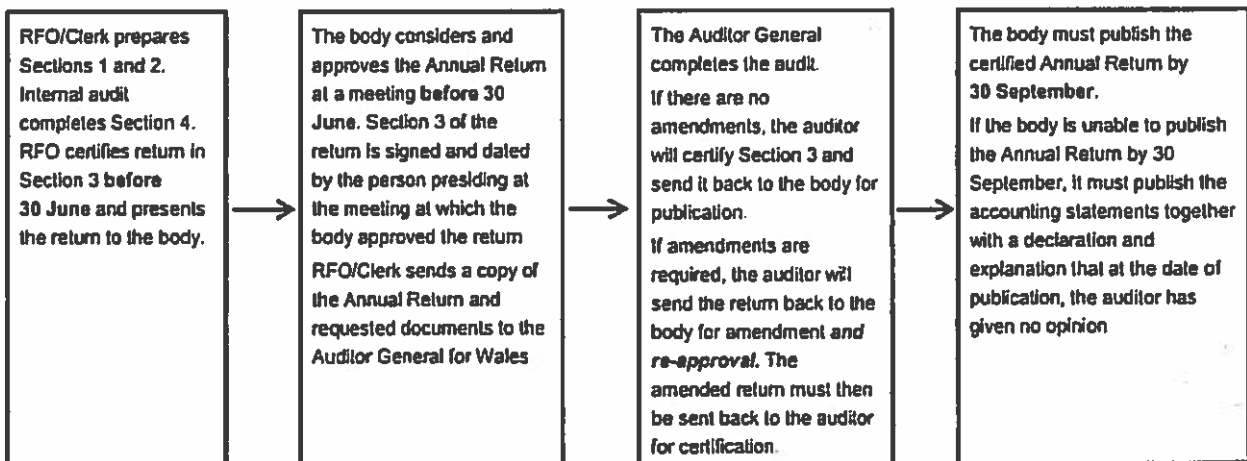
The following legislation defines proper practices as the One Voice Wales/SLCC Guidance publication *Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide (2011)* (the Practitioners' Guide):

- Port health authorities: Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, Regulation 4(b)
- Small joint committees: Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003, Regulation 25(1)

The Practitioners' Guide requires that smaller bodies prepare their accounts in the form of an annual return. This annual return meets the requirements of the Practitioners' Guide

Please complete all sections highlighted in pink. Incomplete or incorrect returns may require additional external audit work and incur additional costs. Further guidance is included in Section 5 and in Section 2 includes references to where the guide has further information.

Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014, the body must formally approve the return and certify Section 3 before the return is sent to the auditor. The body must approve the Annual Return by 30 June. Unless the Annual Return needs to be amended, the auditor will certify the return and send it back to the Body for publication with no further approval by the body required. The accounts approval and audit arrangements follow the process as set out below.



Your external audit team will advise you what additional information is needed for the audit.

Please send the original Annual Return (ie, not a photocopy), together with any additional information requested, to your external auditor by the date specified by the auditor. Unless requested, please do not send any original financial records to the external auditor.

Audited and certified returns are sent back to the body for publication or display of Sections 1, 2 and 3.

Section 1 – Accounting statements for: CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY AONB

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2014 (£)	31 March 2015 (£)					
			Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the Body's underlying financial records for the relevant year.				
1. Balances brought forward	0	0	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to Line 7 of the previous year.				
2. (+) Income from local taxation and/or levy	0	211,150	Total amount of local taxation, rates and/or levy received or receivable in the year including funding from a sponsoring body.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	0	204,658	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less income from local taxation and/or levy (line 2). Include any grants received here.				
4. (-) Staff costs	0	-276,677	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the Body's borrowing (if any).				
6. (-) Total other payments	0	-122,864	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (Line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (Line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	0	16,268	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).				
8. (+) Debtors and stock balances	0	24,750	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to and stock balances held at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	0	-3,078	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.				
10. (-) Creditors	0	-5,404	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the Body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	0	16,268	Total balances should equal Line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the body as at 31 March				
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	The Body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Body our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Body's accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2015, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Body:	PG Chap.
	Yes	No*		
1. We have approved the accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and proper practices.	✓		Prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Body to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	✓		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the Body's accounts.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Body and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the Body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Body's accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	✓		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the Body.	6, 8
7. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	✓		Has responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.	6, 8, 23
8. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Body and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	✓		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
9. Trust funds – In our capacity as trustee we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 	Yes	No	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6
		N/A		
		✓		

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given, and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Section 3 – Certification and approval

Approval and certification of the accounts and annual governance statement

The Body is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and for the preparation of an Annual Return which:

- summarises the Body's accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2015; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are important to the external auditor's responsibilities.

<p>Certification by the RFO Certificate under Regulation 15(1) Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014</p> <p>I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Body, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2015.</p>	<p>Approval by the Body Approval of accounting statements under Regulation 15(2) Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and the Annual Governance Statement</p> <p>I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Body under body minute reference:</p>
<p>RFO signature: <i>Steven Gadd</i></p>	<p>Chair signature: <i>Hush Jones</i></p>
<p>Name: STEVEN GADD</p>	<p>Name: HUSH JONES</p>
<p>Date: 26/6/2015</p>	<p>Date: 26.6.15.</p>

External Audit Certificate

The external auditor conducts the audit in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales. On the basis of their review of the Annual Return and supporting information, they report whether any matters that come to their attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. We certify that we have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015 of:

CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

External auditor's report

~~[[Except for the matters reported below]]~~ On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

~~[[These matters along with]]~~ Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the Body/meeting are included in our report to the Body dated 28/9/2015.

(* Delete as appropriate)

External auditor's signature: *A J Barrett* For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

External auditor's name: A J BARRETT Date: 30/9/15

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report to:

CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY AONB

The Body's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2015.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Body's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Body.

