



**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: 5th November 2021

Lead Member / Officer: David Shiel

Report Author: David Shiel

Title: AONB Management Plan Review

1. What is the report about?

The Report presents the draft Management Plan for the AONB 2020 – 2025 which sets an agenda for the management across the Special Features and Qualities of the AONB over the next five years.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Report is seeking approval from the Joint Committee to take the Draft Plan out for Public Consultation.



3. What are the Recommendations?

Recommendation: *To accept the draft Management Plan and approve it for public consultation.*

4. Report details.

This draft Management Plan is produced in accordance with the duties placed on the Local Authorities by Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It sets out an agenda for conserving and enhancing the Special Features and Qualities for the AONB.

The Plan identifies the key special features and qualities that together make the special character of the landscape of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley nationally important. It recognises a number of key challenges facing the landscape in the coming years and sets out an agenda to conserve and enhance them in the context of these challenges.

As such the Plan is themed across four areas:

- **Nature, Landscape and Heritage:** *Addressing decline in species and the Responding to the ecological emergency and seeking to address a decline in key species. Sustainable management of key habitats that make up many of the Special Features of the AON.*
- **Adapting to a Changing Climate:** *The resilience of the AONB's special qualities and features to climate change. Ensuring that our response to climate change takes into consideration the need to conserve landscape quality.*
- **Recreation, Health and Wellbeing:** *The value of the AONB in supporting physical and mental wellbeing. Pressures of recreation and tourism on sensitive landscapes. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on visitor behaviour and associated pressures on the AONB.*
- **The Rural Economy:** *Opportunities and challenges facing the rural economy within the AONB in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, agricultural reform following exit from the EU.*

The public consultation period would be a minimum of 6 weeks which it is anticipated will commence in December 2021. Given current Covid Regulations an online only consultation is currently proposed but if restrictions are eased a public drop-in session could be held at Loggerheads Country Park and Plas Newydd in Llangollen. It is anticipated that the results of the consultation will be reported back to the Joint Committee in the New Year with a view to securing formal adoption of the document.

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

This draft Management Plan 2020 – 2025, if adopted, will set the priorities for the AONB for the next five years

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

The material costs of publishing the plan will be approximately £5k funding for which has been secured through NRW.

The plan will provide a solid platform for which to base future funding applications to both NRW and Welsh Government as well as other potential funding bodies.

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.

- A prosperous Denbighshire - **Positive**
- A resilient Denbighshire - **Positive**
- A healthier Denbighshire - **Positive**
- A more equal Denbighshire - **Positive**
- A Denbighshire of cohesive communities - **Positive**
- A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - **Positive**
- A globally responsible Denbighshire – **Positive**

The project is focused on conserving and enhancing the quality of the special landscape of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley and the multiple benefits it provides in terms of public health, biodiversity, sustainability and the tourism economy. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is a IUCN Category V Landscape which means that it is recognised globally as a significant landscape.

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

Summer 2020 – Online questionnaire

Summer 2020 – Email questionnaire to AONB Partnership, Working Groups and other Stakeholders

Autumn 2021 - Stakeholder Consultation Meeting with AONB Partnership and Working Groups

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

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

There is a Statutory duty placed on the Managing Authorities of any AONB to produce a Management Plan for the designated area under regulations contained

within Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Failure to adopt a plan will mean that the Joint Committee will not be fulfilling this duty.

Future funding for the AONB from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government will need to be linked to an agreed and adopted AONB Plan.

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 Local Authorities by means of a Joint Committee.'

General notes:

- *The report should be written in plain English or Welsh, and with all acronyms explained.*
- *The font should be Arial 12. Please do not reduce the font size in order to reduce the size of the document.*
- *Reports and appendices should be sent to Democratic Services in Word, Excel etc rather than in pdf form.*