

Record of Cabinet member decision

Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Decision made by	Councillor Roger Cox
Key decision?	Yes
Date of decision (same as date form signed)	
Name and job title of officer requesting the decision	Dominic Lamb, Countryside Officer
Officer contact details	Tel: 01491 823133 Email: dominic.lamb@southandvale.gov.uk
Decision	That the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan (2014-2019) is adopted
Reasons for decision	<p>The preparation of a Management Plan for AONBs is a statutory requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000. It is intended to guide the activities of all who live and work in the AONB to help conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty. The plan for the North Wessex Downs is prepared on behalf of this council and the other constituent local authorities by the North Wessex Downs Council of Partners. We have a representative on the Council of Partners and currently provide funding for their activities along with the other constituent local authorities and Natural England.</p> <p>The management plan sets out a vision for the North Wessex Downs and is split into seven key themes designed to better focus the delivery of objectives. The themes are Landscape, Land Management, Biodiversity, Natural Resources, Historic Environment, Development, Communities and Leisure and Tourism.</p> <p>Each of the key themes is evaluated and described in detail and the key issues affecting them are drawn out. The key issues are used to form objectives which are supported by a number of policies.</p> <p>The plan policies are designed to be delivered by a wide range of stakeholders and partners in the AONB. The core AONB unit co-ordinates the monitoring and delivery of the plan policies and are directly responsible for the delivery of</p>

	<p>certain work areas.</p> <p>The council was consulted on the draft plan and a consultation event was held in the council offices on the 10th September 2013.</p> <p>Following feed-back from consultations with Ward Members Cllr Michael Murray raised a number of concerns with the plan. These concerns have been discussed with the AONB and following negotiations a number of changes have been agreed. With regard to the Harwell Campus p.47 of the plan has been updated from:</p> <p><i>Significant employment sites do exist within the area, for example the Harwell Campus as part of Science Vale UK. That includes the Diamond Light Source, the UK national synchrotron facility. Opportunities exist within these sites for redevelopment and expansion without the need for new greenfield sites.</i></p> <p>To;</p> <p><i>Significant employment areas exist within the area, for example the Harwell Campus which includes the UK national synchrotron facility. This is part of 'Science Vale' in Oxfordshire, which has a national profile as a centre for science and innovation, in particular space technology. As a large previously developed area, partly designated as Enterprise Zone, opportunities exist here for redevelopment and intensification of the site.</i></p> <p>In addition, the plan has been further amended to align with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework in relation to housing growth within the Science Vale area. The paragraph titled 'Built Environment and New Housing' on page 50 has been amended to the following (amendment shown in red):</p> <p><i>In general, strategic levels of new housing within the area should be avoided except in exceptional circumstances, in line with the recommendations of the NPPF.</i></p> <p>These changes have been accepted by the Cllr Murray.</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>None - Adoption of the revised management Plan is a statutory requirement of the CRoW Act. Failure to adopt a plan would be in breach of this requirement, be unsatisfactory to the relevant Government body Natural England and possibly hinder the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty.</p>
<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>The preparation of a Management Plan for AONBs is a statutory requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000. We delegate the preparation of the plan to the Council of Partners but each constituent council is</p>

	required to formally adopt the plan.			
Financial implications	<p>We are represented on the North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners and provide funding for their activities along with the other constituent local authorities and Natural England. DEFRA provides core funding with the constituent local authorities sharing responsibility for the remainder.</p> <p>The proportion of funding from each local authority corresponds to the amount of AONB land within that authority. We fall within the lowest band contributing 1 per cent of the core costs. For the period 2013 to 2014 this amounted to £4,117. For the current year 2014 to 2015 this amounts to £3,807. The fall in contributions in 2014/15 is due to a reduction in the core grant provided by DEFRA and a consequent reduction in the percentage attributable to the council.</p> <p>The adoption of the Management Plan has no implications for providing any funding additional to the annual contribution</p>			
Other implications	<p>Communications The Management Plan, if adopted, will be made available on our website.</p>			
Background papers considered	<p>North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-19. North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment. North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan Appropriate Assessment.</p>			
Declarations/conflict of interest? Declaration of other councillor/officer consulted by the Cabinet member?				
List consultees		Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward councillors	Yvonne Constance St John Dixon Charlotte Dickson Julia Reynolds Fiona Roper Bill Jones Michael Murray Margaret Turner Reg Waite Janet Shelley	Comments received from Mike Murray – amendments to the plan have been agreed which are discussed in this report.	12/11/14
	Council or Partners member reps	Janet Shelley Angela Lawrence	No comments received from other Ward Members or representatives of the Council of Partners.	
	Legal	Ian Price	Agreed	19/6/14
	Finance	Kathy Merritt	No comments	6/6/14

	Sustainability	Heather Saunders	Fully supportive	23/6/14
	Diversity and equality	Cheryl Reeves	Agreed	13/6/14
	Communications	Andy Roberts	No additional comments	6/6/14
	Strategic Management Board	Anna Robinson	Happy with report	13/6/14
Confidential decision? If so, under which exempt category?	No			
Call-in waived by Scrutiny Committee chairman?	No			
Cabinet member's signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.	Signature <u> Councillor Roger Cox </u>			
	Date <u> 12/11/14 </u>			

ONCE SIGNED, THIS FORM MUST BE HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.

For Democratic Services office use only		
Form received	Date: 12 November 2014	Time: 13:10
Date published to Scrutiny Committee	Date: 12 November 2014	
Call-in deadline	Date: 19 November 2014	Time: 17:00