	Agreed?			
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**
1. - Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
2. The Body's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
3. The Body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
4. The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with body approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
8. Asset and investment registers were complete and accurate, and properly maintained.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Body has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

For any risk areas identified by the Body (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:	Agreed?			
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**
13. Re: item 6. All petty cash payments are properly supported by receipts and approved. However, VAT				
14. is not appropriately accounted for, although the amount is low value i.e. £26.81				

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Irene Griffiths

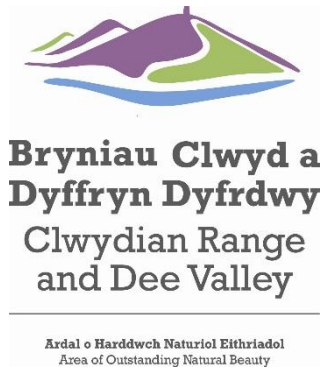
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: *I Griffiths*

Date: 16 June 2015

Section 5 – Guidance notes on completing the 2015 Annual Return

1. Please note the changes to the accounts approval and audit process for this year. These are described on the front cover of this Annual Return.
2. For guidance please read the Practitioners' Guide (*Governance and accountability for local councils: A Practitioners' Guide 2011 (Wales)*) – available from One Voice Wales and SLCC. It contains everything you need for the financial year-end and the statutory audit.
3. The Wales Audit Office Good Practice Exchange (www.wao.gov.uk/good-practice/finance/community-council-money) provides further information on the accounts and audit process along with guidance on governance matters.
4. Please make sure that all sections are completed (ie, no empty pink boxes) by the appropriate person and the certificates in Section 3 are properly signed and dated. Avoid making any amendments to the completed return. If this is unavoidable, cross out the incorrect entries, make sure the amendments are properly initialled and an explanation for them is provided to the auditor. Please do not use correction fluid. Annual returns that are incomplete or contain unapproved and/or unexplained amendments or correction fluid will be returned unaudited.
5. Use the checklist provided below. Use a second pair of eyes, perhaps your internal auditor or the Chair, to review your Annual Return for completeness before sending a copy to the auditor.
6. Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation you send to your auditor with the copy Annual Return covers all your bank accounts and cash balances. If there are no reconciling items, please state this and provide evidence of the bank balances. If your body holds any investments, please note their value on the bank reconciliation. The auditor should also be able to agree your bank reconciliation to Line 9 in Section 1. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the Practitioners' Guide*.
7. Please explain fully any significant variances in the accounting statements. The auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for the change. Please include a relevant and quantified analysis as shown in the Practitioners' Guide examples and not just a copy of your detailed accounts.
8. Please do not send the auditor any information that you are not specifically asked for. Doing so is not helpful. Please ensure that you enclose all the information that the auditor has asked for. If the auditor has to review unsolicited information, repeat a request for information, receives an incomplete bank reconciliation or explanation of variances this may incur additional costs for which the auditor is entitled to charge additional fees.
9. Please make sure that Section 1 adds up! Also please ensure that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Line 7 of 2014) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Line 1 of 2015).
10. Do not complete the External Audit Certificate in Section 3. The external auditor completes this after the external audit work has been completed.
11. Please deal with all correspondence with the external auditor promptly. This will help you to meet your statutory obligations and will minimise the cost of the audit to the Body.

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean that you may not have met requirements		Done?	
On submission to the external auditor		Yes	No
Accounts	Do the papers to be sent to the external auditor include an explanation of significant variations from last year to this year?		
	Does the bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2015 agree to Line 9?		
Approval	Has the RFO certified Section 3 (Regulation 15 (1)) no later than 30 June 2015?		
	Has the Body approved the accounting statements before 30 June 2015 and has Section 3 been signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which approval was given?		
All sections	Have all pink boxes in Sections 1 and 2 been completed and explanations provided where needed?		
	Has all the information requested by the external auditor been sent with this Annual Return? Please refer to your notice of audit and any additional schedules provided by your external auditor.		
If accounts are amended after receipt of external auditor's report on matters arising		Yes	No
Accounts	Have the amended accounting statements been approved and Section 3 re-signed and re-dated as evidence of the Body's approval of the amendments before re-submission to the auditor?		



Held on: 27th November 2015

Report Author: David Shiel

Title: Community Partnership Post

- **What is the report about?**

The potential to establish a Community Partnership Post for the Southern part of the AONB in partnership with Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

- **What is the reason for making this report?**

A decision is required on making resources available to match fund a Joint NRW - AONB Post.

- **What are the Recommendations?**

Recommendation – that the Joint Committee make resources available to match fund NRW's contribution to a Partnership Post.

- **Report details.**

The Clwydian Range AONB was extended to incorporate the Dee Valley in 2011 adding an additional 230 sq km to the area of the AONB. The extension area includes the Wrexham communities of Cefn Mawr, Minera, Pen y Cae, Trefor and Froncysyllte.

Since 2011 there has been no additional staffing resource to help develop links with these communities to meet the potential to develop project work. It is therefore more difficult for these communities to access the benefits that being part of the AONB can bring.

The AONB currently has a partnership arrangement with the operational teams of NRW in the central part of the Clwydian Range around the NRW forest estate at Moel Famau, Nercwys and Llangwyfan. The partnership has had a jointly funded Community Ranger Post since 2002 focused on these areas.

The post has been successful in developing a number of community projects around biodiversity, young people and schools, skills and access improvements and has out reached to communities in both Flintshire and Denbighshire.

There is potential to extend this partnership into the Dee Valley for a 2 year period and to create another Partnership Ranger Post to work specifically with the communities of the new parts of the AONB. NRW has allocated resources that would part fund a post and are keen to expand the partnership to the southern area part of the AONB.

