



Guildhall Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA

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AGENDA

This meeting will be recorded and the video archive published on our website

Prosperous Communities Committee

Tuesday, 17th July, 2018 at 6.30 pm

Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA

Members:

Councillor Mrs Sheila Bibb (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Mrs Pat Mewis
Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
Councillor Trevor Young

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Public Participation**
Up to 15 minutes are allowed for public participation. Participants are restricted to 3 minutes each.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (PAGES 3 - 15)
To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 5 June 2018.
4. **Matters Arising Schedule** (PAGES 16 - 20)
Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 9 July 2018.
5. **Members' Declarations of Interest**
Members may make any declarations at this point but may also

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Large Clear Print: Braille: Audio: Native Language

make them at any time during the course of the meeting.

6. Public Reports

- i) Customer First (PAGES 21 - 44)
- ii) Health Commission Review (PAGES 45 - 57)
- iii) Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 (PAGES 58 - 159)
- iv) Progress and Delivery Period 1 2018/19 (PAGES 160 - 180)
- v) Revoke Superseded WLDC Affordable Housing SPD (PAGES 181 - 183)
- vi) Member Champions (PAGES 184 - 187)

7. Workplan

(PAGES 188 - 190)

Mark Sturgess
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 9 July 2018

Prosperous Communities Committee- 5 June 2018

Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire on Friday 22 June 2018 at 4.30pm

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA on 5 June 2018 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Sheila Bibb (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Gillian Bardsley (Vice-Chairman) and
Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Christopher Darcel
Councillor Michael Devine
Councillor Steve England
Councillor Mrs Pat Mewis
Councillor Malcolm Parish
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:
Mark Sturgess Executive Director of Operations and Head of Paid Service
Ian Knowles Executive Director of Resources and S151 Officer
Alan Robinson Strategic Lead Governance and People/Monitoring Officer
Ady Selby Strategic Manager Operational Services
Grant White Enterprising Communities Manager
Steve Leary Commercial Waste Manager
Katie Coughlan Senior Democratic & Civic Officer

Also Present: Mr Enever
Mr Mallen
Mrs Grocock
Mr Wall
40 Members of the Public

Apologies: Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan

Membership: Councillor Jeff Summers substituting for Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan

6 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

This being the first meeting of the new Civic Year the Chairman welcomed all those in attendance.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A total of six questions had been received.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Mallen, Mr Enever and Mrs Grocock to the meeting. Before inviting them to put their 5 questions to the Committee, the meeting were reminded that the questions would be put and a response would be given. There would be no debate.

Mr Enever posed the first question as follows: -

Question 1

"I presented a petition in April to Full Council – this was rejected. A Member briefing was issued to defend the Council's position against this well supported petition. Reading the briefing has led me to ask the question, as reading the business plan there are a number of items within the business plan that are a cause for concern and in a normal commercial environment would not pass a muster or a lender. It's talk of the health & wellbeing hub development links with the PCT, which ceased to exist in 2013. The diabetes protection contract for Lincs was awarded 2 years ago and is already rolled out across the county. The whole decision was based on a flawed business plan that you were told would bring 200,000 more visitors per year to the re-developed bowls hall. That means that over a 10 hour period each day, there would be 55 people per hour coming through the door. A constant stream, without break every single day of the year. On that basis you were convinced that the new scheme would bring money into the coffers of WLDC. Do you still really believe that will happen, every day of the year, for 10 hours a day? We were told that these people flowing through the door constantly would be coming for cardio rehabilitation, diabetes prevention and improvement and weight reduction. Which in anyone's book are not leisure pursuits. Hopefully, they will be able to take part in leisure activities in due course, but it is not leisure by anyone's description. However, the document highlights that the leisure centre land has a covenant upon it that says it must be used for community leisure purposes. Did anyone think to question if a breach on covenant had taken place, using a leisure facility for medical purposes? This all leads me to ask, what training and skills are provided to Members of the Committee, and all Councillors in fact, to assess critically and objectively a business proposition brought to them by Officers?"

The Chairman responded to the question as follows: -

"All Councillors are trained to ask challenging questions to assure themselves around the advice they are being given and the decisions they are being asked to make. It is the role of Officers to have the relevant technical skills to carry out the business of the Council and to make technical recommendations to Councillors in order to ensure that their policies are implemented.

In particular around commercial matters, there have been three specific training sessions held during the last 12 months which have focussed on commercial activity, the leisure contract and the implications of the award to Everyone Active. In addition a Member workshop was held at the start of the procurement process to set the desired outcomes for the leisure contract".

Mrs Grocock posed the second question as follows: -

Question 2

“Logic dictates that if WLDC has been spending £300k to subsidise some leisure activities. Why did it target an admitted non-burdensome, self-financing activity for closure in order to subsidise these unprofitable areas? What in depth assessment was made of all areas within the WL Leisure Centre to compare and contrast effective use of all these areas before this proposal was accepted?”

In the briefing document, mentioned earlier, the author admits that consultation was not undertaken as they knew what the outcome would be. There are other areas in the Centre that are costing money and may well continue to be loss making. We have asked on a number of occasions to see an assessment of all areas to justify why an already admitted no cost area was targeted and this not been forthcoming. Was it because the bowls club was seen as easy to get rid of? Or was it trying to get hold of a room refurbished only 7 years ago? The State of the District Review in 2017 shows increasing attendance at the Leisure Centre, but no evidence has been provided of any market research into either the existing activities in the Leisure Centre – and more importantly the potential of the new Health & Wellbeing Hub. It therefore leads me to ask in committee, just what objective assessment was done, if any?”

The Chairman responded as follows: -

“At the start of the procurement process the decision was made by Councillors that a future contract should remove the need to subsidise the leisure service, provide an income for the Council, align the leisure service to improving health outcomes in the District (through increasing participation rates) and significantly increase the reach of the leisure service across the District. The new contract achieves this.

In order to award the contract the Council went through an OJEU procurement exercise and as part of this contractors were asked how the facility in Gainsborough could be re-configured to significantly increase its usage and commercial viability to meet the objectives set by the Council.

Leisure contractors submitted their proposals which were then evaluated in December 2017. The proposal by Everyone Active was judged to provide the most advantageous solution for the Council and subsequently Everyone Active were awarded the contract.

Independent in depth assessments of the areas within the leisure centre were therefore conducted (in accordance with the objectives set by the Council) by the contractors submitting the proposals. Councillors and Officers were supported in their evaluation of tenders by an independent leisure procurement specialist and by Procurement Lincolnshire.”

Councillor Young raised a Point of Information, advising that the question had not been responded to.

The public gallery indicated their discontent, resulting in the Chairman reminding the meeting that this was not a matter for debate, and the gallery of the rules of attendance.

Councillor Young again challenged the Chairman’s ruling. The Chairman advised the question, which had been submitted in advance, had been responded to. The procedure

rules regarding this item had been clearly laid out and the meeting was again reminded these would be adhered to by all in attendance.

Mrs Mallen posed the third question as follows: -

Question 3

“As a self-proclaimed “Entrepreneurial Council” driven by the Prosperous Communities Committee, does the Committee accept that it will have failures and is now faced with a badly conceived plan for the Leisure Centre evidenced by our MP Sir Edward Leigh who has rightly observed that the council was not prepared for the amount of local objections at the destruction of the Bowls Hall. Most entrepreneurs, like Sir Richard Branson, know when to admit they have got their figures wrong or misjudged a situation. Will the committee now admit they got it wrong and make real strenuous efforts to right that wrong by considering every option even it is costly in the short term? ”.

The Chairman responded as follows: -

“The comment made by the local Member of Parliament, whilst respected, is a matter for him and is not the view of this Council.

The Council has carried out a robust analysis of the social and financial impacts of the leisure contract award and the objectives set at the start of the process for the contract have been achieved. The Council is confident that during the course of the delivery of the contract the objectives which have been set around, income, participation rates, health outcomes and outreach will be achieved. In this respect the delivery of the contract is good for the Council Tax payers in the District and will be a good thing for the overall health of people living in West Lindsey. It is therefore not, in my view, a misjudgement on the part of the Council to have entered into this contract.”

Mrs Grocock posed the fourth question as follows: -

Question 4

“When and why did Council decide to provide an indoor bowls facility at the Leisure Centre, and what has happened now that demand is potentially due to increase in coming years?

This morning on Radio 4, it was reported that 70% of people feel they have no influence over the decisions that are made in their neighbourhood and that is felt mostly in parts of Lincolnshire. That is exactly how the people of West Lindsey feel regarding the closure of the bowls hall – probably nearer 100% to be honest. Even Councillors here feel that way, some are told. Back in the late 80’s it was a caring Council, who responded to a need and even 7 years ago it was proudly trumpeted in the local press that the Council had spent £50K to upgrade the bowls hall to make it one of the best in the area. I have the press cutting here. The Council were pleased to say they had worked together with members of the Bowls Club to refurbish and improve the facility with new lighting and heating We worked together. But tomorrow that £50K and more is going to be thrown in the fire, based on a flawed business plan. What happened to working with the community? The population in the area is getting older and just at that time you are reducing what was acknowledged by sports consultants to be a good starting point for indoor sports development. You are now

making West Lindsey the worst in Lincolnshire and probably the East Midlands. Is that something you wish to trumpet in the press this time? Or are you now actually embarrassed by it? As one Councillor we were told has said recently”

The Chairman responded as follows:-

“Getting back to the question you submitted, the original decision to provide a bowls hall has no relevance on current leisure provision, things do change.

During the last three years the membership of West Lindsey Bowls Club has decreased each year as follows:

2015	220 members
2016	206 members
2017	172 members.

This is why the area currently occupied by the Bowls Club is needed to help assist the Council in achieving one of its contract objectives and that is to increase participation rates in sport across the District.”

Councillor Rollings interjected the Chairman and raised a Point of Information advising there had been no consultation with the bowls club over this matter, they had been given no opportunity to put a plan in place to develop the club and raise those figures. She considered it was completely unfair and inappropriate to use the figures quoted in that way

Councillor Rollings was reminded about her conduct having ignored the Chairman’s ruling.

It was suggested Councillor Rollings consider whose responsibility it was to increase the Membership of the Bowls Club as it was not the responsibility of the Councillors around the table.

The Chairman’s response and ruling was again challenged. Following continued interjections a final conduct reminder was issued to Councillor Rollings with the Chairman indicating she would reluctantly use Council Procedure Rule 18.3 if the behaviour continued.

The public gallery again indicated their discontent.

Mrs Mallen posed the fifth question as follows:-

Question 5

“It is understood that Council are working with SLM to ensure that arrangements previously discussed, and agreed as part of the contract negotiations, is the provision of “short mat bowling”. This to be done now by providing 33 metre mats (on a roll out/roll up basis) at an “appropriate location” within the redeveloped Centre.

These mats, are in fact very similar in size and number to the existing indoor bowls facility and if these are to be provided to accommodate all the bowls club and other groups of bowlers, three mats will be required.

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The use of these, on a rollout/roll up basis to free up space for other activities when not in use, is not practical. – and this was evidenced by an email from the contractor to the SLM Manager saying that a rolled up single rink would need a health & safety assessment because it is so heavy.

Each mat will take at least 30 minutes to roll out/roll up leaving no time in the interval with existing bowls user needs. It will take too much time to free up space and the result will be that the three mats of 33 metres will be set down in a dedicated space in the Leisure Centre for most of the year.

This does not even take into consideration the need for vastly improved lighting and heating in the "appropriate location" such as was provided by this Council only 7 years ago at the cost of £50k.

As this is within the negotiable contract between Council and SLM and highly unlikely to affect the capital or revenue streams of either party, would it now be a more appropriate and acceptable solution to all, to now leave the indoor bowls facility where it is and revise the location of the well-being hub elsewhere in the Leisure Centre?"

The Chairman responded as follows:-

"The contract has been signed with Everyone Active and the refurbishment of the leisure centre has commenced.

To-date the bowls club have not confirmed that they would like the opportunity to continue to bowl within the leisure centre using short or long mats.

However, as part of the refurbishment a dedicated short mat area is being provided within the leisure centre as part of the Active Seniors hub. Feedback has been received from other areas of the community that this is a valued addition to the centre.

The offers made by the Council and Everyone Active still stand if the bowls club is willing to pursue these opportunities positively. For clarity these are:

- The offer to provide transport to visit the indoor bowls facilities in Scunthorpe and Dunholme
- The opportunity to play short mat bowls in a dedicated area within the leisure centre
- The opportunity to play bowls on the longer mats within the sports hall
- Free use for one year for existing bowls club users"

The questioners were thanked for their attendance. There was again discontent from the gallery. The public were reminded that they were welcome to stay subject to abiding by the rules of attendance but the meeting would be moving on to the next agenda item.

Following continued disregard for the Chairman's ruling from the gallery the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 6.57 pm.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Robert Wall, Chairman of the Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan

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Group, to the meeting and invited him to put his question to Committee, as follows: -

“Chairman. Can you explain why WLDC, which is nationally well known to positively support Neighbourhood Development Plans, is not supporting Fiskerton Neighbourhood Development Plan? We received valued support during 2014-16 but in 2017-18 the support appears to have tailed off. Is there a reason for this reduced support? Is it because Fiskerton's local Councillor is totally opposing all aspects of our NDP and supporting a group that openly wants to stop the plan?

Councillor England, Member Champion for Neighbourhood Planning responded on behalf of the Chairman as follows: -

“Councillor Wall thank you for your question. You are quite right in stating that West Lindsey are nationally recognised for their support of neighbourhood planning, which we regard as a vital contribution to our vision for a sustainable future for the district as a whole. The support we provide goes far beyond any statutory duty we have under the neighbourhood planning regulations.

However there is a limit to our resources, and as such we do at times, given the high number of plans underway in West Lindsey, prioritise where that support goes. Let me assure you now that the Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan is high on that list of priorities, and we are, and remain committed to assisting both the group and parish council in achieving a positive outcome.

I fully understand the frustration that has led to your question, in my six years of being involved in neighbourhood planning I have never encountered such a level of criticism, much of it based on misinformation and misunderstanding, that has led to your plan being constantly held back and delayed.

The neighbourhood planning process is above all community led and throughout the process all members of the community, and that includes ward members, have the opportunity to be involved and contribute in a constructive and positive way toward the plans development.

Most importantly the neighbourhood planning process is the most democratic and far sighted piece of legislation any council partakes in. Not only is there extensive public consultation but a plan is subject to a rigorous independent examination at which all stakeholders including residents can submit evidence either in support or opposition. The examiner will consider if these representations are valid before deciding if a plan is fit for purpose. If the plan satisfies the examiner then it will be recommended to go forward to a referendum.

This is the ultimate and final test for any plan in which the residents, and they alone decide in a ballot, on the basis of a simple question whether they want the plan adopted by the district council as a part of the overall development plan. Both those who support or oppose a particular plan must agree there can be a no more open and fair system than this.

I hope you feel reassured by my answer”.

Councillor Darcel requested the right to reply but was reminded that public questions were not a matter for debate and the right to reply was not part of the public participation procedure.

8 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee – 25 April 2018.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee held on 25 April 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (b) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 1 May 2018.

Before moving to the vote Councillor Young requested the opportunity to discuss the content. With the permission of the Chairman he indicated that they were an accurate reflection of the meeting of when he had been in attendance. However the following day a senior Member of the Council had posted a tweet regarding the meeting and this was read aloud to the meeting. Councillor Young was of the view that if the minutes were accepted as a true record, the conduct of the Councillor concerned was a serious issue.

The Chairman interjected Councillor Young advising his comments had been heard, however this matter was not connected with the motion on the table and there were mechanisms to report such concerns.

Councillor Young continued insisting the matter be raised now and further expressed his views regarding the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee's behaviour. He was of the view Officers had a duty to protect Members from such behaviour and his behaviour had been raised with the Monitoring Officer with no action.

The Executive Director of Operations responded, firstly clarifying whether the matter had been raised as a formal complaint. It was confirmed this was not the case. The Executive Director of Operations advised Councillor Young that on receipt of a formal complaint the matter would be dealt with in accordance with the agreed procedure for standards complaints. This would need to be done in writing.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 1 May 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

- (c) Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee – 14 May 2018 (following Annual Council).

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 14 May 2018 (following Annual Council) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

Members gave consideration to the Matters Arising Schedule which set out the current position of all previously agreed actions as at 25 May 2018.

RESOLVED that progress on the Matters Arising Schedule, as set out in the report be received and noted.

10 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

11 CONSULTATION FOR THE DRAFT JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

The Committee gave consideration to a report which informed Members of the public consultation currently open in respect of the draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lincolnshire. In presenting the report, Officers outlined the purpose of the Strategy, how it had been developed and by whom, the stages of the consultation process and the steps which would follow. Section 5 of the report set out the key factors Officers considered the Strategy should address from both a county-wide and West Lindsey perspective.

Finally the report requested that the Committee form and approve a formal response to the consultation. A proposed consultation response had been prepared by Officers and was included at Appendix 1 and would be amended to reflect and key comments made during the debate.

Debate ensued. Members commented on the well supported, highly functioning, customer friendly waste service which currently existed across the District and the need to safeguard this. Furthermore the health of the workforce needed to be safeguarded and the current system was delivering this also, supported by performance statistics. The need to keep abreast of new technologies which were developing at apace, proving further solutions and opportunities to improve recycling rates was considered vitally important. Recyclate streams differed from local authority to local authority and it was suggested that coming to a general consensus regarding collection streams in the future would assist in generating a market for materials.

The document made reference to writing to neighbouring Local Authorities, but there was a view that greater action should be taken with regards to North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils given their location. The need to develop reciprocal arrangements in respect of household recycling sites was much required and of paramount importance.

In response to a question, Officers confirmed that individual representations to the public consultation were also welcomed and would be accepted.

Officers thanked Members for the kind comments regarding the service and gave assurance that this would be passed on to the operatives. In responding to comments regarding

separate collections, quality was becoming key and Officers outlined a number of national and global factors which were further driving the need for quality. Whilst acknowledging the ease of the current recycling method, without the quality the waste collected had little value. The Strategy indicated the impact of all collection methods would be objectively assessed, with a food waste collection trial due to commence in South Kesteven very soon.

Continued education was also considered an important focus and the need to make any literature as user friendly and customer focussed as possible.

Officers gave assurance that they would continue to put pressure on the County Council regarding reciprocal arrangements at household recycling centres and concurred with the points which had been raised by the Committee in respect of this.

RESOLVED that having considered the response contained in the Executive Summary section of the report to the consultation for the draft Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire and the response to the Strategy questionnaire, as set out in Appendix 1, it be endorsed as an appropriate response, along with the comments expressed throughout the debate.

12 WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT BROADBAND AVAILABILITY ISSUES

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to provide an update on broadband initiatives, highlight current issues affecting communities across the District and present options open to the Council to further investigate in a bid to improve broadband availability.

In presenting the report Officers advised that unfortunately the information requested from On-Lincolnshire in respect of the BT Phase 3 contract had not been received to-date.

Whilst it would be difficult to directly fund broadband provision given the restraints on resources, a number of alternative options which could be investigated were presented for consideration. These were set out in section 4.

Debate ensued with the Committee being in agreement that option (a) was neither feasible nor the responsibility of the District Council. Options (b) (c) and (d) were all considered worthy of further exploration and it was suggested that a further option be explored namely: -

“(e) That an approach be made to Quickline who have won funding of £2.1m to pilot 5G technology across the region to include a project within West Lindsey.”

All were in agreement that the Council needed to use its power and influence through lobbying wherever possible and at every opportunity. The situation reported at Cherry Willingham was considered unacceptable.

The suggested additional option for investigation was also supported.

It was suggested that the situation should be continually monitored, and a logging function for residents may be useful. Any evidence gathered would be of assistance in lobbying providers and other parties.

Officers welcomed the Committee's comments and support and undertook to look at the suggestion regarding a logging facility. The Council had previously promoted the "Think Broadband" site, which provided such a function, on the Council's website, during the survey period, and would look to see if it was feasible to re-establish this.

On that basis it was

RESOLVED that having considered the options presented and suggested throughout the course of the debate, the following options be further investigated and the outcome reported back to Committee in due course: -

- Option b as set out in the report - Adopt a 'sign-posting' stance for communities/residents to provide over view information and point enquiries toward the various available funding streams and options;
- Option c as set out in the report - Employ, on a fixed term basis, a 'broadband community champion' to work closely with relevant communities to identify issues, options, funding streams, garner community support/awareness, liaise with service providers and keep abreast of developments in this field. One option may be that other Lincolnshire Councils in a similar position may be willing to resource a shared role. Further investigation of this possibility could be pursued;
- Option d as set out in the report - Rely on On-Lincolnshire Phase Three to deliver on behalf of the District and allow other initiatives (both planned and future) to address the issue; and
- Option e as raised during debate and detailed above.

13 COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Members gave consideration to a report which sought to establish a community lottery in West Lindsey. This would be an on-line lottery operating on a similar principle to other community lotteries, such as the Health Lottery with the proceeds being distributed to local charities.

30 Local Authorities currently operated community lottery schemes and the principles of the Scheme were set out in the report.

Debate ensued and Members were hopeful that the scheme would be well supported and had the potential to be a valued addition to the community grant activity currently in operation and would be of benefit to the District

Councillor Young proposed the following amendment "That in its first year of operation this Council supports the proceeds achieved through the Lottery Scheme would be paid to the Gainsborough Indoor Bowls Club for the replacement of a new indoors bowls facility".

The morality of gambling was discussed, such lotteries were common and did generate funds for communities. People would have the reassurance monies spent would be re-

invested into the local community and would be able to choose which charities/ community groups they supported.

On the whole the initiative was supported and the recommendations in the paper were moved.

In response to questions, Officers confirmed there would be no roll-overs and matching the sequence of numbers was a factor in winning some of the prizes. The format did differ from the most commonly recognised namely the National Lottery. Page 59 of the report packs set out the winning combinations.

A Member did raise concerns regarding the setting up costs, and worried these would spiral out of control. These were clearly laid out in the final implications section of the report and assurance was offered that if further funding was required, although this was not anticipated, this would only be with Committee's agreement. There would be minimal impact on Council resources including staff, as the running of the lottery would be undertaken on a day to day basis by Gatherwell on behalf of the Council.

The amendment proposed earlier in the debate was seconded.

It was further moved and duly seconded that the amendment which had been moved and seconded be put to a recorded vote.

The recorded vote was duly taken with those present voting as set out below: -

For: - Councillors Rollings and Young.

Against: - Councillors Bardsley, Bibb, Bierley, Darcel, Devine, England, Mewis, Parish, and Summers

Abstain: - Councillor McNeill

With a total of 2 votes for, 9 votes against and 1 abstention, the motion was declared lost.

The recommendations as set out in the report having being earlier moved were seconded and on being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the launch and delivery of a Council run Community Lottery Scheme as detailed within the report be approved;
- (b) the re-allocation of funds from the Community Grants programme budget to launch and deliver the community lottery be approved; and
- (c) it be **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee that the proposed distribution of funds raised from the community lottery be approved.

14 WORKPLAN

Members gave consideration to the Committee Work Plan.

In response to a question it was confirmed that use of Council Procedure Rule 10 - Notice of Motion, if supported, would be the route by which the Fiskerton Neighbourhood Plan could be discussed.

A member commented that the Work Plan did not include the current work being undertaken in respect of the Markets. This would be included once the Procurement exercise had been completed.

A Member requested a report on the leisure contract once the contract was up and running, especially as the business plan figures had been questioned. This would allow Members to track progress. In response Officers confirmed that such a request was appropriate and such reports would be programmed into the work plan in due course. Appropriate reporting periods and timings would need to be determined in the first instance.

It was also requested that an update be provided on reciprocal arrangements in respect of household recycling sites as appropriate.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan as set out in the report, be received and noted, and the additional items agreed be included.

15 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

16 EXEMPT RECORD OF CONCURRENT MEETING

RESOLVED that the exempt record of the Concurrent Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee held on 25 April 2018 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.14 pm.

Chairman

Prosperous Communities Matters Arising Schedule

Purpose:

To consider progress on the matters arising from previous Prosperous Communities Committee meetings.

Recommendation: That members note progress on the matters arising and request corrective action if necessary.

Matters arising Schedule

Active/Closed	Active				
Meeting	Prosperous Communities Committee				
Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Black					
	CIL PARISH COUNCIL TRAINING	This matter has been referenced 21 March 17. and May 2017	training will be organised after the adoption of CIL . Training organised for September 2018. PCs also invited.	12/06/18	Rachael Hughes
	re-establish think broadband on website	extract from mins of mtg 5/6/18 The Council had previously promoted the "Think Broadband" site, which provided such a function, on the Council's website, during the survey period, and officers would look to see if it was feasible to re-establish this.	The Think Broad site is available on the Council's website. Following completion of the survey period this additional function was never removed so it has been available since and continues to be so.	17/07/18	Ian Knowles

	<p>broadband availability - outcomes of investigation</p>	<p>Extract from mins of mtg 5/6/18 having considered the options presented and suggested throughout the course of the debate, the following options be further investigated and the outcome reported back to Committee in due course: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option b as set out in the report - Adopt a 'sign-posting' stance for communities/residents to provide over view information and point enquiries toward the various available funding streams and options; • Option c as set out in the report - Employ, on a fixed term basis, a 'broadband community champion' to work closely with relevant communities to identify issues, options, funding streams, garner community support/awareness, liaise with service providers and keep abreast of developments in this field. One option may be that other Lincolnshire Councils in a similar position may be willing to resource a shared role. Further investigation of this possibility could be pursued; • Option d as set out in the report - Rely on On-Lincolnshire Phase Three to deliver on behalf of the District and allow other initiatives (both planned and future) to address the issue; and • Option e as raised during debate and detailed above. 	<p>Please ensure feedback report is programmed into the forward plan at an appropriate stage in the year.</p> <p>Report provisionally programmed for Dec 18 - kjc</p>	30/06/18	Ian Knowles
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	report on reciprocal arrangements	Extract from mins of mtg 5/6/18 It was also requested that an update be provided on reciprocal arrangements in respect of household recycling sites as appropriate.	please see response received by way of an update, contained in the appendix to this report	30/06/18	Ady Selby
Green					
	leisure contract monitoring report	extract from mins of mtg 5 June 2018 A Member requested a report on the leisure contract once the contract was up and running, especially as the business plan figures had been questioned. This would allow Members to track progress. In response Officers confirmed that such a request was appropriate and such reports would be programmed into the work plan in due course. Appropriate reporting periods and timings would need to be determined in the first instance.	Please discuss as required with appropriate Officers and ensure reports are programmed in as appropriate	31/07/18	Mark Sturgess
Grand Total					

Response to Matter Arising at C+I and PCC regarding provision of reciprocal cross-border arrangements at HWRC's

Lincolnshire County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, have a non-statutory policy of ensuring that 95% of residents in Lincolnshire should live within a 12 mile radius of a Household Waste Recycling Centre. The map below shows the location of current HWRC's and confirms the LCC Policy is being adhered to. Unfortunately, one of the areas which accounts for the 5% who aren't within that 12 mile radius is within the West Lindsey district.

Traditionally, Lincolnshire County Council had a financial arrangement with North Lincolnshire Council to allow Lincolnshire residents access to North Lincolnshire facilities, however this arrangement has ceased since the opening of The Rasens HWRC at Market Rasen.

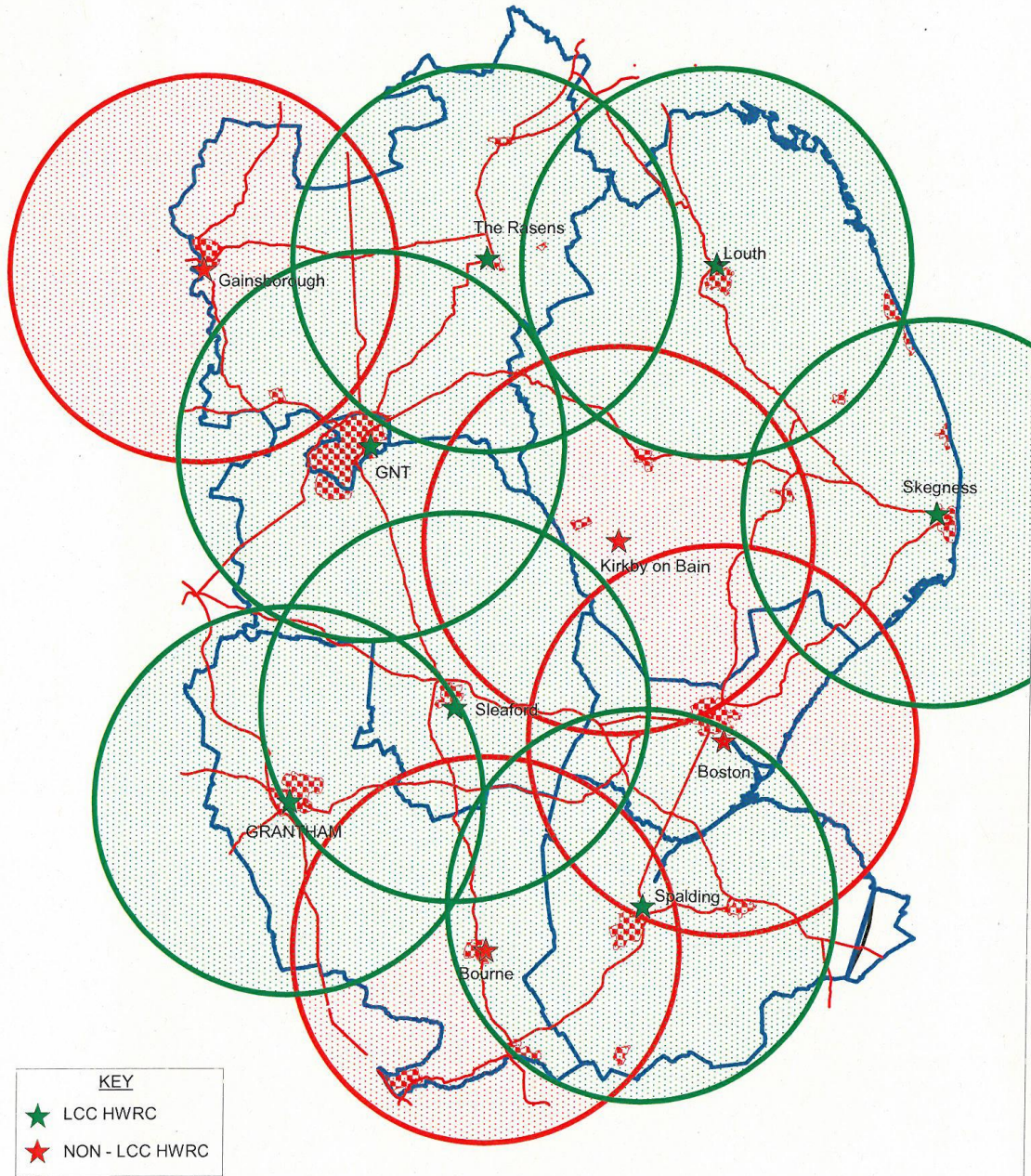
Some HWRC's outside of Lincolnshire may be more convenient for West Lindsey residents to visit such as those at Kirton Lindsey, Barnetby and Immingham. However, residents have no legislative rights to use those facilities which aren't in Lincolnshire. To confirm, the current arrangements are;

In North Lincolnshire-Lincolnshire County Council residents can apply for a permit which allows 12 visits per year at a cost of £144 for the Kirton in Lindsey and Barnetby sites

We await an official position from North East Lincolnshire Council

Lincolnshire County Council have no current plans to amend arrangements with neighbouring authorities.

MAP SHOWING 12 MILE RADIUS OF HWRC'S



KEY	
★	LCC HWRC
★	NON - LCC HWRC

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

DIRECTORATE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Director: Richard Wills
City Hall, Orchard Street, Lincoln LN1 1DN

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**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

17 July 2018

Subject: The Customer First Programme

Report by:	Executive Director Operations/Head of Paid Service
Contact Officer:	Michelle Carrington – Strategic Lead for Customer First.
Purpose / Summary:	To present the Customer First Programme – Strategy, Ethos and Transformational Journey - for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1) That members review and analyse the Customer First Programme and endorse the programme outlined.**
- 2) That the Committee receives regular updates on the progress with the implementation of the programme at least every six months.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:
None at this stage

Financial : FIN-79-19-CC
None at this stage – the Prosperous Communities Committee is charged with endorsing the programme and the request for resources to be released will be made to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee based on that endorsement.

Staffing
None arising directly from this report:

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :
N/A

Risk Assessment :
N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :
N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
Agendas and Minutes arising from the meetings of the Challenge and Improvement Committee held during 2015/16 located on the website

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 The Council is under significant pressure to continually improve the services it offers to residents, businesses and visitors. At the same time it is trying to reduce its costs as its budgets become tighter.
- 1.2 In order to address these twin pressures the Council needs to ensure that it is delivering its services as efficiently as possible, and more importantly that its services continue to meet the needs of its customers.
- 1.3 In order to do this it is proposed that two principal methods are adopted:
 1. It transforms the services which deal directly with customers so that they put the customer at the heart of everything the Council does (the “customer centric organisation”)
 2. Where appropriate it utilises technology to improve the overall speed and accuracy of the service the customer receives at a cost that is sustainable and affordable in the long term.
- 1.4 This will be a major transformation programme as significant internally to the Council as the growth programme is externally. It also has the potential to deliver significant savings over the long term as well as greatly increase the levels of customer satisfaction with the Council.

2.0 The Principal Elements of the Programme

- 2.1 As Councillors would expect with a major programme such as this it is supported by significant documentation which set out the theory behind the programme (the ethos), the strategy to be adopted to implement the programme and the programme of implementation (the transformation journey). These elements are summarised in the attached document “Putting Our Customers First” which members are recommended to read along with this report.
- 2.2 Whilst much of programme can be achieved by the introduction and integration of technology its ultimate success relies on the delivery of a culture change within the organisation so that all staff put the Customer First in everything they do. This is as much about attitude and approach as it is about systems and hardware. This will be achieved through:
 - Improved leadership within the organisation
 - Engagement with and investment in staff to empower them to deliver for the customer
 - A clear understanding of what the customers want from the Council through customer insight work.
 - Redesign its processes from the customer’s perspective – not the services

- Ensuring a consistency of service provision irrespective of how customers engage with us, the channel they use or who they approach.
- Using comments, compliments and complaints as a learning tool and to focus on quickly resolving complaints to the customers satisfaction
- To measure how well we are serving the needs of our customers and to use this information to constantly improve our services.
- To develop long term relationships with those customers that use our services regularly to ensure that we adapt to meet their changing needs.

2.3 These plans have been categorised into six key areas which are known as the “six pillars of Customer First” and are: insight, access, process, people, culture and delivery.

3.0 Delivery of Outcomes

3.1 The principal outcomes which will be delivered by the programme are:

- Services which are more attuned to the needs of the customer, meaning that they will get a quicker turnaround, answers which meet their needs and not the needs of the service, access to services at a time and through a medium which is more in line with how they live their lives and is consistent with other service providers and quicker resolution when things go wrong.
- Services which are affordable in the long run and are able to withstanding the budget pressures the Council is facing over the next few years.

4.0 The Process

4.1 The programme has already been subject to “pre-scrutiny” through the Challenge and Improvement Committee. The Committee discussed the report and were able to question the Programme Lead on aspects which concerned them at the conclusion of discussions it was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The report and strategy be supported and recommended to the Prosperous Communities Committee; and
- b) The Strategic Lead be invited to return to the Challenge and Improvement Committee to provide updates on the strategy at regular intervals throughout the implementation of the strategy.

4.2 It is therefore recommended that the programme is endorsed by the Prosperous Communities Committee and it also receives regular

updates on the progress of the programme (not less than every six months).



Putting Our Customers First

**Our Ethos
Our Strategy
Our Transformational Journey**

Executive Summary

Introduction.

Putting our Customers First.



Putting our Customers First is about offering excellent customer service, by providing a great experience from the first time the Customer interacts with us, then throughout the service delivery process; and the way that we deliver that service; right up to the post-service follow-up to assess our Customer's satisfaction.

Putting our Customers First is everybody's job, whether acting on the frontline, processing a request, physically delivering the service, supporting the delivery or managing operations.

And.... Putting our Customers First is as equally important whether the Customer is internal or external to the organisation.

A Customer wants to be seen as an individual, and wants to find or obtain what they need quickly and easily. Our role in this partnership needs to be to **help Customers do what they need to do, with the least possible friction.**

Achieving that is about creating and living by an organisational culture completely focussed around the Customer. It is a culture which starts with the Customers, **not** the services and focusses on what Customers want to do. By designing the organisation from the Customer's perspective, it will then be focused on the Customer's needs. Thus, the customer-centric organisation creates products, processes, policies and a culture that is designed to support Customers with a great experience as they are working towards their goals.

Our Customers live, work, or conduct business within our District usually for extended periods of time; and therefore we need to build a positive relationship with our Customers for long term success. We recognise that our Customers; and our relationships will change over time; and we need to respond by ensuring our ethos aligns to the ever-evolving needs of our Customers. We will showcase accomplishments that we have achieved for our Customers, and remove the blocks that affect both our Customers and the Councils success.

Whilst this is fundamental to Customer First, it has to be recognised that the Council now, more than ever, operates within a constrained financial envelope; and coupled with an ever increasing demand from our Customers. So whilst delivering excellent customer service, the Council must also ensure that is operating and using its resources in the best possible way to provide a 'right first time', speedy, efficient and effective service; as that in its own right will generate Customer satisfaction and loyalty.

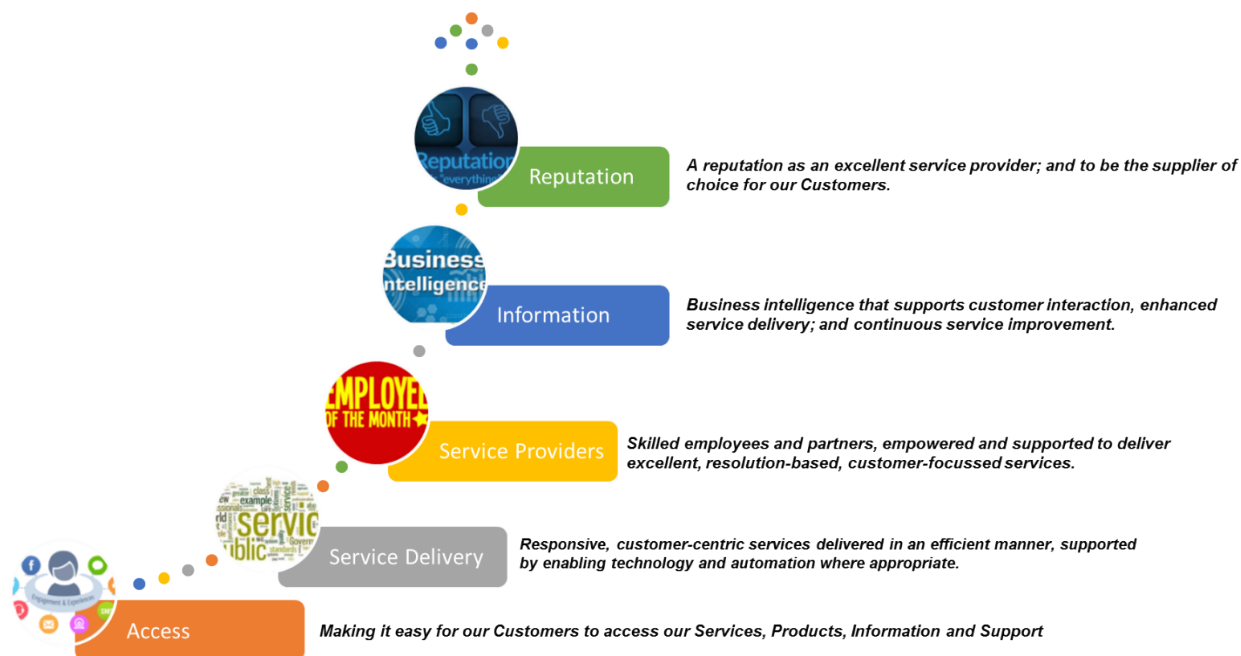
As such, the vision for Customer First is:

Putting the Customer at the centre of everything we do....

Through excellent customer service, a great experience, and a value-for-money, effective service delivery which is designed around our Customer's needs.

Our Objectives and Aims for Customer First.

In meeting the Vision above, the Council has identified a core set of Outcomes for Customer First.



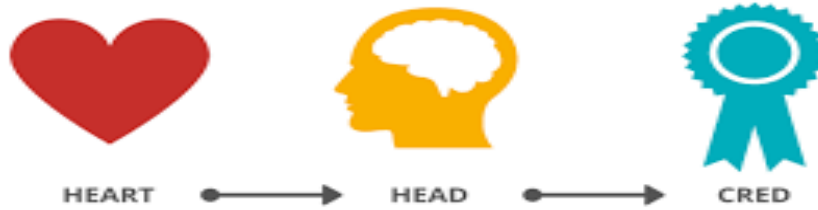
To achieve those outcomes, the Council is embarking on a customer-centric transformation programme; known as Customer First. The aims and objectives of Customer First are to:

- Embed the ethos of 'Customer First' into the culture of the Council.
- Change the way we design our processes and systems to put the Customer's needs and expectations at the heart of how we operate and work.
- Improve our Customer's experience when both dealing with the Council; and receiving services; and as a result, increase satisfaction levels.
- Focus our service delivery on 'getting it right first time' (for the Customer).
- Provide a modern range of access channels through which our Customers can either serve themselves, or gain assisted service by interacting directly with us.
- Join up those channels; by integrating data, interactions and service information; into one holistic data store; which can be accessed by Customers and employees alike.
- Provide open access to personal and service data to our Customers; whilst ensuring that we keep their information and identity safe and protected.
- Significantly improve our first time resolution rates; at the first point of contact, by ensuring comprehensive information is available to resolve the query.

- For simple transactions, digitalise and automate our processes; with a view to providing speedy efficient services to our Customers; and releasing the frontline to support those that need our help and assistance.
- Streamline more complex functions, improving the experience, speed, quality and efficiency of service delivery.
- Distribute the handling of Customer interaction activities in a way that gets the Customer to the best person to deal with that interaction, whilst making best use of the Councils resources, and an individual employees skills, experience and knowledge.
- Ensure that employees have the right skills, attitude, behaviours and support to provide an excellent customer service; and to be digitally savvy in their ways of working.
- Gather customer insight, performance information and other analytics to allow us to regularly check our Customer's needs and expectations; and to support us in continuous improvement and service innovation.
- Review and rationalise our ICT technology and business systems to ensure a modern fit for purpose suite of digitally enabled technology that fully supports our business and customer needs.
- Take advantage of emerging tools and digital technologies to improve service delivery and interact more effectively with our Customers and communities.
- Reduce the cost of service delivery; by more efficient processing and using digitalisation and automation technology.

The remainder of this document outlines the key components of our Customer First ethos, the Strategy that the Council will be adopting and our transformation journey to ensure that as an organisation we are able to deliver our Customer First vision, aims and objectives.



Customer First – Our Ethos



Having a Customer ethos has to become a key part of the culture of the Council for us to achieve our ambition of being a customer-centric organisation and to meet our vision of Customer First.

That ethos is about our attitude and approach to putting our Customers First, at an organisational level and through every individual who works with us. But attitude is only one aspect.

Developing a Customer Ethos requires commitment and investment in a number of key enablers; and the enablers the Council have committed to are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  1. Leadership |  2. Employee Engagement |
|  3. Insight |  4. Customer Experience Design & Processes |
|  5. Consistency |  6. Focus on Problems & Complaints |
|  7. Effective Measurement |  8. Innovation & Improvement |

The following sets out a high level overview of each of the Our Ethos enablers. For the full detail of how these enablers will be embedded in the Council, please refer to the full Customer First Strategy.



Leadership can be shown at any level of the organisation, and in the case of the Customer First ethos, leadership is about demonstrating a clear commitment to the principles and culture of a customer-centric organisation; and making it a priority in everything that we do. Leadership will be a key part of our culture change programme.



It is important that we inform, engage and invest in our employees, and empower them to be able to embody the Customer First principles in their dealing with our Customers, and each other. However, it is also important that they are part of the decision on how we implement the principles.

As such, the Council will seek to engage our employees in both the transformation programme, and the outcomes from that programme; as well as providing regular feedback of our Customer's views of their experiences; and our service delivery.



To be a customer-centric organisation, you must first understand your Customers, their needs, preferences and expectations. Capturing Customer Insight is key to enabling that understanding. As such the Council will seek to capture information from our Customers, from their interactions and from our data on service delivery to inform that process.



