

**HOWARDIAN HILLS  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
7 NOVEMBER 2013**

**AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive details of the progress of the AONB Management Plan review and next steps.

**2.0 PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 2.1 The formal notification of the intention to review the Management Plan was sent to the constituent local authorities and relevant organisations, as required by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act, on 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- 2.2 Eight Topic Group meetings, with a total membership of 75 participants, were held between 25<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, to discuss the relevant chapter issues.
- 2.3 Draft text for the individual chapters was prepared, following the Topic Group meetings. Each chapter is laid out with short sections entitled Key Facts, General Principles, Key Issues 2014-2019 and finally Objectives. Each chapter is approximately 2 sides long – a significant reduction on the current Management Plan. Actions under each Objective are contained within the Action Programme section, whilst tables of supporting data are included as the Evidence Base.
- 2.4 The revised chapters were sent back to the Topic Group members, to ensure that their input has been accurately represented and that nothing had been missed. These revised chapters were also circulated to JAC members.
- 2.5 Following some significant and extremely useful comments, the chapters and supporting information (Local Priority Sites section, Action Plan, etc) were further revised and the document prepared for public and stakeholder consultation. At the same time the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report of the new Plan and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report were also prepared.
- 2.6 The draft Plan was sent out for formal public consultation on 27<sup>th</sup> September, with a closing date for comments of 15<sup>th</sup> November. The Plan was sent to relevant organisations, Parish Councils, local farmers & landowners, local schools and all members of the Topic Groups, to ensure as wide a coverage as possible. The launch of the plan was accompanied by a press release and a Tweet from North Yorkshire County Council.
- 2.7 The AONB Newsletter, which is delivered to all addresses within and on the vicinity of the AONB, included an article on the review of the Management Plan, together with a link to an internet-based survey form. This provides a different avenue for local residents to provide information and suggestions on the priorities and what should be included in the Plan, again to ensure that no issues are missed.

### **3.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment of the draft Plan will be completed, to identify any issues that ought to be addressed in the final version of the Plan.
- 3.2 Following the end of the consultation period all the comments received will be compiled into a table, showing the comment and the amendments proposed to the Plan (if applicable). This table will be circulated to the JAC and Core Partners Group in December for their comments, with subsequent discussion at the Core Partners Group meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December.
- 3.3 Following any comments received from this consultation, the final revisions will be made to the Plan. These will be discussed with the JAC Chairman, who will provide the final sign-off of the revised Plan, in mid-January 2014.
- 3.4 The Plan will then be sent to the three constituent Local Authorities by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014, for formal adoption by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. It will also be sent to Defra.
- 3.5 The final publication version of the Plan, complete with all photos and maps, will be produced in June/July and circulated to all relevant partner organisations and individuals.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the progress and next steps detailed above be noted for information.