

Report to	Councillor Jason McLellan, Leader of the Council
Date	11 July 2022
Lead Officer	Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services
Report author	Emlyn Jones
Title	Appointment to the World Heritage Site Board and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the appointment of the Cabinet portfolio members to the World Heritage Site (WHS) Board and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. The new Council term and administration necessitates the appointment of appropriate Cabinet members to both the World Heritage Site Board and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee. Both the WHS Board and AONB Joint Committee's activities are within the scope of Councillor Emrys Wynne's portfolio as lead member for Welsh Language, Rural Development, Culture and Heritage. Councillor Win Mullen-James is the lead member for the AONB.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that the Leader:

- (i) Approves the appointment of Councillor Emrys Wynne, the Lead Member for Welsh Language, Culture and Heritage to the World Heritage Site Board;

(ii) Approves the appointment of Councillor Win Mullen-James and Emrys Wynne to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Committee; and

(iii) Confirms that the term of these appointments will be for the term of the current Council unless a replacement appointment is made.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site was built between 1795 and 1808 by Thomas Telford and William Jessop using innovative techniques and ideas that were carried forward into subsequent civil engineering practice internationally, exemplifying the new approaches to engineering developed in Britain during the Industrial Revolution.
- 4.2 In Seville in 2009 the World Heritage Committee inscribed Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal onto UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- 4.3 The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB was designated in 1985 and extended to the Dee Valley in 2011. The designation recognises the area as a nationally protected landscape and is one of 8 Protected Areas in Wales. The primary purpose is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. The needs of agriculture, forestry, rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities should also be taken into consideration. Also the demand for recreation can be met but must be consistent with the conservation of natural beauty.
- 4.4 The AONB publishes a Management Plan every 5 years outlining its work. Key elements include landscape protection and management, biodiversity and conservation, recreation, community cohesion, culture and heritage.
- 4.5 It is suggested that the Cabinet member with responsibility for culture and heritage matters should represent Denbighshire County Council on the World Heritage Site Board and Councillor Emrys Wynne holds this portfolio.
- 4.6 The AONB Joint Committee requires representation from two Denbighshire County Council Cabinet members. The lead member for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is Councillor Mullen-James. In addition to culture and heritage matters, Councillor Wynne has responsibility for rural development and therefore it is suggested that he also represents Denbighshire County Council on the Joint

Committee for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB as the second Cabinet member.

- 4.7 Although appointments to outside bodies would normally be taken by the Cabinet portfolio holder this decision is being submitted to the Leader of the Council to demonstrate a separation of roles between the decision-maker and the appointed representative.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 Both the World Heritage Site and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB are important parts of Denbighshire's heritage, landscape and environment and contribute to the County's tourist offer and environment agenda.

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

- 6.1 There are no obvious costs or effect on other services arising from this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1 This appointment does not require a Well-being Impact Assessment.

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

- 8.1 The mandatory delegated decision officer group have been consulted on the contents of this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 The re-appointment of a member to the World Heritage Site Board and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Joint Committee will not create additional costs.

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

- 10.1. The recommended appointments are a continuation of previous Cabinet level appointments to the World Heritage Site Board and Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Joint Committee. No risks have been identified from making this appointment.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution outlines the powers delegated to the Lead Members with respect to decisions within their portfolio. The Leader has power to take a decision instead of the appropriate lead member where, for example, it may appear inappropriate for the lead member to take the decision.