

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

To: The Members of the West
Devon Locality (County)
Committee

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
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(See below)

Your ref :
Our ref :

Date : 6 July 2018
Please ask for : Gerry Rufolo 01392 382299

Email: gerry.rufolo@devon.gov.uk

WEST DEVON LOCALITY (COUNTY) COMMITTEE

Monday, 16th July, 2018

A meeting of the West Devon Locality (County) Committee is to be held on the above date at 11.30 am (or at the rising of the HATOC whichever is the later) at Kilworthy Park, Council Offices, Tavistock to consider the following matters.

P NORREY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair
(NB: In accordance with the Council's Constitution the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee must be a County Councillor. County Councillors only may vote).
- 3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)
Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017, attached
- 4 Items requiring urgent attention
Items which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 5 Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan Review Consultation Draft (Pages 5 - 10)
Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/18/30), attached

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil

Part II Reports

Members are reminded that Part II reports contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s).

Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Democratic Services Officer at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.

Membership

County Councillors

Councillors K Ball, J McInnes, P Sanders and D Sellis

West Devon Borough Council

Councillors B Lamb and T Leech

DALC

Councillor G Hill

Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

Access to Information

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Gerry Rufolo on 01392 382299.

Agenda and minutes of the Committee are published on the Council's Website

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Members of the public may also use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. An open, publicly available Wi-Fi network (i.e. DCC) is normally available for meetings held in the Committee Suite at County Hall. For information on Wi-Fi availability at other locations, please contact the Officer identified above.

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Induction loop system available

WEST DEVON LOCALITY (COUNTY) COMMITTEE

6 November 2017

Present:-

Devon County Council:-

Councillors K Ball, J McInnes, P Sanders and D Sellis

West Devon Borough Council

Councillors B Lamb and T Leech

Association of Local Councils

Councillor G Hill

* **1** **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillors D Sellis and K Ball be elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the ensuing year.

* **2** **Items requiring urgent attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

* **3** **Terms of Reference**

The Committee noted its Terms of Reference as detailed in the County Council's Constitution available at:
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=416&MId=2487&Ver=4&info=1>

* **4** **South West Youth Games**

(Councillor Ball declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of a family member's involvement with OCRA's Leadership Development programme)

The Committee received a presentation from Mr S Lord from Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) on behalf of C Broadbent (SW Youth Games, Chief Executive). The Committee also viewed a video on the OCRA's activities helping children, young people and adults be more active.

The Committee also noted the SW Youth Games presentation covering:

- a history of the Games launched in 1999 as an Olympic-style county-wide competition;
- establishment of a charitable Trust as a driving seat for this expanding annual event, raising financial donations and sponsorship;
- developments and progress during 2015 – 2017 including Cornwall joining the games and the first satellite event;
- ambitions for 2018 and future challenges;
- the adoption of a collaborative approach within local government and national governing bodies with a shared vision and purpose;
- request for support in-line with the Council's objectives;
- the objective to promote inclusion and participation irrespective of ability or gender and to inspire young people; and
- the challenging background relating to obesity, mental health/depression and general health and wellbeing and the transformative effects of regular physical fun exercise and sport.

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Further information was available at www.southwestyouthgames.co.uk

Members' questions and comments to Mr Lord related to:

- the good participation of West Devon teams in previous youth games and hosted over the last two years in Okehampton and the diverse sports involved encouraging wider participation at all levels and the positive experience for all the young people involved;
- the extent of youth participation in sports in the Borough associated with local clubs;
- Members' support for the spirit and ethos of the Games;
- a suggestion from a Member for the organisation to approach parish councils for support noting the extent of many parish councils in supporting local sporting activities in their communities;
- the need for provision by developers of public open spaces as part of the planning process, where appropriate.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lord for his presentation and suggested that he continued to liaise with the District and County Councils.

* 5 **Draft Devon Community Strategy**

The Committee received the draft Communities Strategy 2017 - 2020 which was being developed adopting four guiding principles that would influence the Council's work:

- Connection (connected, resilient and safe communities);
- Control (people and communities that are empowered);
- Equity (understanding and responding to our communities); and
- Working differently (doing things differently, efficiently and effectively).

Seven action areas had been identified that would support the vision of "flourishing people and communities that are strong, kind, compassionate and safe". These were: Volunteering; Community spaces; Communications and engagement; Role development; Data intelligence and evaluation; Commissioning; and Businesses and the economy.

The development of the Plan was currently underway in liaison with other local authorities and public bodies involving information sharing and joint arrangements where appropriate. When the Strategy was finalised an Action Plan would be formulated.

Members referred to the need for a simplified plain English version of the Plan and incorporating practical examples of initiatives and projects.

* 6 **Local Member Updates**

Members reported on their locality budget expenditure and support for local volunteers and charities and the excellent support of the Members' Services Officer in this regard.