Historically Councils have designed processes around the way they want to work and what is easiest for them. However, this doesn't always make the process easy for the Customer. Instead, the Council will start to design its processes and ways of working around the customers experience, not that of the Council.



One of the key elements of a good customer experience is consistency in the way that you receive that service. The Customer should get the same experience, the same process, and the same outcome irrespective of how they engage with the Council; and who they engage with. The Council will be ensure that this is a key part of any redesign work.



A key component on any customer-centric organisation is a focus on problems and complaints. They will quickly identify what the Customers are experiencing and initiate actions to resolve the problems as far as possible for that particular Customer (and as quickly and easily as possible); and will then go on to make improvement actions to reduce the possibility of that happening in the future.

Complaints, instead of being seen as a 'difficulty', should be regarded as learning opportunities; and a time to provide recompense to that Customer, as well as opportunity to prevent further issues in the same vain. Many a problem is turned around by the experience the Customer has after the initial event



One of the most effective ways to know how well an organisation is doing in its journey to being Customer Centric is to apply effective Measurement.

The Council will introduce more formal customer-centric measurement into its day to day operations. This Measurement will be in two aspects, from a Customer Perspective (the Voice of the Customer) and from a Service Delivery Perspective (the Councils Performance Framework).



Whilst the majority of our Customers are relatively long-term Customers (in relation to commercial companies), the profile of our Customers, their needs and expectations will change over time. At the same time, wider customer expectations and technological developments continue to advance at a significant rate.

As a customer-centric organisation, the Council must develop an innovation and improvement culture to ensure that we can keep up with our Customers' expectations; and provide them with modern methods of accessing and receiving services.

Customer First – Our Strategy



Our Strategy (The Customer First Strategy) sets out what changes the Council is going to make, and describes the ‘world’ that we want to create for our customers and ourselves in the future, to enable us to meet our overall Customer First Vision.

The aim of our Customer First Strategy is to:-

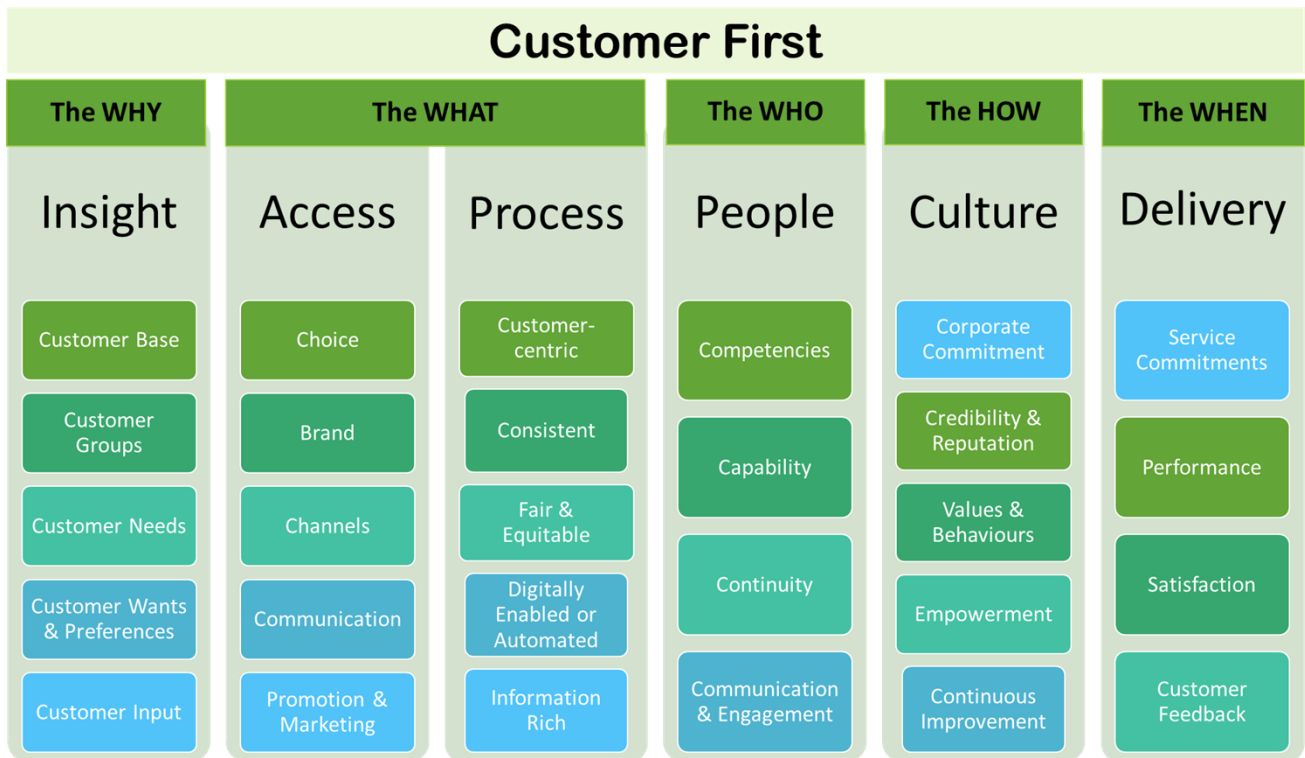
“Create an environment that allows us to deliver positive Customer experiences and efficient cost effective services, through facilitated channels, utilising enhanced skills, knowledge and processes; and digitally enabled technologies where possible”.

The following (Customer First – Our Strategy) section sets out the plans that the Council is adopting to deliver that aim.

It is designed to provide a structure on which the Council can design and plan improvement actions that focus the organisation on becoming a customer-centric organisation.

These plans have been categorised into six groupings, known as the “Six pillars of Customer First”; covering Insight, Access, Process, People, Culture and Delivery.

Each of these pillars sets out some of the key focus areas (shown in the diagram below) which the Council need to address to achieve the vision of Customer First. These pillars are also used in the delivery themes (as described in the next section Customer First - Our Transformational Journey).



Delivering these key areas will require significant development across the entire depth and breadth of the Council; and will need to be implemented as a staged approach, building layers of improvement to move the Council to its ultimate aims.

The six pillars of Customer First and will be used to drive our transformational journey through the Customer First Programme and will be the themes for our transformational focus.

The following provides a summary of the key drivers of those Pillars. The full detail of the strategy for each Pillar can be found in the full Customer First Strategy.



Customer Insight

When an organisation puts the Customer at the centre of their business, they are able to collect a wealth of data which gives a full 360 view of the Customer. This can then be used to really to focus on enhancing the Customer experience.

It is important that any future customer developments are based on a robust understanding of our Customers, due to the diverse nature of the district, its geography and the makeup of its communities, as well as being a place of growing interest for businesses and visitors.

As a Council, we are rich in service data but that data is dispersed across many systems and data stores across the organisation; and has very limited availability or use outside of any particular department.

It is important that the Council starts to collect customer-focused data, collates that information to provide a more rounded view; and analyses that information to deliver quality decision-supporting insight.

Key outcomes of insight are:

- Establishing a good understanding of our diverse Customers.
- A Profile of those Customers to understand common characteristics, behaviours and expectations; which may identify Customer groupings.
- Gather a view from our Customers on their needs, expectations and behaviours.
- Input from our Customers on our development and improvement plans.
- Feedback on their experience and satisfaction with our service delivery.
- Monitor changing trends in needs and behaviours; which will inform amendments to our future service delivery.
- Use of that understanding, insight and feedback to
 - Customise the way we offer our services to ensure they meet the expectations of our Customers.
 - Improve our service delivery processes based on their feedback; and on the characteristics and needs of the user groups of those services.
 - Identify products and services that could be of interest or use to the customer groups; and utilise targeted promotion and marketing.

Gathering this insight will mean we are able to use our resources to best affect, focussing our efforts and money on improvements which meet our Customers satisfaction, whilst at the same time always keeping in mind the key element of *'helping Customers do what they need to do, with the least possible friction'*. This is a key part of the strategy: providing an enhanced customer experience; in an affordable way to both the Council and our Tax Payers.



How easy and simple it is for a Customer to access the Councils services is often the first factor in the Customer deciding whether they have a good experience with the Council.

For the majority of services; it is the only time that they get involved with us; and sets their perception (and ultimately the reputation) of the Council.

Traditionally, the Council has provided face-to-face and telephone access, and latterly developed our digital presence through our website; online transactions; and email.

We have to recognise that our Customer's expectations are influenced by what happens in their day to day lives; and retailers in particular have developed their digital offering to such an extent, that Customers expectations of interacting with us are much greater than that currently offered by the Council. Customers expect to be able to transact in their chosen way, and often in their chosen timeframe, depending on the nature of the business they wish to do on that day.

As such, the Council will need to develop more digital ways of working to meet those expectations. Digital ways of working are not just about putting a digital front end on a traditional service, as generally this does not improve the Customers experience. The Council needs to look at developing digital services which are timely, efficient and right first time; with a high bias towards first time resolution where appropriate to the type of transaction. This means adopting not only digital access channels, but integrating these and our more traditional access channels with digital ways of working; and automation within the service processing and delivery phases. More of this will be discussed within the Process component of this section.

However, the Council also recognises that some of our Customers will want to contact us through our more traditional contact methods, and the Council will continue to develop these.

The key outcomes to be delivered from this theme include:

- Provide comprehensive information to the frontline, to enable them to answer more enquiries at the first point of contact; and that same information through digital portals, to allow customers to self-serve themselves.
- Join up information, data and processing across all our access channels, to provide a seamless experience irrespective of channel used.
- Ensure the Council meets the terms of the new GDPR rules, for Customers to have access to their data.
- Provide more self-service capabilities, to allow those Customers who want to, to serve themselves.
- Enhance or replace our website.
- Develop separate online Customer Portals designed around individual/households and business requirements.
- Enable webchat on our website.
- Enhance our Contact Centre to be able to deal with a range of contact channels through a single contact management systems.
- Implement Customer Management systems to allow us record and manage all contacts and requests from Customers, through any channel of access into one centralised place (developing the concept of a Single View of the Customer).

- Utilise the Customer systems to provide regular updates to Customers on the progress of their requests.
- Utilise digital technology to provide notifications, reminders and other information to our customers.
- Allow uploading of documents and other information through digital means.
- Explore the use of automation, artificial intelligence and virtual assistants for simple queries and transactions which do not require the human touch.
- Refurbish our Customer Service Hub at Gainsborough.
- Introduce Digital Kiosks into our public facing offices.
- Evaluate the use of virtual mail and other digital mail options.

Part of an integrated approach to customer management is developing a recognised brand which Customers can equate to and which demonstrates the joined up and cohesive elements of our strategy of access.

As such, the Council has developed its Customer First branding, and will use that as a key visual element across any channel and communication means.



Process

The way we process requests from our customers, and the way we may deal with that customer during that period, can also have a big influence on our customers experience and ultimate satisfaction.

At the moment, the Council is a very silo-service based organisation, with individual services having 'their' way of doing things, their business systems, their data and their standards. Their processes are primarily written to suit their processing needs; and to make it easy for them to 'deliver the service'.

Unfortunately, the customer pays the price of this silo-based approach, having to work around sometimes unfriendly processes, restrictions, hurdles, and having to understand complex 'Council' speak or 'technical terms'. For some customers, it can get much more complicated when their need means that they have to communicate with multiple departments to get what in their view is a simple 'thing'. Moving house is a prime example of this. In these circumstances, the customer has to negotiate their way through multiple ways of doing the same thing, repeatedly providing the same information over and over again, and having to know who to talk to about what. In simple fact, we do not make it easy for our customers.

Going back to one of our customer-centric starting principles - that our role needs to be to **help Customers do what they need to do, with the least possible friction**. We have to start thinking about our service delivery as 'One Council' not separate departments, teams and services. In Our Ethos, we discussed designing our processes around the customer's experience; and this is where we need to start.

The Council will approach this in two ways:-

- to undertake a service redesign on each of the customer-facing services within the Council;
- and to undertake cross-cutting redesign, to deliver (a) amalgamated services which deliver an outcome matched to the request the customer has made and (b) link services to the benefit of the customer.

To ensure the redesign is comprehensive; the redesign process will not only look at process related components, but will also review, assess and implement appropriate components of the strategies described in the Insight, Access, People and Service Delivery sections

The purpose of the reviews will be to:

1. Ensure that the ultimate processes are designed to make the process for the customer as simple and easy as possible ('least friction'); and the experience as good as possible (customer-centric).
2. Ensure that what can be done at first contact is done at that point; and that the right information and tools are available to support that.
3. Digitally enable processes from front to end; minimising any bespoke human effort required.
4. Facilitating a timely, efficient and quality processing and/or delivery service.
5. Ensure that staff are appropriately equipped and skilled to provide that quality experience.

In order to deliver increased 'resolution at the first contact', the review will look to identify all interactions and transactional capabilities that can be delivered in one touch; and transfer these from back office service responsibility to the frontline. The use of systems, rich information and automation, will ensure that the frontline can be effective at dealing with all simple transactions and queries; and that the back office responsibilities are focused on processing, delivery and more complex issues. This will create capacity within the Council to reduce, improve or extend the delivery capabilities as appropriate.

To achieve this, the Council will look to

- Utilise workflow and artificial intelligence to provide automated solutions.
- Integrate our core business applications
- Centralise service evidence, documentation and records into a single data store, integrated with CRM, and other business systems.

- Make more use of spatial mapping systems (GIS) for location based data.
- Utilise unified communications and team collaboration tools to support an agile and flexible workforce; and to improve communication.



Customer-Centric Employees

When our customers interact with our employees, the nature of individuals, their attitudes and behaviors can sometimes lead to a varied experience; and the way that an employee deals with an interaction; and the level of skill and information they have, can be the difference between whether the experience is a good one, or a bad one.

As such, the Council will establish clear protocols on attitudes, behaviors and expectations of its employees and partners acting on our behalf; through our standards of Customer Service. This is a key part of the employment engagement enabler in 'Our Customer First Ethos' section.

Employees will be:

1. Recruited on customer-centric attitudes and behaviors as a primary requirements of the role.
2. Monitored to ensure that their attitudes and behaviors meet the expectations of the Council; and if not, improvement actions will be put in place.
3. Set appraisal targets around the 'Our Customer First Ethos' enablers, to ensure that the culture continues to develop around customer-centricity.
4. Provided with regular formal training on delivering excellent Customer Service.

Customer-Centric Organisation

Part of the delivery of 'as much resolution at the first point of contact as possible', is about having the right people in the right place, with the right skills, attitudes, information and systems at their fingertips.

As such, the Council will be reviewing its organisational structure, with a focus on:

1. Transferring all initial Customer interaction into the frontline, not direct to professional officers; and increasing the range and depth of enquiries and transactions undertaken by the frontline. (The frontline should be regarded as a both human and digitally enabled channels of access and information).
2. Transferring responsibilities (and staff) from the back office service units into the frontline. The final format of the frontline will be defined over the period of the

Customer First Transformation Programme. However, there is an assumption that the majority of staff working in customer facing service units will be affected by the change in some way.

3. Reducing the level of administration and basic enquiries that specialist officers will undertake.
4. Reviewing the difference between case work and specialist expertise; and the way that this is undertaken and managed in the future.

Employee Engagement and Feedback.

The Employee Engagement enabler in the 'Our Ethos' section in this report has already set out the principles of the culture of this Council in relation to employee engagement.

In practical terms, in relation to our transformational journey, the Council will ensure that its employees are constantly engaged in the decisions and changes of the Customer First Programme; and will deliver an engagement strategy to ensure that this is effective.

This will be achieved through the use of digital technology such as employee engagement software and unified communications, the Councils intranet; and regular employee surveys and other feedback mechanisms.



Culture

Within the Our Ethos section of this document, we have already outlined the key principles and enablers of a customer-centric organisation and the way we will build that culture within the Council. This section will outline specific strategic deliverables which will support the embodiment of that culture.

Employee-Focused

In order for Employees to fully understand our expectations, we will create a range of guidance and documentation which sets out the principles, standards, behaviors and actions that we expect of them.

A range of guidance and templates will be produced to inform and govern the nature of communications to our customers, and to ensure that a consistent approach and tone is made by the Council. We will also regularly review specific communications and documentation to ensure that it is customer-friendly; easy to read and understand; and involve our customers in that review where possible.

Compliments, Comments and Complaints will be regularly reviewed; trends identified; and information provided to our employees on the nature of those, to ensure that the Council focusses on resolving problems and issues that our customers experience; and are able to learn corporately from those.

Case Studies; and Customer Feedback (both in summary, and specific feedback) will be made available to employees to show the good and the bad, again to inform learning and encourage customer focused thinking.

Our Customer-centric culture will be a regular feature in our Corporate Briefings; and our Leaders and Managers will continually demonstrate the importance of 'putting our Customers First in everything that we do'.

Customer-Focused

For our Customers, we will create a Customer Charter, which will set out our key principles by which we will serve our Customers.

Our Customer Services Standards will also be published to our Customers, including regular updates on how well we are meeting them.

Our Customer Experience Policy, sets out further details on how a Customer can tell us about their experience, whether good or bad. However, we will also regularly ask for feedback from our customers; and not rely on them having to tell us.



The final aspect of a Customers experience is the actual delivery of the service to them; and whether that meets their expectations. Failure to meet their expectation may be a result of a range of criteria, including timeliness, quality, decision made, and impact to themselves.

It is therefore important the Council sets out what a customer can expect in terms of the purpose of the service, potential limitations, service level agreements and clear eligibility criteria, conditions and terms.

It is then critical that the Council actively delivers on those promises; and that we continually review and monitor our delivery; and our performance.

The Council will introduce Service Standards, which clearly set out the key criteria and the service level that a customer can expect to receive when requesting and receiving a service.

We will then monitor our performance against those service standards, by introducing KPIs which demonstrate our commitment to these standards. The performance against these KPIs will be reviewed regularly at all levels of management; and an assessment and improvement actions put in place when performance dips below our target.

A key indicator is Customer Satisfaction and we will regular review our customers satisfaction with service delivery, from the first point of contact through to the completion of all actions related to their service request.

The Council will also develop a wider range of customer measures, known as the Voice of the Customer, as referenced in the insight sections of this document. This will allow us to identify service improvement and changes as our customers view, expectations and behaviors change.

Improvement actions will be captured from all a range of process including service delivery performance, complaints, customer feedback, staff feedback and other such information. These will be stored in a single data store, and can be merged with improvement actions identified from audits and other internal and external quality and performance assessments to provide a comprehensive improvement log. This will allow better management and monitoring of those actions, improvement reporting at all levels, recognition of wider trends, or types of issues that are regularly occurring; and will facilitate the ability for wider learning from issues across the breadth of the Council.

Customer First – Our Transformational Journey



Our transformational journey to achieving the Customer First Vision and Strategy will be undertaken through the Customer First Transformation Programme.

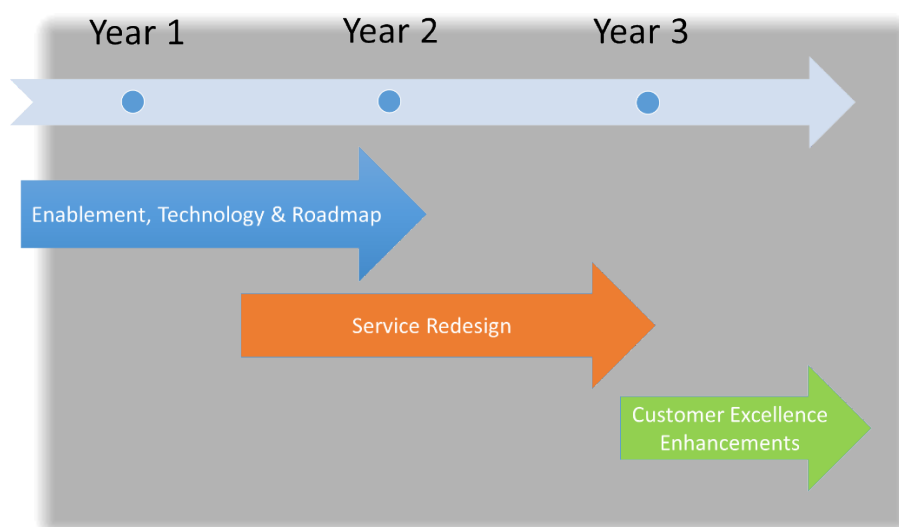
The aim of our Customer First Transformation Programme is to:-

“Identify and Deliver a stream of projects which enables the Council to

“Create an environment that allows us to deliver positive Customer experiences and efficient cost effective services, through facilitated channels, utilising enhanced skills, knowledge and processes; and digitally enabled technologies where possible”.

The anticipation is that this programme will take around three years; and will deliver a range of projects against each of the six Pillars of Customer First. The programme will be delivered in three phases, focussed on (1) Enablement, Roadmap decisions and Technology, (2) Service Redesign, and (3) Achieving Customer Excellence.

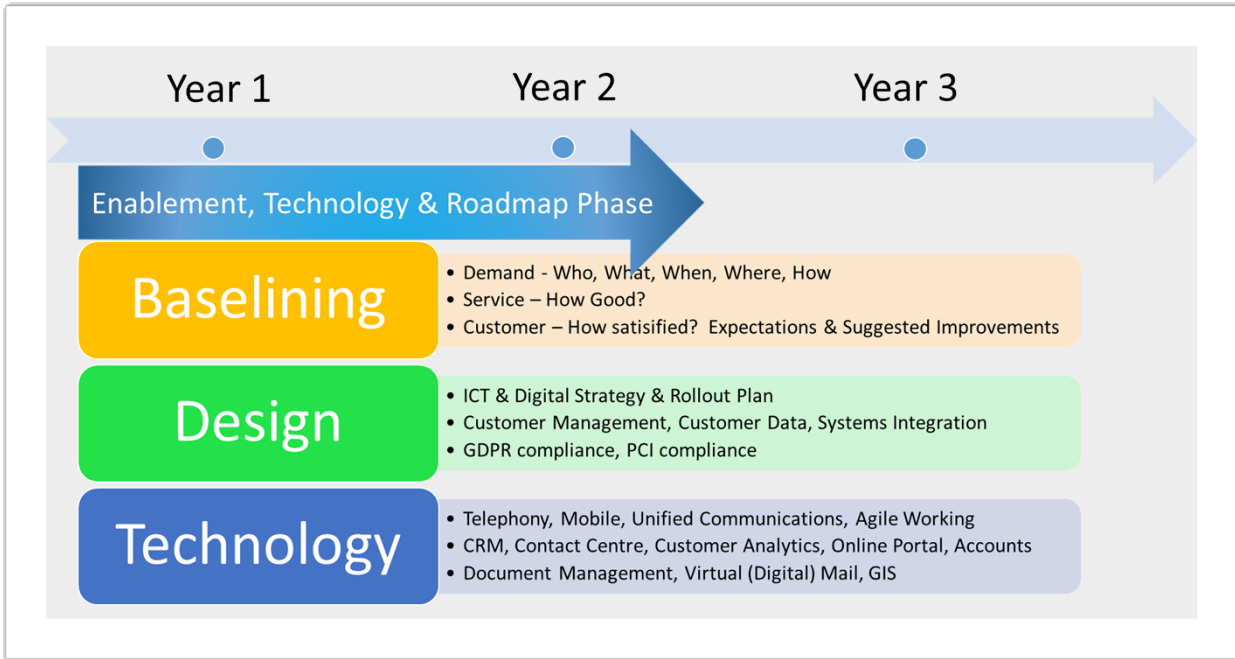
The following diagram shows the anticipated timeline for each of those phases.



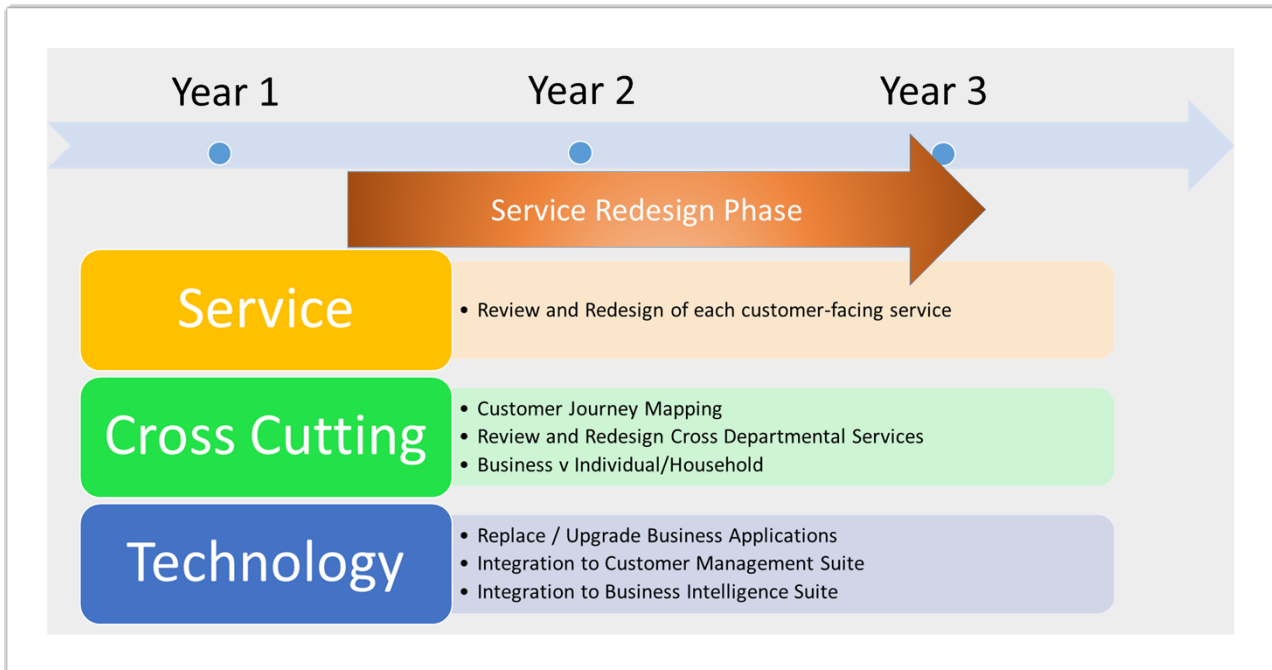
Customer First Transformation Programme Timeline and Phasing Strategy

The following diagrams provide more detail on the anticipated set-up and scope of the first two Phases. The third phase will be scoped closer to the time, as this will be based on enhancements to the outcomes from the first two phases.

Phase 1 Roadmap



Phase 2 Roadmap



The full breakdown of projects within each of the phases can be found within the Customer First Programme Dossier.



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

17th July 2018

Subject: Health Commission – Progress Report and Future Arrangements

Report by:	Mark Sturgess – Executive Director Operations/Head of Paid Service
Contact Officer:	Phil Taylor Wellbeing and Health Manager 01427 676619 Phil.taylor@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	Review of the West Lindsey Health Commission

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the Health Commission continues to meet 2 monthly until the end of its remit in 2018.
2. That a report be brought to the Committee in the autumn cycle of meetings recommending the establishment of a strategic health partnership for West Lindsey to replace the Health Commission on the completion of its remit (this report should include terms of reference, proposed membership, meeting cycles, desired outcomes, officer support etc.).
3. That the aims and objectives of any “Strategic Health Partnership” for West Lindsey should be aligned with those of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy to ensure proper coordination of delivery within the District.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

None arising

Financial : FIN/78/19/CC

None arising

Staffing :

None arising

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None Arising

Risk Assessment :

None arising

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

None arising

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Original paper setting up the Health Commission titled 'Approval Brief for Health Commission' was presented to Prosperous Communities Committee on 25th October 2016.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1** In 2016 councillors became aware of a number of concerns about health, wellbeing and health care provision affecting West Lindsey residents. Subsequently, members led the development of the West Lindsey Health Commission. The Health Commission seeks to be part of the solution to improving the health and wellbeing of communities in West Lindsey.
- 1.2.** The Terms of Reference for the Health Commission are included at **Appendix 1**. These terms of reference include sections detailing aims, objectives and principles of the health commission.
- 1.3** The Health Commission is supported by and has been working closely alongside the council's Health Coordinator (Sarah Shaw) and Home Choices Team Manager (Michelle Howard), currently supported by Phil Taylor providing maternity cover.
- 1.4** The Health Commission has now been operational for sixteen months. Membership of the Health Commission is now stable and working well, with individual members leading on the thematic areas as agreed and reporting back to the Commission. This report provides a position update on progress and achievements to date. It builds on the information previously included within the Annual Report to Council.
- 1.5** West Lindsey faces the challenge of an aging population, long term unemployment together with a large proportion of the population experiencing preventable conditions, linked to lifestyle and social determinants of health. Unhealthy life style choices such as poor diet, and inactivity are contributing towards diabetes and obesity above the national average. Reducing alcohol misuse, smoking, diabetes obesity and increasing inactivity are the local priorities.
- 1.6** It is clear from work undertaken by the Health Commission and the Governments agenda at a national level that there will be a continuing role for district councils to identify and promote the delivery for the health needs in their areas. The experience of running the Health Commission for the last two years has that it is benefiting the District by focusing on specific issues and helping partners understanding the need in West Lindsey.
- 1.7** It is therefore proposed that a further paper be brought to the Committee in the autumn cycle of meetings on how the work the Commission has started can be continued through the establishment of a Strategic Health Partnership.

2 Progress Update

- 2.1** A progress update detailing activity against the aims and objectives of the Health Commission is set out at **Appendix 2**.

3 Challenge & Improvement Committee

3.1 This report was considered by the Challenge & Improvement Committee at their meeting on 26th June with the following outcomes:

- a). The original Terms of Reference having been identified to Members, it was recommended to the Prosperous Communities Committee that these be reviewed.
- b). It was highlighted that West Lindsey faced the challenge of an aging population, long term unemployment together with a large proportion of the population experiencing preventable conditions, linked to lifestyle and social determinants of health. It was noted that unhealthy life style choices such as poor diet, and inactivity were contributing towards diabetes and obesity above the national average. Reducing alcohol misuse, smoking, diabetes obesity and increasing inactivity were the local priorities.
- c). As West Lindsey District Council do not hold the budget for health care provision, it was crucial that representatives were able to voice the needs of the District in an appropriate setting. There was acknowledgement that local health provision had to be driven by the scope or limitations of the NHS however there was agreement that there was insufficient representation across all districts within the county-wide health board. The Monitoring Officer clarified for Members that the district-led work continued to compile evidence to help inform Members to then be able to lobby the relevant areas and providers.
- d). In response to a question from Committee regarding the key partners for the Health Commission, the Interim Wellbeing and Health Manager confirmed that the review of the Terms of Reference would seek to amend any such details, for example adding Acis as a key partner.
- e). It was agreed there is a need for representatives across all districts to have a stronger voice in health matters and also for Lincolnshire MPs to work as necessary in Westminster to safeguard the health needs of the area. It was acknowledged that to address some of the issues identified, such as poor diet and lack of exercise, there would need to be greater work undertaken in relation to lifestyle choices rather than simply healthcare provision.

On the conclusion of discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the contents of the report and the recommendations to the Prosperous Communities Committee be noted.

West Lindsey District Council Health Commission

Terms of Reference

Overall Objectives

Members of West Lindsey District Council's Health Commission have led the development of the Health Commission. It seeks to be part of the solution to improving the health and wellbeing of communities in West Lindsey.

The Health Commission is Member led and seeks to examine and understand the state of health services in the district. It aims to:

- Enable maximum impact with the Council's limited resources and ability as a facilitator to help join up various issues on health prevention and delivery where possible
- Use the Council's role as problem solver, advocate, influencer and service deliverer to safeguard and promote the health and wellbeing of the District's communities

The Council does not directly provide health services and this is not a statutory area. However, the Council has played a major role in terms of community action, ensuring grants to improve community infrastructure and securing other funding to support community groups.

The Health Commission is not intended to replace or replicate the work of the Lincolnshire Health Scrutiny Committee. The WLDC Health Scrutiny Committee representative will sit on the Health Commission in order to provide a link between the two groups and share information as required and appropriate.

The Health Commission will coordinate member led activity for the purposes of achieving the following outcomes:

1. Better Council understanding of health and wellbeing issues and the role we can play to address them
2. Recommendations to various bodies including the Council on future policy and action, particularly partnership opportunities with health services and the community to particularly improve community action, housing, leisure and well being

Principles of the Health Commission

- Fact finding
- Enhancing our offer
- Prevention in partnership
- Problem solving in partnership

Scope and Functions of the Health Commission

The areas covered by the scope for the Health Commission relate to either:

1. Health Care
2. Wider Determinants of Health

Initial areas for examination have been scoped. The initial scope is attached at Appendix A.

The Health Commission will need the ability and flexibility to capture and respond to emerging needs. The scope may evolve during the lifespan of the Health Commission to take account of the pace of change and opportunities to work in partnership that may be realised through this work. This will be managed through a clear workplan.

For each scope area taken forward by the Health Commission, the following approach will be taken to engage with partners and really understand both problems and potential solutions:

- Scope who needs to be involved / invited and what information is needed
- Examine and hear information
- Make informed recommendations for action, short and long term

The Health Commission will act as the 'Member Voice' for Health. It will:

- Ensure a flow of information between all Elected Members about key health issues
- Enable Members to share concerns or issues about health / health services in their locality, for review by the Commission. The Commission will determine the need to develop the scope to incorporate emerging issues as appropriate and required.
- Develop links with the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, and Lincolnshire Health Scrutiny Committee
- Be accountable to Challenge and Improvement Committee and Prosperous Communities Committee.

Health Commission Representation and Meeting Frequency

The Health Commission will comprise up to 9 Members of the Council, from across the following committees:

- Prosperous Communities Committee
- Challenge and Improvement Committee
- Policy & Resources Committee

The Health Commission will be represented by Members from across the West Lindsey District.

Additional Members may be co-opted to join the Health Commission, at the discretion of the Commission.

A minimum of 4 Members will be required to make each Health Commission meeting quorate.

Members who are designated to serve on the Health Commission should give this work priority. Should any Members find that they are unable to maintain commitment to the Health Commission, the Chair will liaise with the respective Committee Chairs to identify an alternative representative

The Health Commission will require Members to take a 'thematic lead' for areas contained within the scope.

Officer Representation: Officers of the Council will engage with the Health Commission to provide advice, information, guidance & logistical support.

Officers will share information relating to work streams within the remit of the Health Coordinator and where appropriate may seek the views and expertise of the Health Commission as a 'sounding board' to assist with the scoping and development of projects, prior to reports being drafted for Committee.

Health Commission meetings will be held six weekly. Members will be required to engage with partners and gather information in between meetings.

Urgent business may require additional meetings.

Note; the Health Commission is not a public meeting.

Accountability and Reporting Structure

The Health Commission will report to the Challenge and Improvement Committee which will in turn, report back to the Prosperous Communities Committee.

An initial report is due in May 2017 after which point the future need for and remit of the Health Commission will be considered by Prosperous Communities Committee.

Key Partners, Relationships and Information

The list below is not exhaustive but provides an overview of some key partners and sources of information that will be of use to the Health Commission:

- Lincolnshire County Council Public Health
- West Lindsey District Council Health Coordinator
- Lincolnshire Health Scrutiny Committee
- Lincolnshire Health & Wellbeing Board
- District Council Network Health Taskforce (Member reference panel)
- Public Health England
- NHS England
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Lincolnshire Health & Care (LHAC)
- GP Surgeries
- Wellbeing Service Providers
- John Coupland Hospital

- United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust (ULHT)
- Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- Lincolnshire Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP)
- Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Age UK
- Lace Housing

Appendix A – Initial Scope

Theme 1	<p>To understand how we can help with John Coupland Hospital and GP Surgery services, specifically helping in areas of prevention and health condition management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Access and map GP provision across West Lindsey and the present pressures. Map primary care services offered in surgeries and health centres ➤ Motion for a rural attendance allowance and creating a local government network to lobby national government
Theme 2	<p>Understand the STP proposals and recommend how the Council can help in shaping changes that impact on areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Health care prevention ➤ Condition management ➤ Independent living and housing ➤ Integrated, efficient services and facilities ➤ Access to services ➤ Access to leisure and greenspaces
Theme 3	<p>Examine best practice in West Lindsey and elsewhere. Map community networks in West Lindsey for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sustainable community action by groups including support to community leaders ➤ Volunteering and type of area priorities / network ➤ Role of opticians, dentists, chiropody, schools and other health service points, including pharmacies, in helping prevention and health condition management. Include also LIVES and East Midlands Ambulance Service.
Theme 4	<p>Understand the mental health and recovery issues, especially how physical and mental health conditions and interrelated.</p> <p>The role community plays and can further play in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Crisis prevention ➤ Recovery ➤ Housing/employment and social issues
Theme 5	<p>Examine best practice locally, national, internationally for helping condition management especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dementia care and management ➤ Diabetes ➤ Vascular / heart diseases ➤ Other priorities for West Lindsey based on JSNA evidence of health conditions in Lincolnshire and West Lindsey
Theme 6	<p>Examine the way independent living can be helped particularly the role of:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adaptations (DFG, NHS, LCC services)➤ Supported / Extra Care accommodation➤ Respite care➤ Hospice care➤ Aging population➤ Provision of sheltered accommodation and warden facilities
<p>Outcomes: The Health Commission will coordinate member led activity for the purposes of achieving the following outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Better Council understanding of health and wellbeing issues and the role we can play to address them2. Recommendations to various bodies including the Council on future policy and action, particularly partnership opportunities with health services and the community to particularly improve community action and housing	

West Lindsey Health Commission

Progress Update – 31st May 2018

Engaging Key Stakeholders – Roundtable Event

Members of West Lindsey District Council's Health Commission have been actively working to enhance the role we can play as a district council in terms of prevention and promoting wellbeing, including progressing opportunities for working in partnership to improve health and wellbeing of our residents and communities.

The Health Commission continues to build on success of previous engagement events representation from Chief Officers from each of the Health Trusts; the Vice-Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board; representatives from the Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG); Healthwatch, continues to demonstrate the level of interest and engagement and the value that is place on West Lindsey's role in improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

Supporting Development of the Neighbourhood Team

Integrated neighbourhood working is one of the priorities in the Lincolnshire Sustainable Transformational Partnership. The Health Commission is supporting the development of the neighbourhood team (multi-disciplinary approach to improving health outcomes) is actively underway in West Lindsey, for the Gainsborough locality Investigations are being explored into delivering and health through nature pilot using social subscribing (which encourages GP's to prescribe 'non-medical' interventions) to encourage people to use our natural outdoor assets and deliver health and wellbeing benefits. Working in partnership with LCC Public Health, The Woodland Trust and the Gainsborough Neighbourhood Team this will be developed in autumn 2018.

Member and Officer Collaboration and Support

The Health Commission have been instrumental in the development of the Wellbeing Consortia Bid that has seen £16.5 million of funding coming to Lincolnshire over 5 years to provide support to all adults in Lincolnshire and especially those who, without this, are likely to lose their independence and draw more heavily on health, care, housing and other services. In December 2017 Lincolnshire County Council announced that the Consortia Bid had been successful. Health Commission members will continue to have oversight in the development and delivery of the wellbeing service and actively form part of the partnership and network strand. The governance structure of Wellbeing Lincs includes a Cllr Reference Group the Chair of the Health Commission is a member of this group. This shows a continued collaborative approach between officers and members across the consortia.

Understanding the STP proposals

District engagement on the Lincolnshire Sustainable Transformation Plan is continuing, currently arranging for the Senior STP Leadership Team to present to elected members in 2018. Going forward the Health Commission will continue to act as an engagement group and be the mechanism for consultation and disseminating of information internally.

Best Practice for helping condition management

The Health Commission has taken action to deliver better outcomes for people living with Dementia in line with strategic priorities in the developing Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 and in line with the Corporate plan 2016 – 2020 Theme 2 People First

Opportunities with local partners to deliver sports activities for people with Dementia has taken place working in partnership with Everyone Active and The Alzheimer's Society to pilot a Dementia Friendly Swimming Session July - November 17.

Taking learning from the pilot and to further enhance our offer the Health Commission is working in partnership with Everyone Active to develop specialist sport and activity for people living with dementia through their Active Seniors Programme encompassing both poolside and dryside activities, this is scheduled to be delivered in September 2018.

Health and Wellbeing Board

During 2017 The Health Commission championed additional Cllr membership on the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Challenge & Improvement committee supported the Health Commission with a formal request to the Health and Wellbeing Board for additional district council (elected member) representation on the board. This recommendation is still under consideration. The Health Commission will continue to inform at the pre meet meeting.

Through lobbying at county level, The Health Commission is actively involved in the newly established Housing Health and Care Delivery Group. Membership of this group will allow a significant opportunity for district areas to improve outcomes for Lincolnshire residents, enhanced integration, and an ability to respond to emerging trends and demands on services. This group considers an integrated approach to housing health and care and shared learning, this is assisting in a better flow of information. is now held at the Housing Health and Care Delivery Group a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This request was successful and an appointment has been made, Cllr Bibb now sits on the Delivery Group together with West Lindsey's Health and Wellbeing Manager.

Health Improvement

Promoting Public Health England's rolling programme of health improvement to help improve the population's health by raising awareness around key areas including unhealthy lifestyle choices.

Embedding Health & Wellbeing in WLDC Services

One area of concern identified is the need within the council to raise the level of awareness regarding social and environmental issues affecting health and wellbeing and for the various departments within the Authority to use health as a lens when considering actions.

Examples are the role of health and wellbeing which are covered in the Central Lincs. Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, as well as the work currently being done regarding Green Spaces within the District, and the development of Leisure facilities.

Rural Services Network

Representation of the Health Commission on the Rural Services Network national body has facilitated greater lobbying power and achieved national support for initiatives such as the 'Rural weighting' scheme put forward by WLDC in January 2017. More recently we have been able to encourage the formation of a sub-group of the main RSN which focuses on Health and Social Care and have representation on this. Additionally through the Health Commission we have been able to connect with the District Councils Network Healthier Towns and Villages Group.

Agenda Item 6c



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

17th July 2018

**Subject: Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
(AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023**

Report by:

Grant White
Enterprising Communities Manager

Contact Officer:

Grant White
Enterprising Communities Manager
01427 675145

Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB
Management Plan 2018-2023.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. To approve the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 as the statutory plan for West Lindsey required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (NPAC Act) established the powers to designate AONBs; with the primary objective of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty, whilst taking account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) reaffirmed the duty and obligations for the protection and management of AONBs. Part IV of the Act; Sections 82, 84, 85, 86 and 89 (as detailed within the Plan) are of particular relevance, and places a legal requirement on all relevant local authorities to prepare and publish a partnership Management Plan.

Financial: FIN/69/19

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, the following is provided for your information;

- WLDC make a financial contribution of £17.9k (18/19) towards the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service under a shared Memorandum of Understanding between Defra, Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and East Lindsey District Council.
- The funding agreement is currently in place and covers 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. Our funding contribution supports the delivery of the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and the production of the Lincolnshire Wolds Management Plan.
- Our funding contribution is budgeted within the MTFP.

Staffing:

None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Please refer to section 5 of this report.