- **How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?**

The Post would allow the AONB to develop project work with the communities in the new part of the AONB in particular, Cefn Mawr, Pen y Cae, Trefor, Chirk, Froncysyllte, Llangollen and Corwen.

Particular outputs would be:

- The development of Young Rangers for the Dee Valley
- Volunteer opportunities
- Training in traditional skills
- Community wildlife conservation projects.
- School Projects
- Access improvements - circular walks

- **What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

Total Cost per annum of Ranger Post – £24,000

NRW Contribution	£12,000 pa for two years
Sought from AONB	£12,000 pa for two years

- **What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

An equality impact assessment assesses the likely impact of our decisions on people who share protected characteristics. Equality impact assessment is necessary in order for the council to comply with the Equality Act 2010, and they should be

undertaken for any decision or proposal for change. Examples include: a new or revised policy/procedure; a new strategic plan; an efficiency saving proposal; a staff re-structure, etc.), although this list is by no means exhaustive. Basically we should assess the potential impact of any decision that will have any impact on our customers or our staff to ensure that the council meets its duty to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not; and
- foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.

Please visit the Intranet for guidance on Equality Impact Assessment, or contact Karen Beattie, Corporate Equalities Officer, for further advice.

- **What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

n/a

- **Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The funding for this post will come from within the existing overall budget. If approved the post will be included in the budgets for future years which will require overall approval from the Joint Committee (2016/17 proposed budget will be brought to the next JC meeting for approval).

- **What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

None

- **Power to make the Decision**

Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000 gives Local Authorities the power to enter into to discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee.

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 27th November 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Howard Sutcliffe

Report Author: Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer

Title: Draft Framework and Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership (Previously known as the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership)

1. What is the report about?

The AONB Partnership's Framework and Terms of Reference (Appendix1)

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The new document has now been reviewed again by the AONB Officers Working Group (OWG) on 10.9.15 and the AONB Partnership has also been consulted on 16.9.15. The Joint Committee were re-consulted on 22.9.15

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Joint Committee endorse the Framework and Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership.

4. Report details.

See attached Appendix 1 for Revised Constitution and Terms of Reference.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The members of the Partnership are key partners in delivering the Management Plan. The revised document will contribute towards effective governance.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is a zero cost other than officer time

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

See Appendix 2

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The AONB Officer has taken the Draft proposal to the AONB OWG and the AONB Partnership

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement.

There are no additional costs directly associated with this project

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Reputation- Good governance is a key element in the management of the AONB

11. Power to make the Decision

The Legal basis to lies in Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'Discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'

ITEM 9 APPENDIX1
27th November 2015 JOINT COMMITTEE
CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA OF
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)
PARTNERSHIP
FRAMEWORK AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Legislation

1. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's), together with National Parks, represent the United Kingdoms 'Finest Landscapes'. The founding legislation for AONBs is the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Section 87 (1)). The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 supersedes the 1949 Act. AONB designation is now under Section 82 of the CRoW Act 2000 for the **sole purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area.**
2. Section 85 of the CRoW Act 2000 requires any Minister of the Crown, any public body, any statutory undertaker and any person holding public office to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of an AONB when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in that AONB.
3. Section 89 of the CRoW Act 2000 requires each Local Authority in whose area an AONB lies to prepare and publish a plan which secures the purposes of designation and formulates their policy for the management of the area; and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it. The Local Authorities must review that plan every five years.
4. The Clwydian Range was designated by the Secretary of State for Wales in 1985 and extended by Welsh Government's Environment Minister in 2011 to become the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Joint Committee and the AONB Partnership

5. The Joint Committee of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley was established by the three Local Authorities of Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire in 2014. The Joint Committee has been delegated the function of AONB management by the three Local Authorities and Denbighshire County Council being the lead authority. This Joint Committee is not an external body.
6. The Joint Committee directs the Officer's Working Group and AONB Team in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Joint Committee Agreement and effectively discharge those functions delegated to it.
7. The Joint Committee can only delegate its functions to an AONB Officer, which may include delegations of certain general planning functions.
8. The Joint Committee manages a budget that is both internally and externally audited.
9. The AONB Partnership is not a formal committee but was created as a forum for the Joint Committee to consult with, regarding, primarily the Joint Committee's Management

Plan for the AONB. The AONB Partnership has a maximum of 25 Members; they have a wide range of interests.

10. Membership of AONB Partnership Membership

List of members for AONB Partnership appointed for 4 years	
AONB-wide representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Local Authority members (3 from each Council as nominated by their respective Councils) • 3 land management interests • 2 rural community interests • 2 urban community interests • 1 business interests
Management Plan priorities representatives <i>Current management plan priorities shown</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Landscape • 1 Natural • 1 Historical • 1 Access and Recreation • 1 Built Environment
Special Interest representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 individuals or organisations
No more than 9 years consecutive service ¹	
In making the appointments, the Local Authorities will ensure that the World Heritage Site is represented	

11. AONB Partnership's Terms of Reference are:

Terms of reference for the AONB Partnership
<p>To bring together key interests in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to consider and advise on conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and locally distinctive character of the landscape, including its physical, ecological and cultural make-up; and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the importance and purpose of the AONB • Contribute to and help implement the AONB Management Plan • Encourage local communities and all public bodies and agencies to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and its setting • Promote the sustainable social and economic wellbeing of the area • Provide a forum for discussion for issues affecting the AONB • Advise Local Authorities and other agencies on the impact of their activities on the AONB and on the preparation of their plans covering all or part of the AONB, to ensure that policies and practices are consistent with the AONB management plan • Advise the Joint Committee in relation to the Local Development Plan to ensure that the protection of the AONB is properly taken account of and that a consistency of approach is achieved over the whole area • Advise the Joint Committee about the impact of any development proposals, within or adjacent to the AONB, that are likely to affect significantly the character and natural beauty of the area • Make recommendations to the Joint Committee regarding the appropriate recipients of any Welsh Government's AONB Sustainable Development Fund

¹ A limit of nine consecutive years is in line with standard practice for the appointment of individuals to public bodies.

