

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5 NOVEMBER 2010**

AONB INDICATORS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of the Indicators used to measure AONB Partnership performance and AONB Condition.

2.0 AONB PARTNERSHIP INDICATORS

- 2.1 In line with Objective MN1.2 of the AONB Management Plan, the Natural England AONB Partnership Indicators are used as the standard measure of performance. The results for 2009/10 are attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 AONB CONDITION INDICATORS

- 3.1 Appendix 2 gives details of the information collected so far. This covers 14 of the 18 Indicators and work will continue this year to research and collate values for the remainder.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) The Performance Indicator results contained in Appendix 1 be noted.
- b) The Condition Indicator data contained in Appendix 2 be noted.

AONB Partnership and Unit Indicators 2009/10

Ref	Theme	Measure for the indicator	Definition	Response	Benefits
1	AONB Management Plan	The AONB Unit has a current Management Plan which meets the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	<p>The Plan has been reviewed within five years of the last one.</p> <p>It conforms to the guidance for AONB Management Plans provided by The Countryside Agency.</p> <p>It has been formally adopted and published by all the relevant local authorities.</p> <p>A copy has been lodged with DEFRA.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates compliance with a core statutory duty.
2	AONB Partnership	The AONB has an active and effective governance structure.	<p>Record of regular AONB Board, Joint Committee, Joint Advisory Committee, Partnership, Board Meetings.</p> <p>Record of number of active sub meetings, management groups, technical groups, public meetings, fora etc</p> <p>AONB has undertaken a formal review of its governance structures within the last 5 years.</p> <p>Has an adopted current set of terms of reference.</p> <p>Has a publicly available record of its meetings, agendas and minutes.</p>	<p>3 JACs (63%)</p> <p>4 CFGs (69%); 1 Partnership Group (26%); 9 SDF Steering Groups; 5 SDF Grant Panels.</p> <p>No (Full review October 2001). Minor review March 2004).</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes (via NYCC)</p>	Demonstrates the scale of bodies involved and that they are active.

3a	AONB Staff Unit	The AONB Unit has staff resources to undertake its work.	Total the number of AONB staff and their specialisms, in full-time equivalents, including core staff and any project staff that were directly managed and hosted by the AONB Unit, at the financial year end.	1 x AONB Manager. 1 x AONB Officer. 1 x AONB Assistant (0.5 f.t.e.) Total – 2.5 f.t.e.	Demonstrates that the AONB Unit has the staff resources and capacity to undertake management effectively.
3b		AONB Unit staff invests in continuous professional development.	Of the total in Measure 3a above, list the number who undertook and recorded a minimum of 30 hours of training, personal development or similar C.P.D. activity during the year (adjusted pro-rata for part time staff).	2 f.t.e.	
4a	Financial resources	The AONB Unit secures direct income to fund its work.	Total income received into the AONB unit's own account from all sources during the financial year.	Total £227,352	Demonstrates the level of financial resources directly secured by the AONB Unit.
4b			The percentage of the figure in Measure 4a above which was received from Natural England and Local Authorities	92%	
4c			The amount received (part of 4a) from Natural England and Local Authorities	Total £210,290	
5a	Leverage and “added value”	Additional resources mobilised by AONB unit through its partnership work.	Include the figure given in Measure 4a above. Then add in the total funding for projects and partnership programmes in that year in which the AONB Unit played a significant part i.e. where it would not have gone ahead or would have been substantially smaller without AONB input. For example include matching income for any SDF funded project; total funds for partner HLF projects involving the AONB.	Total £747,690	Demonstrates the level of financial leverage and added value obtained by the AONB Unit through its wider project programmes and partnerships.
5b			The percentage of the figure above which was received from Natural England.	21%	

6a	Financial management and reporting	Agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with Natural England met by the AONB unit	<p>The Unit submitted its final grant claim to Natural England for the preceding financial year by the stated claim date (31st May 2009).</p> <p>Published its annual report for the preceding year within six months of the financial year end.</p> <p>Submitted its business plan and grant application for the succeeding financial year by the required date (31st December 2009).</p> <p>Submitted its interim grant claim by the required date (31st January 2010).</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes. 2008/09 report published Sept 2009.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates effective administration and management of financial affairs.
6b		Natural England met the agreed timetable and requirements for financial management and reporting with the AONB Unit.	Natural England made a written formal core and Sustainable Development Fund offers of grant aid for the succeeding financial year by 31 March.	No. Single Pot - 27 th May 2009	
7a	Partnership working with management communities	The AONB Unit is an active partner in the work of the National Association of AONBs.	<p>The AONB Unit (through its host authority or partnership organisation) was a full member of the National Association of AONBs.</p> <p>Was represented by attendance at the Annual Conference of the Association.</p> <p>All AONB Unit core staff attended at least 1 other national or regional NAAONB sponsored seminar, training event or meeting each.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	Demonstrates partnership working for AONB family at a national, regional and local level.