Risk Assessment:

None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes	X	No	
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Key Decision:

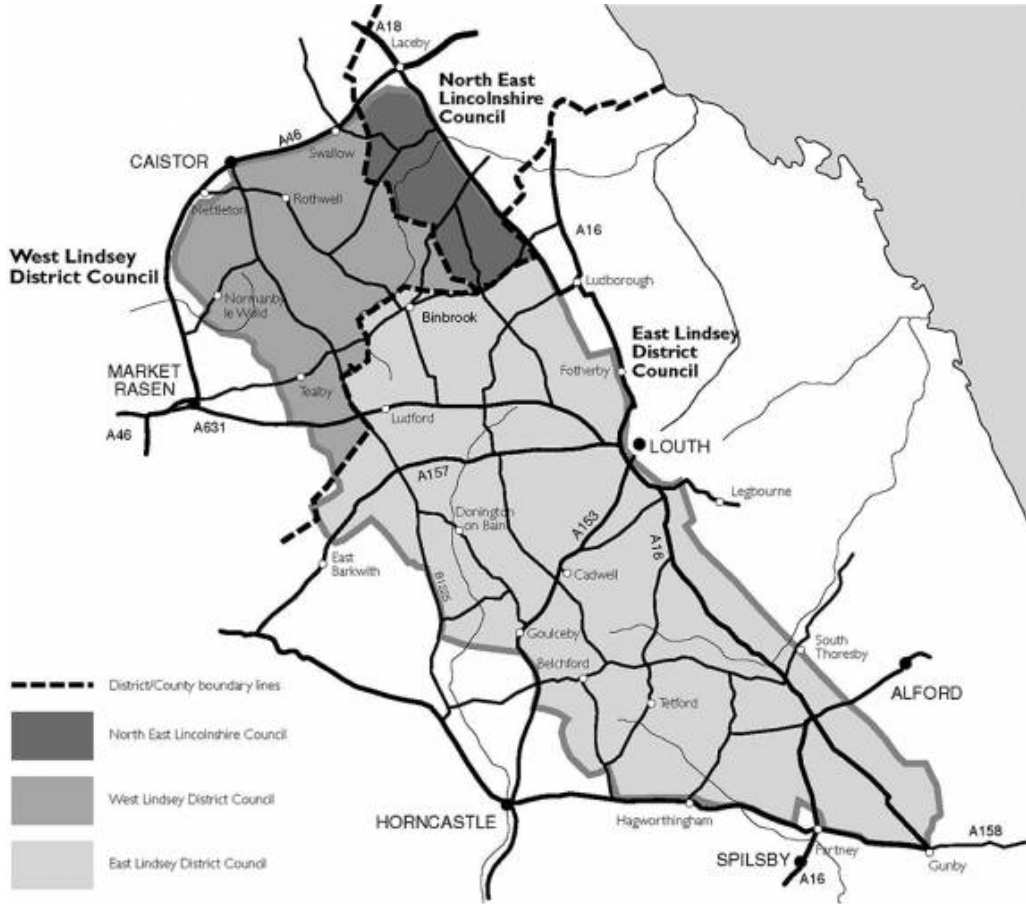
A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes	X	No	
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1. Background

1.1 The Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1973 on account of the area's outstanding landscape, cultural heritage and unique sense of place. AONB's are nationally protected – there are currently 46 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – and in planning terms they are on a par with National Parks (as expressed through paragraphs 115 and 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

Lincolnshire Wolds AONB area map:



- 1.2 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) reaffirmed the national status of AONBs and the need for all relevant local authorities to have "due regard" for the designation when performing all of their duties. The Act provided an added responsibility on all local authorities with AONBs, to produce and review a Management Plan, including 1) Statement of significant attributes, 2) State of the AONB Report, 3) Vision, Objectives and Policies for the area, 4) A resulting partnership Action Plan. Under the EU Directive an accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report may be required, depending upon the extent of the review.
- 1.3 The AONB Partnership has now completed its final version of the 2018-2023 Management Plan following extensive engagement and public consultation. The closing plan has been endorsed by the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) at their meeting on 12th April 2018.
- 1.4 The plan has been approved and validated by Natural England. They are the statutory consultee on all AONB and National Park matters. This now releases the plan for its formal adoption from all relevant local planning authorities.
- 1.5 At this stage of the process, the Officer recommendation is to adopt the final AONB Management Plan.

APPENDIX A – Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023

Use the following link to access APPENDIX A:

<https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/looking-after/lincolnshire-wolds-aonb-management-plan>

APPENDIX B – Summary of Public Consultation

APPENDIX C – AONB MP Support (Further Guidance)

2. Collaborative Plan

- 2.1 Under the Countryside of Rights of Way Legislation (CROW 2000) the Council has a statutory duty to produce and review a five yearly management plan for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
- 2.2 The legislation is clear in stating that all relevant local authorities must produce a single collaborative Plan in partnership following national guidance originally published by Countryside Agency, and subsequently updated by Natural England and most recently the National Association for AONBs.

3. Reasons for adopting the management plan 2018-2023

- 3.1 West Lindsey District Council Elected Members and Officers have been regularly consulted during the Management Plan review process, including the opportunity for dialogue at workshop and peer review stages as well as ongoing JAC and JMG updates. The plan has been finalised following extensive engagement and public consultation with all relevant Local Authorities, Parish Councils, Government Agencies (Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England) partner organisations, local landowners, local businesses and the wider public.
- 3.2 The document is seen as a Plan for everyone with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, and is holistic in scope. The Strategy (policies and objectives) and resulting five year Action Plan is seeking to support and develop a wide range of collaborative projects to help secure sustainable development in the context of a nationally protected landscape. In short, protecting and enhancing the area's natural beauty whilst also delivering on social and economic aspirations – the Plan recognises that the Wolds AONB should not be preserved in aspic, but that the area is very much a living and working landscape with integral connections to its surrounding market towns and the wider area of Greater Lincolnshire.

4. Changes since the last Plan review:

- 4.1 In reviewing the previous objectives and policies some of the new expected forces for change include:
- Brexit uncertainties and its likely impact upon RDPE, agri-environment funding and general farming patterns.
 - Increased focus on tourism and its contribution to the local economy e.g. linking with wider Love Lincolnshire Wolds businesses.
 - An ongoing drive to secure sustainable growth, helping to positively influence future land management in planning decisions both within and immediately adjacent to the AONB.
 - An increasing drive on health and wellbeing matters – including greater provision of multi-functional land.
 - Emergence of new pests and diseases, including for example Chalara (ash dieback), Acute Oak Decline and Signal Crayfish.
 - Possible implications and resourcing for a review of the current AONB boundary.
- 4.2 Since the last Plan there has been a significant improvement to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB evidence base across a range of environmental, social and economic measures as evidenced within the

State of the AONB – 2017 report. A number of indicators have been suggested to help monitor future progress. This work has been helped, in part, by an increase in availability of some national datasets specific to protected landscape boundaries (both AONBs and National Parks).

4.3 Objectives and policies have been reviewed thoroughly and there have been minor modifications to several, including in summary:

- **Natural heritage – Biodiversity Objective BO**; updated to highlight links to the latest Lincolnshire Nature Strategy, Biodiversity 2020 and emerging UK environmental plans.
- **Biodiversity Policies BP3/BP4**; slight rewording to reflect the local nature tourism offer.
- **Woodland Policy WP1**; added the need for considering climate change adaptability in new planting options.
- **Arable Farmland Policy AFP3**; rewording to aid clarification on future surveys for arable wildlife.
- **Built Heritage Policies BHP1 and BHP4**; previous policies merged, revised BHP1 better reflects the need to work with all stakeholders to encourage sympathetic and innovative design (in keeping with local character).
- **Farming and Field Sports Policy FWP2**; slight rewording to emphasise the importance of monitoring and influencing national agriculture policy.
- **Interpretation Objective IO**; additional phrase included to highlight the benefits of raising the profile of the AONB to help support the local economy.
- **Planning and Development Management Policy PP1**; amendments to highlight the requirement for making space for nature and tackling climate change when pushing for the highest quality of design in the context of the AONB. Likewise, similar additions to **Policy PP2** in respect of sensitive conversions to traditional buildings.
- **Planning and Development Management Policy PP4**; minor change to wording of mineral and waste policy to help support implementation of the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy.
- **Planning and Development Management Policy PP8**; in terms of waste management/reduction, additional recognition made of helping the shift towards a circular economy.

4.4 The Action Plan has been updated for the period 2018-23, currently with a suite of proposed AONB partnership actions that align with the relevant overarching objectives and resulting policies. These are

typically subjected to a more detailed review on an annual basis by the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC); enabling some flexibility and fleet-of-foot adjustments, taking for example changes to legislation, or the emergence of new funding streams over the life of the Plan. This approach will also enable post Brexit adjustments to take place, if for example there is significant change to the current land and resource management grant systems.

5. Equality Act Compliance

- 5.1 The Management Plan is seeking to provide an inclusive Strategy and Action Plan for everyone – including all specialist groups living, working or visiting the area. The Plan aims to successfully balance land management interests to help support economic, social and environmental objectives for all. The AONB Partnership continues to welcome ongoing input from all members of the public as well as specialist interest groups.
- 5.2 Particular attention has been made to invite comments from the local communities, through for example attending a range of events, promoting an open and indiscriminate Have Your Say survey, as well as more formal contacts via parish councils and town councils, (for communities both within and adjacent to the Lincolnshire Wolds) and wider press coverage.
- 5.3 The Plan's aspirations include greater access and interest in the Wolds AONB from both local residents and the wider public. There is an opportunity to help provide increased green infrastructure in the future, which is especially valuable for the more dispersed and isolated settlements. Further promotion and enhancement of the public rights of way network is also sought, including improvements to the interconnect bus walks to help support these services. The recreation and tourism objectives include utilising the market towns as gateways to the Wolds, and increasing visitor numbers to help support local businesses and local services, including village shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants.
- 5.4 Specific objectives and policies actively supporting inclusiveness include: Interpretation Policy IP1 and IP3; Transport Objective TWO; Transport Policies TWP2 and TWP5 and Planning Policy Objective PP3.

6. Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

- 6.1 The plan recognises the importance of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and this is recognised as a key related strategy. Currently the JHWS statistics are available at ward level so a direct comparison with the AONB census population figures cannot be made. We have requested postcode data to help inform the Plan and in particular the State of the AONB report.

- 6.2 The need to link with the health and well-being agenda is included within the Partnership's Landscape Management Statement, Thriving Communities Policy TCP2 includes the aspiration to promote healthier lifestyles and Action TCA8 includes the objective of exploring and developing further links to the JHWS.

7. **Crime and Disorder**

- 7.1 The Plan seeks to generate and inspire a sense of place and community cohesion for the Lincolnshire Wolds and its deeply rural communities. There is a realisation that various forms of rural crime take place, especially involving night-hawking and lamping activities. Further guidance has been sought from the local Inspector to help to develop links with the Rural Community Safety Strategy 2017-20; advice also extends to seeking to reduce the incidents of fly-tipping, especially from known hot-spots.

8. **Funding and Resources**

- 8.1 West Lindsey District Council provides a fixed annual contribution under the terms of the Local Memorandum of Agreement (Lincolnshire Wolds AONB). This contribution helps to secure 75% core cost funding from Defra. The remaining 25% contribution is met by all relevant Local Authorities (East Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council and West Lindsey District Council).
- 8.2 West Lindsey District Council has an ongoing legal commitment to have a duty of regard for the AONB, when undertaking its general duties and functions.

9. **Boundary Review**

- 9.1 Under **Theme 4: Developing the Wolds** in the action plan **proposed action PA15** makes specific reference to investigating options of a further Lincolnshire Wolds AONB boundary review. Both the JAC and JMG have held discussions regarding the possibilities of a boundary review seeking to extend the AONB both to the north and south of the current designated area.
- 9.2 Officers and Members will continue to support work to review the boundary and liaise with other Local Authority partners. This will include North Lincolnshire Council who are seeking an extension of the Wolds into their authority area.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 To approve the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 as the statutory plan for West Lindsey required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Appendix 7b: Summary of Written Comments from the Public consultation Dec 2017 – Jan 2018.

Note: The tables below are a precise of individual public consultation comments received. The full responses are all publically available from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and were reviewed during February 2018 (see also Appendix 7a. Public Consultation Proforma).

Reference	Name	Summary of comments	Summary of response
1	Geoffrey Newmarch LWWF	<p>Offered congratulations to the LWCS team for their hard work in producing a Draft Plan of enormous depth and detail.</p> <p>Suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 'Wolds' signs on the roads made more prominent b. More interpretation panels throughout the Wolds. c. Permissive Paths - it would be good to see the lapsed paths return and new ones negotiated if there was a budget 	<p>Positive comments noted and welcomed from the Chairman of the LWWF (Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Partnership has explored the current roadway entrance signs that were installed as part of the original Lincolnshire Wolds Interpretation Strategy. Due to Highway stipulations the AONB Partnership has agreed to replace like for like as and when required. b. The Plan recognises within Section 6.2 (Interpretation - Awareness Raising) the value and importance of interpretation including specifically Policies IP1 – IP3. The Partnership has invested resources in the upgrading of the interpretation signs as evidenced within the State of the AONB report to help highlight the area's special qualities (contributing to the area's natural beauty). We agree that further local interpretation panels should be encouraged, with support and engagement from local residents and communities. Wherever possible new interpretation panels should fit within the existing house-style for the AONB Partnership (Actions IPA9). c. The Plan supports the aspiration for maximising access opportunities for all (Policy ARTP1) and Action ARTA2 seeks to ensure no net loss to the existing Definitive Public Rights of Way network and maximising opportunities for access via permissive agreements. The current agri-environment schemes no longer include payments for access provision; however this could potentially change with the roll-out of new environmental land management systems (NEMS) and the Government shift towards farm support mechanisms which can deliver on wider public benefits (A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment – Defra). As part of furthering a natural capital approach there will be greater emphasis on connecting people with the environment, not least to improve health and wellbeing.
2	Paul Tame NFU	<p>Page 44, policy GP4. I think this policy will require incentives too, either locally or from national agri-environment schemes or both, because less productive grassland is loss making for farmers to manage.</p> <p>Page 50, policy HTP1. Hedgerow maintenance and planting is great. Is it possible for the Wolds to have some kind of incentive scheme to encourage planting and good</p>	<p>Some good points made on a series of policy and actions that are especially pertinent to farming and land owner interests in the Wolds.</p> <p>Policy GP4 (Biodiversity – Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) - agree that farm agri-environments and other grant support mechanisms will be important for securing future protection and enhancement of grassland for biodiversity interests. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB will continue to link up</p>

		<p>management of hedgerows and hedgerow trees? Page 52, RSPP5. Likewise for ponds, a grant scheme to encourage pond restoration and management would be great. Page 53, third paragraph. It's not all bad news. Some farmland and other bird species are on the increase. Page 62, policy BHP3. We like this policy, especially if it can include conversion for residential use where there are no other economic re-uses possible. Page 72, policy PP2. We feel that conversion to residential use should be an option where there are no other possible economic re-use for the buildings. We understand the need for policy PP7 but the Wolds must play its part in contributing to renewable energy generation. Nice parts of the country cannot expect all the renewable energy to be generated elsewhere. For this reason we support policy PP10.</p>	<p>with the National Association for AONBs to help advise and inform on future roll-out of emerging NEMS which should support protection and enhancement of landscape-scale environmental enhancements across the nationally protected families of AONB and National Parks.</p> <p>Policy HTP1 (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees) and Policy RSPP5 (Ponds and wetland habitats) - note call for greater financial incentives. Additional to the roll-out and potential of future national schemes the AONB Partnership continues to promote and resource the Wolds Small Grant Scheme which includes grant support (50% intervention rate) for modest hedgerow and boundary enhancements and likewise improvements on other habitats including pond and wetland habitats.</p> <p>Page 53, 3rd para - comments noted, text amended to indicate that not all farmland birds have been in decline, although many have (e.g. UK wide of the 19 farmland bird indicators monitored via the BTO network 12 have declined).</p> <p>Policy BHP3 (Built Heritage) and PP2 (Planning – Traditional Buildings): note and welcome support for the sympathetic repair of farm buildings. Recognise the call to enable some residential conversion of disused farm buildings. Such applications will need to be determined by the relevant Local Planning Authority based upon Local Development Framework and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidance. BHP3 and PP2 wording to remain unchanged with the Plan supporting and encouraging the reuse of redundant buildings for the direct benefit of the local economy and community e.g. via resulting Actions BHA3 & BHA7 (Built Heritage).</p> <p>Comments noted on Policy PP7 (wind energy schemes) and support for Policy PP10 (renewable energy) welcomed. The AONB Partnership seeks to endorse small scale/ community focused energy conservation and renewable generation schemes that will not impact detrimentally upon the character of the AONB and/or its setting. This position recognises that the Wolds AONB is a nationally protected area on account of its high scenic quality (natural beauty).</p>
3	PF Beelsby resident	<p>Contents: 4.4.2 Built Heritage of your Draft Management Plan 2018-2023 should include original, cast iron telephone boxes (K6 or similar). As an example, the respondent highlighted issues with the recent loss of a BT telephone box at Beelsby which are now being reviewed again.</p>	<p>Welcome comments on the importance of the traditional cast iron telephone boxes in terms of both a community and heritage asset. There is a common view that the old style boxes can often make an important contribution to the local vernacular. To clarify, the heritage objective (BHO) seeks to protect and enhance historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements, buildings and features – this goal includes traditional signage and wider public realm elements which are deemed to be of both local and wider importance.</p>
4	Emilie Wales NELC Conservation	Looks ok to me, no comments to make	Response from North East Lincolnshire Council duly noted.

	Officer		
5	DS Lincoln resident	<p>Highlights that the document has been clearly thought out in terms of detailing the preservation of the AONB. The respondent recognises it as an auspicious plan and if all comes to fruition it will be a clarion call for Lincolnshire in terms of appreciating and understanding the need to balance all aspects of life.</p> <p>Specific comments include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the vulnerable fauna of The Wolds. White-clawed Crayfish introduction to chalk streams can only work if chemicals are not leeching into the waterways. Discussions should be held on the recent evidence of neonicotinoids on the fauna. Invertebrates, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammal predators are all at risk from this chemical and potentially holds the same threat to health that DDT posed in the 20th Century. Songbird numbers are in decline, to the point that our Starlings and Sparrow populations are alarmingly dropping. If we are to encourage the recovery of rare species in Lincolnshire, which I believe our Wolds can be a national leader in, then we have to lead the line. The Sincil Drain has recently showed dangerously high levels of insecticide in it. This should be taken as a warning 2. Encouraging the replanting of "Bocage" through the area. This will encourage wildlife and will also reduce soil erosion. Landowners should be heavily involved in this 3. Planting of new woodland is highly encouraging. Will this include the reintroduction of the rare Limewoods? 4. It MUST be impressed on landowners that whilst they earn their living from the land of Lincolnshire, that they also have a massive responsibility to the protection and nurture of the land. Their forebears understood this, and the message should be heeded and not overlooked in the pursuit of profit 	<p>Welcome overarching positive comments on the Plan and its aspirations.</p> <p>In terms of more specific comments as detailed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted response on white-clawed crayfish introduction to chalk streams and the need to safeguard our aquifers and waterways from a range of chemical pollutants. The Plan in Sections 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) and 4.2.7 (Arable Farmland) highlights the ongoing issue of diffuse pollution through the applications of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers. Agree that this should be extended in the narrative to include the potential harm through neonicotinoids - the UK government now recognises this family of pesticides requires further restrictions in the light of mounting evidence of the potential wider harm to bees and other pollinators. Policy AFP2 (Biodiversity – Arable Farmland) reworded to include an increasing shift towards Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and low-input systems to encourage sustainable crop protection with the minimum use of pesticides. (see also response 14) 2. In respect of the reintroduction of "Bocage" the Plan has not referred to this specific term. Bocage originates from France and has been used in particular to describe those landscapes of Normandy characterised by a patchwork of small pastoral fields, small woodlands and interconnecting network of hedgerows and sunken lanes. The term is occasionally applied to the landscapes of southern Britain, including notably Devon, Cornwall and the High Weald. As highlighted in Policy BP2 (Section 4.2.1 - Biodiversity) the Plan is seeking to develop and promote a landscape scale approach to habitat protection and enhancement, including developing resilience through greater connectivity between our wildlife areas (ecosystem service networks). Bocage is not referenced within the original Landscape Character Assessment for the Lincolnshire Wolds, (1993) although there is reference to the Ridges and Valleys of the South-West comprising "a more wooded, enclosed, pastoral and settled landscapes further north – reflecting perhaps, its links with the Danish people". As evidenced in the Plan, the proposed Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund networks (see Actions GA6 - Section 4.2.2, RSPA5 - Section 4.2.6, SA3 - Section 4.3.2, and FWA2 & FWA5 - Section 5.1) and the Greenway project (see Action HTA1 – Section 4.2.5) will provide further opportunities to explore and apply landscape scale approaches. These clustered actions will seek to not only help protect and enhance key habitats and species indicative of the Wolds rural character but also help aid crop, soil and water management and help secure other wider public benefits. 3. Note positive comment on future woodland generation. There is an objective within the Plan (Objective WBO – Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (section 4.2.4) to include some areas of new woodland

			<p>planting in addition to enhancing the management of our current woodland and linked (mosaic habitats). The emphasis is very much on encouraging future native broadleaved planting. Limewoods are not seen as typical of the character of the Wolds as the network of these woods are a feature of the neighbouring Central Lincolnshire Vale, especially in the area between Wragby and Bardney. Some lime and small leaved lime planting may be beneficial within a wider species mix depending on local woodland composition. Alder carr woodlands are more typical in the southern Wolds and wet lying valleys with oak-ash-beech dominant at higher elevations.</p> <p>4. Comments noted. The Plan seeks to recognise that the Wolds are very much a living and working landscape and the overarching vision acknowledges the need for securing a sustainable approach to agriculture, forestry and land management. This embraces the need for innovative solutions to tackling climate change, food production, water quality etc, and the aspiration for enhanced connectivity between landscapes and green infrastructure.</p>
6	Charles Dobson JAC - NFU	Happy with the contents but take this opportunity to remind you that future development in the Wolds should be encouraged rather than discouraged.	<p>Response welcomed from local NFU and Wolds JAC representative.</p> <p>Acknowledge the sentiments for encouraging future development in the Wolds. The Plan strives to provide a catalyst for future change and as discussed within Theme 4 – Developing the Wolds (Chapter 7), seeks to encourage and support future development that can complement the AONB in a positive way e.g. encouraging the highest quality design in new and re-development.</p>
7	Helen Pitman Nettleton Parish	Section2 page 24 – three DMVs missing – Hardwich, West Wykeham and Draycot	Comments noted. Table 1 (Special Qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB) inclusion of listed Deserted Medieval Villages as a local feature (Nettleton Parish) within the wider North-west scarp.
8	Cllr S Hudson Great Limber Parish	Re Proposed Action PA15, boundary review – an enlarged AONB would provide greater unity, greater protection to landscape, cultural practices and bolster the visitor economy. Tourism and the natural environment are increasingly important to our economy.	<p>Comments recorded and positive support for extending the AONB duly noted (see also response 23).</p> <p>The AONB Partnership currently has an open view on the pros and cons of undertaking a full boundary revision but know anomalies have long been recognised by the JAC (Joint Advisory Committee). Proposed Action PA15 to be retained with the respective local planning authorities and key partners to investigate future options for a boundary review.</p> <p>It should be noted that a formal boundary modification must proceed through a Verification Order, a legal process coordinated by Natural England as the statutory body with responsibility for nationally protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs). The timescales and recourses required for a boundary review are significant, usually necessitating a public enquiry.</p>
	Helen Pitman Walesby parish	Walesby Parish Council supports the document	Endorsement from Walesby Parish Council duly noted and welcomed.

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10	SS Lincoln resident	<p>Notes that the Plan appears to be a very thorough and detailed report.</p> <p>Anxious about a PEDL at Biscathorpe, applied for by Egdon Resources, to use unconventional extraction methods for fossil fuel extraction. Hopes that this will be resisted in the most robust terms.</p> <p>Pleased to see the following commitment: "As well as working to reduce emissions (most notably fossil fuels), including the shift towards a circular economy and reduced 'carbon footprint', a landscape scale /catchment scale collaborative approach is highly advantageous to help build resilience and aid adaptations."</p> <p>The respondent highlighted their concerns with hydraulic fracturing, or indeed any fossil fuel extraction whatsoever, stressing that it threatens every aspect of the AONB and promises no short or long term benefits to the community or the landscape.</p> <p>As regular users of the "bus walks" we hope to see these updated and developed.</p>	<p>The positive comments on the general style and content of the Plan are welcomed.</p> <p>Acknowledge the concerns with respect to ongoing/future oil and gas exploration within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB including potentially unconventional extraction methods. Similar views have been expressed by respondents 11, 15 and 21.</p> <p>This has now been referenced as a potential pressure/threat within the minerals extraction section of Table 2 which summarises forces for change (positive and negative) on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Public concerns over fracking have also been included within the additional new key issue – bullet points within Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management).</p> <p>Following discussions with the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Management Group (meeting of 15th March '18), a consensus has been reached that the Policy wording of PP4 (Section 7.1) and resulting Actions PA5-6 are deemed to be sufficiently robust, but with the additional minor amendment to Policy PP4 – "To minimise damage to the AONB's natural beauty as a result of mineral working and associated activity and help implement the Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy". This extends the policy from landscape alone and recognises the full scope of the Wolds special features including the area's tranquillity and deeply rural sense of place.</p> <p>Both the testing and any subsequent production operations for hydrocarbons are subject to securing formal planning permission and various additional environmental consents. The UK's Dept. of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) oversees the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence's (PEDL) - PEDL23 covers a significant area of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Operators can thus review and submit formal permission from the Minerals Planning Authority for consent to drill a well within these licensing areas.</p> <p>In respect of fracking (hydraulic fracturing), Provision 50 of the Infrastructure Act (2015) prohibits fracking in protected ground water source areas, or other protected areas, at a depth of less than 1,200 metres from the surface. AONBs are included within this provision, although technically fracking can take place from wells that are drilled under protected areas.</p> <p>It is noted that Lincolnshire County Council's Mineral and Waste Local Plan (2016) has a specific Policy (DM5) which states that "planning permission will only be granted for minerals and waste development within or affecting the character or setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a proven public interest; and

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a lack of alternative sites not affecting the AONB to serve The market need; and • the impact on the special qualities of the AONB can be satisfactorily mitigated". <p>Additionally, North East Lincolnshire Council's emerging Local Plan with Minerals and Waste Policies (2016) states through Policy 44 that "proposed development located within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB will be required to demonstrate that the proposed mineral cannot be viably extracted from sources outside of the designated area. Mineral developments in the AONB which are likely to damage the quality or intrinsic character of the landscape will not be granted planning permission unless it has been clearly demonstrated that the need for the extraction of the mineral clearly outweighs the detrimental impact."</p> <p>In-line with Policy TWP2 (Transport in the Wolds), there is a specific Action (TWA4) for partners to work with Stage Coach, and other operators, to review and develop the "bus walk" series. In particular, with an aspiration to provide ten refreshed routes across the Wolds utilising the Lincoln - Skegness and Lincoln – Grimsby InterConnect services. (See also Response 18 and 20).</p>
11	JP Louth resident	<p>Expresses concerns for the proposed fossil fuel exploration by Egdon resources at Biscathorpe and believes that despite the company's confident assertions, the catastrophic possibility of contamination in a protected natural environment remains.</p> <p>The respondent highlights the pressing need for reducing fossil fuels and is surprised that the Plan has no robust policy against fossil fuel exploration, but conversely an apparent prejudice against wind farms and seeks clarification on those wind farms located within/adjacent to the AONB.</p> <p>Avoiding wind farms on account of "spoiling the view" and other contributory factors will be a lame excuse to future generations when the climate continues to warm (2-3 degrees by the end of this century even with a rapid decarbonisation) – bringing with it future pressures on the Wolds through for example the inundation of neighbouring coastal farmland.</p>	<p>Acknowledge the general concern with respect to ongoing/future oil and gas exploration within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB including potentially unconventional extraction methods. See above response to similar views expressed from respondent 10.</p> <p>Points noted on the potential climate change scenarios and the increasing pressures for decarbonisation. Whilst also a cross-cutting theme, Section 7.3 seeks to explore and review climate change and energy issues in the context of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The overall goal (Objective CCO) is to seek to develop and implement a long term climate change strategy to help safeguard the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, recognising and responding to the key local pressures through effective adaptation and mitigation. The primary purpose of the designation is one of the protection of natural beauty, whilst recognising that the area is very much a living and working landscape.</p> <p>The Partnership will support small scale-community driven wind turbine schemes where these are of an appropriate scale, siting and design. As expressed within Policy PP7 there continues to be a general presumption against wind energy schemes in any location which would cause significant and demonstrably detrimental effects upon the natural beauty and intrinsic characteristics of the AONB. This extends through Policy PP5 to impact upon setting, in particular encouraging due consideration of the impact on the views to and from the Wolds.</p>
12	Kay Turton ELDC	<p>The Plan is a comprehensive piece of work with the general style flowing well and the document logically laid out.</p> <p>The Council supports the inclusion of references to partnership</p>	<p>Positive comments on the general content and structure welcomed from the ELDC's Officer representative for the Wolds AONB Partnership.</p> <p>Support to Love Lincolnshire Wolds Tourism (LLW) tourism partnership</p>

		<p>working with the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership.</p> <p>With reference to TCA5 on page 90, it is not clear if the Rural Gain Grant is still available.</p> <p>With reference to PA4 on page 95, the Rural Housing Enablers and Living Lincolnshire affordable housing partnership no longer exist, so Proposed Action PA4 is no longer valid. Suggest this could be changed to something like "Support the work of local authorities and housing associations in AONB communities."</p>	<p>welcomed. Detailed within Section 6.3 – Access, Recreation and Tourism (inc. Actions ARTA7, ARTA9 and ARTA11) and helping to promote and aid delivery of Wolds Destination Management Plan. (see also response 22)</p> <p>Thriving Communities (Section 5.2), Action TCA5 - Rural Gain Grant excluded</p> <p>Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1) - Action PA4 note that the work of the Rural Housing Enablers/Living Lincolnshire affordable housing partnership is now obsolete. Support re-wording of PA4 as per recommendation.</p>
13	Ruth Carver GLLEP	<p>The GLLEP welcomes the overall vision in particular the area's "unique and nationally importance sense of place".</p> <p>The Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan itself recognises that the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB forms part of the diverse appeal of Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Welcomes significant role in relation to GLLEP strategic economic plan priority sectors and in particular the three areas of agri-food, visitor economy and low carbon.</p> <p>Welcomes the Plan's proposed innovative solutions to tackling climate change, food production, water quality and supply, recreation provision and energy demands.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB's (via the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service) long standing support and active involvement in the Lindsey Action Zone - LAZ (Leader Programme) is recognised. Future close collaboration should continue to help aid and support small business, farming and heritage activity in the Wolds.</p>	<p>The positive comments from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) are well received.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership recognises and welcomes the Plan's close alignment with at least three of the six Strategic Economic Plan priority sectors: agri-food, the visitor economy and low carbon. Common links with the GLLEP (and also the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership-GLNP) including within Theme 2 – Living and Working in the Wolds; Action FWA12 and ARTA14.</p> <p>We note and support the need for innovative and practical solutions to a range of rural development matters as detailed.</p> <p>We welcome and support the ongoing LEADER (and wider Rural Development Programme for England) – LAZ Fund; this provides an important stimulus for local investment in the rural economy of the Wolds and wider hinterland. The need for maximising AONB gains through the LAZ programme is highlighted within Thriving Communities (Section 5.2) specifically Action TCA10.</p>
14	Richard Chadd EA	<p>Professionally produced and easy to read. It is set out in such a way that parts of specific interest to me were easily found.</p> <p>Regarding the Rivers, Streams and Ponds section 4.2.6:</p> <p>The new issues added under threats & pressures which have been added are critical elements, which I welcome. I would like to add diffuse runoff or point source discharges of pesticides (especially neonicotinoids) to this.</p> <p>I enthusiastically welcome the objectives and policies outlined in this section. An element of citizen science input to onward</p>	<p>Welcome positive comments from the Environment Agency and LCSP representative on the general style, layout and content.</p> <p>In terms of the Rivers, Streams and Ponds Section 4.2.6 note supportive response on new issues and agree with recommendation to highlight the issue of the discharge of pesticides including neonicotinoids (see also response 5). An additional reference to potential river pollutants has been included within Table 2: Forces for Change (Section 2.5 - Threats/Issues/Pressures)</p> <p>Note and agree to highlight additional opportunities of voluntary/community engagement through the Citizen Science initiative; incorporated within Action</p>

		<p>management and delivery of these policies could be mentioned.</p> <p>Yes able to provide further support to assist the Plan via the work of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, and active engagement on the Steering Group. This includes help with citizen science initiatives and the provision of specialist data, advice and information on water management.</p>	<p>RSPA8 (and added link to Action TCA13 – Thriving Communities, Section 5.2)</p> <p>Welcome respondents ongoing support in the delivery of the Plan as detailed e.g. via active engagement in the work of the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project.</p>
15	EW Frack Free Lincolnshire Group	<p>Welcomes the Draft Plan's aims and objectives to preserve and conserve the Lincolnshire Wolds's rich and vibrant rural heritage.</p> <p>Pleased to see that the plan promotes sustainable renewable energy; sustainable transport; geodiversity; biodiversity; healthy thriving communities. All these are addressed in deeply thought-through and ready to implement ways.</p> <p>The respondent urges the team to have another look at threats posed by oil and gas development seeking to exploit the area's sandstone/limestone reservoirs. Technology has moved on rapidly and oil exploration is no longer the relatively non-invasive nodding donkey production method - scooping up oil which flows naturally to the surface. Fracking and other well stimulation methods are increasingly being proposed to access spent and hard-to-access sandstone reserves. These do not have to be defined as "fracking" or "unconventional" under current planning and regulatory protocols.</p> <p>Urges you to strengthen some of your aims and objectives with this in mind. Recent Judicial and Planning Inspectorate statements have highlighted the fact that local authority decision-makers are in a position to make progressive planning choices when the full facts are laid before them. Ask searching questions when it comes to oil and gas development in the Lincolnshire Wolds.</p>	<p>Note and welcome the positive response to the Plan's broad aims and objectives and proposed future implementation.</p> <p>Acknowledge the respondent's general concerns in response to future oil and gas developments, including the potential use of fracking and other well stimulation methods. See above response to similar views expressed from respondent 10.</p>
16	PS South Ormsby resident Horncastle business	<p>The Management Plan is interesting; the AONB must continue to be viewed as national asset – there are so few.</p> <p>Section 4: The protection of the area for light pollution and tranquillity is a must. Peaceful enjoyment of the lovely views etc is only possible if there are strict guidelines for future developments and that these are adhered to. This includes any signage or anything that has a strong visual impact.</p> <p>Section 5: The need to be 'sympathetic to area' is important. The area is heavily farmed and any other developments must be thoroughly thought through. Living in the Wolds is a</p>	<p>Note and recognise the need to view the Wolds AONB as a national asset.</p> <p>Section 4: Agree on the recommendation to continue to protect the area from detrimental harm through implementation of strict guidelines to help protect the special charm and character of the area – including protection of dark night skies, tranquillity (see also response 20), light pollution, and minimising the proliferation of signage.</p> <p>Section 5: Note the feelings on living within the Wolds and the overriding need to be sympathetic to the area.</p> <p>Section 6: Note the request for future leaflets and maps of walks in the area.</p>

		<p>privilege not a struggle.</p> <p>Section 6: We have lots of footpaths and bridleways – leaflets and maps of walks would be useful.</p> <p>Section 7: Livestock farming getting too intensive. Dairies are inappropriate for the area and too many chickens.</p> <p>Section 8: Wildlife groups and local views important.</p> <p>Section 9: Your plan is comprehensive.</p> <p>Further suggestions/comments: Keep involving local people and use newspapers, letters not just social media and libraries. People would volunteer to deliver updates on local issues.</p> <p>Tranquillity and dark skies are so important – please ensure carparks and any developments, inc. farm buildings, acknowledge the importance of this.</p>	<p>There is a large of stock of Wolds Walks and Bus Walks literature and there remain plans to further extend the series as and when resources become available. The LWCS is always keen to work with local residents and various community groups to explore and develop new routes. As expressed via Action ARTA3 (Access, Recreation and Tourism – Section 6.3) local volunteers are encouraged to link with local landowners to assist in reviewing potential routes and also researching/exploring main points of interest etc.</p> <p>Section 7: Note the sentiments on farming becoming more intensive and the potential trend towards potentially super dairies and increased poultry. The Management Plan seeks to help encourage and promote sustainable levels of farming e.g. securing commercially viable farm units that operate in a manner respectful of the special qualities of the AONB and maximising the wider public goods and services offer.</p> <p>Section 8: Note the importance of wildlife groups and local views to taking forward future partnership activity. The AONB Partnership has always sought to recognise the Plan as everyone's Plan – fostering a consultative and collaborative way of working. Acknowledge additional thoughts on keeping people interested and engaged in the area, including providing updates on their local area.</p> <p>Recognise and agree on the importance of safeguarding both tranquillity and dark night skies. The need to minimise development impacts upon these attributes are detailed within Policy PP6, and Actions PA8 and PA9 within Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1).</p>
17	Cllr Strange JAC/LCC	<p>Commends the M. Plan and the excellent work of the LWCS team and Chalk Streams Project. The document is a truly excellent report.</p> <p>Highlights the need for District, County and Unitary partners planning teams to be made very much aware of their responsibilities in recognising, wholeheartedly, the importance that the national government places on AONBs.</p> <p>Embraces ELDC efforts to upgrade Lincs Wolds for tourism, and stresses the need to encourage WLDC & NELC to support this move.</p>	<p>Welcome the general praise on the production of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Note the Elected Member's request to secure the collective engagement and support from all of the relevant local authority planning teams as detailed – including recognition of the national importance of the AONB. Chapter 1 (Setting the Scene) highlights the international, national and local contexts for AONB Management Plans and the legal framework for the preparation and development of the document. The Plan highlights local authority obligations through Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Section 82 –Section 89 of the Act) including the need to produce and adopt a collaborative Strategy for the area and the requirement to have a duty of regard when exercising or performing any functions in relation to land in the AONB.</p> <p>The M. Plan reviews and recommends a range of interpretation, access, recreation and tourism initiatives within Theme 3 – Discovering the Wolds. As expressed through Objective IO this includes a range of policies and actions to help raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment and understanding of the area's special qualities, in turn helping to aid the local economy.</p>

18	DF Tetford	<p>Respondent has suggested the development of a circular heritage bus route, ideally taking in both the Wolds and coastal areas.</p> <p>Suggestion made to further explore the promotion and development of off-road mobility scooters such as the Terrain Hopper. These can be quite expensive, but any alternative hire or leasing arrangements look to be difficult to roll-out at the local level. The Disability Access Forum may be a useful point of contact.</p>	<p>Series of constructive points made on a number of specialist transport/access projects.</p> <p>The development of a heritage bus route needs further consideration and exploration. As highlighted in response 10 and 20, Action (TWA4) seeks to refresh and review the interconnect bus walks, linking with Stage Coach and other relevant partners.</p> <p>Note and welcome response to promoting opportunities for those with mobility issues. Further dialogue with specialist providers and the Disability Access Forum should be explored. A resulting new action (Action ARTA19 – within Access, Recreation and Tourism – Section 6.3) is proposed to help review and enhance access provision for disadvantaged groups, including those with general mobility or health issues.</p>
19	David Ashton-Hill Greetham with Somersby PC chair	<p>Frustrating and a waste of resources having to print of M.P. I have found that the engine set up to manage and develop the AONB has been eroded during my time as Chair of the Greetham with Somersby PCC.</p> <p>I am at a senior age, and have known the area all my life and am appalled at what has happened to the area, but encouraged that more and more people wish to come here, to enjoy their stay in this area and to travel and walk its bounds.</p> <p>To my experience, your body has done little to protect, develop, encourage or ascertain the nature of the AONB.</p> <p>During the time that I have known Greetham, some 70 years, the following has happened:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The loss of two public footpaths 2. The reduction of status of a bridle way into a public footpath 3. The maintenance of a commercial dog breeding establishment within the village, without planning permission, on a public footpath has been in effect for a period since 1987, some 30 years. At no stage during this time has your department, to my knowledge made any statement to the ELDC Planning Authority or supported the residents of this village about what the aspirations and objectives you hold for the maintenance of the AONB. The planning appeal of the applicant, this is the second one, is now running. There has been no statement from your organisation. <p>A few years ago a supply company ran a very large swathe of commercial implementation from Louth to Boston across the AONB. This was one of the most invasive actions that I have experienced in our area. I asked for details of what archaeological watching brief that the developer had to answer</p> 	<p>Note and acknowledge respondent's critical comments and concerns with a number of rights of way and planning/enforcement issues pertinent to Greetham and Somersby. Further dialogue has been undertaken to understand all of the concerns at Greetham-Somersby Parishes as detailed.</p> <p>Note disappointment and frustrations in accessing the public draft – all Parish Clerks were sent a paper copy of the Draft Plan for wider circulation, with further copies made available on request.</p> <p>Further clarification has been sought to understand all of the concerns at Greetham-Somersby Parishes as detailed.</p> <p>Checks with LCC Highways have indicated that there have been no recent formal public rights of way diversion orders; the most recent footpath/bridleway modification would appear to date back to the early 1980's. Action ARTA2 (Section 6.3 – Access, Recreation and Tourism) seeks to ensure that there is no net loss to the existing Definitive Public Rights of Way network and maximise opportunities for access for all via permissive arrangements. In recent years agri-environment funding that had encouraged landowners to utilise field margins etc for public access has been cut due to national public finance restrictions.</p> <p>The LWCS has recently linked up with villagers and volunteers from Somersby and Bag Enderby to help produce and publish the In the Footsteps of Tennyson Wolds Walk – the latest in the family of self-guided AONB Wolds Walks and Rides.</p> <p>Note the opinion that the body (Partnership) has done little to protect, develop, encourage or ascertain the nature of the AONB. The JAC Partnership would challenge this view as clearly there has been a significant investment in resources post Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), including support and promotion of a great many local projects via the LWCS Sustainable Development Fund and Small Grant Scheme. All of the LWCS's</p>

		<p>– nothing was forthcoming from your department, ELDC or any other public body.</p> <p>To my knowledge and experience the efforts that your department puts out to manage, maintain and protect this wonderful environment has no teeth. I ask for this proposal to be re-written and re-presented.</p>	<p>previous work activity is well summarised in the Wolds Annual Reviews which have been published on an annual basis from 2004-05.</p> <p>As articulated within Theme 1 (Protecting the Wolds), the Plan recognises that there has been, and continues to be, a great many pressures on the nationally protected Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The primary purpose of the designation is the conservation of the area's natural beauty, but clearly there are numerous pressures and forces for change. The Partnership believes that the area cannot be preserved in aspic, it is a living and working landscape and a careful balance needs to be struck to ensure that future development is sustainable and appropriate to the AONB. The Plan seeks to complement the relevant suite of Local Plans, Minerals and Waste Plans and any emerging Neighbourhood Plans, helping to aid and inform any future development proposals (Theme 6 – Developing the Wolds). The LWCS and Natural England typically provide additional comments on planning and enforcement issues pertinent to the interests of the AONB and usually at the request of the relevant Local Planning Authority. Resources dictate that both organisations are unable to respond to every single planning application within or immediately adjacent to the AONB, but will endeavour to respond to any application that has the potential to cause significant harm to the AONB. In turn legislation highlights that all LAs must have "a duty of regard" when performing their duties, this is detailed within Section 1.3 What are the statutory obligations for managing AONB? Chapter 1 – Setting the Scene, includes Section 1.7 Who looks after the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB... which highlights that the area is entrusted to all – local authorities, organisations, community groups and those who live and work in the Wolds. The Partnership will continue to push for due diligence in the review and assessment of future development plans. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) continues to provide an overarching steer and influence to future proposals - with a clear focus on supporting and encouraging sustainable development and recognising and respecting local views/ community responses. The Partnership (as per Actions TCA1 - Thriving Communities and PA2 - Planning and Development Management welcome and encourage the production of various local Parish and Neighbourhood Plans to help recognise, and reinforce local character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Note the comment in respect of an organisation with no-teeth. As detailed above, Section 1 of the Plan sets the scene in terms of AONB legislative context. The AONB Partnership is an advisory body with powers to convene and influence - and helps the LAs to develop, publish and review the statutory Management Plan. The AONB administrative body is not a landowner, but seeks to work through positive influence and collaboration. Individual organisations within the JAC, in particular the LAs, and NGOs (Natural England, Historic England and The Environment Agency) have a wide range of duties, regulatory and enforcement powers that must take account of the AONB designation e.g. through the duty of regard.</p>
20	BN	Section 4: There should be a presumption against any	Comments and offer of assistance noted and welcomed.