- monies.
- Foster links with other protected landscapes

The Role of Members of the AONB Partnership, Advisors and Officers and the elected members Code of Conduct.

12. Members should contribute their expertise and knowledge to further the purposes of AONB designation and the Terms of Reference of the AONB Partnership. They should act at all times without personal and prejudicial interest to achieve these ends. Members are expected to abide by a Membership Accord which sets out the basis on which they will be expected to contribute to the work of the AONB Partnership. A copy of the Accord is attached as Appendix 1.
13. Members should regard themselves first and foremost as members of the Partnership, with a duty to act in the best interests of the Partnership and of the AONB, rather than representatives of any organisation or interest.
14. As the AONB Partnership does not have a specific code of conduct, Local Authority members are also bound by the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(Wales) Order 2008, which states at paragraph 3 of the Order:

“Where you are elected, appointed or nominated by your authority to serve on another relevant authority, or any other body, which includes a police authority or LHB, you must when acting for that other authority or body, comply with the code of conduct of that other authority or body; or on any other body which does not have a code relating to the conduct of its members, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with this code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.”
15. Officers of the AONB Team, NRW and other agencies will act as advisors to the AONB Partnership

The Chair, Vice Chair and their roles.

16. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership can be any member of the Partnership and are elected by the full AONB Partnership for a period of 1 year. Chairs of Working Groups are appointed by that Working Group.
18. Chair and Vice Chair (Who will serve as Chair, presiding over meetings the Chair is unable to attend) have key roles in championing the AONB in the Partnership.
19. The Partnership Members occupying these positions should have:
 - A clear understanding of the role of the Partnership, its members and their skills primarily through the Governance Framework and Terms of Reference of the AONB Partnership which includes the AONB Membership Accord.
 - A sound knowledge of the AONB and its purpose
20. The Chair’s role is to facilitate inclusive and positive discussion. In carrying out this the Chair should be accommodating to the view points and feelings of all members (most of whom will be volunteers.)

Substitutes

21. Any Members who cannot attend a meeting can nominate a substitute to attend on their behalf. However as members are appointed to the Partnership as 'individuals' it is a requirement that the substitute has completed a 'Substitute's Application Form' in advance of any meeting which will mean agreement to abide by the AONB Accord, Framework and Terms of Reference. The Secretariat should be notified of substitutes in advance of the meeting.

Partnership and Working Group Meetings

22. The full AONB Partnership usually meets twice a year, but is supplemented by Working Group meetings which are convened as necessary.
23. It is envisaged that a number of AONB Partnership Working Groups will be formed to deliver the Management Plan and other work. They may be temporary task and finish groups, which could have AONB Partnership Members, other officers or individuals (by invite). The ideal number of members should be 8. The AONB Team would act as both the secretariat and advisors to these groups.
24. The current AONB Partnership Working Groups are as follows:
- Sustainable Development Fund
 - Landscape Character and Built Environment
 - Land Management and the Natural Environment
 - Heritage, Culture and Communities
 - Recreation, Tourism and Business Engagement
25. The Sustainable Development Fund Working Group currently has 10 members and is made up of both Joint Committee and Partnership Members.
26. The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Working Group has delegated authority to decide grant applications up to £3,000.
27. AONB Officers have the delegated authority to respond to planning and other consultations on behalf of the Joint Committee. They will consult the AONB Partnership Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group on significant applications. (See Appendix 3 for Scheme of Delegations)
28. At least a quarter of members (or their nominated substitutes) should be present at meetings to constitute a quorum (7 for full AONB Partnership meetings and 3 for the SDF, Landscape Character and Built Environment and other Working Groups). The formal business of the meeting will be abandoned if a quorum is not present, but informal discussion may take place.

Meeting Procedures

29. In the event of the Chair and Vice Chair being unable to attend a meeting the Group will appoint a chair for the meeting from the Partnership members present.

30. AONB Partnership meetings will be open to the public who, at the discretion of the Chair and with prior approval, can ask questions or otherwise contribute to relevant business of the meeting. Public notice of meetings will be posted on the AONB website at least three working days before the meeting. Copies of agendas, minutes and associated papers will also be made available on the website.
31. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting the Chairman shall warn that person. If the interruption continues the Chairman shall order the person's removal from the meeting room.
32. In the case of general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public the Chairman shall order that part to be cleared.
33. If a member of the AONB Partnership behaves improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business the AONB Partnership shall warn that person. If the member continues to behave improperly any member may move that either the member leave the meeting or that the meeting is adjourned for a specified period.

Voting

34. As a body which embodies the principles of co-operation and partnership most decisions should be reached by consensus. However, where there is a clear difference of opinion a vote can be taken. Each of the 25 permanent members (or their nominated substitutes) has a vote. The Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote in the event of an evenly split vote.
35. If consulted on planning matters Councillors who are on the Planning Committee of their Council should act in line with the Members' Code of Conduct. Such members can take part (In the debate and vote) at the AONB Partnership meetings and at their own Council's Planning Committee Meetings (If they sit on Planning Committee unless for some reason they consider they have a personal and prejudicial interest or have the benefit of an exemption.) Planning Committee Members, will again need to consider, when the time comes to consider the matter at their Council's Planning Committee, whether they have predetermined their view. In such circumstances Members may wish to seek some guidance from their Authority's Monitoring Officer. If a Member determines at any AONB Partnership meeting that they have a personal and prejudicial interest, members should declare this and leave the room, they may not take part in the debate or seek to influence the decision. The minutes of meetings will record those who do not take part in any votes or have declared a personal or prejudicial interest. This will ensure a transparent approach and confirm that members have not been influenced and have kept an open mind prior to the application being considered by Planning Committee

