



**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: 14th November 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Howard Sutcliffe

Report Author: Howard Sutcliffe AONB Officer

Title: Appointment of Partnership and Associated Bodies for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

1. What is the report about?

The report is about finalising the outstanding governance arrangements for the Legal Agreement.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The reason for making the report is that the Joint Committee (JC) needs to approve the replacement for the AONB Interim Joint Advisory Committee (IJAC) with the AONB Partnership (Stakeholders Group) and associated Fora, as per the Legal Agreement. The process of the appointments to the partnership needs to be subject to ratification by a subgroup of the JC.

AONB Officers also need to organise an Annual Forum and Annual Town and Community Council Meeting date. The Joint Committee needs to approve dates for the above.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Joint Committee scrutinises, supports the above and:

- Appoints a sub group for appointment of the Partnership.
- Authorises the sub group to appoint the AONB Partnership
- Ratifies a date for the AONB Forum and Community and Town Council Meet
- Whether the JC wishes to extend an invitation to AONB LA Members to the Community and Town Council Meetings.

4. Report details.

In essence the AONB Partnership replaces the IJAC on appointment of its membership. The IJAC since 2011, and its predecessor the JAC have existed for 27 years, and although it has been a very popular and effective body, as with all organisations it needs modernising and refreshing to reflect the current management of the AONB and its priorities. With the formation of the JC we have the perfect opportunity to modernise.

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 local Authorities were given a duty to produce AONB Management Plans, the new Governance Proposals reflect this. The changing geography of the AONB is reflected as the majority of its population is now located in the towns of Corwen and Llangollen. The Partnership will provide 'on the ground' advice to the JC by bringing key interests together to consider and advise on all aspects of the AONB.

List of members for AONB Partnership appointed for 4 years	
AONB-wide representatives (selected by the local authority sub group)	<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 (selected by the local authority sub group) <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 (selected by the local authorities) No more than 9 years consecutive service ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 individuals or organisations
In making the appointments, the local authorities will ensure that the World Heritage Site is represented	

The AONB Annual Forum is an open annual invitation to a wide range of interests. The attendance will be by open invitation. The Forum provides an opportunity to discuss all aspects of AONB Management and major issues that affect the AONB. The AONB Annual Community and Town Council meeting will take place annually to discuss priorities and issues. The AONB officer considers that it would also be worth

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

extending an invite to Local Authority members to the meeting (However this is not taken account of in the Legal Agreement and should be ratified by the JC)

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

The current AONB Plan 2009-14 does not consider this matter; the reason for the review of governance is the expansion of the AONB in 2011. However the new governance arrangements do provide a transparent mechanism for governance of the AONB. They discharge the duties detailed in the Legal Agreement. It also brings together a wide range of stakeholders who have an interest in the AONB

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

Governance and meetings will be met within existing budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

Item 6 (Appendix 1)

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

Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Council have all signed the Legal Agreement. Modernising Governance is part of the agreement. The agreement has been scrutinised as required by each authority. The Interim Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB has endorsed the review of governance.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The agreement will provide the AONB Joint Committee with improved financial planning and stability while ensuring that budgets are agreed annually which will allow all member authorities to respond to changes in financial circumstances. There are no additional costs to DCC as a whole as the additional financial, legal and administration support will be provided within existing staffing structures.

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

- **Financial-** The risk is low; the IJAC Committee has invested a considerable amount of volunteer time in debating an improvement in accountability and governance.
- **Reputation-** The formation of the AONB Partnership and associated bodies concludes the review of Governance. It also demonstrates that the Local Authorities and their Partners can work in a structured and collaborative way.

11. Power to make the Decision

The Legal basis 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'