Councillor Leech referred to the weed clearance issues in his ward and need for local action where appropriate.

* 7 **Dates of Meetings**

9 March 2018, 16 July 2018, 23 October 2018 and 22 March 2019

Link below for County Council Calendar of Meetings:

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=111>

* 8 **Council/Cabinet Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Council/Cabinet Forward Plan and the Scrutiny Work Programme was available for inspection by using the link below.

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 11.30 am and finished at 12.53 pm

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PTE/18/30

West Devon Locality (County) Committee
16 July 2018

Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan Review: Consultation Draft

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) notes the process and timetable for undertaking the review of the existing Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan;**
- (b) endorses, in principle, the approach to the preparation of and consultation on the Draft AONB Management Plan for 2019-2024;**
- (c) delegates to officers agreement of the detailed content and any outstanding issues for the Consultation Draft;**
- (d) notes that the final version of the new Management Plan will be adopted through the Cabinet Member decision process in Spring 2019.**

1. Summary

This report outlines the process for the review of the Management Plan for the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and seeks the Committee's approval for the preparation of and public consultation on a new Draft Plan. Any views of the Committee will be addressed before finalising the Plan.

2. Background

Devon has five AONBs within its boundaries. Three, East Devon, North Devon and South Devon, are wholly within the county, while two, Blackdown Hills and Tamar Valley, straddle the county boundary with Somerset and Cornwall respectively.

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act, it is a statutory requirement for local authorities to produce Management Plans for their AONBs. Previous Plans were agreed and adopted for all five AONBs in 2009 and 2014 and it has now become necessary to undertake a further five-year review of these Plans, which need to be sent to the Secretary of State by March 2019. The task of the review is to identify amendments that are necessary to ensure the Plans remain a working document that reliably, and realistically, inform the future management of the AONB in the light of the available resources.

3. Approach to the Review of the Management Plan

The County Council and other relevant local authorities have delegated the task of undertaking the Management Plan Review to the respective AONB Partnerships. In doing this, the County Council has set out in writing its expectations and requirements for the reviewed Plans, reflecting national guidance. Defra considered that previous guidance documents on AONB Management Plans are still fit for purpose but, together with Natural England and the National Association for AONBs, had produced a paper outlining the collective steer to AONB Partnerships in taking

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forward the next round of Management Plans. The County Council supports the principles outlined in this paper in issuing its own guidance.

The County Council is promoting a 'light touch' approach building on the common format, structure and timetable agreed between the AONBs. However, the reviews need to reflect changes in the statutory and legislative background, as well as new ways of partnership working, such as through the Devon Local Nature Partnership, the Devon Landscape Officers Group and Green Infrastructure Partnerships. The reviews also need to consider their approach to current issues, such as the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the likely implications of Brexit on future land management and agri-environment schemes, the current review of the Draft Revised National Planning Policy Framework and the DCMS Culture White Paper launched in 2016.

In consideration of governance issues, the Government has recently announced a review into National Parks and AONBs. An independent panel will look at how these nationally important landscapes meet our needs in the 21st century – including whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks to expand. This review will report in 2019, to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. It is uncertain as to whether they will report before the revised Management Plans need to be adopted.

The review should consider the actions within the Devon AONBs Adaptation Plan and how these may be further developed, particularly in joint work both with other AONBs but also other Partnerships such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites and Biosphere, where relevant.

4. The Process and Timetable in Devon

The County Council has encouraged the five AONBs Partnerships in Devon to develop a consistent approach to the development of their plans and to work to a similar timetable. To this end the Partnerships have agreed a common format and structure to their Plans and adopted the same timetable.

The Consultation Drafts of the Plans are currently being prepared and the local authorities are being requested to endorse the structure and outline content of the Draft Plan for consultation. It would be normal practice for this Committee to formally agree a full draft for public consultation but, due to the timetabling of meetings, this is not possible on this occasion. However, the Consultation Drafts will be approved by the AONB Partnerships on which DCC members are represented prior to consultation during late summer and early autumn.

At this point the County Council will be able to submit formal comments. Account will be taken of the feedback and comments and an amended draft Final Plan will be produced for each of the AONB Partnerships by November. Local authorities will be asked to adopt these Final Plans during January and February 2019. It is proposed that these will be signed off on behalf of the County Council by the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Community through the delegated decision process.

5. Draft Consultation Version of the Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan 2019-2024

The Consultation Draft of the Management Plan will adopt, as closely as possible, the common format and structure agreed for all the reviewed Devon AONB Management Plans. However, as the Tamar Valley AONB also encompasses

approximately 50% of area in Cornwall, it also is influenced by the Cornwall AONB Management Plan, which is different in structure. A list of the draft contents is provided by Appendix 1.