	Donington on Bain resident	<p>planning app. which generates noise, other than for essential infrastructure.</p> <p>Existing woodland (including smaller spinneys and copses) should be protected and property owners offered incentives to extend natural habitats wherever possible. The protection of existing monuments and listed buildings should be prioritised.</p> <p>Section 5: Agricultural buildings should only be allowed if they blend into the landscape. Increased bus services between key centres and as many smaller villages as possible would support existing commercial ventures in the Wolds and aid employment opportunities for existing residents.</p> <p>Section 6: The emphasis should be on quiet pursuits such walking and cycling. There should be a presumption against leisure activities which require infrastructure development/planning applications to support them.</p> <p>Section 7: There should be a presumption against any planning application which is not essential (e.g. accepting housing, limited agricultural buildings, critical national infrastructure etc) and which does not reinforce the peaceful and tranquil nature of the Wolds. There should be a presumption against any planning application which generates noise other than for essential infrastructure.</p> <p>Efforts should be made to improve flood management insofar as possible without developing infrastructure solutions that would greatly alter the existing landscape. As above, existing ancient monuments and listed buildings should be protected at all costs.</p> <p>Section 8: Whilst local authorities must continue to encourage multiple partnership activity in the future life of the Wolds, every effort should be made by our elected representatives to ensure that pressure groups/commercial affiliations with self-interest at heart, do not gain undue influence over future decision making.</p> <p>Section 9: An annual statement should be released showing achievements against planned targets with a schedule of activities for the year ahead. A simple monthly RAG indicator published showing progress against planned delivery date – published on website and emailed to interested residents.</p> <p>Additional Comments: Respondent is happy to freely contribute their time to support any activity (research, analysis,</p>	<p>Section 4: Agree on the recommendation to continue to protect the area from developments which could potential generate detrimental levels of noise and in so doing impact upon the area's undoubted high levels of tranquillity (see also response 11 and 27). Tranquillity is a recognised component of natural beauty. The need to minimise future development impacts from potentially detrimental noise and light intrusion is detailed within Policy PP6, and Actions PA8 and PA9 within Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1). Noted however that Action ARTA8 (Access, Recreation and Tourism, Section 6.3) includes the link with landowners and other interest groups for information on more specialist recreational activity including opportunities for legal hunting, fishing and shooting interests. The latter does generate the potential for conflict with local residents and visitors although a legitimate pursuit that can significantly enhance landowner income and the wider rural economy.</p> <p>Note positive comment on future woodland protection and habitat extension. As detailed in response 5 - there is an objective within the Plan (Objective WBO – Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards (Section 4.2.4) to include some areas of new woodland planting in addition to enhancing the management of our current woodland and linked (mosaic habitats). In terms of incentives – agree that the future agri-environment and woodland grant support should be promoted and utilised accordingly to help secure appropriate and much needed biodiversity gains. Action WBA1 and WBA2 (Section 4.2.4) specifically seeks to encourage the uptake of grants and specialist advice, utilising support and guidance from Forestry Commission. Any new planting schemes need to be appropriate to local setting and habitat requirements, but may be especially beneficial for buffering sensitive ecosystems, including existing semi-natural woodlands and enhancing habitat connections through a landscape scale approach (e.g. Estate/farm wide plans and river catchment plans).</p> <p>Section 5: Comments noted on agricultural buildings. Additional to simple economies of scale, wider farm requirements and farm industry stipulations has often resulted in pressure for ever larger buildings. Unlike the wider countryside, most farm building proposals within the AONB cannot automatically proceed as permitted development but require additional consents from the relevant local planning authority. The AONB unit will review such applications on a case by case basis with further consideration to developing future design guidance (e.g. Action BHA3 - Built Heritage, Section 4.4.2 and PA3 - Planning and Development Management , Section 7.1). Through Policy BHP3 there is an emphasis on encouraging and supporting the sympathetic re-use and renovation of redundant buildings. The work undertaken via the Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Guidance study and subsequent AONB specific report (as detailed within the State of the AONB Report – Appendix 4) provides a useful further point of reference for the sympathetic development of farm buildings.</p>
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		<p>physical labour, etc) which would help bring the plan to fruition.</p>	<p>Request for increased bus services duly noted and agree with the sentiments. The narrative within Section 7.2 (Transport and Signage in the Wolds) highlights the aspiration for a fully integrated transport network with recognition of the importance of InterConnect and CallConnect bus services in providing vital links to those residents and visitors reliant upon public transport. However clearly this is a challenge in the wider backdrop of reducing services but recreation and tourism links may help to provide important added value to key routes. As discussed in response 10 and 18, Action (TWA4) seeks to refresh and review the interconnect bus walks, linking with Stage Coach and other relevant partners.</p> <p>Section 6 and Section 7: Comments noted with a general agreement that the Plan needs to support future tourism and recreation that is sensitive and appropriate to the nationally protected Lincolnshire Wolds including its tranquillity and unique sense of place. The emphasis on supporting access, recreation and tourism that is appropriate to the AONB is detailed within Policies ARTP1 and ART4 (Access, Recreation and Tourism – Section 6.3).</p> <p>As detailed within Theme 4 – Developing the Wolds, there is evidently an important balance to be struck in terms of enabling sustainable development of the right type, right scale and in the right location within the AONB. Planning applications should be assessed on this basis with development proposals clearly articulating local and national needs, and detailing clear proposals on complementing and enriching the special qualities (natural beauty) of the Wolds.</p> <p>Agree and support the merits of supporting and promoting quiet recreation (such as walking, cycling and horse-riding) and avoiding large tourism infrastructure proposals within the heart of the AONB. There may however be some scope for small scale appropriate tourism/recreation developments that are deemed to be in keeping with the rural charm and character of the Wolds – for example a sensitive change of use and renovation of a farm building for a small business or tourism/recreation facility. There has been an increasing trend towards glamping, holiday lodges and mobile caravan sites all of which it is agreed need careful thought and planning. Depending on the scale of the proposals it should be noted that some of the smaller schemes may automatically proceed as permitted developments. Policy ARTP4 within Access, Recreation and Tourism (Section 6.3) does recognise the need to review current access, recreation and tourism provision but only to support new measures/innovation where compatible with the AONB. Overarching Objective ARTO in the same section equally highlights the need to develop <u>sustainable</u> access, recreation and tourism initiatives <u>appropriate</u> to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Agree and support the merits of developing naturalised flood management systems which can work with the grain of nature e.g. land management that can hold and store water in the headwaters and minimise negative impacts of extreme rainfall events. This is articulated within elements of Policies</p>
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			<p>RSPP1 RSPP2 and RSPP6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds - Section 4.2.6) and Policy SP2 (Earth Heritage – Soils, Section 4.3.2)</p> <p>Agree and support the call for prioritising heritage protection and enhancement towards key existing ancient monuments and listed buildings. Historic England continue to record and monitor the "at risks" register and Actions AA7 and AA8 (Archaeology, Section 4.4.1) seeks to review and focus resources on known archaeological sites deemed to be "at risk". In terms of Listed Building resource slight re-wording of Action BHA1 (Built Heritage, Section 4.4.2) is recommended to highlight Listed Buildings "at risk". It should also be noted however that a large number of historic buildings across the AONB, most notably many traditional farmsteads and farm buildings, are not currently listed but are known to have significant heritage features/potential (as evidenced within the Lincolnshire Wolds Traditional Farmsteads Study, 2017).</p> <p>Section 8: Comments noted and supported in terms of ensuring levels of accountability and transparency in decision making. Internal procedures are subject to ongoing review and in terms of the LWCS monitored via hosting authority arrangements, local Memorandum of Agreement and AONB Partnership governance. See also below – reporting. Individual planning applications are subject to the policies, procedures and due scrutiny of the relevant local planning authorities, requiring either an Officer or Planning Committee decision. Applications must be reviewed in accordance with the relevant Local Plan policies and guidance and the overarching requirements of National Planning Policy Framework – with paragraphs 115 and 116 especially pertinent to any development proposals either within, or in the setting of the AONB.</p> <p>Section 9: Acknowledge suggested recommendation for regular reporting against Management Plan targets which is expressed through Objective MO (Monitoring, Section 9.2) and in particular Policy MP1 (To monitor the performance of the Action Plan). In the interests of expediency, reporting across the AONB Partnership has shifted to 12 monthly to help secure as many returns as possible. The LWCS reports regularly through its current governance arrangements (e.g. quarterly updates to the funding partnership, the JMG and twice yearly updates to the full AONB Partnership, the JAC – Joint Advisory Committee).</p> <p>The JAC has continued to request an annual review publication to help both document and promote the work of the LWCS and the wider partnership (Action IPA8 – Interpretation - Awareness Raising, Section 6.2 and Action MA1 - Section 9.2).</p> <p>The NAAONB (National Association for AONBs) has three key performance indicators or KPIs to help collate reporting across the AONB family. These are currently the subject of review, with a further three KPIs pending. The family is keen to broadly align reporting with national Defra 25 Year</p>
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			<p>Environment Plan. (Action MA4 – Section 9.2)</p> <p>Additional comments: Offer of help and assistance greatly welcomed. Contact to be made to discuss future local engagement – Friends of Group, linkages with Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival and other partnership work plans.</p>
21	NC	<p>Concern about possible future development at the Biscathorpe drilling well. I believe this well may be used for Fracking operations in the future and wish to object to any operations of this kind. Please do not allow our countryside to be industrialised.</p>	<p>Comments and concerns noted on oil exploration/fracking within the AONB - fracking . See above response to similar views expressed from respondent 10.</p>
22	Dave Carnell Branch Chairman IWA	<p>The Inland Waterways Association is primarily interested in maintaining and restoring the inland waterways for the benefit of the environment and general public.</p> <p>Having studied the Management Plan I agreed with the general style and content.</p> <p>Due to the Louth Navigation being outside the AONB, my comments refer to the Built Heritage, i.e. the protection and restoration of the locks and structures of the Navigation on its route to the sea at Tetney. We have been requested to comment on the ELDC Local Plan which provides more opportunity to raise our concerns.</p>	<p>Note and welcome positive response on the style and content of the document and general support of the Plan.</p> <p>Recognise the respondent's particular interest in the maintenance and restoration of inland waterways for their environmental and public gain. As noted, the traditional canal networks all lie beyond the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB boundary, including Horncastle, Louth and Market Rasen.</p> <p>We will keep under review the proposed Sustrans Access Project (Danelaw Project) that is exploring the potential development of a multi-access trail using the Louth Canal navigation (Louth to Tetney) but also more controversially the potential use of the inland disused railway line (Louth to Bardney?), much of which now lies in multiple private ownership. (see also response 32).</p> <p>All of the market towns are seen as important in terms of their service provision and their special links (Section 6.2 Interpretation - Awareness Raising), both historic and current, with the hinterland of the AONB. From a tourism and recreation perspective all of the surrounding market towns provide both physical and intellectual hubs and gateways to the Lincolnshire Wolds. Future recreation and tourism work will include linking with the Love Lincolnshire Wolds Tourism (LLW) tourism partnership as detailed within Section 6.3 – Access, Recreation and Tourism, inc. Actions ARTA7, ARTA9 and ARTA11) and helping to promote and aid delivery of Wolds Destination Management Plan. (see also response 22)</p>
23	Cllr Owen Bierley WLDC	<p>Section 9: Supports the current Proposed Action PA15 (Planning and Development Management) for all relevant local authorities and partners to review the current boundary.</p> <p>Respondent outlines enthusiasm for extending the northern AONB boundary and welcomes North Lincolnshire Council interest and support in the initiative. The current northern boundary, in simply following the A46, would appear to be quite arbitrary.</p>	<p>Comments recorded and positive support for extending the AONB northwards noted, including summarising the key attributes of the area (see also response 8).</p> <p>As detailed previously, the AONB Partnership currently has an open view on the pros and cons of undertaking a full boundary revision but know anomalies have long been recognised by the JAC (Joint Advisory Committee). Proposed Action PA15 to be retained with the respective local planning authorities and key partners to investigate future options for a boundary review.</p>

		<p>An enlarged AONB would recognise the greater unity of the wider landscape area, enabling the Lincolnshire Wolds (and adjacent landscape areas) to be seen as a single unified entity. This would provide additional protection to the landscapes and cultural composition of Greater Lincolnshire and help to bolster the visitor economy of the area as a whole.</p> <p>Much of the Wolds to the north of the AONB is of a similar terrain (100 metres+ in height) and includes the historic influence of Brocklesby Estate, with its surrounding woodlands and monuments. Much of the land in question was recognised as an Area of Great Landscape Value and registered accordingly in 1952.</p> <p>I have read the whole document and I am very much looking forward to seeing the finalised, adopted, version!</p>	<p>It should be noted that a formal boundary modification must proceed through a Verification Order, a legal process coordinated by Natural England as the statutory body with responsibility for nationally protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs). The timescales and recourses required for a boundary review are significant, usually necessitating a public enquiry.</p>
24	FV	<p>There are many good intentions in the document but I don't see them making much difference.</p> <p>Section 4 - The road and track verges are vital for biodiversity, yet each year more of them are turned into lawns. A policy to prohibit the cutting of verges until the Autumn is required.</p>	<p>Acknowledge the respondent's view that whilst there are many good intentions it won't make much difference. We respect these sentiments. It is the role of the AONB Partnership to help ensure that the M. Plan is not just a document that sits on a shelf but will make a real difference to those living, working and visiting the AONB. Understandably there are many issues and forces for change that the Strategy and resulting Action Plan is seeking to shape and influence. As noted in response 20, the JAC has continued to request an annual review publication to help both document and promote the work of the LWCS and the wider partnership (Action IPA8 – Interpretation - Awareness Raising, Section 6.2 and Action MA1 - Section 9.2).</p> <p>Grass Verges and Green Lanes (Section 4.2.3) comments noted. Recognise the issue of close mowing, both on road safety and amenity grounds. The Highways authorities would not be in a position to support a policy to prohibit the cutting of roadside verges until the Autumn.</p> <p>There are however currently two policies VLP1 and VLP2 which combined seek to meet the Objective VLO – to retain, restore and encourage, positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB's roadside and green lanes. The Life on the Verge project has had some successes in terms of encouraging interest in the verge/green lane network and securing appropriate management, especially for our Roadside Nature Reserves. This remains a priority via Action VLA1. We propose accompanying Action VLA3 which seeks to review and encourage suitable verge cutting management to enhance biodiversity, whilst avoiding compromising vehicle sight lines. As proposed within Action VLA8, further innovative grass verge management schemes will be explored for nature conservation and wider public gains, including the potential future use of grass cuttings for generating local energy from waste (e.g. linking with local on-farm Anaerobic Digestion Biomass plants).</p>
25	Vanessa	In terms of general style:	Note and welcome Natural England's very positive comments on the general

	McNaughton NE	<p>An exceptionally well structured, readily "accessible" and inspirational read. Clearly articulated Vision and set of Aims which sets out a suitably aspirational agenda for the next five years and beyond. Layout looks good and the Plan is easy to read, easy to follow. An inclusive tone strongly promotes the necessity for and value of a partnership approach to delivering against each of the broad themes. Appropriately acknowledges the challenges and complexities of managing environmentally sustainable socio-economic activities.</p> <p>Query: Vision, contents of: is there merit for making reference to "healthy, resilient" landscapes e.g. pg 35, para 5 "...enhanced connectivity between healthy, resilient landscapes and green infrastructure..." i.e. echoing the later reference to "resilient ecological networks..." under section 4.1 on pg 39. para 2</p> <p>Section 4: Good approach, sensible lay out.</p> <p>Query: Assume the red text and ticks will come out. Will those issues with only one tick be removed?</p> <p>Section 4.1: good to see references to resilient ecological networks (pg 39), landscape scale approach to land management (pg 39) and ecosystem goods & services, health & wellbeing (pg 39).</p> <p>Query: Assume some wording will be added in this section to summarise messages in the 25 year Environment Plan? Query: Are the "new issues" drawn from the 25 year plan?</p> <p>4.2.1, pg 40, Recommendation: example of how wording can be amended to reflect published 25 Plan e.g. "Defra's 25 year Plan for the Environment reaffirms the importance of embracing landscape scale protection and enhancement to support adaptation to climate change and the delivery of wider ecosystem benefits, "natural capital".</p> <p>4.2.2, endorse new issues</p> <p>4.2.2 pg 43, Query: ref "More limited opportunities via Mid and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme options in the future", Is this the case or is the issue more around "The perceived limited opportunities via..."?</p> <p>4.2.3, Recommendation: is it possible to add a sentence around the importance of road verges in buffering roads and reducing and lessening the effects of run-off from farmed fields ("once it's on the road it's in the river")</p> <p>4.2.4, good to see reference to natural capital.</p>	<p>content, style and layout of the Plan, its Vision, challenges and aspirations.</p> <p>Agree to modify Vision statement to include the added reference to "healthy, resilient" landscapes and green infrastructure as detailed.</p> <p>Section 4: Note and welcome the comments on approach and layout.</p> <p>The red ticks were included in the Draft Consultation to illustrate the weighting of the suite of issues. Only those no longer deemed relevant will be excluded and the ticks themselves will be removed in the final document. It is proposed that new issues will be clearly identified to help draw attention to emerging pressures and opportunities.</p> <p>Section 4.1: Note support for references to resilient ecological networks, landscape scale land management, ecosystem goods and services, health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Section 4.2.1 (Biodiversity – Introduction): Agree with need to update final document to help align with the new HM Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment).</p> <p>The new issue highlighting uncertainties surrounding the future of agri-environment funding was flagged up during the peer review consultation and thus pre-dated the Defra publication. We note that the 25 Year Environment Plan includes the objective of designing and delivering a new environmental land management system; with the aspiration for a scheme that can encourage broad participation and secure environmental improvements with additional eco-system services. Policy FWP2 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) highlights the need to help positively influence and shape future changes in agriculture policy for the benefit of Wolds farmers.</p> <p>Additional context and links to A Green Future - Chapter 2 of the 25 Year Plan is particularly relevant in terms of reaffirming the country's commitment to conserving and enhancing natural beauty within (and beyond) the nationally protected families of AONBs and National Parks. There is a clear commitment expressed to work with AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to deliver environmental enhancement, including through demonstrator projects, and engaging with communities through the statutory management plans. There is a wider call to use and manage land sustainably, embedding an 'environmental net gain' principle for development and improving the mechanisms for managing, incentivising and regulating future land management. A 'natural capital' approach is sought to help build and bolster natural and heritage assets – effectively using land in a manner that supports cost-effective sustainable growth for the benefit of an array of wider public goods and services e.g. land management for people, places and nature. Interestingly the 25 Year Plan also includes an aspiration to undertake a 21st Century 'Hobhouse' Review of National Parks and AONBs, considering for example their coverage, responsibilities, future finance,</p>
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	<p>4.2.4, Recommendation: merit in adding a sentence about “the significant heritage value and irreplaceable character of ancient woodland and veteran trees”, as referenced in the 25 year Plan for the Environment?</p> <p>Query: where’s 4.3.1?</p> <p>4.4, Qu: merit in referring to the value of the natural capital approach?</p> <p>Sec 5 - 5.1 & 5.2, Recommendation: It would be good to make reference to the importance of getting local people more involved with, and connected to, their local natural environment here i.e. “a healthy natural environment is a central part of health, wealth and prosperity” (Conservation 21). Links: TCP4 and the objective of improving accessibility to the natural environment and green space; This is also referenced in a slightly different context on pgs 68-9 under section 6.2 and in 6.3.</p> <p>Query: How will the survey data about e.g. what local residents and visitors value about the Wolds AONB be used?</p> <p>Merit in highlighting the value that the LWCS/JAC place on listening to local communities to help identify the relevance of the natural environment to their day to day lives and the choices they make, to inspire them to be imaginative and ambitious for the natural world around them.</p> <p>Recommendation: Consistency between pg 66 (p63?) The ongoing EU review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and development of a possible British Agricultural Policy and pg 65 (p64?). Potentially significant impacts and future uncertainties from both Brexit and the subsequent reform of domestic farming policy, including possible implications on farm subsidies for future agri-environment options. Sounds like the same issue expressed in a slightly different way? 5.2, pg 67, Query: TCP3 - is there an opportunity to expand this objective to include local businesses becoming more involved in enhancing the local environment through eg funding?, volunteering?, closer involvement in development of future plans/strategies for the Wolds AONB.</p> <p>Sec 6 - 6.2, pg 69, Recommendation: It would be worth clarifying that Conservation 21 is Natural England’s “conservation strategy for the 21st century” (first reference is on pg 41)</p>	<p>enhanced public engagement and scope for expansion.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) endorsement of new issue noted. Good point on issue regarding Mid and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship. Agree that this could benefit from re-wording but to help clarify that this is in respect of potentially a more limited uptake, rather than a case of perceived limited opportunities.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Grass Verges and Green Lanes): Agree to include an additional sentence in the narrative to indicate the benefits for minimising both field and road runoff.</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 (Woodlands, Beech Clumps and traditional Orchards): Note support for natural capital. Support the inclusion of a relevant reference to the 25 Year Plan to help highlight the importance of ancient woodland and veteran trees.</p> <p>Section 4.2.5 to 4.3.2: Note and welcome general endorsement of new issues</p> <p>Section 4.3.1 has a numbering error. Earth Heritage should be installed as title as per previous Plan with 4.3.1 the specific reference for Geology.</p> <p>Section 4.4 (Heritage) yes, support the inclusion of an additional reference to natural capital.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds). Support suggestion to include a clear link to the benefits of local engagement with natural environment – additional insert to the introduction and inclusion of “connecting” in the closing text for Section 5.2.</p> <p>Policy TCP4 (Thriving Communities): comments noted on the links with the Discovering the Wolds – Theme 3 topic area. The specific actions include the more detailed cross-referencing.</p> <p>In terms of resident and visitor surveys, the latest Have Your Say questionnaire conducted during March – Sept ’16 (results summarised in Appendix 5) has provided a further useful baseline of information. The results were reported in detail to the AONB Partnership and helped to inform the subsequent JAC workshop and peer review (as detailed in Appendix 7) to aid and inform the emerging M. Plan. The survey provided a very useful sample of opinions, and many of the findings were similar to the previous questionnaire survey conducted in 2003 e.g. in terms of highlighting what people think are the special qualities of the area, its current pressures and the future opportunities. Interestingly, in terms of the weighting of future actions, 74% of the respondents to the most recent Have Your Say consultation were actually in favour of reviewing the AONB boundary.</p>
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	<p>6. 2, pg 69, Recommendation: Consider adding wording after "...heart of the environment" the following "...getting people more connected and involved with and inspired by their local natural environment" (e.g. by listening to feedback about what they value about it) to add context to the phrase "putting people at the heart"</p> <p>Query: Pg 70 – Assume that previous surveys have also supported the idea of the value of the Wolds AONB to local residents (and visitors) for enjoyment, discovery, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Sec 7 - Recommendation: Would be good to make reference to natural capital in section 7. We would like to see the concept of natural capital being used to better understand the value of the natural environment of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, looking at how any development, investment or change could enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>7.1, Query: listed policies on pg 72 focus strongly on the natural beauty, landscape and although there is a "see also sections 4.4.2 Built Heritage..." is there merit in making a more explicit reference to heritage assets within the existing/new objective/policies e.g. "being sensitive to considerations of the heritage assets"?</p> <p>7.3, pg 76, Recommendation: add "and habitat" after "wildlife" in second para</p> <p>7.3, pg 76, Recommendation: Rather than this section referring to "Such an approach would be in-line with current Government thinking on "natural capital"..." it is more about "resilience" and C21's reference to building long term resilience through habitat diversity, increased size and connectivity of habitats.</p> <p>Sec 8 - Like inclusive tone and importance of listening to all, collective effort to identify challenges and opportunities, embedding local priorities.</p> <p>Qu for Stephen: We assume that all local businesses and local community groups have had the opportunity to review and/or contribute to the plan? We would be interested to know how many have taken up that opportunity.</p> <p>Sec 9 – March meeting between LWCS Manager and NE local team to discuss following targets:-</p> <p>Pg 80, Action BA4 – could add "...and future agri-environment schemes" after "Countryside Stewardship" or Recommendation: a "find and replace" of all references to CS and ES and replace with "agri-environment scheme/s" for consistency?</p> <p>Pg 80, Policy BP2, Action BA4 – The +50% target has presumably been inserted on the basis of NE GLNP update in July 2017 "Building upon the previous year's launch of the</p>	<p>Agree to the merits in highlighting the value placed on local communities in highlighting the value of the natural environment to their day to day lives and choices. Additional paragraph added to Section 2.6 (Public Survey – Have Your Say).</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Note suggested need for consistency between ongoing EU review of the Common Agricultural Capacity (CAP) and reform of domestic farming policy pages 63 & 64 respectively. (see also response 28 – Section 4.2.7 commentary)</p> <p>Section 5.2 (Thriving Communities): note request to widen scope of Policy TCP3 to encourage and support active business engagement in wider AONB strategy. Policy TCP3 and accompanying Action TCA9 both re-worded to recognise and encourage wider business engagement, including opportunities to link with natural capital agenda.</p> <p>Section 6.2 (Interpretation – Awareness Raising): Actioned recommendation for clarification on Conservation 21 Strategy and also adjusted Objective BO (Section 4.2, Natural Heritage – Biodiversity). Additional links to Defra's A Green Future (25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment) included. Support the suggestion for a further explanation in the narrative to highlight the benefits of getting people more connected, involved and inspired by their local natural environment – and widened to include wider AONB attributes e.g. landscape and cultural heritage elements. Note the query for page 70 (Section 6.2); Google/Trip Advisor comments are also supported by the earlier Have Your Say surveys so agree this should be made clearer in the text at this point.</p> <p>Section 7 (Developing the Wolds – Theme 4): Agree with recommendation to include the concept of natural capital. This has been added to the narrative in Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management), along with a further recognition of the national context of A Green Future (Defra's 25 Year environmental plan). Agree to recommendation to include a more prominent reference to the consideration of heritage assets as detailed; Policy PP1 revised accordingly.</p> <p>Section 7.3 (Climate Change and Energy): Para. 2 recommendation - agree to add "and habitats". Para. 3 recommendation; noted and agree to text revision to highlight resilience and NE's Conservation 21 here, as opposed to natural capital.</p> <p>Section 8 (Partnerships in the Wolds): Note and welcome comments on the inclusive and collaborative tone of the document. The AONB Partnership can confirm that this is the case for both the Plan's development and implementation. The final Plan is an adopted document which strives to be an inclusive Plan for everyone with an active interest in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB including all who may live, work or visit the area. There has been wide promotion of the public consultation, with direct mail outs of the</p>
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	<p>Countryside Stewardship Scheme, new CS agreements have been taken up across the Wolds. The majority of these agreements include a Wild Pollinator & Farmland Wildlife Package which is specifically designed to link and extend habitat corridors. Protecting watercourses, notably chalk stream tributaries, and buffering and extending grassland sites have remained key priorities within the AONB with the aim of helping habitats and species develop resilience to future climate change. Collectively live CS and ELS/HLS agreements cover approximately half the AONB land area – see attached map”.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing” – whilst aspirational, NE cannot guarantee that all land coming out of ELSHLS agreements will enter into a replacement agri-environmental scheme (and any wildlife package options will only be a component of that land coverage).</p> <p>Pg 81, Action GA3 – 35ha target – NE response in July 2017 “Maintenance, restoration and linkage of species-rich grassland has continued to be a priority target for CS, as reflected in Mid tier events and in the support offered to HT clients”.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing” – whilst aspirational, NE cannot guarantee that all semi/species-rich grassland coming out of ELSHLS agreements will be entered into a replacement agri-environmental scheme</p> <p>Pg 81, Policy GP1, Action GA1 – “all sites by 2023” may not be realistic given that the Wolds is not currently a NE Focus Area and resources are accordingly limited.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing”</p> <p>Pg 82, Policy WBP2, Action WBA3 – NE response in July 2017 NE unable to quantify complementary biodiversity habitat through current reporting system but, standard practise through ELS/HLS and CS is to encourage appropriate buffering, including nectar/invertebrate rich margins which can include graduated vegetation cover.</p> <p>Recommendation: change to “ongoing”</p> <p>Pg 84, RSPA3 & 4 Recommendation: add an action here relating to the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) partnership focussing on the Great Eau, eg three events by 2021 (so it’s consistent with the reference to CSFF in the Grassland section, BA5 on P80)</p> <p>Pg 84, Policy RSPP3 “To raise community awareness and where possible, community involvement, of the rich diversity of water habitats within the Wolds and how their actions impact upon this resource.”</p> <p>Recommendation: Could we apply a similar objective in other sections to reflect the importance of community awareness raising and engagement?</p>	<p>whole Draft Plan to all Parish Clerks within the AONB. There have been extensive efforts to utilise a range of press and social media outlets and this has included two separate live-chats on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. All JAC Partners have been requested to publicise the consultation, this has included use of business networks such as Leader (Lindsey Action Zone) and the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism group.</p> <p>In response to query, can confirm that a number of community groups and local Elected Members have formally submitted responses as part of the Public Consultation and others had responded via the Have Your Say Surveys. In total, 21 of the questionnaire replies (e.g. 15%) were made on behalf of a local Parish Council, with six formal public consultation replies received from either a Parish or Ward representative.</p> <p>Section 9: Making it Happen (Action Plan)</p> <p>Action BA4 (Policy BP2, Theme 1: Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds - Biodiversity): Agree to revise all Countryside Stewardship entries within the Action Plan to "agri-environment schemes" to simplify and aid future consistency.</p> <p>As detailed, note recommendation to change previously proposed SMART targets to "ongoing" for proposed targets for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action BA4 (Policy BP2, ...- Biodiversity) • Actions GA1 and GA3 (Policy GP1, Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) • Action WBA3 (Policy WBP2, Biodiversity – Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards). <p>Following further discussions with NE, the proposed targets were moderated as follows: for BA4 - ongoing; GA1 - 50% by area for favourable condition for SSSI grasslands; GA3 - 15 ha of extended biodiversity rich grasslands; WBA3 - 10 ha of complimentary habitat options adjacent to woodlands by 2023). These revisions balance the need to be aspirational with the likelihood of further budgetary pressures on the East Midlands agri-environment schemes.</p> <p>Policy RSPP2 (Biodiversity - Rivers, Streams and Ponds): note the recommendation to add a further complimentary action to highlight the future work of the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF) on the Great Eau catchment as detailed. Technically speaking many of the landowners are to the east of the AONB boundary but agree that on balance it may be beneficial to include the additional action as detailed e.g. the springs and headwaters of both the Great and Long Eau rise within the AONB. Also cross-boundary working has been viewed as advantageous across the family of protected landscapes e.g. to further the links and positive connections to adjacent habitats, people and places.</p>
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26	Henry Smith JAC/NFU	<p>Mr H. Smith met with the LWCS Manager to provide verbal comments on the Plan.</p> <p>There was recognition from the respondent of the work that the LWCS had clearly spent in preparing the Draft Plan and its supporting documentation – very well done to all involved.</p> <p>The Plan needs to recognise the uncertainties and challenges facing the farming industry through Brexit, including future modifications to the various agri-environment schemes. In order to secure a diverse landscape we need a sustainable level of farming. Depending on farm market prices and overheads, we could well see a shift away from cattle and other livestock rearing in the Wolds. In terms of the new Defra Plan it needs to be for 70 years+ not just 25 years.</p> <p>From the respondent's perspective, the Wolds has more vigorous hedgerows and trees than in earlier periods. However we are not the Kielder Forest, but rather a living and working farmed landscape, with a mosaic of habitats. The AONB needs its profitable farmers, no profit mean limited resources to support the wider environment. In respect of the roadside verges – yes they can provide a good habitat and the</p>	<p>Note and welcome the respondent's helpful comments as both a local farmer and JAC/NFU representative.</p> <p>Welcome the very positive overview of the general content and style of the Plan.</p> <p>Acknowledge the views expressed on the importance of maintaining a viable farming industry that can help secure profitable returns whilst sustainably managing the Wolds diverse landscapes and habitats. As detailed in response 25, we note that the 25 Year Environment Plan includes the objective of designing and delivering a new environmental land management system; with the aspiration for a scheme that can encourage broad participation and secure environmental improvements with additional ecosystem services. Policy FWP2 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) highlights the need to help positively influence and shape future changes in agriculture policy for the benefit of Wolds farmers.</p> <p>Note and appreciate the respondent's comments in respect of balancing farming and environmental interests and the need for ensuring that profitability in farm businesses can be maintained. Objective FWO in Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) recognises the need to promote sustainable farming as a key activity and has a number of specific policies and resulting actions to help maintain a viable and diverse sector. For</p>

		<p>wider verges could be enhanced through more beneficial cutting regimes, however this is much harder to achieve on narrower verges where the conflict between animal and road vehicles may also be prevalent.</p> <p>In terms of planning and development in the Wolds we can't keep things in perpetuity, things need to evolve and change – "the flock is changing and what we need is a good shepherd". Dr Beeching got it wrong in 1963 with the closure of many of our regional branch railway lines, and the corresponding problems that we now face with our local and national transport links.</p> <p>The respondent took the opportunity to highlight that Louth is the capital of the Wolds and a clear vision is required for the town. There is a great opportunity to review and revamp the Louth Cattle Market Site. The town should aim to safeguard its working market whilst utilising the surrounding buildings as an enhanced multi-function centre. The site could provide a wider range of information/advisory services e.g. visitor and heritage centre for local residents and tourists, social, community/rural policing, religion, seasonal shows, other local facilities (pet shop, garden demos, car services etc.)</p>	<p>example Policy FWP1 seeks to develop and promote agricultural good practice that can conserve and enhance the natural beauty and character of the AONB; whilst Policy FWP3 aims to encourage and support livestock farming (in turn recognising wider benefits from good grassland habitat management).</p> <p>Acknowledge the need to balance the management of highway verges for flora and fauna interest with other risk factors, including the need for effective vehicle sight lines. Agree that the wider verges often have more scope for re-introducing more traditional cutting regimes. There is a clear focus on working to safeguard and enhance the condition of the Wolds Roadside Nature Reserves with Actions VLA3 and VLA7(Section 4.2.3) particularly relevant.</p> <p>Comments noted on Dr Beeching and the loss of the local railway lines. A limited rail service to Market Rasen is still in operation today but the Bardney to Louth line long gone. The Plan reviews transport issues in more detail within Section 7.2 (Transport and Signage in the Wolds) and through Objective TWO sets out an aspiration to work towards a sustainable and fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB, and local and visitor needs.</p> <p>Note and recognise the views on securing a vision for the market town of Louth and the wider re-development of the farmers' livestock market. The AONB Partnership recognise the importance of maintaining a viable working market for local tenants, landowners and local businesses and the wider social and health benefits that may result e.g. helping to avoid rural isolation and provide a like-minded support network to the farming sector. Note and recognise the wider opportunities for the site as detailed. The Plan recognises that all of the Wolds surrounding market towns have an important role to play in acting as both physical and intellectual gateways to the Wolds, this also extends to the provision of many services, including Secondary Education, financial, legal and specialist and larger retail facilities. As encouraged through the National Planning Policy framework (NPPF), and recognised within the Plan (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) neighbourhood plans provide a good vehicle for communities to lead in a bottom-up approach to planning management and aiding/informing the various planning decision makers.</p>
27	Mrs L Goulceby resident	<p>Sec 4 – The Wolds needs protecting from human interference, be it person or by use of machinery. Financial gain in the guise of 'community interest' appears to be the prime motivator for some, and the lack of moral compass in maintaining the wellbeing of the paths and roadways.</p> <p>Detailed concerns expressed over the damage to road verges and the green triangles from an array of vehicles, including commercial and the impacts of horses, hounds, their riders and</p>	<p>Note and acknowledge the respondents detailed comments on Section 4 - Protecting the Wolds (Theme 1). There are evidently a number of issues pertinent to the village of Goulceby that is causing concerns and anxiety including specifically issues around damage to roadside verges and noise disturbance within the village.</p> <p>More detailed follow-up is required between Goulceby Parish Council and the Local Planning Authority (East Lindsey District Council) in terms of noise management, and with the County Highways team in respect of traffic and</p>

		<p>horse trailers. No one takes responsibility for the repair of the verges.</p> <p>Protecting the Wolds from human instigated unacceptable level of noise is another worry for the villagers' of Goulceby. A local example was given of an incident involving noise disturbance in excess of four hours from a local business. The respondent stressed further concerns on the need to retain not just the scenery but the peace and solitude of the Wolds for the benefit of people and wildlife. Protect the Wolds from noise nuisance otherwise wildlife will disappear.</p> <p>Sec 5 – We came to live in the Wolds for the peace and quiet, to enjoy the dark skies without electric lights, pavements and bus stops - otherwise we would live in a town! We welcome like-minded visitors who do not want to abuse everything the Wolds stands for; our villages and hamlets must be free of rubbish, noise, and large vehicles that abuse the roadways. Imagine if every settlement, not just Goulceby, had to suffer noise nuisance 'in the name of community interest' – we need to avoid becoming a protracted circus of tents, marquees, camp sites and caravan trails.</p> <p>In terms of closing comments, the Wolds should and must be kept as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This means it must not under any circumstance become another area like the East Coast of Lincolnshire with caravan parks obliterating the landscape as far as the eye can see. We do not need people coming into the Wolds under the misconception that, especially against the wishes of the villagers, they can develop campsites to further their private financial gain. Peace and tranquillity cannot be natural harnessed with inharmonious tourism; the inevitable human noise, rubbish, white plastic, dog excrement, and music will prevail if the Wolds is threatened by the very people who should be looking after all it stands for.</p> <p>Lincolnshire County Council would help the County to benefit more financially by encouraging manufacturing industry, thus creating employment, instead of trying to capitalise on excessive tourism in this AONB. Using tourism as a tool to create jobs must not be applied in this way.</p>	<p>verge maintenance.</p> <p>The LPA and Lincolnshire Police do have the powers to monitor, record, advise and where necessary take regulatory or enforcement action against individuals or businesses when noise levels are causing unacceptable disturbance and thus deemed to be anti-social behaviour. Lincolnshire Police's most recent Rural Community Safety Strategy (2017-2020) seeks to prevent not only rural crime but also wider elements of rural community safety, including working closely with local communities to reduce feelings of isolation and vulnerability – this includes a commitment to prevent anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership highlights that the primary purpose of the designation is one of the protection of natural beauty, whilst recognising that the area is very much a living and working landscape. As detailed in response 20, tranquillity is a recognised component of natural beauty and the need to minimise future development impacts from potentially detrimental noise and light intrusion is detailed within Policy PP6, and Actions PA8 and PA9 within Planning and Development Management (Section 7.1).</p> <p>Note and acknowledge the respondent's comments and views in respect of Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds), and the importance of maintaining the rural charm and character of our Wolds villages.</p> <p>As considered in responses 11 and 20 and detailed within Theme 4 – Developing the Wolds, there is evidently an important balance to be struck in terms of enabling sustainable development of the right type, right scale and in the right location within the AONB. Planning applications should be assessed on this basis with development proposals clearly articulating local and national needs, and detailing clear proposals on complementing and enriching the special qualities (natural beauty) of the Wolds. The AONB Partnership recognises the merits of supporting and promoting quiet recreation (such as walking, cycling and horse-riding) and avoiding large tourism infrastructure proposals within the heart of the AONB. There may however be some scope for small scale appropriate tourism/recreation developments that are deemed to be in keeping with the rural charm and character of the Wolds – for example a sensitive change of use and renovation of a farm building for a small business or tourism/recreation facility. There has been an increasing trend towards glamping, holiday lodges and mobile caravan sites all of which it is agreed need careful thought and planning.</p>
28	Katy Anderson CLA/JAC	<p>Sec 4 - 4.2.1 Pleased to see the AONB endorsing support and encouragement for good agricultural practises, as opposed to regulatory enforcement. We are also very pleased to see utilising the concept of natural capital (and ecosystem services) as a policy within the management plan. Currently</p>	<p>Note and welcome CLA's endorsement of the use of natural capital and wider ecosystem goods and services, including within Section 4.2.1 (Natural Heritage – Biodiversity introduction). As detailed in response to Natural England's recommendations (respondent 25), various additional natural capital links have been made, including additional context in the light of the publication of A Green Future (Defra's 25 Year Plan).</p>