Urgent Matters and Delegations

36. For some planning applications and consultations Officers can comment on behalf of the AONB Joint Committee in accordance with the Joint Committee's 'Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations'
37. Full AONB Partnership and Working Group meetings will include an 'Urgent Matters' item to allow members and officers to raise relevant issues of interest or concern which could not be included on the agenda for the meeting. The Chair and AONB Partnership Secretariat should be notified in advance of any such matters, which will be referred to the meeting at the discretion of the Chair

APPENDIX 1

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Membership Accord

'Members undertake to promote and champion the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB' and to:

To promote conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB;

To champion the AONB Partnership vision for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley as set out in the AONB Management Plan both externally and internally

To contribute relevant knowledge, expertise and experience to the work of the AONB Partnership;

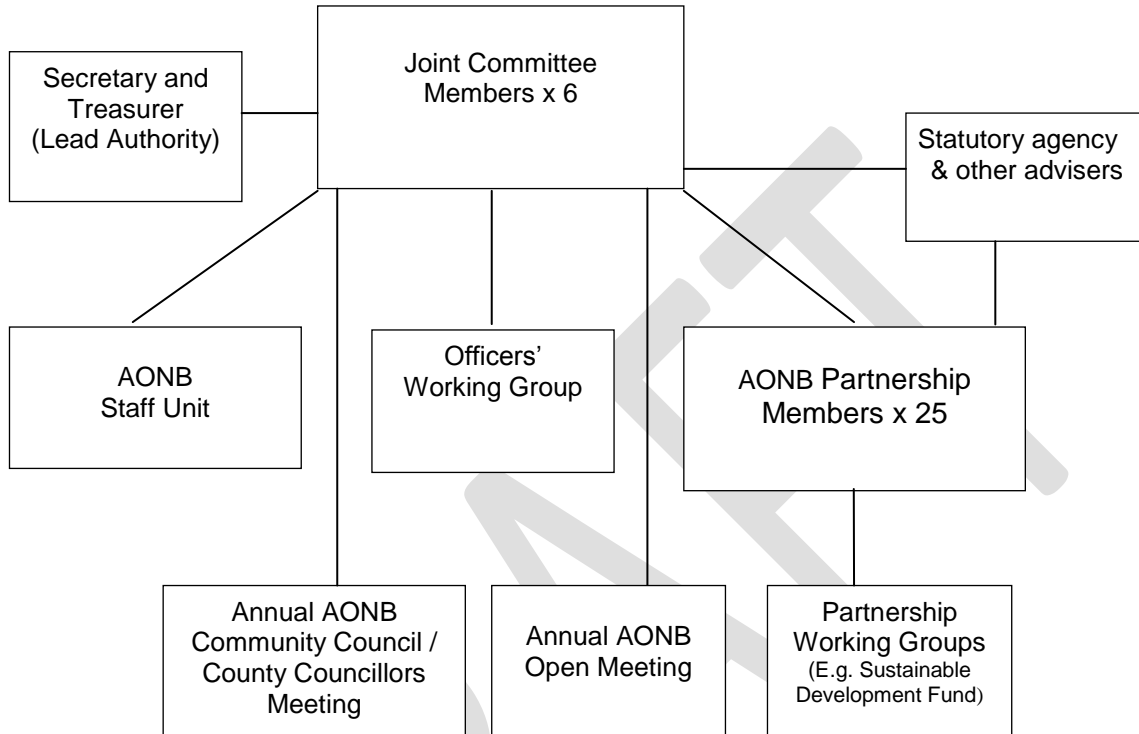
To promote and actively support the work of the AONB Partnership in fulfilling its terms of reference as set out in the Framework and Terms of Reference;

To attend AONB Partnership meetings wherever possible and where possible send a substitute, if no longer able to attend on a regular basis, to step down and AONB Officers will seek another representative to sit on the AONB Partnership (The AONB Partnership will reserve the right to withdraw membership from individuals who fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings and to seek to reappoint alternative individuals in accordance with the appointment rules)

All Members should act without personal and prejudicial interest in fulfilling their duties to the AONB Partnership.

Appendix 2 Diagram of AONB Structure

The structure of the current governance arrangements for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB can be summarised in the following chart:



Appendix 3 Joint Committee Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations

(To be confirmed by Joint Committee)

DRAFT

Meeting of the Joint Committee of the
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
Item 9 Appendix 3 Frame work and Terms
of Reference for the AONB Partnership

27th November 2015 County Hall Ruthin

Equality Impact Assessment

Constitution and Terms of Reference for AONB Partnership

Contact: Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer

Updated: November 5th 2015

1. What type of proposal is being assessed?

Other

2. Please describe the purpose of this proposal

AONB Governance

3. Does this proposal require a full equality impact assessment?
(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit above for guidance)

No

4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken
(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

The Governance meetings will be accessible to all.

5. Will this proposal have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics?
(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

No, the proposal is neutral

6. Will this proposal have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

No

7. Has the proposal been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential negative impact?

No	This has not been necessary, as no potential negative impact has been identified.
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8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?

