

**Held on:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Lead Member / Officer:**

**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.*