		<p>just two fifths of CLA members say that under the current framework they will look to invest in the environment in the future. We must improve the business case for such investment if we – as society – want to see more. Greater acknowledgement of the value of ecosystem services and natural capital is needed throughout society, including through AONB M. Plans.</p> <p>4.2.4 Throughout the plan the comments regarding woodland planting are somewhat contradictory. We would however be supportive of advice and guidance for landowners on how they can manage and utilise woodland and opportunities for woodland planting on their land.</p> <p>4.2.5 The cutting and management of farmland hedgerows highly regulated through Cross Compliance for well over a decade now so comments around poor maintenance and inappropriate timing and frequency of cuts are a little unfair when considering the increasing regulatory burdens around hedgerows over the last 10-15 years. Re objectives in both 4.2.5 and 4.2.4 disappointed to hear that LCC no longer be offering annual hedge and small woodland The Woodland Trust do offer funding for smaller projects but need to be supported to encourage take up of the grants.</p> <p>4.2.7 We would like to see an acknowledgement of the efforts land managers are going to through agri-environment schemes and voluntary measures to improve plant, bird and general biodiversity. The CLA's wider post-Brexit position encourages sustainable, profitable farming and the payment for public goods – farmers, foresters and land managers should be appropriately rewarded for providing these essential goods. We highlight to you the CLA's proposal for a land management policy. Further details of the CLA's proposals are available here: http://www.cla.org.uk/sites/default/files/HowTo_LMC_Doc2.pdf. We would also echo this approach regarding section 4.3.2.</p> <p>4.4.2 CLA is supportive of encouraging the reuse of redundant buildings as this has the dual purpose of providing valuable workspace and an extra income for farmers and landowners through rental. However, we have some concerns over how much 'encouragement' there will be to use local materials.</p> <p>Section 5 - 5.1 A very diplomatic and tactful summary of the Partnership's stance on hunting, shooting and fishing. The CLA would welcome support for farm diversification – however, the caveat of being 'appropriate to the AONB' is</p>	<p>Section 4.2.4 (Woodland, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards) welcome support for furthering advice and guidance in respect of woodland management (Action WBA1) and new planting (WBA2). Comments noted on some confusion and contradiction with respect to woodland planting and specifically what may constitute inappropriate planting. Poor planting has been deemed an ongoing issue by a number of JAC partners - typically this can include an inappropriate species mix that does not correlate with the local woodland or hedgerow mixes, (in turn often using imported rather than local provenance stock) and /or a proposed poor location choice and design for new woodland/copse planting. For example, new woodland proposals which could lead to detrimental damage to heritage assets or other important species and habitat types e.g. wet grassland, open riparian systems etc. Similarly new woodland could be deemed inappropriate where there is a failure to sufficiently complement local landscape character and key viewpoints. The Plan does not seek to provide a prescription of woodland planting but rather encourage supportive dialogue between all relevant partners as prescribed through the Woodland Objective (WBO) and resulting relevant woodland policies and actions. The Partnership is mindful that all new woodland planting is not automatically a good thing – but there is an agreed target for increasing woodland coverage by a further 10 hectares over the life of the Plan. The Partnership aspires to influence, encourage and support new woodland generation that is deemed to be in the right location, of the right design (inc species mix and internal layout) and of the right scale to complement and enhance local landscape character and viewpoints. As laid out in Policy WBP1 and Action WBA2 the emphasis is on increasing connections to existing woodland habitats and aiding further planting of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland).</p> <p>Sections 4.2.5 (Hedgerows and Landmark Trees): Acknowledge comments and sentiments on hedging and regulatory requirements however five respondents to the peer review have still deemed inappropriate maintenance as an issue. There are certainly recent examples of poor hedge cutting, but likewise many examples of landowners and farmers who continue to do an excellent job in respect of hedgerow management. The issue as worded aims to strike the right balance between contrasting views and indicates that the situation has been improving in recent years.</p> <p>Comments noted on the loss of the Lincolnshire County Council small grants scheme for tree and woodland and the opportunities to explore links with The Woodland Trust (WT). A joint woodland planting project with the WT has been undertaken during 2017-18 supported by the Wolds SDF (Sustainable Development Fund). Such future joint ventures may be forthcoming.</p> <p>Section 4.2.7 (Arable Farmland): Note and agree to suggestion to include a wider acknowledgement on the positive efforts of farmers/land managers to enhancing biodiversity via agri-environment and voluntary measures. Acknowledge the CLA's post-Brexit land management aspirations as detailed</p>
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	<p>somewhat open ended and would actually mean that many diversification projects could be turned down if they were not aesthetically pleasing enough, regardless of whether they made a contribution to the economy. Diversification opportunities need to be wide ranging.</p> <p>5.2 CLA policies promote the development of sufficient rural housing to meet the needs of rural communities and businesses, which includes the provision of different types of housing within communities.</p> <p>Section 6 - The plan currently does not acknowledge the rights of landowners over access to private land and the difficulties faced by trespassing.</p> <p>Section 7 - Sound stewardship of the land is important but this can only be achieved if the businesses are profitable. Policies must recognise the need for economic viability and provide for diversification of both land and buildings. As noted above, the CLA is supportive of encouraging the reuse of redundant buildings. We would ask that domestic and commercial developments within the AONB are considered on a case by case basis. This should include consideration not only of how aesthetically pleasing the development is, but also the contribution of the development to the economy and the growth of individual businesses, and to the housing needs of local communities. We are pleased to see the inclusion of affordable housing in the AONB's plan.</p> <p>Renewable energy contributes significantly to the economic and environmental sustainability of individual businesses, helps to achieve demanding targets and provides a boost to the rural economy. For future proposals, there should again be assessment on a case by case basis, examining benefit vs. impact in a given location. We ideally would like to see the plan acknowledge that there can be differences of opinion amongst the AONB partnership on matters such as development and planning – as is noted in other AONB plans across the region (e.g. the current Suffolk Coasts and Heaths 2018-2023 Draft Management Plan).</p> <p>Section 9 - We are happy to support the AONB partnership with the actions the CLA is noted alongside in the plan. We would also be able to act as a potential other partner for BP3, WBA1, WBA2. Regarding FWA13, it would not be feasible for us to run three events by 2023 as the lead partner. We would therefore ask that this target is changed to 'ongoing'. We are happy to support the AONB partnership with the</p>	<p>– this broadly accords with the AONB Partnership's aspiration for securing sustainable farming and land management as detailed within the Vision statement (Section 3.1) and resulting relevant Policies including PB2 & PB3 (Section 4.2.1 Natural Heritage – Biodiversity) and Policies FWP1 and FWP2 (Section 5.1 Farming and Field Sports).</p> <p>Section 4.4.2 (Built Heritage): Note and welcome support for the reuse of redundant buildings. Acknowledge concerns on the levels of encouragement and support for local materials. This will require a collaborative approach utilising various levels of expertise across the public and private sectors as expressed through Actions BHA3 and BHA7. The Wolds Heritage Working Group (HWG) will be referenced as a further potential lead body for taking forward further joint working in this area. (see also comments within responses 29 and 32).</p> <p>Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports): Welcome CLA's support for the general balance of hunting, shooting and fishing interests. Acknowledge the concerns expressed on farm diversification and the respondent's view that a stipulation for "being appropriate to the AONB" (Policy FWP4) could restrict some diversification opportunities. As discussed in Section 1 (Setting the Scene) the primary purpose of the designation of an AONB is for the protection and enhancement of natural beauty – and in planning terms the designation is on a par with National Parks. Social and economic interests do need to be taken account of, and the Plan does seek to support a thriving and sustainable local economy that complements the character of the area as expressed within Policies TCP1 and TCP3(Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities). The Plan has an aspiration for supporting and securing both appropriate and high quality farm diversification. Any development proposals likely to have a significant detrimental impact upon the AONB would not be supported (Policies PP1 and PP2 – Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management).</p> <p>Section 5.2 (Thriving Communities): Acknowledge CLA's position on encouraging and supporting local housing, including affordable housing as detailed in proposed Action TCA4 (see also below).</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Recognise the request for recognition of landowners concerns over private land and the damage that can be done through trespass as detailed. The need for securing good practice and active engagement with landowners in respect of access, recreation and tourism provision is referenced within Policy ARTP4 and resulting Action ARTA18. Landowner interests are represented on the JAC (AONB Partnership) and also the relevant Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum (LAF). The trespass issue did not feature prominently in the peer review, however on balance this is known to be a genuine concern and will be listed under the bullet points as one of a number of key issues for the future management of interpretation, access, recreation and tourism (Section 6.1 Overview for Discovering the Wolds). Interpretation also has an important</p>
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		<p>actions the CLA is noted alongside in the plan. We would also be able to act as a potential other partner for BP3, WBA1, WBA2.</p>	<p>role to play in providing information to both local residents and visitors to help raise awareness - not only of the AONB's special qualities but also disseminating basic information such as the Country Code, and the respect to local farmers/landowners and communities. Policy IP3 (Section 6.2 Interpretation) has been extended to also include encouragement for landowners to engage in future interpretation.</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): Note and acknowledge comments on the need for businesses to be profitable in order to help achieve sound land management. This is addressed specifically within the previous Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) with Objective FW0 seeking to acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets. Section 3.3 (Cross-cutting influences) also recognises within agri-environment support the vital contribution of farmers, land owners and managers and the need to maintain a profitable sector.</p> <p>Acknowledge the CLA's additional response on future housing developments, including support for affordable housing and the request for helping to secure a sufficient range of rural housing to help meet community needs. The Plan acknowledges the challenge of balancing future housing requirements - local views often contrast markedly on a case by case basis. The Plan through Actions TCA1 and TCA4 (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) and PA2 (Section 7.1 - Planning and Development Management) promotes a community driven response to help aid future housing decision making (e.g. through encouraging Neighbourhood and Parish Plans). Specific housing allocations and assessment of needs fall within the remit of the suite of Local Plans. The AONB Partnership and the LWCS will respond to housing applications accordingly and under the guidance of Policy PP1 – protecting local character and distinctiveness via the highest quality of design for new or re-developments including making space for nature and tackling climate change.</p> <p>Section 7.1: Note the comments on renewables and the recommendation to review on a case by case basis. Individual applications will be processed and determined by the respective local planning authority. The Partnership welcomes appropriate community scale renewable energy schemes that will not cause significant harm to the area's natural beauty or its setting as expressed within Policies PP7 and PP10. In addition Policy PP8 supports encouragement towards a circular economy in respect of waste and recycling issues.</p> <p>Note the comments in respect of mixed viewpoints within the AONB Partnership. Agree to reference accordingly within the wider narrative for planning and development management (Section 7.1). The Wolds JAC (Joint Advisory Committee) has the powers to convene and recognises that there will be some differences of opinions between individual partners in deciding on an appropriate course of action or response, including issues</p>
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			<p>pertaining to planning applications.</p> <p>Welcome CLA's ongoing support and guidance in the delivery of the AONB M. Plan including active engagement in the delivery of collaborative actions within the Action Plan - all specific endorsements appreciated and revision requests actioned.</p>
29	JD Ludborough PPC	<p>The Plan needs to be made simpler with a few achievable bullet points to help make it easier to understand.</p> <p>Sec 4 – The landscape must be protected at all costs with no more wind turbines on land.</p> <p>Sec 5 – Agree that support should be given to landowners and farmers and that it is very important to cut the red tape for them.</p> <p>Sec 6 – Use the tourist board to promote more events like the "Walking Festival".</p> <p>Sec 7 – Make it easier to develop redundant buildings by more "user friendly" planning while retaining the local character.</p>	<p>We acknowledge the respondent's views on trying to make the Plan simpler. The content of and layout of the Plan has to accord with Natural England's guidance on how to write and review AONB Management Plans (e.g. via CA23 Guidance and its various updates – see Section 1.6 Status of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB M. Plan. The Action Plan seeks to provide a clear structure on the principal objectives, policies and agreed partnership actions with the key issues summarised as bullet points in the corresponding topic areas. For previous Plans an Executive Summary has been published, this will be considered again pending budget constraints (see also response 35).</p> <p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds - Theme 1) – see also Section 7.1. Note comments on the need to protect the landscape at all costs, including from wind turbines. As detailed in response 2 Policy PP7 (wind energy schemes) seeks to endorse small scale/ community focused energy conservation and renewable generation schemes that will not impact detrimentally upon the character of the AONB and/or its setting. This position recognises that the Wolds AONB is a nationally protected area on account of its high scenic quality (natural beauty).</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): note comments in respect of grant support for farmers/landowners and the need to minimise bureaucracy. The Partnership has always recognised the need to strike a pragmatic balance between regulatory and incentive schemes to help ensure sustainable/profitable farming – supporting the production of healthy food whilst protecting and enhancing an array of wider public goods and services. This is articulated within Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) and includes Policy FWP2 to monitor and proactively influence future agriculture policy. See also response 25 where it is noted that the new Defra Environment Plan includes the objective of designing and delivering a new environmental land management system; with the aspiration for a scheme that can encourage broad participation and secure environmental improvements with additional eco-system services. This context is recognised within the revised Plan.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Note the request to utilise the Tourist Board. There is no official tourist board operating across Lincolnshire since the demise of Lincolnshire Tourism so the promotion of the county has effectively been devolved to the individual local authorities. As highlighted within Section 6.3 (Access, Recreation and Tourism) the AONB Partnership has recognised and supports the Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership and its Destination Management Plan and will work to support a</p>

			<p>number of initiatives (Policy ARTP3 and resulting Actions ARTA11-14).</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): note and welcome support for the renovation of redundant buildings. The Plan seeks to encourage the sympathetic repair and re-use of built heritage assets as expressed via Policy PP2 and Action PA3 and also through Policy BHP3 and Action BHA3 (Section 4.4.2 Built Heritage). In recent years Historic England has also shifted its position, for example producing guidance to help inform and aid the appropriate re-use of traditional farm buildings. (see also comments within responses 28 and 32).</p>
30	Grant White WLDC	<p>WLDC's Prosperous Communities Committee has today (30th Jan '18) endorsed the draft AONB Management Plan subject to any final changes as a result of the public consultation.</p> <p>Further advice is being sought, but as per the last Plan, WLDC recommend that they should be adopting the Plan as opposed to the Joint Planning Authority with City of Lincoln and North Kesteven.</p>	<p>As summarised, subject to further amendments, the general endorsement of the Draft Plan from West Lindsey District Council is very welcomed.</p> <p>Acknowledge the recommendation on the pathway for the District's formal adoption of the closing Plan.</p>
31	LCC Environmental Scrutiny Committee	<p>The Draft Plan was reviewed by the LCC's Environment Scrutiny Committee on 16th Jan '18 and duly endorsed with an acknowledgement that there will be further changes to take account of additional observations and recommendations as part of the ongoing public consultation.</p> <p>In summary, comments made by the Committee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "light" touch approach to prepare the Plan was welcomed. • The last five years of the previous Plan had brought benefits to the AONB • The Wolds is an excellent area to visit with an active working landscape. It was important to improve opportunities for tourism and attract in more visitors, including the provision of further good quality accommodation. The group requested a list of Bed and Breakfast providers for wider circulation. • Further to Officers observations, the group noted the ongoing issues with the AONB boundary and the differences in opinion in pressing for a formal review. • There were some concerns regarding the levels of consistency on planning decisions across the AONB and there was a recommendation for increased collaboration between the relevant planning authorities to help develop a joint planning approach. • There was an acknowledgement that the Plan seeks to promote and enhance the nationally important 	<p>Subject to further amendments, the general endorsement of the Draft Plan from Lincolnshire County Council's Environmental Scrutiny Committee is very welcomed.</p> <p>The AONB Partnership welcomes the Committee's support for undertaking a "light" touch review and also their acknowledgement of the joint successes achieved over the last Plan period (2013-18).</p> <p>A list of Bed and Breakfast providers has been supplied to the group for wider circulation, along with the most recent making the Most of the Lincolnshire Wolds publication (revised 2017) which provides a guide to the local villages and facilities across the Wolds.</p> <p>Recognise the Committee's recommendations to further enhance the tourism offer for the AONB, including the desire for further good quality accommodation. The group were mindful of the need to continue to protect the intrinsic qualities of the area whilst promoting the area.</p> <p>As reported, Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds) of the Plan presents the case for supporting appropriate sustainable tourism development and working alongside groups such as Love Lincolnshire Wolds tourism partnership (Section 6.3 - Policies ARTP2 and ARTP3). The AONB Partnership has long recognised the need for a careful balance, supporting a recreation and tourism infrastructure that can help boost the local economy and help maintain wider services, whilst also protecting and enhancing the area's nationally important natural beauty (the Wolds special qualities, including the expansive views and rural tranquillity). The Committee were mindful of this position.</p>

		special qualities of the area whilst seeking to secure future sustainable development for a living and working landscape.	
32	Mrs B Wolds resident	<p>Respondent believes that the Plan is extremely well written and clear to read and understand.</p> <p>Sec 4 – Very concerned with the local council's efforts to promote the Lincolnshire Wolds for tourism as the current infrastructure is not able to cope with the increasing levels of traffic. The financial returns to local businesses will be fairly limited with caravan users, cyclists and walkers notorious for being self-sufficient. Increase visitor traffic causes disruption to the local people who live in the Wolds and impacts on the peace, tranquillity and remoteness of the area. Extra signage creeping into the roadsides is a concern. ELDC's plans for a potential new user path linking Louth and Bardney are a concern, a hard pathway would not be appropriate and access through railway tunnels which are protected SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest) ill thought out. Use subsidies post Brexit to encourage use of field margins for walkers/horseriders to avoid busy roads.</p> <p>Sec 5 – There is limited reference of manufacturing businesses operating in the Wolds (other than farming which only provides 16% employment for the population) yet these businesses provide all year round employment, usually permanent, high skilled and well paid. With thought, this type of business can fit discreetly into the Wolds without adverse effect on peace and tranquillity e.g. diversification of farm buildings not just for tourism, but also start-ups for entrepreneurs. Rural rates relief could greatly assist.</p> <p>Sec 6 – Agree with the Plan; an increase in tourism needs to be carefully managed as too much tourism would be at odds with the Wolds deeply rural sense of place and tranquillity.</p> <p>Sec 7 – Agree with the Plan; where an area is deemed to be suitable for housing development then encourage sympathetic type, size and styles e.g. traditional cottages or country houses instead of the popular large executive houses. As above – there should be encouragement for the sympathetic restoration of farm buildings for manufacturing and low impact units but only allowed where there is no impact upon views or suitable landscaping (hedge/tree planting) is carried out.</p> <p>Respondent concludes by stressing the need for greater focus</p>	<p>The positive comments on the general style of the Plan are very much welcomed.</p> <p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds): Note and appreciate the concerns of the respondent in terms of the promotion of the area for tourism and the limitations of the current infrastructure. The AONB Partnership recognises that there is a careful balance to be struck in supporting and promoting the area for recreation and tourism. As detailed in Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds), there is an acknowledgement of seeking to secure tourism that is sustainable, appropriate and complimentary to the special charm and character of the area. Policy TWP3 (Section 7.2 Transport and Signage in the Wolds) recognises the need to ensure that any traffic infrastructure improvements to help support tourism are sympathetic to the AONB. This is set within a wider aspiration (Objective TWO – Section 7.2) to support the development of fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB landscape and character whilst addressing both local community and visitor needs.</p> <p>Note concerns on both road signage and the potential new access route linking Louth and Barney, utilising sections of the disused railway line. There are clearly some sensitive issues in respect of establishing a new multi-purpose access route between Louth and Bardney and the Partnership awaits further news on these proposals. Support from the relevant landowners and community groups would be an important requirement, along with the need to avoid any disturbance to the SSSIs (see also response 22).</p> <p>In terms of road signage we agree with the need to minimise the proliferation of signs, decluttering where possible. Policy TWP4 (Section 7.2 Transport and Signage) seeks to encourage a consistent and respectful approach to road signage, furniture and maintenance. The Partnership will also continue to support the restoration of the traditional black and white road signs (Action TWA11 – Section 7.2).</p> <p>Appreciate the recommendation for post-Brexit subsidies to be used to encourage landowners to establish additional field margin links for walkers and horseriders. This would certainly help aid Policy TWP5 (Transport in the Wolds) which seeks to aid the development of an integrated and well maintained footpath and bridleway network. As noted in responses 25 and 28, Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) includes Policy FWP2 to monitor and proactively influence future agriculture policy, including any new environmental land management system as indicated through Defra's Environment Plan.</p>

on cutting edge technologies and attracting businesses that can offer skilled trades.

Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Note and acknowledge comments on manufacturing including the opportunities to utilise redundant farm buildings where this can be discreetly achieved. The AONB Partnership seeks to support appropriate business development primarily through its engagement with the RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England) and LEADER funds, the latter being coordinated through the Lindsey Action Zone (LAZ) that includes the Wolds and wider hinterland. The LWCS is on the LAZ Panel that reviews and determines grant applications for a wide range of projects seeking to support and improve the local area (for employment, productivity and wider socio-environmental gain) and this includes support to the manufacturing sector. Policy PP2 (Section 7.1 Planning and Development Management) recognises the need to encourage and support the conversion of traditional buildings to new and viable uses where this can be accomplished sympathetically, with Policy BHP3 and Action BHA3 (Section 4.4.2 Built Heritage) also of relevance (see also responses 28 and 29). The Lincolnshire Wolds SDF (Sustainable Development Fund) is made available on an annual basis and seeks to encourage and support appropriate business and community developments that directly benefit the AONB - this is included within Policy FWP4 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) that seeks to aid farm diversification, and more specifically Action FWA9.

Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Further to earlier concerns, note the respondent's general agreement with the Plan's objective to carefully manage tourism. The AONB Partnership recognises the differing views in terms of many that do not wish to see the area promoted for tourism for danger of harming the area's natural beauty and sense of place, and others that do wish to see the area further promoted for recreation and tourism to help support the local economy and services. As per the narrative in the Plan - careful visitor management, with good interpretation (inc. highlighting the area's nationally protected landscape status and special qualities) and an infrastructure sympathetic to the local character of the area is arguably the best way forward.

Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): Welcome respondent's general agreement with this area of the plan. Note and acknowledge the detailed comments on future planning management issues, including new housing and farm conversions. In general terms we concur with these sentiments, with future applications being reviewed on a case by case basis by the relevant LPA (local planning authority) taking account of Local Plan Policies, Neighbourhood /Parish Plans, AONB Management Plan and National Planning Policy Framework guidance, and consultee views in the round.

Comments noted on the need to attract skilled trades – see above, and the Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and wider engagement with LAZ-LEADER and RDPE programmes which have an emphasis on

			diversifying the local economy, raising productivity and securing socio-economic benefits. Policy FWP4 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) and resulting Actions FWA9 and FWA10 seeks to actively encourage farm diversification appropriate to the AONB.
33	GF Walesby resident	<p>Sec 4 – Broadly supports what has been written but is increasingly concerned that the tranquillity of the Wolds is being disturbed by aggressive use of off road vehicles (4x4's and scramble bikes) using BOATS (public byways open to all traffic). The Plan does not appear to attempt to discourage or restrict inappropriate use of vehicles.</p> <p>Sec 5 – There needs to be more emphasis on the urgent need to improve broadband and mobile phone coverage. A priority should be given to achieving a reasonable broadband speed for all premises – especially where fibre network is miles away.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds): Note and welcome the general support for the Plan. Acknowledge the concerns expressed in terms of motorised vehicles using the public rights of way network in a manner that may disturb and potentially intimidate other users of the network. Both 4x4 and scrambling bikes do have a legitimate legal right to access BOATs, but not others parts of the wider public rights of way network including footpaths and bridleways. Additional to potential impacts upon the AONB through noise disturbance the surface of the BOATS may also be damaged by intensive or extended use from motorised vehicles.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Recognise the issues and concerns in respect of both broadband and mobile phone coverage and the communities and local businesses demand for enhanced provision. The Plan seeks to promote the roll-out of fast broadband internet that is appropriate to the AONB, as identified in Action TCA6, delivering against the wider Policy TCP2 (Section 5.2 Thriving Communities). By appropriate, any communications infrastructure developments should seek to minimise harm to the natural beauty of the AONB. For example, the height, design and siting of masts are all important elements in determining the likely landscape and visual impact of a scheme and thus its impact upon the natural beauty of the AONB - which is a significant material consideration for the LPAs (local planning authorities). HM Government recommends a general presumption in favour of approval for such infrastructure but schemes within, or immediately adjacent to the AONB, would need to satisfactorily meet requirement of para's 115 and 116 of the NPPF. There is a clear reference to the recognition that local residents welcome the roll-out of mobile phone and broadband coverage within the introduction of Section 5. Agree that a further additional context setting statement on broadband should be referenced within Section 5.2 (Thriving Communities).</p>
34	Andy Bailey JAC/EA	<p>4.2.1 EA support taking on board the recommendations of Sir John Lawton's report 'Making Space for Nature' (2010) and promotion of natural capital. <u>Updated Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies can be downloaded at:</u> https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process#lincolnshire-and-northamptonshire-(map-area-5) The emerging Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (currently out for consultation) will be of relevance.</p> <p>4.2.2 Support the addition of 'A need to maximise opportunities for wildlife and public services – multifunctional land for flood risk management, climate change resilience, and biodiversity</p>	<p>Section 4.2.1 (Biodiversity – Context Setting for Nature Conservation): Note EA's support for current reference to Sir John Lawton's report Making space for Nature. Welcome links as detailed by the respondent to the relevant Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies. Note and understand that the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (2015) as referenced within the AONB Plan is now being updated.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadows, Pasture and Wet grassland): Acknowledge EA's support for the additional new issue highlighting the need to enhance meadow, pasture and wet grassland with a drive for securing multifunctional land/public benefits as listed.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): We acknowledge and welcome</p>

		<p>gains within a productive food environment'. This links to Policy GP4</p> <p>4.2.6 Our Environment Programme team have reviewed the Plan and see both the WFD and chalks streams work as a priority. The EA continue to work with the LWCS to deliver the Chalk Streams project.</p> <p>4.3.2 Supportive of the aim to 'ensure soil protection, minimising erosion and sedimentation...' Natural capital thinking when identifying actions will help deliver other aims/objectives.</p> <p>Sec 9 - Water storage goes beyond flood risk management. In agricultural areas, with farm reservoirs more likely than new flood storage areas in the Wolds in the future – i.e. climate change is likely to make such schemes environmentally and economically more attractive (reduced summer abstraction availability and increased winter availability in-line with wetter winters, drier summers and increased heavy rainfall events). There are no plans for additional flood storage schemes (similar to Louth) within the Wolds. SUDs (Sustainable Urban Drainage) is a further way in which water storage may occur – this should be encouraged in line with the NPPF.</p> <p>RSPP7 & RSPA11 – The target for water quality within natural rivers/streams is unclear.</p>	<p>the input from the EA's Environment Programme team and recognise the support given to the work of the LWCS and the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project.</p> <p>Section 4.3.2 (Soils): Note and welcome support for the aim to ensure soil protection, minimising erosion and sedimentation and retaining where needed, nutrients and organic matter as detailed within the general narrative.</p> <p>Acknowledge EA's recognition of the value of utilising a natural capital approach in the context of protecting furthering soil protection (see also response 25).</p> <p>Section 9 (Making it Happen): Note and welcome comments on the Policies and Actions relating to Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) as detailed.</p> <p>In terms of RSPP6 and accompanying Action RSPA10 acknowledge that the EA is not aware of any immediate plans for flood storage schemes similar to Louth within the Wolds. The Policy as worded includes water storage as a general principle but the text in the narrative has been extended to recognise the likelihood of an increasing number of farm reservoirs in the future for the reasons as detailed by the respondent. In terms of wider water management agree with comments in respect of developing integrated flood risk management schemes that can utilise Natural Flood Management techniques, in addition to the encourage of water storage through SUDs. A new action (RSPA17) has been proposed to encourage the exploration of SUDs, and the practical applications within a protected landscape.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): In respect of Policy RSPP7 and Action RSPA11 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds) agree that the target is unclear and needs to clarify that this relates to the percentage of AONB "main river" that is classed as being in either moderate or good condition, as referenced within the proposed State of the AONB indicators (Table 4 and the accompanying report Appendix 4).</p>
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35a.	JD South Ormsby	<p>A partner shared summary addition for associated parties would be helpful.</p> <p>Sec 4 – An important threat/opportunity for South Ormsby is the future management of grass verges, with potentially further reductions in Highway authorities' maintenance budgets as indicated in the Plan. The Estate is interested in the future work and findings of the collaborative 'Verge grass to Biomass' project http://www.peakhill-associates.co.uk/dt_portfolios/grass-to-biomass. The success of the pilot and its future development provides the potential for linking with the roadside verges on Estate land and in particular along the Bluestone Heath Road and Ormsby Ring.</p> <p>With only 1.5 % of the AONB landscape character area classed as semi-natural grassland it should be noted that the Estate has a concentration of ancient grassland. We would be interested in learning how we might support new approaches such as grazer networks and trails for new technologies.</p> <p>Sec 5 - Encouraged to see the 'vulnerabilities to communities and the business sector through the continuing outward migration of young people' as a new issue. Welcome conversations around the future investment in South Ormsby to help aid the delivery of the Estate's Vision. There may be opportunities for collaboration in projects around skills retention, apprenticeship schemes and small business development – promoting the Lincolnshire Wolds and its communities as an attractive destination to 'set up shop'.</p> <p>The South Ormsby Vision will expand local livestock farming and support tenant farmers in diversification. Support will be provided by dedicated members of staff to find new opportunities in the farming industry that will safeguard against Brexit (FWA6) adopting new innovative techniques in land management (FWP2). The latter includes the consideration of present and future requirements of the rural community and any new technologies that will contribute to affordable, green housing. (BHA8).</p> <p>Community services and spaces will be developed in response to community need, supported by the Estate Team and the economic impact of the South Ormsby Vision. This will include protection and enhancement of key buildings such as the hall and church.</p> <p>Sec 6 - We congratulate the AONB Partnership for the formation and support of the Value of Love Lincs Wolds</p>	<p>In terms of general comments, note the suggestion from South Ormsby Estate for a shared summary to be available for associated parties. As noted in response 29, for previous Plans an Executive Summary has been published, this will be considered again, pending budget constraints.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Grass Verges and green Lanes): Note and welcome the Estate's interest and future engagement in the management of the roadside and green lanes verge network including sections of the Bluestone Heath Road and Ormsby Ring. This links with proposed Action VLA3 which aims to review and encourage suitable verge management in the AONB. There would be further opportunities to assist in delivery of Action VLA8 which seeks to explore, and where possible extend, the AD Biomass Trail to support verge management for nature conservation and wider gains. The latter includes the provision of a product that could help support local on-farm anaerobic digestion plants.</p> <p>Section 4.2.2 (Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland): Acknowledge the importance of safeguarding our remaining semi-natural grassland areas and welcome the Estate's desire to explore various approaches for the future management of its traditional grassland habitats – e.g. may provide opportunities to support Actions GA6-7 supporting initiatives to encourage grazing of less productive grasslands and also promoting and supporting land managers in the delivery of wider benefits (Policies GP3 and GP4 respectively).</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Note and acknowledge the summary points of the Estate's Vision and its link and connections for supporting local communities and small business development in the area. This aligns with the AONBs objective TCO (Section 5.2) of helping to enhance the prosperity and wellbeing of communities within the Wolds – working to ensure the AONB remains a place to live, work, invest in and visit whilst protecting the character of this unique landscape.</p> <p>Note and welcome the Estate's aims to develop and enhance the local livestock farming including support for future farm diversification and build resilience to help with future changes across the sector including Brexit uncertainties. See also responses 25 and 28 in terms of meeting the needs of the farming sectors as articulated within Section 5.1 (Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds) and the needs for embracing with the emerging natural capital agenda's as per A Green Future (Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan) and future changes to agri-environment/land management schemes.</p> <p>Section 4.4.2 (Built Heritage): Acknowledge the work of the Estate in protecting and enhancing its key heritage assets including notably the hall and church which aligns with Policy BHP3 and resulting Action BHA7 e.g. exploring funding and partnerships to help encourage and support the sympathetic repair and re-use of heritage buildings. Note the Estate's support for Action BHA8, which seeks to support and encourage the use of</p>
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		<p>Destination Management Organisation. We support a joined-up approach between local attractions in promotion and are committed to protecting, celebrating and strengthening the brand of the Wolds. However the Estate promotes its offer, this will be primarily to walkers, cyclists and a small number of quality visits.</p> <p>Sec 8 - The Estate has commissioned extensive survey's to assess its ecological significance and is working on ways to maximise its 3,000 acres for the benefit of wildlife, natural capital and the local economy (BP1 – 4). We are aware of the Biodiversity Action Plan and welcome new collaborations to further wildlife corridors and other landscape-scale conservation activities. We have an ambitious long term Vision that could help deliver against similar AONB Management Plan objectives.</p> <p>Consideration of how to manage landscape-scale conservation beyond Countryside Stewardship would be timely. Innovation through new technologies forms part of our Vision and something that we wish to invest in. South Ormsby is keen to be part of any pilot projects or research that might contribute to the Wolds being more resilient to the future economic and social pressures.</p> <p>Sec 9 - GLNP and societies such as the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union and Tree Council for England have provided initial 'Opportunity Mapping' for the estate to help inform where our efforts are best focussed when planning the conservation of the Estates natural environment: grasslands, chalk streams and woodlands suggested as most prevalent on the Estate.</p> <p>Useful to have 'good practice' documents (like those produced by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership - GLNP) regarding land management in the wider countryside; what AONB sees as 'good' and how we can help to get there. Development of local case studies to assist landowners in protecting and enhancing wildlife.</p> <p>Direct Actions to Assist the AONB Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent designation by Historic England of our Estate Parklands for the protection of immediate parks and gardens (Historic England), protecting built and natural heritage. • Opportunity for collaboration with grazier networks at both local and strategic levels to help maintain and enhance the grassland resource. 	<p>relevant technologies and innovative design that can complement the AONB's special character. As summarised in Section 7 (Developing the Wolds) new development of the right type, of the right scale and in the right location should be actively supported; including protecting and enhancing local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality design, including making space for biodiversity, being sensitive to the needs of heritage assets and tackling climate change.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Note and welcome support for the Love Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Organisation. See comments below 35b. Acknowledge the Estate's support and active engagement in a furthering a collaborative approach to help sensitively market the Lincolnshire Wolds, including accompanying tourism branding to help celebrate and promote the visitor offer. As highlighted within the Plan (Section 6.1 - Overview for Discovering the Wolds) there is a clear need to market the Wolds sensitively and appropriately so that the area's natural beauty and unique sense of place (including its undoubted tranquillity) is not compromised.</p> <p>Section 8 (Partnerships in the Wolds): Recognise the Estate's active role in surveying and reviewing its nature conservation resource. Note and welcome further partnership collaboration to help review and develop initiatives that can support the Lincolnshire Nature Conservation Strategy (Biodiversity Action Plan) and aid delivery of the AONB Management Plan. Including for example future opportunities to explore natural capital, landscape-scale, catchment wide approaches and potentially new technologies. We welcome the Estate's willingness to further local partnerships and research initiatives that can help build resilience to future economic and social pressures in a deeply rural area.</p> <p>There will be further opportunities for close collaboration through the emerging work of the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund (CSFF), with one of two schemes operating close by, e.g. targeting farmers along the Bluestone Heath Road corridor as highlighted within Actions GA7 (Section 4.2.2- Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) and FWA2 & FWA5 (Section 5.1 - Farming and Field Sports in the Wolds).</p> <p>Section 9 (Making it Happen): Note and welcome the Estate's active engagement in 'Opportunity Mapping' – see below 35b commentary.</p> <p>Acknowledge the request for useful case studies/exemplars in land management. The LWCS and the LCSP have developed case studies in the past e.g. for tree management, supporting farmland birds, chalk stream management etc. The AONB Partnership is reviewing the development of further case studies that can usefully align with the templates from the National Association for AONBs. The local Facilitation Funds will be a further source for reviewing and disseminating a wide range of good practice.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested in being part of conversations around management planning and opportunity to contribute to wider biodiversity of AONB and opportunity to link with connectivity of habitats (woodland, and grassland, chalk streams). 	<p>Direct Actions: Recognise the recent designation by Historic England of South Ormsby Estate – its immediate park and garden and the benefits and opportunities that this may bring.</p> <p>Welcome future opportunities to liaise with the Estate, identifying and working towards mutually beneficial goals – including collaboration on natural capital and wider landscape-scale working.</p>
35b.	JD South Ormsby	<p>Sec 4 - Acknowledge the increased availability of some national datasets that have been made available via the Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework (PLMF) since 2017 to inform AONB management considerations and environmental outcomes. The overview of 'State of the AONB' also mentions a lack of availability of datasets around 'health measures' which are growing in relevance to rural Lincolnshire and will continue to do so over the next five year period.</p> <p>The Dept of Communities & Local Gov Indices of Multiple Deprivation might provide useful data, and comparisons with other areas. South Ormsby and surrounding areas is for example ranked 1,879 out of 32,844 (nationally) and is in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. See http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html (inc. living environment layer).</p> <p>The work of the LCC Public Health Team and consultation by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to the Wider Determinants of Health (inc loneliness, rural and social isolation) may be helpful in providing future datasets and future guidance on potential funding streams that could support the work of the Partnership.</p> <p>Sec 5 - Rural and social isolation and the impact of the wider determinants of health on residents' wellbeing will be important topics for consideration by central government 2018 – 2023; provides an opportunity to engage with the vulnerable Wolds communities and support them in contributing to a thriving landscape.</p>	<p>Section 4 (Protecting the Wolds): Note comments on the collection and review of datasets to help inform the State of the AONB Report (Appendix 4) and the increasing value of health statistics.</p> <p>Welcome the Estate's support in delivering Action TCA8 (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) and exploring further links with the health sector and the benefits and opportunities for engagement with the AONB.</p> <p>Acknowledge data on Multiple Indices of Deprivation and the results specific to South Ormsby as detailed. As summarised within Appendix 4, currently no health data is available cut to the AONB boundary, similarly at a postcode level which would enable an accurate approximation of health indices. Such data sources will however be kept under close review going forward including ongoing contact with LCC's Public Health and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. These objectives would help aid Policy TCP2 (Section 5.2 - Thriving Communities) and the aspiration to reverse the decline in rural services and the promotion of opportunities to encourage healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Recognise the respondent's comments in respect of rural living and the opportunities that the AONB Partnership can provide in terms of encouraging and supporting wider engagement from the public and local communities in helping to secure a thriving landscape. Agree that this should include seeking to reach out to traditionally hard to reach and disadvantaged groups. Policy TCP1 (Section 5.2) aims to foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities. Resulting Action TCA1 seeks to encourage Parish and Neighbourhood Plans and an additional reference has been made to help reach out to traditionally hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Agree on the importance of exploring and developing closer ties with the</p>

		<p>Acknowledge the importance of sensitive development of walks, access and recreation. Would welcome some attention as to how the AONB might reverse some of the serious problems raised by the NHS in regards to the physical health of the population e.g. obesity and diabetes); promoting the benefits of the natural environment and the wider Wolds (TCA8).</p> <p>Opportunities for skills development of local people, apprenticeship schemes for young people, catering for older residents and providing local services are important elements involved in achieving the Estate's Vision. South Ormsby CiC's aims focus on identifying and supporting local people, including a Delivery Team tasked with supporting residents and local interest groups with community-led activities to identify area for improvements to community infrastructure, services and learning volunteering.</p> <p>Sec 6 - Congratulate the AONB Partnership for the formation and support of the Value of Love Lincs Wolds Destination Management Organisation. We support a joined-up approach between local attractions in promotion and are committed to protecting, celebrating and strengthening the brand of the Wolds. However the Estate promotes its offer, this will be primarily to walkers, cyclists and a small number of quality visits.</p> <p>Sec 7 - South Ormsby CiC is working with residents of the South Ormsby group of parishes, interest groups, networks and other stakeholders to ensure that community developments consider the needs of residents and provide the infrastructure to support them including community spaces, services and items such as defibrillators.</p> <p>Sec 9 - The Greater Lincolnshire Nature partnership (GLNP) has provided initial 'Opportunity Mapping' to help focus efforts on managing the Estate's natural environment. Grasslands, chalk streams and woodlands are the most prevalent. Links with BA4 (Section 4 - Biodiversity).</p> <p>Further to above, community activities, involvement of local interest groups and volunteer-led surveys are all underway which will help us to understand the Estate's significance and inform how we might develop training opportunities for local people. On-going dialogue with LWCS is welcomed to identify areas of the plan that might be delivered through the Estate Vision (BA2).</p>	<p>NHS and other health sector practitioners. This should include securing an evidence base and identifying future areas of joint working to support healthy living. Clearly the AONB is a nationally protected landscape, and the Partnership has a role to play as one of a number of bodies that can help to promote the natural environment as a pathway to good health and wellbeing. This would help build on the aspirations of A Green Future (Defra 25 Year Environment Plan) which has proposed a national cross-government alliance on environment and health to design and oversee a forthcoming Natural Environment for Health and Wellbeing Programme. We will work closely with our wider family of AONBs (via the National Association for AONBs) to help review, share and disseminate good practice in this area. Policy TCP2 (Section 5.2 – Thriving Communities) highlights the need to promote healthier lifestyles with Action TCA8 identifying the need to explore and develop links to the wider Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing commissioning plans.</p> <p>Note and welcome South Ormsby Estate's active engagement in identifying and furthering skills development, targeting both the young and old to develop a range of local services within the Wolds. As highlighted earlier, the AONB Partnership seeks through Policy TCP1 (Section 5.2) to foster safe, vibrant and inclusive communities with resulting Action TCA3 targeting the support, assistance and promotion of a wide range of voluntary and community engagement. Policy FWP5 (Section 5.1 – Farming and Field Sports) is also closely linked as it recognises the need to maintain traditional rural activities that can protect, appropriately manage and enhance the landscape. This should be modified to reinforce traditional skills – modifying the following Action FWA11 to reference skills development.</p> <p>Section 6 (Discovering the Wolds): Note the support for the Love Lincolnshire Wolds (LLW) tourism group; both East Lindsey and West Lindsey DC's have been operating as the lead partners for the LLW group, with the wider AONB Partnership operating in a supporting role. As per responses 12 and 22, the Plan's respective engagement is detailed further within Section 6.3 - Access, Recreation and Tourism, inc. Actions ARTA7, ARTA9 and ARTA11) and helping to promote and aid delivery of LLW Destination Management Plan. As highlighted within the Plan there is a clear need to market the Wolds sensitively and appropriately at a level where the area's natural beauty and unique sense of place (including its undoubted tranquillity), is not endangered.</p> <p>Section 7 (Developing the Wolds): Acknowledge the work being taken forward at South Ormsby as detailed by the respondent and the wider outreach aspirations proposed through the Estate's ongoing restoration plans. The LWCS and other JAC partners have attended a number of meetings and workshop sessions, providing various input on a range of proposals. The AONB Partnership continues to welcome active engagement with the Estate and local community of South Ormsby as the Vision and subsequent range of plans develop further. There is clearly a need for any</p>
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		<p>In terms of direct assistance to aid delivery of the Plan the Estate highlighted the following opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambitions to restore / plant community orchards • Surveys by Local Interest Groups (Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union / Tree Council) during 2018 /19 • Will resurvey outstanding Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) with a view to securing, where possible, their designation as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) • Intentions to protect chalk stream habitat – a small amount of Himalayan balsam has been identified • Talks are underway with Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union regarding a site visit to increase The Estate team's knowledge of the local geology – including a focus on a disused pit. 	<p>future infrastructure development to be handled sympathetically, sensitive to both local needs and landowner interests, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB.</p> <p>Section 9 (Making it Happen): Note and welcome the Estate's link up the GLNP team for green infrastructure mapping, and a suggested focus on the protection and enhancement of grasslands, chalk streams and woodlands. All of these habitats are representative of the wider AONB with a wide range of policies and actions as detailed within Sections 4.2.2 (Meadows, Pasture and Wet grassland) 4.2.4 (Woodlands, Beech Clumps and Traditional Orchards) and 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): There may also be opportunities for the Estate to review opportunities for enhancing natural capital gains within the wider working farmland which could be in keeping with wider AONB aspirations for further habitats such as arable farmland (Section 4.2.7, grass verges and green lanes (Section 4.2.3) and hedgerows and landmark trees (Sections 4.2.5).</p> <p>Note and welcome the summary list of suggestions for more immediate action as detailed; both the LWCS and LCSP (Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project) staff welcome ongoing engagement with the Estate and its partners to help identify and secure mutually beneficial goals and aid alignment with wider AONB M.Plan aspirations.</p>
36	Mr & Mrs S Goulceby residents	<p>The Plan is well prepared and designed, thorough and easy to follow.</p> <p>In particular we feel the need to protect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The scenic beauty and rural charm 2. The peace and tranquillity 3. Need to keep noise and light pollution minimised 4. Keep development appropriate to AONB. 	<p>Welcome the positive response on the overall design and content of the Plan.</p> <p>Note and acknowledge the four key points for protecting the AONB as detailed. These comments show some accordance with the findings of the public Have Your Say survey: for example the top two choices for values of the AONB were i) scenery and views, followed by ii) peace and quiet. In terms of current issues of most concern the hottest topic was the impact of unsightly development, with intrusion from noise and light pollution ranked 7th of 11 concerns.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to highlight the special qualities and distinctive character of the AONB – including its undoubted peace and tranquillity. All of the four attributes/concerns are incorporated within Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management) and the collaborative vision for the area (Section 3.1). Section 9 (Making it Happen) highlights the joint partnership action to help protect and safeguard the AONB's features, whilst fostering appropriate and sustainable socio-economic development that is in keeping with the Lincolnshire Wolds nationally protected landscape.</p>
37	Clare Sterling JAC/LWT	<p>Section 1.5 - Second paragraph. Typo - should read NPPF not NNPF.</p> <p>VLA6 The Trust is happy to be named as a lead partner for this action. However, it should be noted that any training we hold</p>	<p>Section 1.5 (The Management Plan in Context): 2nd para spelling corrected.</p> <p>Section 4.2.3 (Biodiversity – Grass Verges and Green Lanes): Note and welcome Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's support for VLA6, and recognise the caveat for LWT to focus their activity on the emerging LoveLincsPlants</p>

	<p>is likely to be general botanical survey skills linked to our new #LoveLincsPlants project rather than any specific to road verges.</p> <p>RSPP6 - We strongly support this policy, however we would recommend that it should explicitly state biodiversity within the multiple benefits to be aimed for.</p> <p>TCA12 - The Trust supports the provision of green infrastructure and encourages public access and engagement with the natural world, however we would only be able to support facilities and access in existing designated sites where it can be shown that it would not have a negative impact on the biodiversity interest of the site.</p> <p>PP1 - We note that the Trust is not listed as a partner in any of the planning related policies or actions. As the Trust actively engages with the planning system and regularly comments on planning applications with respect to biodiversity, we suggest that it might be appropriate for us to be listed as a partner.</p>	<p>project. Recognise the Trust's focus on wider botanical surveying so Action VLA6 has been dropped from the Grass Verge section but included within Section 4.2.2 (Biodiversity - Meadow, Pasture and Wet Grassland) as Action GA5. This aids the wider delivery of Policy GP2 which seeks to raise community awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Wolds' grassland. There is a further opportunity to link with wider national Plant Life campaigns to help promote and support wider voluntary engagement in botanical surveying.</p> <p>Section 4.2.6 (Rivers, Streams and Ponds): Welcome support for Policy RSPP6 and have actioned the request to explicitly highlight biodiversity within the multiple benefits as per previous Policy RSPP5.</p> <p>Section 5 (Living and Working in the Wolds): Policy TCA12 (Thriving Communities) welcome general support for supporting the provision of additional green infrastructure in the Wolds, and agree with the need to safeguard against any negative impacts upon biodiversity, particularly within existing designated wildlife sites. This is covered by the wording of the overarching Policy TCP4 which stresses to "<u>sensitively</u> utilise the Wolds as a recreational resource...". By sensitive, we would not support a proposal that caused fundamental damage/harm to known biodiversity, geological or heritage features.</p> <p>Section 7.1 (Planning and Development Management): Welcome LWT's inclusion as a further partner for aiding Policy PP1, especially in respect of providing specialist input on biodiversity matters.</p>
Further Pre-Adoption Consultation		
Historic England	<p>Tim Allen (Inspector of Ancient Monuments) confirmed HE's support for the Plan and provided the following observations:</p> <p>The Wolds has, as illustrated in the work of National Mapping Programme, Down Your Wolds, Lincolnshire Longbarrows Project, Farmsteads Project etc a particularly rich resource which if better understood and managed could add enormously to the cultural capital of this economically hard pressed area. Better understanding of what makes the Wolds special builds not just an enhanced tourist offer but a stronger sense of place and identity supporting inward investment and community. This is a productive agricultural landscape that we ask a lot of in terms of public goods and ecosystem services. To manage the future of this landscape conserving its national importance and supporting growth we need a sophisticated understanding of what we've got. In a fast changing economic and climatic context the relative paucity of understanding of the Wolds in comparison to the Fens or Yorkshire Wolds places the AONB and its active conservation at a disadvantage. The Wolds AONB and Historic England are keen to explore working with communities, charities, commercial providers, academic institutions and other partners to bring forward a holistic study of the Wolds that places informed conservation and growth at its core. (23rd March, 2018)</p>	
Natural England	<p>Rob Gornall (Team Leader) has confirmed that NE, as the formal statutory consultee, is happy to validate the revised AONB Management Plan 2018-23 and allow its passage through to subsequent adoption and publication by the relevant local authorities. (5th April 2018)</p>	
Lincolnshire Wolds JAC (AONB Partnership)	<p>The JAC reviewed and formally endorsed the revised M. Plan at the meeting held on the 12th April 2018.</p>	

National Association for AONBs

Awaiting comments.

