



**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**  
Tirwedd Cenedlaethol

**Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley**  
National Landscape

**Held on:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Lead Member / Officer:** Cllr Alun James

**Report Author:** David Shiel

**Title:** National Landscape Management Plan Review

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**1. What is the report about?**

*Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires management plans to be prepared and published for each Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – now referred to as National landscapes. These plans outline the policy for managing the AONB and carrying out functions within it and must be reviewed at least every 5 years. The responsibility for this falls on local authorities with land within the AONB. This Report outlines proposals to discharge this duty on behalf of the Joint Committee of the 3 Authorities of Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham by reviewing the current plan.*

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

*The current Management Plan for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB covers the period 2020 to 2025 and is therefore up for Review. This report is seeking the Joint Committee's approval to start the review process.*

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That the Joint Committee approves the process to review the Management Plan for the National Landscape (AONB)

**4. Report details.**

*In order to ensure the Management Plan process is inclusive and draws evidence from a wider sector it is proposed to start a period of engagement in two phases:*

*Phase One – Public Engagement  
Phase Two – Stakeholder Engagement*

**Phase One Public Engagement** will involve the creation of a “Citizens Panel” of approximately 15 – 20 people selected through open recruitment and designed to be as representative of our communities, businesses and visitors as possible.

*The Citizen’s Panel will:*

- *Help the National Landscape team understand what makes the area special and how it is changing.*
- *Review progress made under the current Management Plan.*
- *Offer views on priorities, challenges and opportunities for the future.*
- *Contribute to developing an overall vision and strategic focus for the next Management Plan.*

*Panel members will be asked to consider and contribute to discussions across three key areas:*

- *Land Management / Nature Recovery / Land Use / Climate Change*
- *Community Resilience – services, facilities, jobs, housing, transport, etc.*
- *Enjoyment and Recreation / Health and Wellbeing – including the future of tourism and the visitor economy.*

*The Panel will take evidence from a number of Specialist in relevant fields.*

**Phase Two Stakeholder Engagement** will work with the main National Landscapes Partnership Working Groups to identify key themes and develop responses to the main challenges.

*The evidence gathered from these two engagement exercises will form the basis for the draft plan.*

*This process will start in September and conclude in January 2026 with a view to producing a draft Plan by Easter 2026.*

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

*The Plan will set out the priorities the National Landscape for the next 5 years and form the basis for collaboration key stakeholders over a clear set of objectives.*

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

*Funding has been made available through Welsh Government.*

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

Management Plan review process has scored well under the Well-being Impact Assessment delivering against all 7 well-being goals. The plan will reflect all wellbeing goals and focus on the sustainable management of natural resources. The Review process will reflect the five ways of working sustainably.

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

*The report is coming to the Joint Committee as the representative body of the three local Authorities. Public consultation and stakeholder consultation will follow.*

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

*Not required*

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

*Failure to review and adopt a Management Plan for the AONB will mean that the 3 Local Authorities will be failing to discharge their statutory duties under Section 89 of the CRow Act 2000. Future funding for the AONB from Welsh Government and NRW will be put at risk.*

**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.'