Yes	As discussed earlier, no potential negative impact has been identified. However, the actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed after implementation to see if any lessons can be learned.
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Action(s)	Owner	Date
none		

9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	5/11/15
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Howard Sutcliffe	5/11/15

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**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 27th November 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Howard Sutcliffe

Report Author: Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer

Title: Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations

1. What is the report about?

One of the functions of the Joint Committee for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (JC) is to respond to planning and development consultations referred to the AONB for comment. Most consultations relate to proposals within the AONB, but also include those outside the designated area which are within the setting of the protected landscape and may impact on the AONB.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The report enables the Joint Committee to respond in a timely, effective and efficient manner to planning consultations, from the constituent authorities.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Joint Committee adopt the Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations.(Appendix1)

4. Report details.

See attached Appendix 1 for Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The Scheme of Delegation for Planning and Development Consultations sets a framework for the AONB to increase the number of Planning Consultations it contributes to.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is a zero cost other than officer time

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The AONB Officer has consulted the Legal department of Denbighshire to check that AONB Officers are meeting and following the correct legal procedures.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement.

There are no additional costs directly associated with this project

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The AONB Planning Officer currently receives over 150 applications each year; this has increased by 50% since the AONB was extended to the Dee Valley. However the AONB Planning Officer still only works 2 days per week. Unless there is more delegation we cannot respond in a timely manner to some planning and development proposals.

11. Power to make the Decision

The Legal basis to lies in Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act of 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000, where Local authorities can enter arrangements to 'Discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee'

CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AONB

JOINT COMMITTEE

SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIONS

1. One of the functions of the Joint Committee for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB (JC) is to respond to planning and development consultations referred to the AONB for comment. Most consultations relate to proposals within the AONB, but also include those outside the designated area which are within the setting of the protected landscape and may impact on the AONB.
2. To enable the AONB to respond in a timely and efficient manner, the JC delegates authority to the AONB Planning Officer and/or the AONB Officer to respond to all planning and related development consultations on their behalf (see Note below), with the exception of **major proposals and policy matters** which may have a more significant impact or be of wider interest. These can be within the AONB or its setting and include:
 - Proposals for 5 or more dwellings outside Development/Settlement Boundaries.
 - Development over 25m in height (including wind turbines, telecommunication masts, etc).
 - New buildings or extensions over 1000sq m in floor area (including agriculture, commercial or industrial uses).
 - Proposals involving a site area in excess of 5ha (including solar, minerals, tourism and recreational uses).
 - Local Development Plans prepared by the three constituent local planning authorities.
 - Relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance prepared by the three constituent local planning authorities.
 - Applications subject to a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
 - Development Consent Orders for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP's) determined by UK Government Ministers.
 - Developments of National Significance (DNS) determined by Welsh Ministers.
 - Planning and development related policy consultations from Welsh Government or other relevant agencies or organisations.
3. For major proposals and policy matters, officers will make recommendations to the JC on the AONB's response, which will normally be agreed by the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee.
4. The AONB Partnership also has a role to play in advising the JC on planning and development matters, and the views of the Partnership's Landscape Character and Built Environment Working Group will be invited on the major proposals or policy proposals set out above before officers make recommendations to the JC on the AONB's response.

5. In fulfilling the AONB's responsibilities in respect of planning and development consultations, there will not always be sufficient time to convene formal meetings of the JC or Partnership to ensure a timely response and papers will normally be circulated electronically to invite comment.

Note:

Planning and related development consultations includes: applications for planning permission, discharge of planning conditions, Listed Building Consent, Lawful Development Certificates, Change of Use, works to Tree Preservation Order protected trees, Hedgerow Removal Notices, EIA Screening and Scoping requests, Advertisement Consent, Prior Approval Notifications (agriculture, forestry or utility developments), minor highway improvements and requests for informal pre or post- application or policy advice. Re-consultation on amendments to major proposals or policy matters already considered by the JC and Partnership are also delegated to officers.



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Held on:	27th November 2015
Lead Member / Officer:	David Shiel
Report Author:	David Shiel
Title:	AONB Management Plan consultation

1. What is the report about?

Consultation on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Management Plan

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required to formally adopt the AONB Management Plan

3. What are the Recommendations?

Recommendation – that the Joint Committee formally adopts the AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019.

4. Report details.

Consultation period for the AONB Management closed in August 2015. The Management Plan has been amended where appropriate in line with responses received. The Consultation Report is attached.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

The Local Authorities have a statutory Duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce a Management Plan and to review it every 5 years. The Plan sets out an agenda for the management of the AONB in line with identified Special Qualities and Features. The Plan is made up of

Management Strategy
State of AONB Report
5 Year Action Plan

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

£2500 has been allocated within existing budgets to publish the final Plan

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The Draft Plan was considered by the AONB Partnership at their 15th May 2015 Meeting.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Resources have been identified to publish the plan within the overall budget. Expenditure will be monitored and any variances will be reported through the budget monitoring process

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There is reputational risk to the AONB and the Local Authorities with a failure to publish the Statutory Management Plan. Funding from NRW / Welsh Government could be withdrawn.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Act 2000 gives Local Authorities the power to enter into to discharge functions jointly with one or more other local authorities by means of a Joint Committee.

Consultee	Comment	CRDV Response
Canal and River Trust	Page 2. INTRODUCTION. 2nd Paragraph. The introduction should acknowledge the importance of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site and its impact on the landscape <i>".....lies the glorious Dee Valley with historic Llangollen, a famous market town rich in cultural and industrial heritage including the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal, a designated World Heritage Site.</i>	Adopted
	Page 2. About this plan. 2nd Paragraph It is considered that this should also include reference to all potential stakeholders or custodians of land or key features within the AONB who will have a key role to play in delivering the plans aspirations.	Adopted
	Page 2. About this plan. 3rd Paragraph We welcome the change of approach reflected in the statement 'This Management Plan is different from its predecessors in that it also begins to tackle the question of what the AONB can produce to meet society's needs whilst ensuring the achievement of AONB's purposes to conserve and enhance natural beauty.'	Noted
	Page 3. Para 1.1 The acknowledgement given to the influence of physical human shaping on the landscape is welcomed. The canal and aqueduct, whilst manmade features, make a significant contribution to both the quality and character of the landscape.	Noted
	Page 3. Para 1.2 We welcome the acknowledgement that it is not the purpose of the designation to stop development where this does not unduly harm the character and appearance of the AONB.	Noted
	Page 3. Para 1.3 As owners of the Llangollen canal and a number of associated buildings and structures the Trust welcomes the undertaking to work with landowners and recognition of the key role they have in realising the overall vision for the area.	Noted
	Page 5. Section Two – European Context. In terms of setting the Plan in context, reference could be given to the World Heritage Site designation and some background information provided to explain	Adopted
	Page 6. Para 2.5 River Basin Management plans The River Dee Basin Management plan also references the Llangollen Canal which could be referenced in this paragraph.	Reference made to the importance of the canal as a water body in Habitats and Wildlife, River Valleys and in the Regulating Services Section
	Page 8. Table. Regulating Services Column: Water and Flood Regulation. This should include reference to the canal but with the following caveat/footnote to put	Adopted