7b		The AONB Unit actively involved in partnership working at a local level.	Total number of project steering groups, research initiatives, working groups and partnerships where the AONB Unit played an active and key role (ie not just a passive member of a forum or conference).	14 (NWDO SG, CAN DO Partnership Group, CAN DO Lime & Ice SG, NYMNP/HHAONB SDF SG + Panel, Ryedale & Hambleton BAPs, North Yorks Road Verges Working Group, NYBAG, LEADER SG, Malton & Norton SCTS Working Group, NYMNP/HHAONB /NYCC Highways Liaison Group, NYCC Ranger Team 3 Liaison Group, CE Electric DPCR5 Working Group)	
7c		The AONB Management Plan is formally endorsed and supported by partner organisations.	List the number of organisations who formally endorsed the plan when written and at the last review.	6 (3 x LAs, NE; FC; EH)	

8a	Business Plan targets	Achievement of the targets set out by the AONB unit in its annual business plan or equivalent.	Include all actions set out in the annual business plan/ <u>core bid document</u> agreed with Natural England. (Milestones in bid document)	38 ex 46 (83%)	Demonstrates that the AONB Unit achieves the objectives and actions it sets itself.
8b	Management Plan progress	The AONB Management Plan actions were implemented to schedule.	Include the AONB Management Plan actions that were progressed or completed during the year, shown as a percentage of all the AONB Management Plan actions that were scheduled for action during the year. An AONB unit led actions figure and 'all partnership actions' figure.	AONB Unit-led - 75% 'All Partnership' - 85% Progress against a further 8 Objectives where no specific annual targets had been set.	

Abbreviations

CFG – Core Funders Group
 ES – Environmental Stewardship
 HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund
 NYCC – North Yorkshire County Council
 NWDO – Native Woodland Development Officer
 CAN DO – Hambleton & Howardian Hills Cultural & Natural Development Opportunity
 NYMNP – North York Moors National Park
 BAP – Biodiversity Action Plan partnership
 NYBAG – North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Group
 SG – Steering Group
 SCTS – Service Centre Transportation Strategy

Figure 8. AONB Condition Indicators

Attribute	Indicator	2009
1. Farmed Landscape	a) % of land managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) b) % of land managed under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) c) % of land managed under Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) d) Changes in farmland type (% of permanent pasture/temporary grassland/arable land)	a) 25% b) 1.5% c) 59.8% in ELS. 1% in OELS d) 22%; 5%; 73% (June Census 2007)
2. Woodland Landscape	a) % of woodland cover b) % of woodland under management for public benefit (UKWAS Certified)	a) 3,369ha. 16.5% of total AONB land area (20,400ha) b) 65%
3. Biodiversity	a) Condition of SSSIs b) Delivery of LBAP habitat targets for AONB – Condition of SINCs	a) 72 % Favourable, 16% Unfavourable No Change 12% Unfavourable Declining b) 73% undergoing some positive management action
4. Historic and Built Environment	a) Number of SMs in the High, Medium and Low Risk categories b) Condition of Registered Parks & Gardens and historic landscapes c) Number of Listed Buildings on ‘at Risk’ registers (EH & District Council) d) Condition of non-statutory Historic Environment Priority Sites	a) 33; 24; 21 b) RPGs – 1 Improving, 1 Stable, 1 unknown, 2 Deteriorating c) 4 Grade I. 12 Grade II. d) Not assessed yet

5. Water Quality (Rivers)	Length of rivers (%) of Good or Fair chemical quality (Chemistry and biology – A to F (very good to bad); Nitrates and phosphates – 1 to 6 (very low levels to very high levels)	River Derwent: 9 locations of measurement = Chemistry A, Biology A, Nitrates 3, Phosphates 1 1 location of measurement = Chemistry B, Biology A, Nitrates 4, Phosphates 2 River Rye: 9 locations of measurement = Chemistry A, Biology A, Nitrates 3, Phosphates 2 2 locations of measurement = Chemistry B, Biology B, Nitrates 1, Phosphates 2
6. Tranquillity	a) % of AONB recorded as ‘tranquil’ b) % of AONB affected by light pollution	a) Not assessed yet b) Not assessed yet
7. Enjoying the Countryside	‘Ease of Use’ (%) of PRow	Not assessed yet
8. Village Services/Amenities	% of AONB villages that have a shop, pub, Post Office service or community building	Shop – 24% Pub – 42% Post Office service – 15% Community building – 64%
9. Awareness of the AONB designation	% of survey respondents aware of the Howardian Hills AONB designation	c.25% (2002)