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AONB MANAGEMENT PLANS

Support for their revision in England

Prepared by Steve Preston Associates with the NAAONB

June 2017

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INTRODUCTION

WHO IS THIS DOCUMENT FOR?

This support document is for AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards and for all who have an influence over the future of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Its purpose is to highlight any significant changes that have occurred over the period of extant AONB Management Plans to assist in their revision. It does not provide guidance on the writing of AONB management plans. This is provided elsewhere.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans: A guide (CA23) [Click to view AONB Management Plans: A guide](#)

Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans (CA221) [Click to view Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans](#)

Guidance on Plan writing and their reviews has been produced in the past by Natural England and the former Countryside Agency to assist plan makers and consultees. Existing guidance documents from 2001, 2006 and 2012 (Annex 1) are still fit for purpose and it is not proposed to update them. However, this document substantially updates the 2012 advice note signed off by Defra, Natural England and the NAAONB.

This support document aims to aid AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards in taking forward the next round of statutory Management Plan Reviews. In particular, it highlights changes in policy, legislation, issues and drivers over the past 5 years which may have a bearing on how AONBs are managed. It provides helpful reference and source material which can supplement the evidence base and complement the narrative in the Plan reviews, most notably in the "Forces for Change" sections.

There is a statutory basis for the Review and adoption of the AONB Management Plan. This context document will ease the burden on Plan writers and Local Authorities who, as the executive powers behind AONB policy, are charged with producing the Plans.

Many of the issues facing AONBs are universal. Relatively few are unique. This document sets out the context for the Review but applies to England only, and aside from particular considerations, such as coastal or upland drivers, all AONBs will be similarly affected.

As an example, the Management Plan Review can help channel responses to the big issues and questions concerning approaches to natural capital and ecosystem services. These concepts are considered to be important national drivers which will require appropriate local responses in Management Plan Reviews.

The document is designed to save resources by focusing on themes which are common to all AONBs; to stimulate thinking about how local activity reflects the picture and how policies might be reviewed to address key issues and to help share thinking and responses in plan reviews. How existing Plan policies fit the zeitgeist is a matter for AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to consider in their Reviews so that local responses can be shaped accordingly i.e. effort is put into responses in the light of a wider and shared understanding of the changing context.

Hence this support document offers an opportunity for AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to use stock text where possible in order to demonstrate a nationally coherent approach to those wider issues and drivers effecting multiple AONBs. Thus, Plans deliver

- an integrated approach
- join up of activities and partners
- place-based planning
- best thinking, drawn from national collaboration

and are appropriate for the locality in providing a tried and trusted mechanism for Local Authorities and partnerships which are vital to the delivery of the Management Plans.

Sections 89 and 90 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act) created a statutory responsibility for Local Authorities and Conservation Boards to produce AONB

Management Plans and thereafter to review adopted and published Plans at intervals of not more than five years.

Although preparation of the Management Plan is the prime responsibility of the relevant Local Authority or Conservation Board, its preparation needs actively to engage and gain the support of all key stakeholders who will assist in its delivery.

WHAT THE LEGISLATION SAYS

Section 89 (10) describes how a Management Plan Review should take place.

Where a Conservation Board or relevant Local Authority review any plan under this section, they shall

- a) determine on that Review whether it would be expedient to amend the Plan and what (if any) amendments would be appropriate,
- b) make any amendments that they consider appropriate, and
- c) publish a report on the Review specifying any amendments made.

Section 89 (11) explains the meaning of ‘relevant Local Authority’

- a) in the case of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is wholly comprised in one principle area, the Local Authority for that area, and
- b) in any other case the Local Authorities for all the principal areas wholly or partly comprised in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, acting jointly.

Section 90 describes the process for undertaking the review.

(1) A Conservation Board or relevant Local Authority which is proposing to publish, adopt or review any plan under section 89 shall

- (a) give notice of the proposal
 - (i) if the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is in England, to Natural England,
 - (ii) if the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is in Wales, to Natural Resources Wales, and
 - (iii) in the case of a Conservation Board, to every Local Authority whose area is wholly or partly comprised in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty,
- (b) send a copy of the Plan, together (where appropriate) with any proposed amendments of

the Plan, to everybody to which notice of the proposal is required to be given by paragraph (a), and

(c) take into consideration any observations made by any such body.

(2) A Conservation Board or relevant Local Authority shall send to the Secretary of State or the National Assembly for Wales a copy of every Plan, notice or report which they are required to publish under Section 89.

WHAT IS IN THIS DOCUMENT?

Key elements in this updating are

- an emphasis on continued **partnership working and collaboration,**
- a more strategic approach to **monitoring and review,**
- the importance of **shared objectives** across the AONB Family, and
- the importance of **shared objectives** across the AONB Family.

This document also provides clarification on

- **existing guidance** - including AONB designation, legislation and established principles,
- **undertaking the Review** - its scale and scope,
- maximising **opportunities for participation,**
- changes in **Land Use Planning,**
- compliance with the **Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations and Equality Impact Assessment, and**
- the new context - **recent policy drivers and changes in legislation and guidance**

BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The AONB Management Plan is a place-based plan derived through local consensus. It seeks to define the approach to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB through the application of local solutions to local challenges that also respect the national and international importance of the AONB. It is a plan for the AONB, not just the Partnership or Conservation Board.

Management Plans are vital for partnership working and delivery of designation objectives.

The Plans highlight the value of these distinctive designations to society, they should engage and show communities and partners how their activity contributes to Protected Landscape purposes, thus stimulating investment in the UK's most valued and cherished landscapes. It is therefore vital that Management Plans direct local management activity and can be seen in a wider national context and indeed in a national framework.

Their Review is an opportunity to reaffirm the statutory basis of the designation and refocus partners on the pressures and needs of the AONB. It is an opportunity to engage new partners, test new approaches, and reassert the place for landscape management on the public policy agenda.

It will be important to ensure that we build upon the sound foundations of existing Plans, whilst actively engaging with stakeholders about any proposed changes. At the local level, Plan Reviews should be concentrating on continuity and consistency of management objectives. Consultation should engage stakeholders as it leads to sound planning and engagement with the public and partner organisations. Consultation should be seen as a way of setting direction and thus relieving the burden on Local Authorities not adding to it.

MONITORING AND THE REVIEW FEEDBACK LOOP

A more strategic approach to monitoring has been taken since 2012 by Natural England, Defra, Historic England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission, and Plan Reviews should reflect this. There is now clear scope to focus on the trends in environmental condition using the 6 years of Natural England environmental monitoring which has been provided for all English Protected Landscapes. These environmental outcomes will reflect, to a degree, the management of the AONB by AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards. A wider context e.g. are similar trends evident in "similar" AONBs and/or National Parks would be helpful in understanding the drivers involved and local responses to them.

Data on local trends in condition are now available to interpret differences in condition in Protected Landscapes e.g. water quality in rivers. Relatively little analysis has been undertaken at a national level to interpret differences in trends and outcomes between Protected Landscapes and resources for Protected Landscapes' managing bodies have not, so far, been linked to environmental condition but that prospect can never be entirely discounted. The prospect does exist to show key environmental outcomes, perhaps even in a league table form, across all Protected Landscapes.

The wider debate on public goods linked to public money may be relevant. Given any significant shift in funding, it seems likely that outcomes (environmental, social and economic) would be more closely scrutinised than they are under the current system. If a case is made for better investment, then it also needs to incorporate how success can be measured.

AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards are now in a position to address both positive and negative outcomes. Both situations can be used to lever in resources. Plan Reviews should avoid being written in a way that only looks forward, or only provides a current snapshot, and ignores the medium term trends which are now evident within an AONB. The credibility of a Plan will be

weakened if such trends are ignored and the Plan is written from a “year one” perspective.

SELF-HELP AND SHARED OBJECTIVES ACROSS THE AONB FAMILY

As Management Plans Reviews are part of a continuing and well-established process, there is likely be a shift to more self-help in the AONB world. Reviews will need to link into a resource library such as on Basecamp to make best use of sharing knowledge which is widely applicable, as opposed to locally specific.

As part of the wider context, the agreed AONB Family shared objectives are relevant. These are

- Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future,
- Support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
- Promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and encourage people to take action for their conservation
- Value, sustain, and promote the benefits that the UK’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation’s health and well-being.

These objectives should be presented up front in the Plan as a statement of intent and serve to provide definition around the delivery of the AONB purpose(s). They have unparalleled value in collectively communicating a nationally shared direction.

EXISTING GUIDANCE

The key Management Plan guidance is contained in existing documents, two for

AONBs (CA23 and CA221) and two for National Parks (CA 216; 1997 guidance) and the 2012 Defra / Natural England / NAAONB advice note.

See Annex 1.

The Protocol (2008) to guide consultation between Natural England and the AONB Partnership or Conservation Board still holds good.

All these documents are still fit for purpose in terms of “how to write and review plans”. We do not propose they be updated.

Also, AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards have considerable experience of writing and reviewing Management Plans and do not need more advice on how they should go about the task, rather the demand is for more help with making the Reviews as effective and efficient as possible given limited resources to undertake them.

Finally, it is important to stress that the designation of an AONB

- gives formal statutory recognition to these nationally important landscapes,
- requires special land use planning policies to apply, and
- encourages an integrated approach to land management.

An archive of historic references for AONBs is also in **Annex 1**.

UNDERTAKING A REVIEW

Despite austerity, the statutory importance of the Management Plan should be reaffirmed in the review process. Existing Management Plans, as ratified by Natural England, are fit for purpose and meet the standards required.

The scale of the third Review will vary between AONBs to suit circumstances, from a light touch to a comprehensive re-write. The nature of Review should be determined locally and in line with requirements of the AONB Partnership or Conservation Board and the local context.

A light touch Review can provide continuity and show faith in policies. A re-write may give the

opportunity to overhaul policies and set the AONB Partnership or Conservation Board on a better footing.

In any Review, it is likely that the need to make changes increases in the following order for these typical Plan sections

1. Vision
2. Objectives
3. Policies
4. Background context and themes
5. Action / Delivery Plan

AONB Partnership and Conservation Boards will know those areas of their Plans or themes which are constants and do not need re-visiting. They will also have a good idea of the deficiencies and issues to be addressed under the Review.

The NAAONB Strategic Plan sets out the role of the Charity (NAAONB) in working with the AONB Family. [Click to view NAAONB Strategic Plan](#) Messages from the NAAONB Strategic Plan will be helpful in making the link between the NAAONB and the AONB Family. This link is especially important as a reminder of the national importance of the designation.

Protected Landscapes can benefit from working together on common themes, sharing best practice and within a geographic context to conserve resources. This context document is designed to aid that process and save resources.

Within a 5 year production cycle, it is clearly critical that Reviews do not become an activity which take up a disproportionate amount of time and resources. Many partners have said that Plan **delivery** is more important than plan **writing**.

Key elements in the Review process will benefit from sharing ideas on the NAAONB Basecamp Management Plan area. The context provided in section 7 of the document will assist with tasks to elucidate current key drivers and recent changes to policy and guidance.

Partnerships will be all too aware this will be the 4th iteration for most (post CRoW) Plans, the 3rd review and may be seen in the context of an improved monitoring base for important

environmental outcomes and proxy measures (section 5) which will aid Reviews. As such the Review offers the opportunity to set out and celebrate what's been achieved over the past 5 years - the New Forest NPA review (chapter 2) offers one such example. [Click to view New Forest National Park Authority Partnership Plan 2015- 2020](#)

Actual reviews of progress are less in evidence in the Management Plans themselves but may be set out elsewhere as supporting documents, or as a rationale for the Review. The review of progress may become relatively more important in the context of any light touch Review.

The North York Moors NPA has undertaken a very light touch Review and has simply re-published its Plan in 2016 with an amendments report [Click to view North York Moors 2017 Management Plan Review](#) This is the only example of this type of Review.

For AONBs the equivalent approach is set out in s10 of the CRoW Act:

PARTICIPATION

AONB staff actively listen to their local communities. Using their skills, knowledge, and empathy they are able to plan and support the delivery of practical solutions to local land management and planning issues that reflect local interests and concerns. These solutions often help support a sustainable rural economy and improve the health and wellbeing of those that live in, work in, and visit the AONB.

The participation of a wide range of agencies, bodies and local communities is needed to shape and agree the Management Plan. It is important that AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards examine their approaches to consultation and participation and tailor a meaningful dialogue.

Partnerships may wish to consider what novel methods of participation may be helpful. Historically, online documents and feedback were novel for 1st reviews; the use of social media was

new for 2nd reviews. The use of online surveys such as Survey Monkey has become increasingly widespread. Many Government consultations set out specific questions to key issues i.e. Do you agree? -type questions.

Capturing comments from the widest range of participants is desirable. Partnerships need to reflect on which mechanisms result in better dialogue, more informed responses and help to generate a wider and deeper pool of interest, thus reducing consultation fatigue.

In some cases, Reviews may wish to focus more on the most critical changes, be they new issues or changing policies, and accept much of the Plan has not changed.

Internally Basecamp will be used to share and learn from AONB activity and inspire collective thinking on participation techniques, pooling knowledge, flagging issues and suggesting appropriate responses.

LAND USE PLANNING

AONB Management Plans do not form part of the statutory development plan, but may contribute to **setting the framework** for development by providing evidence and principles which should then be reflected in the Local Authorities' Development Plans.

Management Plans may also be material considerations for decision makers on individual planning applications and at appeal, where they raise relevant issues. Plan policies and references to special qualities have been influential in planning cases thus confirming their status and influence.

The major topic of debate in planning in 2012 was the introduction in March that year of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This followed an earlier draft version which was viewed less as continuity of policy and more as a "developers' charter" by some. The need to somehow counteract the NPPF through the Management Plans was a moot point in 2012. DCLG was formally involved by Defra in ensuring the 2012 advice on Management Plan Reviews was sound on the role of the Management Plans within the strategic Development Plan.

There remain concerns as to how much the NPPF has allowed inappropriate development either in AONBs and/or their setting, through its influence on local decision making and at appeal. Equally there are cases where the decision to grant planning application has proved controversial where Planning Officer advice, based on policy, has been ignored. As a general rule, it is right to be wary of extrapolating trends based only on contentious decisions.

Individual cases can generate much consternation and publicity but only given the long-term perspective will the broad effectiveness of the NPPF and decision-making be revealed. In this respect the "Bibby reports", existing (and future iterations), provide a suitable long term record for AONBs which can be examined.

The 2014 Bibby report provided a first look at long term trends between 1985 and 2011, with a separate analysis of changes between 2001 and 2011, a timescale linking land use change to population (Census). There are remarkable contrasts in the information pertaining to AONBs on building rates and population change i.e. more houses does not mean more residents. Several AONBs saw a net population loss between 2001 and 2011 despite above average building rates.

Critical to the success of decision-making is the Local Plan, - the absence of which considerably limits the ability to defend planning applications in AONBs. . Local Plans, approved post-NPPF, are increasing in number but coverage is still less than half in England.

Nationally the gaps in approved Local Plans contributed to fears about "development by appeal" when the balance between the two principles in NPPF para 14 a **presumption in favour of development** and the **protected nature of AONBs** (footnote 9) are considered. The treatment of that balance reached the Supreme Court in 2017.

AONBs were highlighted in a 2015 report undertaken by Green Balance for the National Trust. This examined a number of controversial planning decisions with case studies. The

research found some shortcomings in the way existing planning policy is being applied on the ground. Natural England also undertook similar research in 2014 and highlighted seven case studies.

Defining major development in AONBs has been the subject of some debate and comparison between cases, as any planning application considered to be major development has to meet the stringent tests set out in paragraph 116 of the NPPF before it can be approved. Understanding major development has moved on in recent years and its definition has been clarified by DCLG.

The Council for National Parks also examined, through Sheffield Hallam University, controversial cases, with a focus on major development, within and around National Parks and also examined how National Park Authorities defined Major Development.

MONITORING

A partnership of representatives from Natural England, Defra, the NAAONB, National Parks England and English Heritage developed the Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework (PLMF). The first data release was spring 2013 so there is now 5 years' worth of monitoring information. Each AONB level now has its own trend data. This provides new information for Plan Reviews and the basis for a much better section on monitoring for the Management Plan Preview. Monitoring is an area which has been identified as a weakness in management planning because insufficient attention has been paid to identifiable trends and establishing monitoring systems which are often prohibitively expensive. As a result of the PLMF trends can now be examined more easily.

The PLMF also provides a consistent means of monitoring some of the environmental outcomes that occur in Protected Landscapes, and which the wide range of relevant Authorities and local people will be helping to deliver via the Management Plan.

As part of this process, robust national data can be used as evidence in Management Plan Reviews e.g. State of the Environment Reports.

Of course this can be supplemented and amplified by local monitoring where it is feasible to collect such data or indeed qualitative information.

Monitoring in Protected Landscapes

Forest of Bowland State of Environment 2014

[Click to view Forest of Bowland State of Environment 2014](#)

Malvern Hills - lots of photos in first 20 pages - but useful Trend in Condition narrative / tables.

[Click to view State of the Malvern Hills AONB 2014](#)

YDMNP MP Progress reports - traffic lights / objectives.

[Click to view Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan](#)

Northumberland National Park Authority will lead the process of monitoring and reporting progress on the Plan as a whole, and continue to use the agreed set of performance measures to monitor the condition of the National Park and to measure progress in achieving the vision, aims, outcomes and objectives of the Management Plan.

[Click to view Northumberland National Park State of the National Park Report 2015](#)

But also note **Peak NPA view May 2017**

....However, the report concluded that reporting and monitoring of the NPMP 2012-17 had been difficult and in many cases it was unclear what added value the plan had brought to the management of the Peak District National Park

[Click to view Peak District NPA - Public reports pack 26th-May-2017](#)

Other contextual information is available

Defra Statistical Digest of Rural England - March 2017 Edition. Context

[Click to view Defra Statistical Digest of Rural England](#)

AONB Agricultural Statistics

[Click to view Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June](#) (AONB

stats 2007 - 2013 in spreadsheet). Latest available results are for 2010 and 2013. Next updates will relate to 2016 and 2020.

The basic question: "How are AONBs doing?" is never far away in policy reviews, and so the evidence base provided by the current PLMF is

extremely valuable and should be used by AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards.

Natural England and other agencies, should also utilise the information provided by the PLMF to help inform their responses to the Reviews.

This improved monitoring provides a significant step change for Plan Reviews both in analysis of key information on environmental outcomes, but also in how policies and activity might respond to changes in condition.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND HABITATS REGULATIONS

AONB Management Plans are subject to

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations, and
- Habitats Regulations

Equality Impact Assessments are **no longer required**.

Overall there is nothing to add to the well-established SEA and HRA procedures compared to the advice in 2012.

There will be variations as to how the assessment processes are viewed; for some they may represent just another minor hurdle on the way, in other cases running a rule over policies and activity may well help to refine plans and iron out any ambiguity. It is not expected that SEA and HRA would generate a lot of work or reveal fundamental issues with policies and activities.

NEW CONTEXT - CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2012

The context to Management Plans will change in accordance with both local and national influences. Themes which may require some new thought and policy response include

- Economics of AONB
- Planning
- Agri Environment Support
- State of the Environment
- Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP), Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

- Post-Brexit views and implications for post-CAP support to farmers and land owners
- Health Issues
- Renewables Policy
- Marine Planning and the MMO
- The Historic Environment
- Water, Working with Water Companies and Catchment Management
- Education
- Miscellaneous

All these areas have seen significant changes since 2012 and provide ample opportunities to stimulate the review of the Management Plan.

These topic areas are set out below in detail with some commentary to guide the reader. Direct quotes from sources are shown in *italics* and source material is referenced.

In addition, Reviews may wish to encompass the role of the partnership and the challenges and opportunities which it faces, not least set against the backdrop of grant-in-aid cuts between 2012 to 2016.

The stabilisation of Defra grant-in-aid since 2016 is encouraging and gives confidence to AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards. It should be noted and promoted that Defra's commitment was heavily influenced by the ability of AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to develop projects and draw in significant external funding, often at £10m per annum.

ECONOMICS OF AONBS

The AONB designation has helped to conserve and enhance some of England's finest landscapes. These landscapes are highly valued by businesses as economic assets in their own right and as settings which add value to business. Well managed landscapes offer a wealth of natural resources that serve as the foundations of rural business, including farming and forestry. Their beauty and international appeal also offers opportunities for tourism related businesses. AONBs are living, working landscapes that contribute £16 billion GVA to the national economy.

The Cumulus study gives an overview of the Economics of Protected Landscapes. Land management is heavily subsidised in all AONBs but most of the (Pillar I) subsidy is not linked to land management unlike the subsidy provided for agri-environment schemes (Pillar II). One recent change has been the increase in Moorland payments, a relative shift in funding from lowland to upland. In GDP terms, farming may be relatively small component of the AONB economy - likewise tourism. However, these sectors are most intrinsically related to natural beauty and recreational use of the AONB.

AONBs are generally sparsely populated rural areas, c 471,000 households or about 1.96 % of England's population in 15% of the land area, so they are not expected to be economic powerhouses. The AONB population grew by 3.4% between 2001 and 2011 against a national rise of 7.9%.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) stimulated discussions about management and payments for ecosystem services and the prospect of markets for such public goods/services. Post-Brexit there has been more public discussion about the annual £3bn of subsidy - with cases for status quo, reduction or targeting e.g. payment for services. These discussions provide a ready stimulus for what the

Management Plan might cover and a likely boost to more environmental focus to economic support for land management? At worst, it is at least an open door for a debate. There could still be polarised positions but discussions might pose the question of no subsidy compared to subsidy switch to environmental outcomes, or even social and economic ones.

There is significant uncertainty over CAP reform. It may, therefore, be sensible to set out consistent messages on the desired environmental and associated social and economic outcomes in the plan, and not be more prescriptive about how any support would work.

Regardless of post-Brexit discussion, there will be continued changes - given trends such as loss of labour, increasing farm size, contractorisation, capitalisation and mechanisation. All of this set is set against wider environmental issues linked to modern farming - common farmland birds, bees. [see 4. State of Nature]

Markets in goods and services e.g. carbon, were envisaged by NEWP. There is a huge range of options so is it worth contemplating them, especially in the absence of a functioning market for environmental outcome? Water management - drinking water and flood alleviation markets - is the most obvious starting point given its link to land management. Water company views on catchment/aquifers may be telling - are there business advantages from cleaning up water as opposed to reducing diffuse pollutants at source? The current clean-up model provides certainty and the investment is almost certainly to be approved. Ofwat has a role in considering capital investment.

Whilst the economics of land management is strongly linked to landscape, it is but a small part of the wider economy and GDP, tourism and the public sector will be far more important at the AONB level (see individual **AONB Socio Economic Profiles** produced by Defra- latest release 2015).

Many studies show the quality of the environment is a draw for entrepreneurs and businesses of all kinds not directly exploiting the landscape/recreation. Lifestyle businesses have received some attention but may be overlooked.

These may be new start businesses formed by experienced people who have changed direction after many years of work. Fast broadband may be a pre-requisite to enable the move of footloose industries/ entrepreneurs.

'The Economic Contribution of Protected Landscapes 2014 Defra. "Cumulus Study" 2014. Cumulus Consultants Ltd and ICF GHK. Unpublished 2014
[Click here to view The Economic Contribution of Protected Landscapes](#)

provides a useful overview of the economics of Protected Landscapes and the value of the designation.

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Protected landscapes benefit the wider economy by providing attractive places to live, visit and recreate, and by delivering essential ecosystem services on which the wider economy depends. For example, evidence demonstrates that a high proportion of the residents of protected landscape areas work in professional, managerial and scientific occupations, many commuting to neighbouring towns and cities. Many protected areas are highly accessible from major conurbations, providing important places for recreation for urban residents. They provide essential ecosystem services, helping to enhance the quality of air and water and to regulate flooding, thus benefiting companies and individuals beyond their boundaries.

For these reasons, the economic benefits of protected landscapes are likely to be much greater than their direct contribution to the economy, yet there is a shortage of evidence of the dynamics of the interactions between protected areas and the wider regional and sub-regional economies.

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The finding that businesses in protected areas see themselves as being dependent on landscape and the environment is perhaps unsurprising, given the structure of the local economies and importance of the tourism and land management sectors, as well as associated support services. The extent to which businesses outside these

sectors benefit from environmental and landscape quality, and the factors that may affect these linkages, is less clear, and would benefit from further research and case study evidence.

A limitation of the available evidence is that – while the surveys show that landscape and environmental quality are important – they provide limited insight into the added value of protected landscape designations. It is clear that many businesses would be adversely affected if the environmental quality of protected landscape areas was allowed to decline substantially.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Working together to support the rural economy. NAAONB - Rural Economic Growth Review 2011.
[Click here to view Rural Economic Growth Review](#)

In part this led to the joint **Tourism Accord between the NAAONB, Defra and VisitEngland**
[Click here to view Working Towards Sustainable Tourism in England](#)

and RDPE funding for tourism projects in the North East - Northern Land.

Rural Tourism Framework - Final Report URS 2014
[Click here to view Rural Tourism Framework - Final Report URS 2014](#)

Richard Clarke, NAAONB Policy and Development Manager, Landscapes for Life Conference 2015
[Click here to view Rural Economy Barriers Opportunities and Risks Affecting ec](#)

So Much More than the View 2015
[Click to view So Much More Than the View](#)

"The economies of our AONBs and National Parks are reliant on tourism, agriculture and other land-based activities. These activities depend on high quality natural environments that the landscapes provide; but can also help maintain and enhance those environments. Attracted by the qualities of our finest landscapes, technology and creative industries are also flourishing".

The Value of AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards - An independent assessment prepared for AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards LUC 2013

[Click to view Value of AONBs Report](#)

Assessment of the economic value of the Cotswolds AONB 2013 Cumulus and GHK

[Click to view Assessment of the economic value of the Cotswolds AONB](#)

is likely to be a typical of the economy of many AONBs, although the size (area and population) of Cotswolds, makes it somewhat atypical in AONB terms.

Dorset's Environmental Economy December 2015 PLACING AN ECONOMIC VALUE ON THE DORSET AONB

[Click here to view Dorset's Environmental Economy](#)

shows that the quality of the Dorset environment is a key influence for people to visit the area. The business survey showed a demonstrable positive impact of the AONB status on businesses' performance.

Analysis of the Economic Profile of the Forest of Bowland AONB, Rural Futures and Rural Solutions (2013)

[Click here to view Analysis of the Economic Profile of the Forest of Bowland AONB, Rural Futures and Rural Solutions](#)

Is an excellent profile with great maps showing business locations.

"It has not been possible to accurately quantify the economic contribution of the AONB due to limitations in data and the scale and scope of this work. It seems apparent however that the agricultural sector generates in the region of £20 million a year, the sporting sector in the region of £3 million to £4 million and the tourism sector up to £16 million. This total economic contribution of the AONB is likely to be far greater than this however. These figures do not include the value generated from trading of the 50 odd pubs and restaurants and 80 odd holiday accommodation venues. They do not include the value generated to businesses on the fringe of the AONB in Wyre, Lancaster, Pendle and Ribble Valley that benefit from its ability to attract people to travel to the area from their homes elsewhere, or the value

added to products which use the Bowland brand such as Bowland Brewery. The "Bowland" brand has not been widely used commercially to date and it offers a valuable link to the AONB where effectively applied and where the marketing of the AONB is strong enough to compete with other uses of the word "Bowland" such as are increasingly associated with shale gas deposits².

The interest in the Bowland area from high net worth individuals and established businesses investing in the tourism and leisure sector is an exciting opportunity to leverage further economic opportunity and enhance the sustainable economic contribution of the Forest of Bowland AONB, and its influence and contribution to areas on the fringe of the AONB. The increased availability of high speed broadband in the Bowland area should also provide an additional catalyst for small scale but "footloose" and inherently sustainable economic development within the designated landscape area.

Hindle R and Welbank J, 2013.

What Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty can offer the LEPS. 2015

[Click here to view What AONBs can offer the LEPS](#)

The Economics of AONBs - studies of local businesses

The importance of footloose industries and especially micro businesses is relatively poorly-understood but there is some evidence (PIU Rural Economies Report 1999 5.7) which suggests business may locate to AONBs because of QoL factors; and thus environmental quality can confer economic advantage. The Economic Value of Protected Landscapes in the North East of England. A report to ONE North East in 2004 by SQW Limited economic development consultants also reached some similar conclusions

"The research demonstrates that the five protected landscapes considered here represent an important asset to the North East region, accounting for 11% of all tourism activity. Through businesses and the effects on tourism these areas generate output of £700m and support 14,000 jobs. For the majority of businesses in these areas, the quality of the landscapes and the environment was considered to be a factor in their performance. In the North Pennines AONB, for example, half of the businesses believed that a deterioration in

conditions would have a serious impact on their operations.”

SQW also undertook research in Yorkshire in 2006 for the Council for the Protection of National Parks (CNP) which sought to understand the socio-economic conditions in and just outside the National Parks and how the high quality landscape and / or designation affected business activity.

Broadband roll out Most AONB Management Plans recognise the need for fast broadband for rural businesses - such infrastructure can diversify the economy and promote better paid jobs in footloose businesses which may be attracted to AONBs.

The Growth and Infrastructure Act
[Click here to view The Growth and Infrastructure Act](#)

makes provision for amending the DCMS Secretary of State’s duties under the Communications Act (including promoting growth) for a period of 5 years. However due to the weight of interventions by interested parties and a helpful new clause developed jointly by NAAONB and National Parks England, the Act **does not** make changes to S85 of CRoW.

s9(2B) The Secretary of State is to be treated as also having complied with any duty imposed in connection with that exercise of that power by any of the following - section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949; section 85(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;

- *government target is to deliver superfast broadband to at least 90% of premises in the UK, with the aim to extend this to 95% by 2017 (on target)*

Overviews of Broadband Roll out
[Click to view House of Commons Library - Superfast Broadband Coverage in the UK](#) March 2017

[Click to view House of Commons Library - Rollout of superfast broadband to rural communities](#)
Rural roll out debate Feb 2017

5G Feb 2017

[Click to view House of Commons Library - 5G](#)

Review of How the Planning System in England Can Support the Delivery of Mobile Connectivity Call for Evidence July 2015

[Click to view Review of How the Planning System in England Can Support the Delivery of Mobile Connectivity](#)

[Click to view Mobile planning changes - technical consultation on proposed changes to the Electronic Communications Code](#) March 2016

Letter - Mobile planning changes - technical consultation on proposed changes to the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions & Restrictions) Regulations 2003

The natural environment underpins the economy through the provision of goods and services, more specifically its use in farming, forestry, housing, business, transport, energy, tourism and recreation. However, space and natural resources are limited and increasingly contested. The land use planning system is designed to help achieve optimal outcomes for society when decisions on land use priorities must be made.

AONB teams can provide specialist advice to help public bodies and statutory undertakers make decisions on planning matters. In doing so, they can help these bodies to meet their legal duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of AONBs, and ultimately help ensure that planning decisions result in sustainable outcomes.

PLANNING

The National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (2012) has produced most of the headlines in planning. The relative shortage of Local Plans means there are ongoing issues, given this means the statutory development plan is not up to date, and thus the protections to AONBs offered by NPPF are covered in paragraph 14 footnote 9 which many have felt is inadequate as a fallback position even though it has been used in many

appeals. Progress towards the approval of Local Plans has been slower than hoped for.

A National Trust study gives a useful overview of the situation and the more difficult cases; this followed an early investigation of the status of Local Plans by URS for NE which also covered seven case studies.

[Click to view The National Trust report on AONBs and Development](#)

How to define Major development also got an airing in discussions with DCLG which realised guidance in response.

The role of the (statutory) MP in planning is powerful as it helps to set the Framework for Development. MP policies and special qualities are vital sources of information and are regularly quoted in Planning Officer reports and in Appeals.

Whilst there may be a local need to report present and ongoing concerns based on NPPF and the absence of Local Plans it should also be recognised that pre-CRoW position was much weaker - not least with key advocacy role of the AONB unit / partnership ably supported by the Management Plan.

It is inadvisable to plot the future based on a handful of high profile cases involving large sites; the vast majority of AONB development involves just a very few houses.

Most AONBs will have issues concerning the lack of affordable housing and these are often rehearsed in the Management Plans and in planning submissions. Many Plans will include policies which are positive to the provision of affordable homes given proven local need.

There were several attempts which looked to alter the permitted development regime over the period i.e. to make it easier to create new dwellings and businesses. Most of these were resisted by AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards and amenity organisations. Despite reviews most classes of development, outside agricultural and forestry developments, still require full planning permission.

There is nothing much to add on **Major Infrastructure - NSIP**. Much the same planning regime is in place now compared to 2008.

[Click to view National Infrastructure Planning Guidance](#)

Relatively few major schemes affect AONBs except - Hinkley Point, Sizewell C, HS2, North West Connector, major road upgrades A417, A303.

This is a link to the Infrastructure Projects in England and Wales.

[Click to view National Infrastructure Planning Projects](#)

Bibby Report - A Report Prepared for Defra Land Use Change in Protected Landscapes (AONBs and National Parks): A Guide to the Tabulations (LAND USE CHANGE INDICATORS FOR PROTECTED AREAS) 2014 (1985-2011 and 2001-2011 data)

[Click to view Land Use Change in Protected Landscapes](#)

Background and research aims

This report is an analysis of key land use change data in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks which shows how development, both residential and non-residential, has proceeded in each area since 1985 until 2011. It contains a separate analysis taken from 2001-2011, supplemented by Census data.

It is in two parts – the first being a report dominated by a series of tables with brief introduction to the topic and methodology. It is to the same format as a report for Natural England in 2007.

The second part is a new report which is a narrative guide to the tables. It expands on the findings, highlights the characteristics of particular areas, and provides some informed comment on the data.

Project findings

- Over the long term, planning policy has reduced development within Protected Landscapes (PLs), to approximately two thirds

of what might have been expected compared with equivalent areas just outside.

- Major housing development is rare within PLs. The typical pattern of development is very small developments of a few houses which reinforce the characteristic settlement pattern.
- The average housing site in a PL is for 2.2 houses. The vast majority of all planning decisions in PLs are delegated to officer level.
- The rates of development in PLs, including both green-field and brown-field/building conversion, are above the national average.
- In many PLs, the rate of conversion of buildings is high, very occasionally higher than new build, largely due to the attractiveness of such conversions and planning policy.
- The balance of greenfield/brownfield development has changed very little since 1985 to the present, being approximately half and half.
- It is harder to draw conclusions for non-residential land use change as the detail in LUCS is less precise, nevertheless considerable areas of land have been developed for industrial use, roads, services and for farming developments within PLs.
- Despite relatively high rates of building and conversions leading to relatively high rates of household creation in several PLs, population has not risen in line with household creation. This suggests that open-market sales of new and existing houses as second homes are having an impact. In some PLs there have been net falls in population.
- The evidence allows long term views from both 1985 to 2011, and from 2001 to 2011, to be taken, which removes short-term trends and the focus on high profile cases which are atypical.
- In future it should be possible to investigate data to look at where housing has been built compared to the pattern allocated in the Development Plan, revealing whether development occurs where it is expected, or not.

2016 NAAONB Response to Changes in National Planning Consultation

[Click here to view 2016 NAAONB Response to Changes in National Planning Consultation](#)

Detailed responses given for Affordable Housing, Commuter hubs, new settlements, brownfield sites, small sites for housing, housing allocations, starter homes on exception sites.

- *The NAAONB supports the provision of affordable housing in AONBs, which conserves and enhances the purposes of the AONB designation and responds to the housing needs arising in AONB settlements.*
- *The NAAONB has fundamental concerns about the implications of the proposals upon the purposes of the AONB designation which is embedded in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.*
- *HMG is clearly directed by Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, as amended, to have regard for the purposes of AONBs when carrying out its functions and we hope it will listen carefully to our concerns.*
- *Our key reason for concern is that within our nationally protected landscapes, the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities and characteristics of these landscape designations is the priority. New housing development within AONBs or affecting their setting should not compromise this primary purpose. We have deep concerns that the proposals will result in significantly increasing development pressure and harm to our protected landscapes. AONBs are safeguarded in the national interest because of their outstanding landscape character and natural beauty. Development should contribute to meeting the needs arising from within the designation and those needs should be met whilst still achieving the primary purpose of AONBs – to conserve and enhance natural beauty.*
- *The NAAONB considers that AONBs are justified to be considered as an exception to the proposed changes.*

Rural planning review: call for evidence 2016/17
[Click here to view Rural planning review: call for evidence 2016/17](#)

The rural planning review call for evidence sought views on how the planning system was operating in rural areas and invited ideas about how the planning system could be improved to support sustainable rural life and businesses.

This publication provides a summary of the responses to the rural planning review call for evidence and sets out the government response.

It also seeks views on extending the thresholds for agricultural permitted development rights to help farmers, and on a new agricultural to residential permitted development right to help provide housing for rural workers. (10.14-10.15).

The document says that to "further support delivery of rural homes for rural workers", the government is consulting on a new agricultural-to-residential use permitted development right. It says this would allow conversion of a farm building of up to 750 square metres, for a maximum of five new dwellings, each with a floorspace up to 150 square metres. The government is looking how to "ensure these properties meet local need". The paper asks if this new right should have similar conditions to the existing Class Q permitted development right that allows agricultural-to-residential conversion but only up to three units and 450 square metres.

DCLG Housing Starts and Completion Tables
[Click here to view DCLG Housing Starts and Completion Tables](#)

National and UK data.

Long term analysis of housing which shows the number of new units created (starts and completions) by private means, through Housing Associations and by Local Authorities; data by country; %s of house types also shown e.g number of bedrooms. Provides ammunition to the argument that not enough houses are being built. No LA-specific breakdown of figures here. Covers start and completions but not number of permissions granted - separate issue of permissions not being carried forward by big house builders and accusations of land hoarding. Far less likely to apply in AONBs given average

development site is so small and reactively higher rate of delivery albeit from a smaller stock baseline.

Local Plan-making under the NPPF: A five-year progress report - (Lichfield)06 Apr 2017

[Click here to view Local Plan-making under the NPPF: A five-year progress report](#)

Planned and deliver – our fifth annual review of local plan production – reveals that, after half a decade with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), England still has patchy plan coverage. Fewer than 4 in 10 local planning authorities have seen a 'strategic-level' local plan through examination to adoption, whilst 43% are yet even to publish a draft local plan ready for submission to Government.

- **Local Plans Progress - Jan 2016** - 32% of council had up to date plan. Nathaniel Lichfield's data. See map.

Housing Policy and para 49 - Supreme Court Ruling May 2017

This was seen as the final resolution of the interpretation of the NPPF, and its presumption in favour of development, following several high profile decisions in the Court of Appeal. These areas of NPPF have been to the fore where there is **no approved Development Plan** and thus footnote 9 to para 14 has often acted as a stop gap policy in AONBs (and green belt).

Several other cases concerning paragraph 14 and footnote 9 went to the High Court and Court of Appeal e.g Cheshire East BC v SSCLG & Renew [2016] EWHC 571 (Admin).

[Click to view Court Judgment: The operation of Paragraph 14 of the NPPF](#)

[Click to view Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development](#)

Housing Policy and para 49 - Supreme Court Ruling May 2017 Suffolk Coastal District Council v Hopkins Homes Ltd and Richborough Estates Partnership LLP v Cheshire East Borough Council [2017] (two separate but related cases)

[Click to view Supreme Court NPPF Judgment](#)

Cotswold DC argument in Tetbury case 2013
[Click here to view Cotswold DC argument in Tetbury case 2013](#)

8.56 Even if it were considered that the Development Plan policies were absent, silent or out of date this would not result in any presumption in favour of the proposal under paragraph 14 of the Framework, because footnote 9 to that paragraph makes clear that this does not apply where specific policies in the Framework indicate that development should be restricted. Footnote 9 refers to policies relating to the AONB. This in turn requires the application of paragraphs 115 and 116, which require major development in the AONB to be refused, unless there are exceptional circumstances and the proposal is in the public interest.

Inspector's Conclusions

14.45 SP Policy NHE.4 seeks to restrict development within the AONB. On the basis that Tetbury (and much of the Cotswold District as a whole) is washed over with the Cotswold AONB designation, the appellant contends that this policy is relevant to the supply of housing in the terms of paragraph 49 of the Framework, and so should be considered out of date [9.9, 9.10]. But even if that were so, footnote 9 to the second bullet point of Paragraph 14 makes it clear that where specific policies in the Framework "for example, those policies relating to... land designated as... an AONB" indicate development should be restricted, then the presumption in favour of granting permission does not apply. That is the case here.

Land Use Change Statistics 2015/16 DCLG - includes references for online tables

[Click to view Land Use Change Statistics England](#)

Housing Development and AONBs Report A (results of questionnaire to LPAs) and **Report B** (7 case studies). April 2014 URS for Natural England. Not online but available from NE.

AONBs and Development 2015 - National Trust
[Click to view National Trust AONBs and Development](#)

Includes major cases and tests to assist local authorities in applying law and policy in AONBs and in their setting.

The Green Balance recommendations set out below address some key problems highlighted in this report:

1. Decision makers in AONBs should apply the tests identified above when deciding planning applications for development within (and in the setting of) AONBs.
2. Ministers should make clear how they intend to deliver their commitment to the proper protection of AONBs through a Ministerial Statement, consistent with the manifesto pledge.
3. Government should consider whether a version of the tests set out in this document would be a useful addition to Planning Practice Guidance.
4. Government should ensure that practitioners are trained to improve the implementation of AONB law and policy. Professional advice should be provided by local authorities' own staff, supplemented by each AONB Partnership or Conservation Board. The necessary resources should be provided to enable AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to make their case effectively as necessary in writing, and orally at public inquiries, hearings and Local Plan Examinations.

AONBs and Development 2015 [Click to view Development in and Affecting AONBs](#) - covers policy, policy implementation and 15 case studies.

- ..Trust commissioned research from planning consultants Green Balance, which looks at case studies where significant development has been approved in AONBs. The research finds some shortcomings in the way existing planning policy is being applied on the ground
- **National Parks - Planning for the Future** CNP/NT/CPRE. Sheffield Hallam Study - 2016. The full evidence report - major development inside and near NPs- is available to download from [Click to view Report on major development in National Parks](#)

Planning Reform Proposals 2017

[Click to view House of Commons Library Planning Reform Proposals](#)

Useful summary of past changes which are now policy as well as future options including 2017 Housing White Paper.

Housing White Paper 2017 – Fixing the Housing Market

It is vitally important AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards are not seen to be part of the problem, but can help towards finding solutions.

[Click to view House of Commons Library - Planning reform in the housing white paper](#)

National Trust Expectations for Housing White Paper - includes background stats on rates approval / supply.

[Click to view Housing White Paper – what are we looking for?](#)

Wildlife Link Response to Paper

[Click to view Wildlife Link Response to the Government's Housing White Paper](#)

Rise of Neighbourhood Plans. Progress. AONB involvement?

There are now many Neighbourhood Plans in AONBs which will help set the pattern for future development. Some Neighbourhood Plans have addressed the issue of the high percentage of **second homes** notably in Cornwall e.g St Ives; St Minver. The 2017 Rame Peninsula Neighbourhood Development Plan includes a policy that stipulates that "new open market housing will only be permitted where there is a condition restricting occupancy as a principal residence". The condition will require that such homes "are occupied by the owner or their tenants as their primary principal residence".

The St Ives policy on second homes was challenged in the High Court but the case was rejected this because the policy "was not merely to make more housing available to local people but rather to reduce the proportion of second homes" in the town so the policy (H2) to require new residential dwellings to be occupied as a person's "principal residence" has been retained.

[Click to view High Court: St Ives second home policy lawful](#)

[Click to view RLT vs Cornwall](#)

Neighbourhood Planning Bill -2017

[Click to view Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017](#)

Neighbourhood Planning Bill received royal assent immediately before parliament was prorogued..... Only sections 1 to 7 are concerned with neighbourhood planning, and these provisions will not come into effect for the time being. Sections 8 to 13 deal with local development documents, and these too will have to await implementation until some time after the General Election.

Design Guides - positive aspect of AONB planning - examples

- [Click to view Design Guide for the Built Environment](#)
- [Click to view North Pennines AONB Building Design Guide](#)
- [Click to view Chilterns AONB Buildings Design Guide](#)
- [Malvern Hills AONB Building Design Guide](#)

Malvern Hills Guidance - use of colour

[Click to view Malvern Hills AONB Guidance Documents](#)

The purpose of this document is to provide direction and guidance on how colour can help new development fit with the special landscape of the AONB and contribute to the local distinctiveness of the area.