This Authority has already highlighted the following specific issues as requiring attention through the review of the Management Plan:

- changes to the planning system resulting from the review of the National Planning Policy Framework and the associated implications of the relevant local plans;
- potential implications arising from the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan;
- implications of Brexit on future land management and emerging agri-environment schemes;
- pressures from increasing demand for developments within and adjoining AONB boundaries, particularly to meet housing and renewable energy targets;
- a definition of 'major development' in an AONB context and a response to the cumulative effects of smaller developments;
- responses to climate change through natural flood management initiatives;
- the loss of tree and woodland cover through infectious diseases;
- the role of marine planning and the information available from the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments including the National Mapping Programme;
- the increasing emphasis on neighbourhood planning, which should help to ensure that community needs are met whilst protecting the landscape character from the cumulative impacts of incremental, small-scale development;
- the importance of the environment for physical health and mental well-being and the potential of AONBs as outdoor classrooms and an educational resource;
- the focus on air quality as a component of landscape quality;
- and the concept of natural capital, ecosystems assessment and the emerging approach to the assessment of historic environment capital.

The Tamar Valley AONB has been the lead partner in the development of a landscape- scale scheme that encompasses the whole AONB and some of its setting, called the Tamara Landscape Partnership; this is currently under assessment by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is an integrated and wide-ranging programme that will help to pilot natural flood management and new approaches to land management based on a natural capital approach, engaging communities in the conservation of the cultural and historic environment, improving sustainable access and promotion of the area to new audiences and visitors, as well as developing key skills and providing opportunities for strengthening health and wellbeing in the outdoors. In this way, it will help to address many of the items listed above. The County Council has been a key partner on the Steering Group.

Area 10 of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) coincides with the northern section of the Tamar Valley AONB. The WHS Partnership is also currently reviewing its Management Plan at present and is seeking adoption and implementation of Supplementary Planning Guidance. Both these documents need to be taken into consideration in the Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan review.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal will identify other aspects of the current plan that may need revision.

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6. Financial Considerations

The Management Plan Review is being undertaken as part of the AONB services' core functions, for which Defra contribute 75% of the funding; the remaining 25% is provided between all the local authorities on the Partnership. These contributions are set out formally in a four-year Memorandum of Agreement, currently from 2014 to 2019/20. A new MoA will be required for the duration of the next five-year plan. Costs of undertaking the reviews are being met from these existing core budgets.

7. Sustainability, Carbon Impact, Equality and Public Health Considerations

It is a requirement that AONB Management Plans are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment. These are being drafted and will be subject to consultation alongside the Management Plans. This should ensure that sustainability, environmental, equality and public health issues have been fully taken into account.

8. Legal Considerations

Under the CROW Act, the County Council and the relevant District Council(s) have a statutory duty for ensuring that AONB Management Plans are periodically reviewed. The current review process meets that responsibility.

9. Risk Management Considerations

Risks associated with the Management Plan can be categorised as: reputational, which may arise through the public consultation; legal, relating to not having statutory plans in place to ensure effective management of the AONB; and financial, related to lack of strategic context for making funding bids to deliver activity. All of these are being addressed by the AONB Team and Partnership through the review process.

10. Options/Alternatives

The County Council could have resolved to undertake the Management Plan Review itself or in conjunction with the relevant District Council(s). This would have ignored the existing governance structure and expertise of the AONB Partnerships.

11. Reasons for Recommendation/Conclusion

The review procedure will allow the County Council to fulfil its statutory obligation and to ensure that the Management Plan Reviews are subject to appropriate consultation. This Committee is asked to consider any issues which it believes will need to be addressed through the review and the production of the revised Management Plan.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: Bickleigh and Wembury, Okehampton Rural; Tavistock; and Yelverton Rural

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Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Peter Chamberlain

Room No: Lucombe House AB3, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD

Tel No: (01392) 382257

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan 2014-19	June 2014	http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/care/aonb-management-plan/

pc040718wdc
sc/cr/Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan Review Consultation Draft
02 060718

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**Appendix 1
To PTE/18/30**

TAMAR VALLEY AONB DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-24 CONTENTS

Ministerial Forward

Location of the Tamar Valley AONB

The purpose of the Tamar Valley AONB Management Plan

AONB family common objectives and key messages

Tamar Valley AONB Chair introduction

20 Year Vision

Facts about the Tamar Valley AONB

The Tamar Valley AONB background

Purpose and status of this Plan

The Special Qualities of the Tamar Valley AONB

Overarching Forces for Change

Landscape Character

PLACE

- Historic Environment and Local Distinctiveness
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Rivers and Estuaries
- Environmental Quality and Climate

PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY

- Farming Forestry and Land Management
- Access, Recreation and Tourism
- Planning and Development

COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Communication, Education and Awareness
- Working in Partnership

Glossary