	the Trusts flood management responsibilities in context.	
	Page 8. Table. Regulating Services Column: Water and Flood Regulation. This should include reference to the canal but with the following caveat/footnote to put the Trusts flood management responsibilities in context.	Adopted
	Access Recreation and Tourism We welcome the recognition given to the Pontcycyllte Aqueduct as an iconic visitor and cultural attraction and its importance as a visitor attraction. The Trust feels however that recognition should also be given to the role played by the Llangollen canal in providing access into the AONB and wider linkages and access.	Adopted
	PolSQ1. Conserve and enhance the Special Qualities and distinctive character of the AONB's landscape and associated features <i>including the historical built form.</i>	Adopted
	Page 14 Habitats and Wildlife and Page 17 River Valleys could usefully contain references to the role of the canal corridor e.g. under Special Features on p14 add Llangollen Canal to 'River Valleys and the River Dee' bullet point.	Adopted
	Page 16 -17 section re woodland – suggest that this section needs to acknowledge that achievement of other policies in the strategy may require careful removal of some trees (e.g. for parkland restoration and re-establishing views to and from WHS) therefore suggest that the following is added at the end of WVTO1 '...having regard to the other policies in the management strategy'	Adopted
	PolHE3 amended to include reference to "enhancement" consistent with PolHE1 ie. "Ensure that the World Heritage Site is conserved and enhanced in the context of it's setting within the AONB."	Adopted
	WHSO2 – Some key views have already been lost through construction and/or lack of maintenance and it is suggested that this objective is amended to 'Key views to and from the World Heritage Site and the visual and cultural setting to be identified, established and maintained consistent with the other policies in this strategy.'	Adoptd
	WHSO3 It is considered that the policy should be reworded to refer to the provision of: <i>"facilities, services and signage in appropriate locations to enhance the visitor experience and help manage the impact of visitor pressure on the historic integrity and setting of the World Heritage Site and the AONB as a whole."</i>	Adopted
	Policy WHSO4 - It would be more appropriate to refer to ensuring a "consistent or complementary " approach to signage	Adopted

	<p>New Policy The Trust would like to see the addition of a new policy, reflecting what it believes is a shared aspiration for the World Heritage Site, referencing the promotion and sympathetic enhancement of the WHS and the creation of a quality visitor experience to encourage visitors to stay longer in the area with resulting economic benefits which can be used to assist in maintaining key features of the area.</p> <p>Suggested new policy wording and supporting objective ☑ <i>Policy: “To promote and secure the sympathetic enhancement of the World Heritage Site, its facilities and setting, to create a high quality visitor experience, having regard to the other policies in this management strategy”</i></p>	Adopted
Paul Day	Whilst I accept the plans relates to the now extended AONB only, I would wish to make the observation that the now extended AONB boundary does not still equate with that recommended by Hobhouse as most of the Berwyn Mountain massif and the Ceiriog valley is still not included. I would hope that within the plan period work could be undertaken to promote this extension, An enlarged site would also help achieve many of the ecosystem objectives of the plan	This is beyond the remit of the Management Plan. The plan relates to the special features within the area designated AONB.
	Mention should be made of geodiversity within the document. Whilst there is reference to geological SSSI there are a number of regionally important geological sites (RIGS) within the AONB which form an important geological/teaching resource which help to explain what we see today	Adopted
	Glastir could usefully be included in this section where appropriate-it is mentioned in The Historic Environment	The potential for Glastir to deliver biodiversity objectives is referenced in the Action Plan
	Perhaps Pavement and Caves should be added to the Limestone Grassland It would be advantageous if all limestone pavements could be recorded and mapped within the AONB with a view to placing Limestone Pavement Orders on them eventually	Caves and pavement are referenced in the action plan – Further emphasis is now made in the Strategy.
	In relation to Big Covert Wood I also remain concerned about the piecemeal development which appears to be occurring therein following its sale in parcels, I would like to see the promotion of amendments to existing planning legislation to control the type of activities currently occurring therein.	Noted.
	Are listed buildings specifically encompassed within the Historic Environment section?	No – Objectives relating to Listed Building and the Buildings at Risk Register are also to be found in the Built Environment Section