Live tables for statistics on planning applications at national and local planning authority level.

(annual and quarterly returns on key data - applications decided, approval rates etc.)

[Click to view Live tables on planning application statistics](#)

Consumer Data Research Centre - Maps (postcode) showing population 2011-14 / development changes / house price etc

[Click to view Consumer Data Research Centre - Maps](#)

Affordable Housing Threshold (2014 - 2016) - suggested changes to **lower the threshold number to provide affordable housing** were subject to court proceedings - reaching the Court of Appeal where the Govt. was successful in bringing in changes.

The standard threshold is 10-units or 1000 sqm gross floorspace – so affordable housing requirements could be applied to a scheme with 10 or fewer units but more than 1000 sqm floorspace. In some rural areas – notably AONBs and National Parks – the threshold is reduced to 5-units (but no reduced floorspace threshold).

[Click to view Planning Obligations](#)

in designated rural areas, local planning authorities may choose to apply a lower threshold of 5-units or less. No affordable housing or tariff-style contributions should then be sought from these developments. In addition, in a rural area where the lower 5-unit or less threshold is applied, affordable housing and tariff style contributions should be sought from developments of between 6 and 10-units in the form of cash payments which are commuted until after completion of units within the development. This applies to rural areas described under section 157(1) of the Housing Act 1985, which includes National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 23b-031-20161116

See also **National Parks England**

[Click to view NPE Planning Performance and Planning Contributions](#)

Permitted Development

2013 Greater Flexibilities for Change of Use - DCLG Consultation - this was the consultation on extending permitted development rights which was particularly controversial in potentially opening up agricultural buildings for residential development. Characterised by a “home on the farm”, or pejoratively “a house in a field” according to the viewpoint. YDNPA response (not overruled by DCLG) was to bring in an Article 4 direction covering the whole of the park so that **any** barn conversion would need full planning permission.

On 14 March 2014 the then Government officially responded to the consultation on new permitted development rights. It confirmed that it would go ahead with the majority of these new change of

use permitted development rights as proposed. An exception to this was that the change to allow agricultural buildings to convert to residential use would **not apply** in areas of National Park land and other protected areas.

The conversion of **office to residential use** is not restricted within an AONB or National Park unlike most other classes such as agricultural to residential.

Overall this has been a confusing picture over recent years with some many amendments to the Permitted Development Order to see the way for more development. Further changes and amendments cannot be ruled out.

(See Martin Goodall on the subject “A Practical Guide to Permitted Changes of Use”

[Click to view Martin Goodall's Planning Law Blog](#))

See **2016 Parliamentary Briefing** gives a useful summary, including barn conversions [Click to view Planning: change of use](#)

7.2 A new permitted development right, for a three year period, will allow storage or distribution buildings (B8) to change use to residential (C3).

The new right does not apply in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Broads and World Heritage Sites, Listed Buildings or land within the curtilage of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, or in Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Safety Hazard Areas and Military Explosives Storage Areas. After changing to a residential use, existing permitted development rights for dwelling houses (C3) will not apply

Summary of responses to the technical consultation on implementation of planning changes, consultation on upward extensions and Rural Planning Review Call for Evidence

[Click to view Summary of responses to the technical consultation on implementation of planning changes, consultation on upward extensions and Rural Planning Review Call for Evidence](#)

Major Development

There are some real concerns expressed by some AONB Partnerships and are led by Cotswolds Conservation Board

[Click to view Major development in AONBs and National Parks](#)

calls for the definition of Major Development e.g. linking to definition in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

[Click to view The Town and Country Planning Order](#)

DCLG Guidance has kept the concept flexible and the courts have largely agreed that the Development Order definition cannot be relied on.

There is no definition of major development in the Framework, and the Planning Practice Guidance, published in March 2014, sets out that whether a development can be considered major will be a matter for the relevant decision taker, taking into account the proposal in question and the local context.

Major Development - DCLG explanation

PPG Paragraph: 005Reference ID: 8-005-20140306

[Click to view Guidance - Natural Environment](#)

How is major development defined in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks for the purposes of the consideration of planning applications in these areas?

....Whether a proposed development in these designated areas should be treated as a major development, to which the policy in paragraph 116 of the Framework applies, will be a matter for the relevant decision maker, taking into account the proposal in question and local context.

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Sheffield Hallam Study - 2016 National Parks and Major development

National Trust Views on NPPF 5 years on

[Click to view Happy 5th Birthday NPPF!](#)

“On 27 March 2012 the Government put in place a new rulebook for the planning system – the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF aimed to simplify and consolidate existing

Government planning guidance, but also made some significant changes to national planning policy. Controversially, the draft NPPF published in July 2011, proposed creating a ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’ – or a default ‘yes’ to development – leading many (including the National Trust) to launch campaigns to get the draft revised. We published our own research in 2015 which showed that found that the NPPF contains a good level of protection for our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but that there were too many examples of these protections not being applied by decision-makers. And research by Sheffield Hallam University published in November (sponsored by the National Trust, CPRE, and the Campaign for National Parks) found that short-term economic priorities are overriding long-established protections and allowing inappropriate development in England’s National Parks”.

Brownfield Register - [Click to view Brownfield registers and permission in principle](#)

Brownfield registers will provide up-to-date, publicly available information on brownfield land that is suitable for housing. This will improve the quality and consistency of data held by local planning authorities which will provide certainty for developers and communities, encouraging investment in local areas. Brownfield registers should include all brownfield sites that are suitable for housing development irrespective of their planning status. The proposals came in to force in mid April 2017. Local authorities will be expected to have compiled their registers by 31 December 2017.

High profile cases covering para 115 and 116 are to be found here:

[Click to view Section 11 – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment](#)

New EIA rules in force from mid-May 2017

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 have been laid before Parliament. They consolidate and amend the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, as subsequently amended.

In particular, these Regulations implement amendments which were made by Directive 2014/52/EU to Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council; the main changes in the new Regulations relate to:

- 1. the circumstances when a project may be exempt from the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process;*
- 2. the introduction of 'coordinated procedures' for projects which are also subject to assessment under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora), or Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (on the conservation of wild birds);*
- 3. the list of environmental factors to be considered as part of the EIA process;*
- 4. the information to be provided to inform a screening decision, and the criteria applied when making that decision;*
- 5. how an environmental statement is prepared, including an amendment to the information to be included, the introduction of a requirement that it is based on a scoping opinion (where there is one) - and a requirement that it is prepared by 'a competent expert';*
- 6. how the public is informed of EIA projects; and*
- 7. decision-makers avoiding conflicts of interest*

See also

[Click to view EIA \(Agriculture\) regulations: apply to make changes to rural land May 2017 - Regulations on uncultivated / semi natural land updated- changes in agricultural activities that might cause damage. Changes to EIA Regulations - need to apply for a screening decision before changing rural land that's equal or over the 2ha threshold, or meets the criteria under the 2ha threshold.](#)

AGRI ENVIRONMENT SUPPORT

Agri environment support is made under Pillar I with Pillar II support being offered by the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS).

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) was strongly focused on SSSIs, National Parks and AONBs. Most AONBs were target / focus areas for Natural England's HLS with high rates of take up in some AONBs. In some there was strong push for HLS as classic schemes (CSS, WES and ESA) were ending.

See Environmental Outcomes Monitoring data on HLS. [see also section 6 on CAP post-Brexit]

Farming requires a profitable future to sustain farming families, safeguard the environment, mitigate climate change and maintain vitality and employment in rural communities. Land managers play a crucial role in helping to look after the environment including its wildlife, soil and water quality, and the provision for open air recreation.

The AONB designation provides a platform for integrating the support provided to the sector with wider environmental, social and economic opportunities. In doing so, AONB teams are vital in helping develop a more sustainable approach to agriculture in England.

The New Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) introduced a new suite of schemes. These include the Countryside Stewardship scheme (replacing Environmental Stewardship). The focus changed again with a reduced focus area in AONBs and the likelihood of old HLS schemes not going into CSS. Data to confirm the continuum of support is to be confirmed.

At its high point in 2013 most (about 65%) of England was covered by the Entry Level Scheme - ELS. Whilst ELS was recorded in Monitoring Environmental Outcomes it is generally considered that only HLS is effective in conserving and enhancing the AONB and this is the metric which is used in Environmental Outcomes Monitoring.

Recent support to agri-environment schemes has been about £500k with £2.5bn under Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and its predecessor Single Farm Payment. The relative imbalance between this support has long been a discussion point as part of reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Countryside Stewardship: statements of priorities 2015 [Click to view Countryside Stewardship: statements of priorities](#) by Character Areas. This includes Priority maps.

ELS is not being replaced but is not considered significant as not a great contributor to enhancing the AONB.

Single Farm Payment and Greening Measures

Pillar I support was changed from 2015 but only slightly, SFP became BPS.

In 2015 the Single Payment Scheme was replaced by a new system of direct payments comprising the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and additional 'greening' payments. The new 'greening' rules specify the requirements that eligible farmers must meet in order to receive a greening payment worth 30% of the total direct payment. There are 3 greening rules:

1. Permanent grassland: Under this rule, if the percentage of permanent grassland in England – relative to the area of agricultural land – falls by more than 5%, farmers who have ploughed permanent grassland may have to re-instate it.

2. Crop diversification: this has also been called the '2 or 3 crop rule'. If a farmer has 10 or more hectares of arable land, they will have to follow the crop diversification rules on the minimum number of crops they grow and the areas they cover – unless they qualify for an exemption.

3. Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs): if a farmer has more than 15 hectares of arable land, they will need 'Ecological Focus Areas' on their arable land – unless they qualify for an exemption. EFAs are areas and/or features drawn from the list of areas and features which the EU has decided are beneficial for the climate and the environment.

Five of the EFA options have been selected as applicable in England. If a farm does need to apply the EFA requirement, the areas and features used must be equivalent to at least 5% of the total arable land the farmer declares on their BPS application.

Ecological Focus Areas - annual report 2015/16

[Click to view Ecological Focus Areas: features on farms in England 2015/16](#)

This release provides an assessment of the total area of Ecological Focus Area (EFA) features on farms with arable land in England, regardless of whether the feature has been used to meet greening requirements.

This shows how land has been put forward to comply with greening of the BPS scheme under

the 2015 rules. Most land in the so called EFAs is fallow or associated with hedges, ditches and field margins. Its contribution to natural beauty, given the predominance of arable land in many AONBs, is open to debate especially given the name.

There are two other greening measures - those associated with Permanent Grassland and with Crop Diversification. Some farms, such as those certified as organic or farms with large amounts of eligible land which is fallow and/or in grass, are exempt from the greening requirements.

Food, farm, livestock and land use statistics, DEFRA, November 2014. AONB Agriculture Statistics - the data at the links below are very valuable in understanding the Agricultural Economy.

[Click to view Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June](#) (AONB stats 2007 - 2013 in spreadsheet)

AONB breakdowns are only available in the years that correspond to the EU Farm Structure Survey. The latest available results are for 2010 and 2013. The next updates will relate to 2016 and 2020.

"These data series show land and crop areas, livestock populations and agricultural workforce estimates for England and the UK at 1st June each year. The results come from the long-running June surveys of agriculture and horticulture that are carried out each year in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The information includes long-term trends or detailed results for different types of farm, farm size or geographical area. The series are updated as new results become available.

The sample size for the June survey changes each year depending on UK and EU requirements. In years such as 2010 and 2013 when the EU required very detailed information on the structure of the UK agricultural industry, the sample size is increased. This enables us to produce good quality estimates for detailed geographies in those years. In other years, the sample size is smaller to reduce the burden on farmers and we do not produce detailed breakdowns in those years".

Stewardship schemes and payments and recipients - are mapped here.

[Click to view Farm payments for environmental stewardship](#)

Subsidy Payments - Recipients. This page allows you to view amounts received by beneficiaries. The amounts shown for each beneficiary will be the total amounts received under each heading (Rural Development, Direct Aids and Market Schemes) in the financial year, and also the combined total of these amounts. Data is available for the 2014 and 2015 EC financial years.

"The UK Government remains committed to full transparency in the use of public funds, including the publication of details about all payments made under the CAP."

[Click to view Welcome to UK CAP Payments](#)

CTTE Estates

Estates which are free from Capital Transfer Tax under the Conditional Exemption Incentive are listed here by HMRC

[Click to view Land, buildings and their contents](#) - some details, including access, are available for each estate and exempt area is mapped.

CAP - NAAONB Response to Common Agricultural Reform Consultation November 2013 [Click to view Response to Common Agricultural Reform Consultation](#)

"We strongly support the transfer of funding from Pillar I to Pillar II and urge that this should be the maximum 15%. Shifting funding to Pillar II provides the best option for securing environmental gains and sustainable economic development from public investment."

Coverdale (YDNP) Payment by Result farming support.

[Click to view Minister visits Yorkshire Dales to see pilot farm payment scheme](#)

[Click to view Wensleydale farmers champion new 'agri-environment' payment scheme](#)

"Unlike other agri-environment schemes, he has no land management prescriptions to follow, but can farm as he sees fit in order to achieve positive environmental outcomes. 19 farms in the Wensleydale catchment area are taking part in

the three-year Results Based Agri-environment Payment Scheme.....The overall message from the LNP and farmers was simple: we'd like the farm payment schemes of the future to be designed locally and delivered locally."

EIA Regulations updated - uncultivated or semi natural land

[Click to view EIA \(Agriculture\) regulations: apply to make changes to rural land](#) May 2017 - *Regulations on uncultivated / semi natural land updated- changes in agricultural activities that might cause damage. Changes to EIA Regulations - need to apply for a screening decision before changing rural land that's equal or over the 2ha threshold, or meets the criteria under the 2ha threshold.*

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Monitoring and review is an essential part of management planning, with each review of the plan building on the results of the monitoring of the previous plan. In this way, successive plans can be modified to achieve better results, and the performance of those tasked with delivery can be measured. Robust state of the environment reporting is the foundation for all AONB management plans and is often both qualitative and quantitative.

Reporting on the state of the environment at a national level is helpful to AONBs. It may be that AONBs are doing relatively better than the countryside outside protected landscapes.

Much of the data which is available nationally has been used in the Protected Landscapes Monitoring Framework (PLMF), suitably cut to AONB boundaries. Messages from regular national reporting suggest downward trends for many species and habitats although there are exceptions where concerted efforts have been made mainly through small scale interventions. Progress has been made in SSSIs since 2003 with more SSSIs in "unfavourable recovering" status indicating that issues are being addressed.

Similar reports are available for the Historic Environment. Broad overview reports from the Environment Agency are harder to find but many topic papers are available on air quality and water quality.

(see section 5 on Monitoring)

Historic England - Heritage Counts reports are available for the Historic Environment

[Click to view Heritage Counts](#)

[Click to view Heritage Counts 2016 Heritage and Place Branding](#)

Monuments at Risk - HE

[Click to view Heritage at Risk](#)

[Click to Search Heritage at Risk Register](#)

“As in previous years, damage from ploughing is the greatest threat, affecting over 34% of scheduled monuments on the Register. The Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation (COSMIC) project assessed ways to avoid further damage, whilst enabling cultivation to continue wherever possible. Management decisions are being made, leading to the removal of significant numbers of scheduled monuments from the Register. COSMIC was prioritised in the historic environment sector's heritage protection plan, known as Heritage 2020. Although generally more long term and gradual in their effects, degradation and decay as a result of natural processes, such as scrub and tree growth, erosion and burrowing animals, remain the second greatest threat.”

Environment Agency overview reports are hard to find but many topic papers are available on air quality and water quality.

SSSI Current Condition

This information is available through the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes or MEOPL. The data is provided annually to AONBs by Natural England.

SSSI condition 2003-2010

Useful definitions of condition can be found here

[Click to view Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\): Protecting England's natural treasures](#)
[Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#)

2003 Favourable 44.6% : Unfavourable recovering 13.7%

2010 Favourable 37.2% : Unfavourable recovering 59.3%

Lawton Report - 2010 -

[Click to view Making Space for Nature](#)

Although published in 2010, the principles in the Lawton Report are still applicable i.e. taking a more joined-up action at local and national level, to create an ecological network resilient to changing pressures. Expectations of the conservation of habitats and species within Protected Areas were covered.

The percentage area of semi-natural habitats in AONBs varies enormously - Land Cover map 2007 suggests from 11% to 92%.

page vi...“the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 which laid the foundations for designating places that are special for wildlife (notably National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, SSSIs) and people (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Subsequent legislation has improved first the protection, and more recently the management, of wildlife sites in particular SSSIs. Despite the important contribution designated sites have made, England’s wildlife habitats have become increasingly fragmented and isolated, leading to declines in the provision of some ecosystem services, and losses to species populations.

page viiTier 3 are landscape designations with wildlife conservation as part of their statutory purpose (National Parks and AONBs). We examine the extent to which these different Tiers of sites separately and collectively comprise a coherent and resilient ecological network by testing the evidence against five attributes that we identify for such a network:

page vii-viii ...Notably, many of England’s wildlife sites are too small; losses of certain habitats have been so great that the area remaining is no longer enough to halt additional biodiversity losses without concerted efforts; with the exception of Natura 2000 sites and SSSIs, most of England’s semi-natural habitats important for wildlife are generally insufficiently protected and

under-managed; many of the natural connections in our countryside have been degraded or lost, leading to isolation of sites; and too few people have easy access to wildlife.”

Natural England’s National Character Area profiles.

[Click to view National Character Area profiles: data for local decision making](#) - started in 2012 and finally published in September 2014, NCAs are not AONB specific and not necessarily well-matched to the geography of AONBs, but provide an additional context to which Natural England works.

State of Nature Report 2016

[Click to view RSPB’s State of Nature Report 2016](#)

“Between 1970 and 2013, 56% of species declined, with 40% showing strong or moderate declines. 44% of species increased, with 29% showing strong or moderate increases. Between 2002 and 2013, 53% of species declined and 47% increased. These measures were based on quantitative trends for almost 4,000 terrestrial and freshwater species in the UK.

Of the nearly 8,000 species assessed using modern Red List criteria, 15% are extinct or threatened with extinction from Great Britain.

An index of species’ status, based on abundance and occupancy data, has fallen by 16% since 1970. Between 2002 and 2013, the index fell by 3%. This is based on data for 2,501 terrestrial and freshwater species in the UK.

An index describing the population trends of species of special conservation concern in the UK has fallen by 67% since 1970, and by 12% between 2002 and 2013. This is based on trend information for 213 priority species.

A new measure that assesses how intact a country’s biodiversity is, suggests that the UK has lost significantly more nature over the long term than the global average. The index suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world.

The loss of nature in the UK continues. Although many short-term trends suggest improvement, there was no statistical difference between our long and short-term measures of species’ change, and no change in the proportion of species threatened with extinction.

Biodiversity 2020 - ‘Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’
Published in 2011, this is a national strategy for England’s wildlife and natural resources and sets the ambitious target of halting the overall loss of England’s biodiversity by 2020.

[Click to view Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services](#)

Biodiversity 2020

Outcome 1C: By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas

The Defra Biodiversity 2020 Delivery Plan also encourages large scale initiatives in AONBs and has the milestone: AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to integrate Biodiversity 2020 and ecosystem targets into all AONB Management Plan Reviews by Mar 2014.

Biodiversity Indicators Information on progress over long term- habitats, species etc.

[Click to view England biodiversity indicators](#)

[Click to view Overview of assessment of change for all](#)

England Natural Environment Indicators - 2016 - annual data release - covers farmland bird index.
Birds 1970-2015. latest May 2017.

[Click to view Wild bird populations in the UK, 1970-2015](#)

[Click to view England Natural Environment Indicators](#)

[Click to view ENV07 - Wild bird populations in the UK](#)

Natural England 2016 Conservation Strategy

[Click to view Conservation 21 Natural England’s Conservation Strategy](#)

“We are currently exploring with a range of key partners, including the NAAONB, how best we may all work together in pursuit of the three

themes of the Conservation Strategy – Resilient Landscapes and Seas, Putting People at the heart of the Environment, and growing natural Capital. The AONB Family has a great deal to contribute across all three of these themes, and we have been exploring with the Chief Executive how to take them forward. Discussions are at an early stage, however particular interest centres on how to extend the influence of AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards to land outside their boundaries, particularly in the many instances where other AONBs or National Parks are situated nearby. There are a number of good examples where this sort of joint approach is already taking place or being planned, and we are keen to facilitate this. The forthcoming Management Plan Reviews also offer opportunities to rethink jointly how we frame AONB Management Plan objectives to reflect both the Conservation Strategy and Defra’s 25 year plan, the publication of which is expected shortly. It is worth re-emphasising that the contribution of AONBs and National Parks is seen as fundamental to the successful delivery of Natural England’s conservation strategy. We are aligning all our own resources around the conservation strategy themes, and it will therefore be helpful if our joint work together can be expressed in these terms”

Quote from David Henshilwood taken from [NAAONB 73rd Meeting Board Minutes](#).

National Biodiversity Network (NBN) - latest system www.nbnatlas.org is a repository for all species records, current and historical. 217 million records are publicly available on the NBN Atlas, compared to 95 million on the old NBN Gateway. Location record searches available down to 1km radius.

Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP), Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services
[Click to view The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature](#)

Whilst NEWP was published 2011 it led to several changes over the period which might be regarded as coming under the bigger and more joined-up approach to nature conservation which has resonance with AONB Management Plans. In particular, NEWP led to the creation of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) as a way of taking

forward BAP activity and also to the financial support for new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), some of which included land in AONBs. NEWP also gave a boost to ecosystem services and the potential for markets in such services which included payment for ecosystem services (PES). NEWP underpins the approach to Natural Capital and helped create The Natural Capital Committee and Environmental Accounts.

“Natural capital can be defined as the stock of our physical natural assets (such as soil, forests, water and biodiversity) which provide flows of services that benefit people (such as pollinating crops, natural hazard protection, climate regulation or the mental health benefits of a walk in the park). Natural capital is valuable to our economy. Some marketable products such as timber have a financial value that has been known for centuries. In other cases (e.g. the role of bees in pollinating crops), we are only just beginning to understand their financial value”.

For a useful overview, look no further than the Postnote on Natural Capital.

[Click to view Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology note \(Postnote on Natural Capital\)](#)

The role of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services is high profile. It requires a big picture approach. Financial valuations are problematic and the market in services identified in NEWP is very much in its infancy. The approach has been advocated by environmental organisations for some time and its appeal is now much wider - hence support for ecosystem services, and payment for, from NFU and CLA. The discussion on post-Brexit agricultural support has given Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services a leg up. See section 6

Defra Policy Review 2015 - setting out coalition initiatives 2010-2015

[Click to view 2010 to 2015 government policy: biodiversity and ecosystems](#)

This includes

Local Nature Partnerships - Review of EU Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive

“... November 2011, we reviewed how the EU Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive are implemented in England and its seas. The review looked at how we can make it simpler for

businesses to comply with the laws that protect certain habitats and wild bird species. It found that the directives are largely working well but identified 28 measures in 4 broad areas where we can improve. As of June 2013, twenty-five of the twenty-eight measures have been implemented. A report on the progress of the Habitats Directive Implementation Review gives more detail on progress with implementation of each measure.”

Biodiversity offsetting - Ecosystem Services and Payment for Ecosystem Services; Natural Capital Defra 25 year Plans. It is still not clear what will emerge but better to plan for known drivers and issues which will presumably be reflected the 25 year plans, or perhaps not. Leaked first drafts did little to encourage belief that the plans might offer a step change.

Nature Improvement Areas Initiative 2012-2015; Monitoring and best practice

“Key lessons from the evaluation of the NIAs include

- shared visions and objectives for the NIA partnerships improved communication between organisations, encouraged joined-up working and more integrated implementation,
- partnership-led, landscape scale land management contributed to successful implementation. However, sufficient resources need to be dedicated to local coordination and management if partnerships are to function well,
- the flexibility inherent in the design of the initiative was an important success factor,
- partnerships bringing conservation organisations together with local businesses, land managers, research institutions and local authorities proved effective in delivering land management in the integrated way envisaged by the NIA initiative,
- visible government support and leadership and a clear policy message provided impetus for local project delivery and helped local projects in sourcing additional resources,
- the scale of funding available to NIAs was critical to their success; the initial government grant, for example,
- enabled partnerships to employ staff, leverage match-funding and initiate demonstration

projects that have encouraged others to get involved; and,

- longer term activity (beyond the three years of grant funding in NIAs) will be required to deliver sustainable impact, with associated monitoring to understand if lasting changes have been realised.

Many papers and workshop reports in here.

Purbeck Summary Map / Morecambe Bay etc

[Click to view Nature Improvement Areas: about the programme](#)

[Click to view Monitoring and Evaluation of Nature Improvement Areas](#)

[Click to view Nature Improvements Areas \(NIAs\) Best Practice Network events](#)

Natural Capital and The Natural Capital Committee

[Click to view Natural Capital: An Overview](#)

The NCC is an independent advisory committee. It provides advice to the government on the sustainable use of natural capital - that is, our natural assets including forests, rivers, land, minerals and oceans. The Committee’s broad remit also covers the benefits we derive from natural assets, such as food, recreation, clean water, hazard protection and clean air. The second term of the committee runs from 2016 to 2020. Professor Dieter Helm continues to chair the Committee, which will focus primarily on helping the government develop its 25 year environment plan. The Committee’s initial term ran from 2012 to 2015.

How to Do It Workbook

[Click to view Natural Capital Committee How to do it: a natural capital workbook](#)

Economic valuation and its applications in natural capital management and the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan (April 2017)

“The NCC defines natural capital as “those elements of the natural environment which provide valuable goods and services to people, such as the stock of forests, water, land, minerals and oceans. Value therefore lies at the heart of the natural capital concept. Accordingly, assessing the value of changes in our natural

capital and the services it provides, is fundamental to deciding how and where funds should be spent to restore, maintain and manage the natural environment. Yet there are many different interpretations of what valuation means and how to apply valuation evidence in practical decision making contexts. In this note, the NCC lays out the types of decisions for which natural capital values might be useful and some principles to guide the choice of approaches to valuation. The intention is to guide and encourage coherence across decision making contexts, particularly relevant for the public sector, and especially for projects related to the development and implementation of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP). The principles set out here could also be used to guide relevant decisions in the private sector."

What are ecosystem services?

Examples of ecosystem services include products such as food and water, regulation of floods, soil erosion and disease outbreaks, and non-material benefits such as recreational and spiritual benefits in natural areas. The term 'services' is usually used to encompass the tangible and intangible benefits that humans obtain from ecosystems, which are sometimes separated into 'goods' and 'services'.

Biodiversity 2020

Outcome 1C: By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas

Aids to applying the ecosystem approach

The Ecosystem Approach Handbook, commissioned by Natural England. [Click to view Ecosystem Approach Handbook](#)

A review of how the ecosystem approach is applied in the UK, conducted by the James Hutton Institute.

[Click to view the Ecosystem Approach Review](#)

A pilot project to appraise the contribution of two National Parks in England to the ecosystem approach.

[Click to view National Parks contributions to the ecosystem approach](#)

Tool Assessor is part of the Ecosystems Knowledge Network website that provides information about tools that analyse the environment.

Talking about our Place, a toolkit commissioned and published by Scottish Natural Heritage.

[Click to view Scottish National Heritage - Talking About Our Place](#)

In addition, the Ecosystems Knowledge Network website contains links to examples of how the ecosystem approach is being applied at a variety of spatial scales.

[Click to view Making the environment relevant to people](#)

Natural partners: Why nature conservation and natural capital approaches should work together.

[Click to view Natural partners: Why nature conservation and natural capital approaches should work together](#)

"Nature conservation has been the traditional approach to managing pressures on the UK's natural environment. It has had some notable success but has not reversed the long-term trends of ecosystem decline, habitat and species loss. New thinking has emerged over the last ten years based on the idea of natural capital. This provides an economic case for nature protection based on valuing the benefits society receives from natural assets such as soil, water and biodiversity. These two approaches are often set in opposition to one another. In this report we argue that, as we breach environmental limits and reach tipping points for habitat loss, water cycles, nutrient enrichment and carbon emissions, the government should adopt a strategic combination of both approaches".

DEVELOPING ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS FOR PROTECTED AREAS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND 2015, - report by AECOM for Defra

[Click to view Developing ecosystem accounts for protected areas in England and Scotland](#)

This includes a Dorset AONB case study. Defra-sponsored pilot study 2015, aimed to establish accounts for some ecosystem services in the AONB. The outputs were quite limited due to the difficulty of defining services and apportioning a financial value to them.

Improving Natural Capital - An assessment of progress 2017

[Click to view Improving Natural Capital: An assessment of progress](#)

"We recommend that the approach described here be fully embedded in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The Committee will continue to assist with the design and implementation of that Plan, developing a 'How To Do It' manual for practitioners. Specifically, the Committee recommends the following:

1. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan should be progressed rapidly, if there are to be demonstrable improvements in England's natural capital before 2020 and progress in delivering the government's objective "of being the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than that in which we found it". Currently many aspects of the natural environment are still deteriorating; Development of the Plan has been considerably slower than both expected and desired, in part due to the referendum and BREXIT.

Recommendation

10. England's National Parks contain very significant natural capital, and their powers and duties should be extended to support the objectives of the 25 Year Environment Plan. Where practical, each National Park should quantify and value the main natural capital assets in its area, using the accounting framework recommended by the Committee in its first term. Valuation should play a key part in the assessment of natural capital investment options. Consideration should be given to the creation of new National Parks".

Govt Response to NCC

"Deliver on the range of natural capital related commitments that government has made, including: putting in place a new 'Blue Belt' to protect precious marine habitats; spending £3 billion from the Common Agricultural Policy to enhance England's countryside over the next five

years; planting an additional 11 million trees; launch an ambitious programme of pocket parks; tackling air and water pollution; and ensuring the value of Green Belts, AONBs, National Parks, SSSI's and other environmental designations are appropriately protected

Supporting National Parks in leading implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and delivery of Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1C

[Click to view Supporting National Parks in leading implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and delivery of Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1C](#)

POSTNOTE Number 537 September 2016 Rewilding and Ecosystem Services

[Click to view Rewilding and Ecosystem Services](#)

HEALTH and WELLBEING

AONBs are vitally important for the health and wellbeing of the nation. 156 million people visit AONBs in England annually, many to make the most of the free opportunities on offer for outdoor recreation, exercise, rest, and relaxation. Likewise, many of the 1 million people who live in AONBs express an appreciation for living in an area with a clear sense of place and local identity. As the link between greenspace and reduced depression, anxiety, anger and sadness becomes better understood, AONBs have become increasingly important as providers of England's natural health service.

Health, and more specifically the benefits of recreation and activity in pleasant and stimulating green (blue) environment, have moved up the agenda and have provided opportunities for AONBs to get involved with health agencies in new partnerships.

Latterly the understanding of the implications and benefits for mental health have also progressed.

Collaborations between Natural England, researchers and health providers are increasing with practical interventions starting to emerge; prescribing a walk, not an anti depressant.

Many AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards are well-placed to engage in this agenda given their breadth of expertise, ability to form creative projects and confidence to act as test-beds.

Overviews and presentations from 2015 NAAONB Conference

[Click to view Nature, Health and Wellbeing – What does the research show?](#)

and

[Click to view How the Landscape can improve Health and Wellbeing](#)

Local engagement with GPs / Local providers (SW AONBs - Dementia)

[Click to view Manifesto for the Green Mind](#)

The **Stepping into Nature project** received the NAAONB's Bowland Award in 2016. Dorset AONB team partners include the Alzheimer's Society, Dorset Forest School and the county council's Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP). [Click to view Stepping into Nature – Bowland Award Nominee](#)

See also **mindSCAPE Project** has been developed to enable people living with dementia, their carers both family and professional, to reconnect with the landscape in a sociable and creative way. [Click to view mindSCAPE Project](#)

Walking for Health - in Cannock Chase

[Click to view Chase Fit Project](#)

and nationally

www.walkingforhealth.org.uk

2012 Natural England Report gives some history. *"In 2007, Department of Health and Natural England working in partnership with local statutory and voluntary organisations took the decision to invest in an expansion of Walking for Health as part of the package of public health initiatives aimed at getting people more active. As part of the Walking for Health expansion a programme of evaluation was established. The aims of the programme were to evaluate, quantitatively and qualitatively, both health and environmental outcomes from the Walking for Health intervention. To deliver the breadth and depth of evaluation Natural England has worked*

with research and academic partners". [Click to view Costing the Walking for Health programme](#)

Postnote **Green Space for Health** [Click to view Green Space and Health](#)

Expanding the value and use of Social Prescribing in the delivery of nature-based interventions for adults with mental health needs - proposal for **Natural England**, October 2015

[Click to view Defra evidence statement on the links between natural environments and human health](#)

2017 - A comprehensive Evidence Statement on the links between natural environments and human health. The aim of the evidence statement is to inform Defra's policies and service delivery.

The statement addresses

- *the direct and indirect linkages between natural environments and health,*
- *variation in impact between social groups,*
- *the importance of the type and quality of the natural environment,*
- *dose-response relationships,*
- *the effectiveness of different intervention options,*
- *the monetary values of benefits, and*
- *key evidence gaps.*

[Click to view Evidence Statement on the links between natural environments and human health](#)

MARINE

New legislation, marine planning, and seascape character assessment will provide new opportunities for an improved linkage between the seaward setting of a protected landscape and its marine environment.

How significant in coastal AONBs?

The Marine Planning Portal gives a good insight into some of the elements of the evidence being used to shape marine plans. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), DCLG, Defra and the Planning Advisory Service have produced a useful tool for checking that a wide range of obligations regarding Local Plan development are

met prior to submission of Local Plans for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

Seascape assessments have been undertaken in some areas but these have come relatively late compared to landscape assessments. Given the importance of sea views in the special qualities of coastal AONBs, seascape assessments are a useful tool.

Some applications for offshore wind turbines close to AONBs have been controversial with two of the largest, Atlantic Array and Navitus Bay, being withdrawn.

2014 Europarc Seminar

[Click to view Marine Planning & Coastal Protected Landscapes](#)

....recommendations for the MMO to consider that

- *a member of the Protected Landscape Family in the South Plan Area (SPA) be invited to join the Sustainability Appraisal Advisory Group (SAAG)*
- *an opportunity be sought to deploy the significant advances in the use of seascape character assessment made by the MMO in relation to the SPA back to the East Plan Area at the earliest opportunity. This could be via a collaborative project.*
- *MMO officers and Protected Landscape managers in the SPA should meet on a bilateral basis to exchange information and identify mutual benefits that each can bring to each other's spatial planning and management plan making processes.*
- *a mechanism be found within the SPA making process to identify what good integrated coastal management looks like in the SPA; identifying current good practice and where there is room to improve integration.*

Seascape Assessments

North Devon and Exmoor LUC 2015

[Click to view Seascape Character Area Report](#)

and user guide

[Click to view Seascape Character Assessment User Guide](#)

Dover Strait - 2015

[Click to view Seascape character assessment for the Dover Strait](#)

Solway Coast - 2010

[Click to view Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment](#)

UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment - Future Leasing for Offshore Wind Farms and Licensing for Offshore Oil & Gas and Gas Storage 2009

[Click to view UK Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment - Future Leasing for Offshore Wind Farms and Licensing for Offshore Oil & Gas and Gas Storage 2009](#)

page xiv... Significant adverse effects are likely without mitigation; however, for a variety of impact reduction reasons a general guideline of a 12 nautical mile buffer zone is recommended for large (>100MW) wind farm developments.

RENEWABLES - CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Renewable energy production and associated infrastructure have progressed rapidly, often in controversial fashion. Over the period, most applications for large onshore wind turbines met with stiff local opposition in rural England. Although AONBs were generally avoided for larger turbines and solar farms, there were a good number of applications and a small number of approvals inside AONBs.

The main threat to Protected Landscapes over the period was from applications for large turbines in the setting of the AONB; hence the drive, in some AONBs, to define the setting to bolster the case for any objection to a visually intrusive scheme near to an AONB. In such cases the setting of the AONB was a material consideration in granting or refusing permission.

Large turbines applications were often sought just outside (up to 10km) the AONB boundary. Those within 5km were more likely to have an effect on the AONB. From 2012 the number of such cases had already begun to decline, by 2015 they had practically dried up for 125m turbines. Setting in the context of listed buildings (s66 special regard) also assumed greater and wider prominence (oft-quoted in Secretary of State DCLG letters) where it was successfully used in the courts to quash an appeal decision on a large

turbine scheme at Barnwell (North Northamptonshire).

A handful of offshore schemes proved controversial because of their likely effect on AONBs (North Devon, Dorset, Norfolk Coast)

In contrast climate change adaptation measures have not been much to the fore.

Renewables policy has changed notably since 2015. Changes in government policy have also suggested a loss of focus. For example, the withdrawal of the 2016 'zero-carbon home' target has been shown to have had an impact on local policy for promoting low carbon homes in England. The same applies to the withdrawal of the 'Code for Sustainable Homes' in 2015.

The Renewables Industry has complained about the short-term nature of funding and incentives, in the case of solar, Government pointed to the need to alter subsidies and incentives to reflect the reduced cost of technologies, partly due to mass production and uptake.

In contrast, small-scale and domestic renewable energy production have been favoured by a more relaxed permitted development regime, in combination with incentives to home owners based on selling surplus electricity.

Miscanthus and coppice - for heating and power - do not appear to have made any real inroads over the period. These were funded by the Energy Crops Scheme.

Anaerobic digesters have proved rather more controversial, especially in combination with maize production which has seen a big acreage increase, notably in the south west with consequent soil and run off issues.

Management of existing woodland to provide wood fuel is still on the increase with concerted efforts made in several AONBs.

Locally various helpful **Guidance on Renewables** have been produced by AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards.

Malvern Hills AONB Partnership

[Click to view Malvern Hills AONB Guidance Solar Panels](#)

[Click to view Malvern Hills AONB Guidance Wind Turbines](#)

[Click to view Malvern Hills AONB Guidance Heat Pumps](#)

[Click to view Compulsory Pre-Application Consultation with Local Communities for Onshore Wind](#)

"Public Approval" for wind turbines

Signaled by DCLG in 2013

I hope these reforms will give a greater say for local people and strengthen the role of councils in shaping where development should and shouldn't go.

[Click to view Compulsory Pre-application Consultation with Local Communities for Onshore](#)

Regulations that made **pre-application consultation with local communities** compulsory for onshore wind development were introduced December 2013. These regulations will be applied to applications for onshore wind development of more than two turbines or where the hub height of a turbine exceeds 15 metres.

[Click to view The Town and Country Planning \(Development Management Procedure and Section 62A Applications\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Order 2013](#)

2015 - Ministerial Statement. Post Coalition Government

This set down the future direction for the Government i.e. a move away from LibDem policy. DECC was always headed by a LibDem Minister in the coalition but DCLG had a strong say on how renewable schemes were assessed in the planning system; a few nationally significant projects (s36 Electricity Act) were determined at DECC Ministerial level but post-2015 these were largely taken back into the Planning regime.

[Click to view Consents and planning applications for national energy infrastructure projects](#)

2015 - Ministerial Statement. Post Coalition Government. [Click to view DCLG Planning](#)

This addresses the need to have local communities backing proposals and/or positive

planning to define suitable areas - both high hurdles.

When determining planning applications for wind energy development involving one or more wind turbines, local planning authorities should only grant planning permission if

- *the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan, and*
- *following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.*

In applying these new considerations, suitable areas for wind energy development will need to have been allocated clearly in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. Maps showing the wind resource as favourable to wind turbines, or similar, will not be sufficient. Whether a proposal has the backing of the affected local community is a planning judgement for the local planning authority.

Proof of Public backing for wind farms 2015

[Click to view Renewable and low carbon energy](#)

Do local people have the final say on wind farm applications?

The written ministerial statement made on 18 June 2015 is quite clear that when considering applications for wind energy development, local planning authorities should (subject to the transitional arrangement) only grant planning permission if

- *the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan, and*
- *following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.*

Whether the proposal has the backing of the affected local community is a planning judgement for the local planning authority.

Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 5-033-150618

Revision date: 18 1506

Setting of Protected Landscapes – the effect of development in the setting of Protected Landscapes will need to be considered. How the setting is defined is down to local circumstances but setting can be an important factor in the planning balance.

Some AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards have considered their setting, including seascape, as a way of helping to guide development of all kinds close to the AONB boundary e.g. Chilterns Cotswolds, Cranborne Chase, Dedham Vale, North Wessex Downs.

Dedham Vale AONB - the Partnership considers the setting of the Dedham Vale AONB to be the area within which development and land management proposals, by virtue of their nature, size, scale, siting materials or design can be considered to have an impact, positive or negative, on the natural beauty and special qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB.

NPPF paragraph 115 requires that in any decision “great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty” in AONBs. This applies not only to developments proposed within an AONB but also to developments proposed in its setting, such that the AONB would be affected.

Solar energy

The push for more solar power also waxed and waned over the period with restrictions being lifted for domestic applications and incentives for large scale solar farms changing. Feed-in Tariffs (2010-2015) were a major driver but saw caps on the scale of activity above 5mW being introduced for commercial activity.

On 17th December 2015, the Government announced a new package of renewable energy cost controls in response to its consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) and the Renewables Obligation (RO). A brief summary of the main points relating to solar farms is below.

The Government re-introduced pre-accreditation for FITs from 8 February 2016, and has significantly reduced support available for stand-alone projects through feed-in tariffs by 71% and has decided to keep the FITs scheme open beyond

January 2016 due to the cost control measures being introduced as part of the response. The Government closed the RO across Great Britain to new solar PV capacity at 5MW and below from 1st April 2016.

In 2015, the Government reduced the support for solar farms, removing subsidy support through the Renewables Obligation for solar farms larger than 5MW and significantly reduced the support available for stand-alone projects through the removal of FITs accreditation. CAP funding to solar farms on agricultural land was also limited.

Solar Farms: funding, planning and impacts.
HoC briefing [Click to view Solar farms: funding, planning and impacts](#)

2016 Annual Report from the Renewables Association. A summary of the changes ushered in during 2015, which particularly affected solar, is included [Click to view The REA's Election 2017 'Manifesto'](#) 7th June 2016 release.

Miscanthus and coppice, for heating and power, do not appear to have made any real inroads [Click to view Crops Grown For Bioenergy in England and the UK: 2015](#)

These were funded by the Energy Crops Scheme [Click to view Energy Crops Scheme: Establishment Grants Handbook: 3rd Edition](#)

Anaerobic digesters (AD), Maize and soil erosion.

There are Issues with land management especially associated with the switch to maize production and associated flooding/soil issues. There are unexpected consequences of renewables given new subsidies and tariffs which favour AD not just disposing of a waste product but also generating a premium for new maize planting to feed such power generation e.g. land rent increases.

Maize regarded as the best crop for AD/biogas production.
[Click to view Maize Growers Association - Biogas](#)

Soil Association
[Click to view Soil Association welcomes new proposals to restrict maize for anaerobic digestion](#)

Maize is probably the fastest expanding arable crop in the UK, up from 8,000 in 1973 to 186,000 hectares in 2015, with proposals for an additional 125,000 hectares in England by 2020.

The Soil Association said that maize is currently "responsible for environmental damage to soils, streams and rivers", and for the "rapid loss of land available for food production – all of which is made possible through double subsidies paid for by the UK taxpayer.

"In 2014, researchers found that 75% of late-harvested sites in South West England showed high or severe levels of soil degradation," the Soil Association added.

[Click to view Soil Association - Runaway Maize](#)

House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee

Soil Health - First Report of Session 2016–17

[Click to view House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee - Soil Health](#)

77. Maize production can damage soil health when managed incorrectly, and incentives for anaerobic digestion should be structured to reflect this. The double subsidy for maize produced for anaerobic digestion is counterproductive and has contributed to the increase in land used for maize production. This subsidy regime represents a clear case in which better joined-up thinking across Government is required in order to ensure that soils are managed sustainably. The Government's ambition to manage all soils sustainably by 2030 cannot be met if Defra does not achieve buy-in from other departments to achieve the ambition.

78. Renewable energy subsidies for anaerobic digestion should be restructured to avoid harmful unintended consequences. Revisions should either exclude maize from the subsidy altogether or impose strict conditions on subsidised maize production to avoid practices in high-risk locations which lead to soil damage. The broader cross compliance regime has not proved sufficient to prevent such damage. Defra and DECC should work together to evaluate the impact of energy policy on soil health across the board. The upcoming 25-year Environment Plan should include specific plans for interdepartmental working and structures of accountability with the goal that soil protection is not simply the

responsibility of Defra, but rather is a factor against which any policy can be measured.