	I would like to see a statement that all existing PROW will be maintained open and usable. I would also seek a statement to the effect that whenever possible furniture along existing PROW will be as user friendly as possible-the use of kissing gates rather than stiles is clearly preferable for all and especially the disabled and dog walkers.	ODP01 calls for the continuous improvement of Rights of Way within the AONB ODP05 calls for the removal of psychological and physical barriers to access.
Denbighshire County Council Lara Griffiths	Page 11 – under Culture and People feel it would be appropriate to include a reference to the Welsh language as a special feature of the AONB. Similarly under Objectives LQCO6 and 7 feel that reference to welsh language should be included	Policy PolSQ4 has specific reference to the safeguarding of the Welsh Language. This will be reflected in LQC07
	Page 18 – there is no mention of listed buildings or conservation areas under special features, feel that this is an important omission and would wish to see them included in the final document.	Listed Buildings and Conservation areas are referenced under the built Environment and have specific Objects and actions relating to them.
	PolHE2 – would recommend that the AONB Partnership work with Menter Iaith to increase understanding of cultural aspects of the historic environment.	Adopted – Actions within the Landscape Quality and Sustainable communities to work with Menter Iaith to support the Welsh language
	Page 23 – people and communities, language should be referenced here. The adopted SPG on Planning and the Welsh Language makes specific reference to the need to retain existing place and house names to reinforce local identity.	Noted and adopted – within Action Plan
	<u>State of the AONB report</u> Page 7 Issues – should be looking to enhance as well as sustain the Welsh language.	Noted
	<u>Action Plan</u> Page 1 – LQCO3 – renewable energy guidance. The Council is currently preparing an SPG on renewable energy with a view to going out to consultation later in the year. This may meet the action proposed here.	Noted
	LQCO7 – would like to see Menter Iaith Clwyd included as a partner here.	Adopted
	Page 17 – support the offer of member training and CPD for officers. Page 19 – support PCO1 to resist the loss of community facilities, this is mirrored in the LDP.	Noted

CPRW – Clwyd Branch	Reference to the challenges ahead in address demands for renewable forms of energy and in particular transmission lines that will be associated with this. Concern expressed in the potential impact on the landscape of renewable energy schemes and power transmission from other large power stations currently in development.	Noted
NFU	The ‘governance’ arrangements for the proposed AONB are hugely important but don’t appear to be mentioned in any detail. They need to include people who are representative of the rural economy. Agriculture is the largest land user in an AONB but rarely is it adequately represented.	Noted and adopted. The new governance structures for the AONB will appear in the final document
Wrexham County Borough Council	The sentence states that this is the first overarching 5 year strategy, giving the impression that there are other documents that sit with this?	Adopted
	AONB unit – who are they, is there a reference somewhere on the website perhaps which could be referenced in a footnote to explain to the reader who they are	Adopted – the final Plan will include a diagram relating to the governance structure of the AONB
	It would be worth mentioning the JAC role in respect of how planning applications are dealt with and the role that they have in the planning process overall in protecting the character and appearance of the AONB	Adopted – As above – the Governance Structures and role of the Partnership / Joint Committee will be illustrated in the final plan
	International Union for the convention of nature and natural resources – category v landscapes	Adopted – IUCN and Category V revised.
	A link and paragraph to the emerging planning and heritage bill would be useful in here to highlight those functions of AONB management and link with the JAC. Suggest it would also be of use to reference the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in here too which embeds sustainability into the decision making process, something which is relevant to the continued management of the AONB. Reference to national planning policy on AONB’s (chapter 5 of Planning Policy Wales (edition7, 2014): Conserving the Natural Heritage and the Coast) would also be useful and would help to reiterate the role of the JAC in the management of the AONB.	Adopted.
	Make reference to Local Development Strategies and Planning Policy	Adopted
NRW	Who is the Plan for ... Many people benefit from the AONB even if remote from it and these include the many users from beyond the boundary. To reflect the inclusive consultation we	Adopted

	suggest that ‘users of’ or ‘visitors to’ the Area is added to this section.	
	1.4 Governance NRW welcomes the creation of the AONB Joint Committee in 2014 and appreciates the importance and value of the AONB Partnership in supporting the delivery of the AONB Management Plan through its experience and expertise.	Noted
	Section 2 Ideally this section should contain a distillation of the main current policy influences beyond the Environment Bill. The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Planning Bill, Historic Environment Bill as well as Sectoral Adaptation Plans for climate change should be considered here as well as an analysis of their impact on future management of the AONB.	Adopted
	If reference is made to the Environment Bill, further information should be provided in terms of potential changes the Bill expects to present to the AONB Management Plan and also timescale for passage of the Bill.	Adopted
	It would be appropriate here to discuss the output of the State of the AONB report, the forces for change and the trends in condition of the Special Qualities before setting out objectives and actions. These objectives and actions should be responding to the trends detected since the last SoAONB report.	Plan amended to reflect key issues identified
	In terms of the attractions identified under access recreation and tourism, we would suggest that reference is made to the outdoor education centres at Colomendy and Bryntisilio which have attracted generations returning to the area they visited as school children.	Adopted
	With regards to policy WVT02 we would suggest the introduction of a programme of replacing future parkland/landscape specimen trees across appropriate parts of the AONB.	Adopted within the Action Plan
	LQC01 – The Natural Response to Flood Risk Management Project for the River Clwyd Catchment could be referenced.	Adopted within the Action Plan
	LQC05 - should also identify the need to reduce visual clutter – There is an increasing need for a major project across the AONB to rationalise road traffic signage and develop a strategy with Highways and Trunk Roads Agency in line with their S85 duties.	Adopted within the Action Plan

	Cultural distinctiveness is acknowledged to include the Welsh language in the Plan and 'sustaining the Welsh language' is also an issue in the SoAONB p7. We recommend that actions be developed to address this important cultural element of the AONB.	Adopted within Strategy and Action Plan.
	HMR01 – NRW should be referenced as lead partners in relation to WG land at Coed Nercwys and Coed Moel Famau.	Amended
	LGP01, LPG02, LPG03 and LPG04 – NRW should be referenced as partners through designated conservation sites and the Limestone Legacy Scheme.	Amended
	WVT01, WVT02 and WVT03 - NRW should be referenced as partners.	Amended
	NWWT and the Dee INNS project should be referenced as partners.	Amended
	WHS01 – With regards to World Heritage Sites - WHS Board / Steering Group should lead on this aspect of the Plan.	Amended

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