DECC Consultation 2016. [Click to view Concerns raised over proposals to reduce Feed-in Tariffs for anaerobic digesters](#)

DECC has proposed a series of changes from January 2017, to reduce the impact on bill-payers. They include ending FIT support for new AD plants over 500kW, and reducing tariffs for new AD plants under 500kW by nearly a third. In its consultation document, DECC says the aim is to put the subsidy scheme for AD plants on a “sustainable footing”. It says, “Government is committed to moving to a low-carbon economy and meeting its carbon reduction and renewable energy targets. Alongside other measures, the FIT scheme has been part of our progress against these objectives. The scheme is funded through levies placed on consumer energy bills. In order to restrict the impact on (consumer energy) bills, government set a limit on the annual low-carbon energy subsidy expenditure which could be collected from consumers. Deployment under the FIT scheme has exceeded expectations. While this shows the success of the scheme in attracting investment in small-scale renewable electricity deployment, this has come at a cost to the bill payer, with the scheme projecting to spend beyond its initial projections.”

Planning for the Climate Challenge? Understanding the performance of English local plans. 2016.

[Click to view Planning for the climate challenge](#)

This study found that local plans in England are not dealing with carbon dioxide emissions reduction effectively, nor are they consistently delivering the adaptation actions necessary to secure the long-term social and economic resilience of local communities. There was a wide variety of practice: there were some examples of positive responses, but, taken as whole, it is clear that since 2012, climate change has been de-prioritised as a policy objective in the spatial planning system. The large-scale failure to implement the clear requirements of national planning policy is a striking finding, as is the reduced capacity of the Local Authority planning

service and the reduced capacity of Environment Agency to support the long-term plan-making process.

The study underpinning this report explored how local plans published since the NPPF was produced in 2012 are addressing climate change. Drawing on a sample of 64 Local Authorities in total, and based on an analysis of local planning documents, a survey of Local Authority planners and four more-detailed, area-based case study examinations, the study established the extent to which climate change mitigation and adaptation are reflected as priorities in local plan policy in England.

Flooding and insurance [see other references to catchment management in section 11]

Household Flood Insurance and 2014 Water Bill
[Click to view House of Commons Library Household flood insurance](#)

Flood Insurance Regulations (FloodRe)
[Click to view The Flood Reinsurance \(Scheme and Scheme Administrator Designation\) Regulations 2015](#)

Living with change - managing water and flooding. Holnicote - Exmoor. [Click to view Living with change - managing water and flooding](#)

“We have to come to terms with the challenges of living in the age of extreme weather. When it comes to reducing the risk of flooding, we have to think holistically. We need to look at how we slow the water down from source to sea. If we get the pieces of the jigsaw right by intervening and managing water, we can make a difference.

On the windswept hills of Exmoor, we've created catch pools and diverted surface water from paths and tracks to help slow the flow, and we've reduced the run-off from moorland by blocking ditches. The planting of wet woodland, en route as the rivers travel towards their destination, helps slow the progress of water as trees are great at absorbing water.

A return of water meadows, where fields are allowed to flood in the winter, has created much needed space for water and seen wildfowl arriving to take advantage of this new habitat. And the construction of five large earth bunds has provided a place to hold the water temporarily

during intense rainfall events and release it slowly into the rivers as they flowed towards the sea”.

EA Natural Flood Management [Click to view Working with nature to reduce flood risk](#)

In many places natural flood management can play a part in protecting homes and communities. However, there is more work to be done to examine effectiveness of wide-scale natural flood management measures across entire river catchments. There is plenty of evidence that natural flood projects can make a significant contribution to managing and reducing flood risk at a local level and in small catchments. More work is needed to see impact across catchments which are nearer 100km² or larger

[see other references to catchment management in section 11]

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

AONB Management Plans include policies and provisions supporting conservation of the historic environment and there has been steady progress in activity and projects over recent years. The Accord between the NAAONB and Historic England was re-signed in 2014.

In 2015 English Heritage's structure moved the protection of the National Heritage Collection into the voluntary sector, the regulation body that remained was rebranded as Historic England which has a similar remit to and complements the work of Natural England.

Historic England inherited the Historic England Archive, Britain from Above (online collection of 96,000 of the oldest Aerofilms images), National Buildings Record and the Images of England project (online database of the 370,000 listed properties).

Historic England contributes data to the PLMF. Key datasets such as monuments at risk are cut to AONBs in the PLMF.

2014 JOINT STATEMENT ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY.

English Heritage and NAAONB renewed their commitment to work together to promote the

conservation, understanding, and public enjoyment of heritage in AONBs. [Click to view NAAONB English Heritage Joint statement on the historic environment](#)

Shared Principles

- *The landscapes of AONBs have been created by centuries of interaction between people and nature,*
- *The historic environment is fundamental to the distinctive character and sense of place of each AONB,*
- *AONBs are national assets,*
- *The principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) underpin our actions and aspirations, and*
- *By working together the parties can further the understanding, conservation and public enjoyment of the historic environment in AONBs.*

Heritage 2020 is a new (2014) framework that aims to demonstrate how partnership working can add value and lead to the delivery of outcomes [Click to view Heritage 2020 Framework](#)

DCLG Guidance 2014 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

[Click to view Conserving and enhancing the historic environment](#)

Historic Seascape Characterisation

English Heritage, now Historic England, published the Historic Seascape Characterisation for the South West Peninsula in 2014, with the third volume of the study providing text descriptions of the historic seascape character types (with each type describing different activities rather than spatial areas). The document identifies the condition and forces for change, and the rarity and vulnerability of each character type. It provides a level of detail greater than is required for the AONB Management Plan but the document will be valuable reference for actions under the Plan affecting the historic environment.

Heritage Alliance

[Click to view The Heritage Manifesto](#)

Manifesto

1. Maximise the advantages, and minimise the disadvantages, of Brexit for heritage
2. Maintain and Improve the protection for heritage
3. Attract investment and engagement with heritage, and build sector skills and capacity
4. Deliver positive fiscal change for heritage
5. Continue to back Lottery funding for heritage

The Heritage Alliance is England's largest coalition of heritage interests. It brings together independent heritage organisations from English Heritage, the National Trust, The Canals & Rivers Trust and Historic Houses Association, to specialist bodies representing visitors, owners, volunteers, professional practitioners, museums, mobile heritage, funders and academics.

s66 - Special Regard to listed buildings

[Click to view Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#)

Section 66, although it has been in existence since 1990, has been pushed to the fore in recent years mainly because it became the focal point of legal argument in the Court of Appeal. [see also Renewables in section 9 and Historic Environment 10]. DCLG guidance to LAs followed to reiterate the importance of the court decision.

Secretary of State DCLG appeal decision letters, involving listed buildings, typically contain the following text:

In accordance with section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (the LBCA Act), the Secretary of State has paid special regard to the desirability of preserving those listed buildings potentially affected by the proposals, or their settings or any features of special architectural or historic interest which they may possess.

NPPF Section 12 covers heritage assets and their setting (paras 128, 129, 132, 137)

The setting of a heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as "The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral." (1)

"The setting itself is not designated. Every heritage asset, whether designated or not has a setting. Its importance, and therefore the degree of protection it is offered in planning decisions, depends entirely on the contribution it makes to the significance of the heritage asset or its appreciation".

[Click to view Considering heritage issues in planning applications: recent guidance from the courts](#)

In the Barnwell Manor case, an inspector held that a proposal for 4 wind turbines would have a less than substantial effect on the setting of over 40 designated heritage assets, some of which were Grade I listed. He then proceeded to carry out a straightforward balancing exercise in accordance with paragraph 134 of the NPPF. He concluded that the benefits of the proposal outweighed the less than substantial harm to the setting of the heritage assets, and granted planning permission.

This case ended up in the Court of Appeal in February 2014, which upheld the High Court's decision to quash the grant of planning permission. The Court of Appeal held that in enacting section 66(1), Parliament intended that the desirability of preserving the settings of listed buildings should not simply be given careful consideration but "considerable importance and weight" when carrying out the balancing exercise. This gives rise to a strong statutory presumption against granting planning permission for development which would cause harm to the settings of listed buildings. Even where the harm would be "less than substantial", the balancing exercise cannot ignore the overarching statutory duty imposed by section 66(1).

The Court of Appeal found that the inspector did not give considerable importance and weight to the section 66(1) duty when carrying out his balancing exercise.

[Click to view Heritage issues and planning applications](#)

Historic Area Assessments - 2017 - updated advice [Click to view Understanding Place - Historic Area Assessments](#)

Historic Area Assessments (HAAs) help to understand and explain the heritage interest of an area. HAAs help explain the character of a place and define its significance, providing a

sound evidence base for the informed management of the historic environment.

WATER - WORKING WITH WATER COMPANIES AND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Water management, or rather land management, to help to provide drinking water or mitigate flood risk, especially in the context/paradigm of ecosystem services, is closely linked to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. However, making links between land management and providing a water good or service contract is not easy. Various small catchment management schemes have proved to be successful and viable. Scaling up schemes, seeking co-operation over a wider area and ensuring long term commitment of third parties to justify investment are huge obstacles to overcome. The potential to generate revenue for projects by water companies is subject to controls by Ofwat Price Reviews, so additional investment by water companies must be approved to protect consumers' interests. Some argue that the latest Price Review (PR19) offers an opportunity to make more progress on catchment management based on successful trials.

The traditional drinking water model is to accept raw water needs to be treated and to invest in plant to remove contaminants from diffuse pollution. This is a cure rather than prevention, but allows for long term control of the process, albeit in the knowledge that contaminants may increase, or that regulations may demand higher levels of treatment to reduce concentrations of nitrates.

The long term costs of such a model have long been considered e.g. "externalities" of farming and "the polluter pays" principle.

[Click to view Policy Challenges and Priorities for Internalising the Externalities of Modern Agriculture](#)

[Click to view An Assessment of the Total External Costs of UK Agriculture](#) Nonetheless this area seems to provide a suitable way to explore ecosystem good and services and paying for same.

Role of Ofwat in Price Reviews (PR19)

[Click to view Ofwat Price Review](#)

Most water and sewerage services in England and Wales are not provided in competitive markets. Most people receive their water services from a licensed monopoly company. Only very large business customers are able to choose their supplier.

Because competition is limited, there is a risk that these companies will not deliver the services their customers want. They may also charge higher prices to increase their profits. This is why they need to be regulated. And it is why Ofwat was created when the water and sewerage sectors were privatised in 1989.

"One of the ways we regulate is to set the price, investment and service package that customers receive. This includes setting limits on the prices the companies can charge their customers. When we do this, we must balance the interests of consumers with the need to make sure the sectors can finance the delivery of water and sewerage services. We also need to make sure they are able to meet their other legal obligations, including their environmental and social duties. We currently carry out a review of these price limits every five years".

[Click to view Blueprint for pr19](#)

[Click to view Blueprint for pr19 environmental outcomes for the price review](#)

Periodic Review 2019 (PR19) [May2017]

"Over the next 18 months, water companies in England and Wales will be drawing up their business plans for 2020 to 2025, as part of the 'Periodic Review 2019' (PR19). Water companies are major private investors in water and environmental management in the UK and the business plans introduced in 2020 will play a pivotal role in the stewardship of the environment. The Blueprint for Water believes that nature should be at the heart of water companies' business plans and has developed a set of key priorities that we want to see reflected in these plans, to benefit both customers and the natural environment that we all cherish.

Our four priorities for PR19 are

- *Protect and restore catchments from source to sea,*

- Stop pollution from our waters,
- Use water wisely and price water fairly, and
- Keep our rivers flowing and wetlands wet.

MAKING THE CASE FOR CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT - 2017 - Blueprint for Water
[Click to view Making the Case for Catchment Management](#)

Schemes like South West Water's Upstream Thinking and United Utilities' (UU) SCaMP have led the way; UU's scheme saw thousands of hectares of upland habitat restored, drainage channels blocked, and livestock numbers cut, bringing 98% of the SSSIs into favourable condition and realising improvements in water quality through reductions in colour, suspended solids and a reduced risk of cryptosporidium.

Severn Trent's current Environmental Protection Scheme, STEPS, sees landowners being paid based not on what they do on their land, but on the actual water quality benefits delivered.

Wessex Water is using 'reverse auctions' to allow farmers to bid for funding to establish cover crops, preventing soil runoff over winter and reducing nutrient inputs into the river system, far more cost effectively than could be done by the company through other means.

Where Catchment Partnerships have played a role in these schemes; the value of this collaboration is notable (see pg5).

The 2019 Price Review (PR19) presents an opportunity to build upon all of this delivery.

Wildlife Link - Blueprint response to the Government's strategic priorities and objectives for Ofwat

Objective: Ofwat should encourage the sustainable use of natural capital by water companies – that is, our natural assets such as rivers and groundwater – by encouraging water companies to have appropriate regard to the wider costs and benefits to the economy, society and the environment

[Click to view Blueprint response to the Government's strategic priorities and objectives for Ofwat](#)

*We welcome the expectation set out in paragraph 22, that companies will further the resilience of ecosystems underpinning water and wastewater systems and services. In recent years, Ofwat has consistently emphasised the importance of the resilience of all systems and services customers rely on, including ecosystems. It is therefore essential that companies look beyond the resilience of pipes, processes and power, investing in the resilience of the environment in the locations where their operations depend on it. Furthermore, the impact of climate change and population growth require companies to invest in the natural resilience of catchments now. This investment in natural resilience of catchments can increase or maintain water quality and quantity, without causing unacceptable pressures on the environment. We want to see companies proactively identify current and future ecosystem resilience vulnerabilities and develop plans to increase resilience and protect environments. In turn, this would increase the resilience of their own operations for the benefit of customers. Companies operating in Wales already have similar duties arising from the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. It would be useful to reflect this emphasis on expectations on companies in the SPS. The statements in paragraph 22 provide a more effective objective than the current objective around encouraging water companies to have appropriate regard to natural capital, by having appropriate regard to wider costs and benefits. We propose that the objective under paragraph 24 is amended as follows:
Ofwat should encourage companies to further the resilience of ecosystems that underpin water and wastewater systems, promoting the sustainable use of natural capital and encouraging companies to have appropriate regard to the wider costs and benefits to the economy, society and the environment.*

Good Practice examples of Water Companies working with AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards

- SW Water www.upstreamthinking.org
- [Click to view Looking after the land to protect our rivers](#)
- Peatland regeneration and colour monitoring over 10 years.
- [Click to view SCaMP Poster](#)

- [Click to view Monitoring goes on: SCaMP Project in North West England](#)

Catchment Management

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) has been in place since 2000. UK's main response to the WFD, are **River Basin Management Plans (RBMP)**.

Success of RBMPs at the AONB level - 5 year reviews? 2015 overview of key EA metrics e.g Thames

[Click to view Water for life and livelihoods - Part 1: Thames river basin district River basin management plan](#)

Update to the RBMPs in England - National Evidence and Data Report

[Click to view Update to the river basin management plans in England](#)

Climate Change - Flooding

Flood Management

High profile cases of flooding - fluvial and coastal - in recent years e.g Cumbria, Cornwall, Norfolk, York. More and more often there are newsworthy events and acceptance that events are occurring at a higher than predicted rates. But what are the long term responses to prevent or mitigate? How much engineering - higher flood banks - and how much better land management? - slow the flow schemes in catchment, new saltmarsh on re-aligned coast?

Natural Flood Management

[Click to view Catchment-Wide Flood Management](#)

Changing weather patterns have made structural defences less effective at managing flooding. An approach that employs a range of natural flood management measures across a river catchment is likely to reduce the probability of flooding and pressure on structural defences.

Defra FCERM Multi-objective Flood Management Demonstration project

PROJECT RMP5455: **SLOWING THE FLOW AT PICKERING** Final Report May 2015

[Click to view Slowing the Flow at Pickering](#)

The project has clearly demonstrated how a strong partnership approach can succeed in delivering an integrated set of land management measures to reduce flood risk at the catchment

scale, as well as provide wider multiple benefits for local communities.

NFU - The Flooding Manifesto 2017

[Click to view NFU The Flooding Manifesto](#) covers a wide area of issues including concerns about withdrawal of maintenance (N.B. Somerset Levels re-dredging) and better catchment management.

The NFU's preferred approach is for government to establish a long-term, strategic plan for flood and coastal risk management. This plan must be designed to cope with extreme events and take a whole catchment approach to management decisions and intervention. Consideration should also be given to the impacts of infrastructure and development on agricultural land.

...some of our most productive and highest value agricultural land is in the floodplain or coastal regions that are vulnerable to flooding, and deserves to be protected.

...Where farmers provide a service in mitigating flood risk to help protect others this must be a coherent, planned component of total catchment management, for which farmers must be fairly compensated.

In short, the government's strategy to manage future flood risk must be to Plan, Protect and Pay.

p18 Natural flood management techniques are measures that replicate natural occurrences to store, filter or slow the flow of water to reduce peak flows in flood-prone areas further downstream. Examples include woodland creation, woody debris dams, river re-meandering, soil management techniques, water storage areas in low-lying areas or ditch removal or blocking.

The NFU recognises that natural flood management techniques, in the right location, can have a role, but they are not the universal panacea. Instead they should only be used as part of a cohesive and carefully planned package of measures across the catchment, such as maintenance and de-silting, looking at upstream attenuation and downstream conveyance to address shorter and longer term flood risk.

Where natural flood management techniques are implemented, suitable financial support and incentives should exist. Agri-environment schemes may not be suitable, particularly for

bespoke, longer-term schemes or areas of low land water storage; funding mechanisms need to truly value the flood mitigation services provided and help farmers continue to produce food.

p19 ...Overall, we are sceptical that CAP funding is the right route for appropriate Natural Flood Management. Instead, and subsequent to the UK's exit from the EU, we need a funding model which truly values the service provided by Natural Flood Management and the benefits that it brings to the wider economy and society.

So, we would like to see a scheme that provides incentives, not just for income forgone, but also in recognition of the flood mitigation service farmers are providing to other stakeholders in the catchment. The ongoing maintenance costs of these schemes must also be taken into consideration.

Woodland Trust Practical Guidance - Natural Flood Management Guidance: Woody dams, deflectors and diverters [July 2016].

[Click to view Natural flood management guidance: Woody dams, deflectors and diverters](#)

Household Flood Insurance and 2014 Water Bill

[Click to view House of Commons Library - Household flood insurance](#)

The result of the negotiations is the new Flood Re scheme agreed in 2015, a commitment by the industry to offer insurance in high risk areas at affordable prices; the establishment of the Flood Re scheme run by the industry; a guarantee that the government would be primarily responsible for losses due to 'a catastrophic event' that Flood Re could not meet; and increased government spending on flood defences.

Flood Insurance Regulations (FloodRe)

[Click to view The Flood Reinsurance \(Scheme and Scheme Administrator Designation\) Regulations 2015](#)

[Click to view Working with nature to reduce flood risk](#)

EDUCATION

AONBs investing in education - mainly by providing information to schools – and curriculum needs. Outdoor education provision and support working with local outdoor centres. NPAs were prompted to invest in education as part of the 2016 8 Point Plan (an interest of the then Minister Rory Stewart)

1 - Connect young people with nature

- *double the number of young people to experience a National Park as part of National Citizen Service by 2020,*
- *a new package of teaching materials for schools based on National Parks, and*
- *National Park Authorities to engage directly with over 60,000 young people per year through schools visits by 2017 to 2018.*

Nationally there are concerns that children are missing out by not connecting with the natural environment, not least in schools.

Quantocks [Click to view Quantock Hills AONB Service Education Project \(QEd\)](#) ; **High Weald Heroes; Cotswold Warden** support to schools - key stage 2;

Natural England views

[Click to view Busting the myths on outdoor learning in schools](#)

"Evidence from our Monitoring of Engagement with Natural Environment (MENE) survey has told us that in an average month during 2013-15 only eight per cent of school-aged children (aged 6-15) in England visited the natural environment with their schools. Why is that so low? Well, we know from research undertaken by Kings College London that the lack of confidence teachers have in taking children outdoors is the big issue - something we set out to address through the Natural Connections Demonstration Project. Natural Connections was a four-year project that tested ways to embed outdoor learning in schools, designed with partners in response to evidence on the barriers teachers face. It was delivered by Plymouth University and local delivery partners, who supported 125 primary and secondary schools across the South West.

2011 King's College findings

[Click to view Outdoor learning: Kings College London reports](#)

MENE - school children pilot study

[Click to view Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: a pilot to develop an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children](#)

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: a pilot to develop an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children - Results from years 1 and 2 (March 2013 to February 2015). Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number208

Adult participants in the MENE survey were asked new questions about the visits taken by the children in their household (children were not interviewed directly). This allowed the survey to report on the proportions of children from the population taking visits to the natural environment at certain frequencies (e.g. every day, once a week, etc.), the types of greenspace visited and who they went with. This also allowed generation of robust estimates of the total number of children in England who took visits to the natural environment at certain frequencies.

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) - survey continuing? (2017) - value in long term assessment of trends.

MENE reports here

[Natural England Access to Evidence - Monitoring use and enjoyment of the natural environment](#)

SENSE OF PLACE

Tranquillity - mentioned twice in para 77 and 123 of NPPF.

Winchester work on Tranquillity

The research undertaken by University of Winchester on Broadly Engaging with Tranquillity developed with Dorset AONB

[Click to view Making sense of the place in which we live: more than a feeling!](#)

This work has recently been published in Landscape and Urban Planning

[Click to view Broadly engaging with tranquillity in protected landscapes: A matter of perspective identified in GIS](#)

[Click to view What is tranquillity? New study seeks to define public perceptions of tranquil spaces](#)

International Dark Sky Park Status

www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk

[Click to view Dark Sky Discovery Map](#)

Dark Sky Discovery Sites are places that

- are away from the worst of any local light pollution and
- provide good sightlines of the sky have good public access, including firm ground for wheelchairs.

The sites are generally freely accessible at all times - please check the links for any special access arrangements.

MISCELLANEOUS

These items do not fit readily into any particular section but may be of use.

Definition of "other protected areas"

3.-(1) This regulation defines "other protected areas" for the purposes of section 4A of the Act.

(2) "Other protected areas" are areas of land at a depth of less than 1,200 metres beneath—

(a) a National Park;

(b) the Broads;

(c) an area of outstanding natural beauty; or

(d) a World Heritage site.

IUCN Category V. Confirmation

The National Association for AONBs received confirmation from the IUCN UK Committee (International Union for Conservation of Nature) of Category V status for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in July 2013.

NAAONB case is here

[Click to view IUCN Protected Area Management Categories Statement of Compliance for the AONBs in England and Wales](#)

National Grid

[Click to view National Grid - Visual Impact Provision](#)

The Visual Impact Provision project represents a major opportunity to conserve and enhance the

natural beauty, wildlife and environmental heritage within our most protected landscapes.

The project will make use of a £500m allocation by Ofgem to carry out work to help reduce the impact of existing transmission lines in English and Welsh AONBs and National Parks.

Potential project selected in Dorset - still in planning (3 others in NPs)

England Coastal Path

Natural England expects to complete work on the England Coast Path in 2020.

England Coast Path: overview of progress [66 stretches of coast - open/approved/in progress/in planning]

7 April 2017 Map

[Click to view Coastal Access Completion by 2020 - Provisional Timings and Stretches](#)

The National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England November 2014.

Relevance? Outcomes? Neonics???

- *More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the country.*
- *Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events.*
- *No further extinctions of known threatened pollinator species.*
- *Enhanced awareness across a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public of the essential needs of pollinators.*
- *Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators.*

National Park 8 Point Plan 2016 [Click to view National Parks: 8-point plan for England](#)

1 - Connect young people with nature

2 - Create thriving natural environments

3 - National Parks driving growth in international tourism

4 - Deliver new apprenticeships in National Parks

5 - Promote the best of British food from National Parks

6 - Everyone's National Parks

7 - Landscape and heritage in National Parks

8 - Health and wellbeing in National Parks

Wales Review of Designated Landscapes

- **National Landscapes: Realising their Potential.** The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales. Final Report. Professor Terry Marsden, John Lloyd-Jones, Dr Ruth Williams 2015
[Click to view The review of designated landscapes in Wales](#)
[Click to view National Landscapes: Realising Their Potential](#)
- **Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales May 2017**
[Click to view Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales](#)

UK Airport Expansion - Davies Commission

[Click to view Airports Commission: Final Report](#)

- *Exec Summary*
- *The position of the UK within the global aviation market is critical to its economy: it is central to ensuring increased productivity, growth and employment opportunities. The Airports Commission's terms of reference require it to propose measures to maintain the UK's status as global hub for aviation. Delivering new capacity by 2030 will be crucial to that objective.*
- *The Airports Commission short-listed three options for this new capacity: one new northwest runway at Heathrow Airport; a westerly extension of the northern runway at Heathrow Airport; and one new runway at Gatwick Airport. It conducted a robust, integrated and transparent process to assess these options, considering a range of economic, social and environmental factors and engaging extensively with interested parties through formal consultation, public evidence sessions and a programme of meetings and visits.*
- *Each of the three schemes shortlisted was considered a credible option for expansion, capable of delivering valuable enhancements to the UK's aviation capacity and connectivity. Each would also have environmental impacts, which would need to be carefully managed.*
- *The Commission none-the-less unanimously concluded that the proposal for a new Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport, in combination with a significant package of*

measures to address its environmental and community impacts (see box below), presents the strongest case.

- Government accepted Heathrow expansion case in autumn 2016.
- Arguments made by Gatwick and Luton for expansion led to approvals for increased operations and infrastructure at Luton (new larger departures and arrivals hall as well as another pier with boarding gates); approval for expansion at Lydd on appeal and after JR - [Click to view BBC News - Expansion of Kent's Lydd Airport to go ahead](#)

National Air Traffic Service (NATS)

[Click to view NATS welcomes Government runway decision](#)

Having now made an important decision to secure the future runway capacity the country needs, we must get on with modernising airspace right across the UK to ensure we can meet the forecast growth in air traffic of 40% by 2030.

London Airspace Change Proposal (LAMP)

[Click to view London Airspace Change Proposal](#)

The first phase of the LAMP was implemented in February 2016, following approval by the CAA in November 2015. The changes pave the way for wider modernisation of airspace to deliver more efficient flights, saving fuel and reducing CO2 emissions, and reducing noise, keeping aircraft higher for longer and minimising areas regularly overflown.

Latest NPA MP Reviews

YDNPA Survey NP MP May 2017 - very short

[Click to view YDNPA Management Plan Consultation](#)

Peak District Park MP - May 2017

[Click to view Peak District National Park Plan](#)

(see Appendix 1 to paper) seeking public participation in June / July 2017 to help review and concerns about monitoring the effects of the plan.

The Authority approved the full progress report of the NPMP 2012-17 at its meeting on 7th October 2016 (minute reference 39/16). It was also agreed that as we update the NPMP for the next 5 years, the current vision framework is still fit for purpose. The report concluded that the 2012-17

NPMP had been instrumental in bringing together many diverse partners and stakeholders to help tackle the many issues facing the Peak District National Park (PDNP). However, the report concluded that reporting and monitoring of the NPMP 2012-17 had been difficult and in many cases it was unclear what added value the plan had brought to the management of the Peak District National Park. Therefore, it was agreed that the NPMP 2018-23 would use the existing vision framework and identify a small, but strategic number of areas of focus, to deliver significant environmental, social and economic benefit to the Peak District National Park, its residents, businesses and visitors.

[N.B. Author's emphasis on monitoring and review feedback loop]

See also

[Click to view Peak District National Park State of the Park](#) which covers the "State of the Peak". Topic areas are covered such as Agriculture and Water Quality - there is little trend information despite some long term data being available (State of the Peak for 2001, 2004, 2007). Hard to see the big picture with information set out in this fashion.

- *This report will not only provide the baseline of the National Park Management Plan, but also for the first time provide continuous updates of information in order to measure success.*
- *The current vision framework will remain the same. Based on feedback from partners, we believe it continues to accurately express what we want to achieve. It is clear that we need to simplify the presentation of our management plan. We need those with an interest in the Peak District National Park to see clearly how they can help to achieve the vision. They must feel empowered to take the actions that will maintain the distinctive sense of place. We must prioritise the more significant and urgent challenges for the next five years. Alongside the eight special qualities, we have identified eight areas that we think the next management plan should focus on. These areas are where we can make the greatest impact. We introduce the special qualities and the areas of impact in sections 3 and 4 for you to consider.*

- *We need to know if our refreshed presentation of the 'Special Qualities' properly summarises what makes the Peak District National Park special - 8 newly drafted Special Qualities previously set out in the 2016 /17 Performance and Business Plan - expanded here into narratives*
- *Following this consultation, we will finalise the eight special qualities. Once they are agreed, the next step will be to build our evidence base for each special quality and begin to detail*
- *We need to know if the eight 'Areas of Impact' are the best areas of focus for the new management plan - the eight areas of impact are those themes where our actions can make the greatest difference. They will become the focus of the next National Park Management Plan, with deliverable actions for each area of impact. The areas of impact are in no particular order. They should be read as an integrated set, rather than in isolation. In summary, the eight areas of impact are as follows....*
- *These are expanded into narratives for each Area of Impact which provide a rationale for the policies set out e.g.*
- *Secure future land management support schemes*
We want to ensure land management in the Peak District National Park delivers the full range of benefits.
We want to encourage our farmers to protect and enhance the natural and cultural environment. All who care for the land in the Peak District National Park must present a clear collective voice to shape future policies and support schemes. The Peak District National Park should be a test-bed for revised support schemes and new ways of working.
- *Why?*
- *Our exit from the European Union may bring changes to support and incentives for land management. This may affect the provision of benefits. This creates the opportunity to develop schemes that will deliver a full range of benefits from public money. There is a need for a new policy that balances the needs of the environment and farming; and delivers the full range of benefits.*
- *Revised support schemes should support ways of farming in the uplands that benefit nature*

and deliver to existing and new markets. Consumers like to support local markets. New schemes should reward land managers for the full range of benefits they provide. These include carbon storage, improving water quality and preventing floods, as well as conserving and enhancing cultural, heritage assets and natural heritage. Moreover, they should reward sustainable food production. Schemes need to be simple and work in ways that engage farmers in defining and delivering clear results.

Annex 1. Documentation - Published Management Plan Guidance

AONB - CA23 2001 [Click to view Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans: A guide](#)

CA221 2006 [Click to view Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans](#)

Advice Note to AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards, the Conservation Boards and Relevant Authorities on Management Plan Reviews 2012 (CA221)

[Click to view Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans](#)

NPs - CA216 2005 [Click to view National Park Management Plans – Guidance](#)

AONB Management Plans - Guidance for Local Authorities in Wales, Countryside Council for Wales 2002 (CA23) [Click to view AONB Management Plans: A guide](#)

Acts - Primary and secondary legislation

www.legislation.gov.uk

The three most important Acts are

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

[Click to view National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#) was the first piece of relevant legislation which provided for the designation of AONBs. This legislation provided for planning protection of AONBs and gave local authorities the power to take action to conserve them. But no statutory duties were placed on Local Authorities or any other body.

Since then, however, the pressures on the landscape of our protected areas have increased dramatically and the original provisions of the 1949 Act have been seen to be inadequate and have been heavily modified by subsequent legislation.

Section 6(4)(e) covers the duty of Natural England or Natural Resources Wales to give advice in connection with development matters which might affect AONBs.

The Environment Act 1995

[Click to view Environment Act 1995](#) brought in new measures for the protection of National Parks (part III). Initially the CRoW Bill had no clauses relevant to AONBs and a new role was created by the then AAONB to ensure this omission was reversed. Supported by the Countryside Agency, the AAONB used Lord Renton's 1999 Bill which followed up on the Countryside Agency's 1998 recommendations to Government for AONBs to push for inclusion; these were only effectively addressed via CRoW Act and its implementation.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Contents](#) placed AONBs on a more secure footing and significantly increased their importance as nationally designated landscapes:

Part IV of the CRoW Act 2000 significantly raised the profile of AONBs by placing new responsibilities on the Local Authorities and, any newly created, Conservation Boards who are responsible for their management, including a statutory duty to produce and regularly review AONB Management Plans for their areas, and a duty on all 'relevant authorities' to have regard to AONB purposes.

Section 82 / 83 of the Act covers designation of AONBs and NE Power to handle boundary modifications

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Section 82](#)

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Section 83](#)

Section 84 - mainly clarification but places onus on Local Planning Authorities to take all such action as appears to them expedient for the accomplishment of the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty or so much of it as is included in their area

Section 85 of the Act places a duty on all public bodies and statutory undertakers (commonly referred to as Relevant Authorities or 'Section 85 bodies') to have regard to the purposes of AONBs.

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Section 85](#)

Section 86 establishes a process for creating AONB Conservation Boards.

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Section 86](#)

Section 89 creates a statutory responsibility for Local Authorities and, newly created, Conservation Boards to produce and regularly to review AONB Management Plan (one plan produced jointly for each AONB)

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Section 89](#)

There is no AONB Circular but **Circular 04/01** covers the whole of CRoW. This is in contrast with National Parks which had Circular 12/96 following the 1995 Environment Act and an updated circular with a vision published in 2010.

Responsibility of Natural England

[Click to view AONBs: Natural England's role](#)

Natural England Designation Strategy 2012

[Click to view Natural England Designations Strategy](#) The **primary purpose of AONB designation**, as derived from the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. This primary purpose was reaffirmed in a 1991 Policy Statement on AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A Policy Statement. 1991, CCP 356).

Previous Policy Statements were CCP 141 (the first for AONBs); updated by CCP157; and finally CCP 532. These include references to "secondary purposes": ...have due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas.

These has not been updated or rescinded but the secondary purpose has been re-stated in most AONB Management Plans. The source of wording is within s37 of the **Countryside Act 1968**

[Click to view Countryside Act 1968 - Section 37](#)

37 Protection for interests in countryside.

In the exercise of their functions under this Act [F1 the Act of 1949 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981] it shall be the duty of every Minister, and of the [F2 Agency], the [F3, the Council], [F4 English Nature]. . .] and Local Authorities to have due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas. This required the policies of the Countryside Commission to show "due regard" to farming, forestry and rural industries. s37 also applies to LAs and others. During the notification and approval of the Benty Grange SSSI counsel opinion was taken by NE on the role of s37 in the SSSI designation process.

[Click to view Benty Grange Site of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\) – confirmation of notification](#)

It is worth noting Local Authorities already (by statute) have a recreation and socio economic remit.

IUCN Category V status

The National Association for AONBs worked with IUCN UK Committee (International Union for Conservation of Nature) to achieve confirmation of Category V status for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in July 2013.

Defining Natural Beauty

Natural beauty is the most significant factor in designation of both AONB and National Parks (where it is "outstanding") but is not readily appreciated or defined as a concept. See Selman and Swanwick

[Click to view On the Meaning of Natural Beauty in Landscape Legislation](#)

The first legal reference to natural beauty is probably contained in the 1907 Act to establish the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty. The phrase "to improve the means of access for pedestrians to areas of natural beauty" emerged in the findings of the 1931 Addison Report "Report of the National Park Committee" Command 3851, on mechanisms to preserve the countryside by National Park status.

Selman and Swanwick: There is little evidence to indicate how the final phrasing of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act came into being. Cherrylvi describes how a Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning in 1948 wrote an internal note about the then Minister's predilection for a National Commission to be established with responsibility for "areas of natural beauty". By the time that the Act received Royal Assent in December 1949 "natural beauty" had become the preferred phrase to express these ideas. Several other phrases had been used to convey the idea of important landscapes, for example, features of particular landscape importance or landscape value and rural areas of remarkable landscape beauty (Abercrombie) landscape character and landscape pattern (Scott) characteristic landscape beauty (Dower), high landscape quality (Hobhouse) and high scenic value (Minister of Town and Country Planning). Despite this, "natural beauty" prevailed, for reasons which are not apparently disclosed anywhere, yet which can be taken as a shorthand for all these other concepts. It also of course had resonance with the existing National Trust legislation, which may have influenced those drafting the legislation.

An insight into cultural heritage aspects of designation is provided by Dedham Vale. This area was not identified by Dower or Hobhouse but came to prominence as a result of a Planning Appeal dismissal in 1965. The Dedham Vale Designation History (para 32) points to the "particularly unusual" wider interpretation of natural beauty, to include the "cultural landscape" associated with the painter John Constable, by the Countryside Commission and the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Designation Order was confirmed in 1970.

Section 3 of the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985 which amended Section 43 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 required the National Park Authorities to produce a map of particular types of land (mountain, moor and heath in 1981; with woodland, down, cliff and foreshore added in 1985) "whose natural beauty it is, in the opinion of the authority, particularly important to conserve". The accompanying guidance considered a number of different aspects of the meaning of "natural beauty" relating these to "pleasure to the senses", and noting that 'natural' did not preclude human agency:

"it is not inconsistent with the concept of natural beauty to include such landscape elements as designed parklands, archaeological features, fields bounded by walls and even buildings where they are intrinsic elements in the wider landscape."

The Countryside Agency's guidance for writing **AONB Management Plans (CA 23 2001)**

[Click to view Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans: A guide](#) includes 'The natural beauty of AONBs encompasses everything - 'natural' and human - that makes an area distinctive: geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit it.'

Natural beauty is further clarified by **S99 of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act** [Click to view Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) following legal challenges to the designation of the New Forest National Park (Meyrick court case). This clarification arguably adds nothing to the original 1949 definition as it says what need not be excluded – as such it does have resonance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act references to mountain, moor and heath etc.

Hobhouse Report 1947 - the origins of designation

In addition to accepting and developing **John Dower's** vision for National Parks, the **Hobhouse Report (1947 Command 7121)** proposed 52 "Conservation Areas" (many of which became what are now AONBs). The

Hobhouse Committee worked closely and contemporaneously with the Huxley Committee on Nature Conservation. "The Conservation Areas" were tracts of countryside with scenic quality comparable to that of the National Parks, the character of which should be preserved, but where the "degree of positive management required in the National Parks" was unnecessary. It seems providing for recreation was perceived to be unnecessary although the areas did "include important holiday areas". The proposals were seen as an essential corollary to the National Parks but would be managed separately at the local level by Advisory Committees. The additional funding of AONBs under the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act was envisaged at least as early as 1954 (note for National Parks Commission NPC / G/ 178) – 75% grants as opposed to the standard 50% were available for: (a) removal of disfigurements, (b) tree preservation and tree planting, (c) restoring or improving the appearance of derelict land (d) the making of access agreements or orders and (e) the payment of wardens.

As implied by the term 'Conservation Area', Hobhouse's criteria for selection included an emphasis on their scientific value. Work to designate AONBs went more slowly than National Parks and took place between the mid 1950s and 1995. The original areas of search from the 1940s were addressed systematically by the statutory agency – i.e. the National Parks Commission and Countryside Commission.

Some new areas were also considered which were not on the Hobhouse list – Dedham Vale, Tamar Valley, Solway Coast, Lincolnshire Wolds and Chichester Harbour are the five which were accepted as AONBs. Other areas saw considerable changes from the Hobhouse Map e.g Isle of Wight and High Weald.

Calls for new AONBs have been made in recent years but not acted upon. In July 1982, the Secretary of State invited the Countryside Commission to review the boundaries of the then 33 AONBs. A wider review of National Park boundaries started in 1984 but was abandoned due to rising costs; work was carried out in The Mendips (minor review); the Chilterns, Cotswolds and Dedham Vale. The 1991 AONB Statement considered the benefits did not justify the resources deployed and that no further comprehensive reviews would be undertaken (Section 4 page 7). Limited AONB work in Cotswolds and Chilterns in 1991 also ran into similar difficulties.

Powers of Defra, Natural England, Local Authorities

Defra's powers, Natural England's statutory duties and powers, Local Authority duties, and Natural England's wider role with AONBs

[Click to view Areas of outstanding natural beauty: Natural England's role](#)

Conservation Boards - Defra Departmental Guidance 2008

[Click to view Defra AONB and Conservation Board Departmental Guidance](#)

[Click to view Defra Flow chart of generic Conservation Board establishment process](#)

Central Funding of AONBs

The 2003 Haskins' Review (review of arrangements for delivering Defra's rural policies in England and recommendations on effectiveness of delivery mechanisms recommended (rec.no.2) that AONBs be funded by Defra (like NPAs) but this was not elaborated on or taken forward at the time.

[Click to view Rural Delivery Review: A report on the delivery of government policies in rural England](#)

In early 2004, direct funding of AONBs by Defra was considered partly in response to concerns that Countryside Agency funding would be drastically reduced in 04/05. The draft Countryside Agency Corporate Plan suggested this to be the case but in the event funding decreased very slightly.

History of AONB Funding by Countryside Commission

In 1988/89 the reported grant figure from the Countryside Commission for AONBs was £151,000. Heritage Coast was stated at £213,000.

Countryside Commission Board paper 96/19 gives AONB grants as: 1990/91 £322k, 1991/92 £421k, 1992/93 £662k, 1993-94 £1563k, 1994-95 £2046k (£636k for Sussex Downs CB), 1995/96 £1910, 1996/97 £1729k. It also reported that grant percentages were falling. From 45% to 25% across that period and that LAs were finding it increasingly difficult to find their position of funding.

In 1996 the Countryside Commission consulted on AONB funding and suggested a figure of £14m annually. A more comprehensive "Protected Areas Funding Study" for both AONBs and National Parks in 1997/98 was undertaken by ERM Consultants – this suggested a figure of £18.5m for AONBs and an extra £5m to National Park Authorities (which then had a £17m budget).

The 1998 Countryside Commission Board paper - 98/10 - Draft of Advice to Govt. says on (increasing) funding on Core Functions "...central Government funding is essential for these functions, in order to provide authorities with security of funding and the means of performing their duties" and "We are not planning to include the provision, originally proposed by the Commission, for spending to be taken into account in government standard spending assessments; while it may be right in principle, it is not practicable for such small sums."

Duty to Have regard

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 (like S11A NP Act/S62 Env't Act for NPs) places a duty on all public bodies (relevant authorities) to have regard to the purposes of AONB designation when carrying out their work. Individuals such as Directors and councillors are also covered when working for Relevant Authorities.

[Click to view Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 - Section 85](#)

Guidance is available on the role of S85 and Relevant Authorities in two volumes:

England's statutory landscape designations: a practical guide to your duty of regard. NE 2010. NE243.

[Click to view England's statutory landscape designations: a practical guide to your duty of regard](#)

Duties on relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads. Guidance note. Defra. 2005.

[Click to view Duties on relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of NPs, AONBs and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads](#)

In a High Court case in 2014 concerning the Broads (Laurel's Farm wind turbines and how a Planning Inspector's approach to have regard (under the Broads Act) Justice Cranston said

"To have regard to a matter means simply that that matter must be specifically considered, not that it must be given greater weight than other matters, certainly not that it is some sort of trump card. It does not impose a presumption in favour of particular result or a duty to achieve that result. In the circumstances of the case other matters may outweigh it in the balance of decision-making. On careful consideration the matter may be given little, if any, weight."

[Click to view Howell & Ors v Stamford Renewables Ltd & Ors \[2014\]](#)

Natural England with its **overview role** has a lead interest in understanding how duty to have regard is being followed. Care should be taken when dealing with duties of **privatised utilities** (e.g. BT, National Grid, CAA) which are not covered by s85 but may have similar duties under the acts which brought them into being. However, the Regulatory bodies of such utilities e.g. Ofwat, are covered by S85. Water and sewerage undertakers (under s.190 of, and Schedule 25 to, the Water Act 1989 for National Parks and AONBs, under the Section 25 of the Broads Act 1988 for the Broads) are also covered by s85.

For Water Companies' Disposal of land – the **1991 Water Industry Act 156** applies (156 (4) (c) (i) and 156 (4) (d)). This allows for land to be conserved, access maintained etc. (via covenant) by inviting consultations with the relevant AONB Partnership or Conservation Board prior to sale.

National Grid (NG) - [Click to view National Grid - Our Amenity Responsibilities](#)

Under Section 38 and Section 9 of the **Electricity Act 1989**, National Grid has a duty to:

Schedule 9 "have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and shall do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects."

There is no equivalent to this duty in the provisions of the **Gas Act 1986**. As a responsible business National Grid believes that the principles of Schedule 9 should apply equally to both our electricity and gas transmission works and our gas distribution works above 7 bar (gauge) in pressure.

NG approach is informed by the results of our undergrounding consultation and our experience of major transmission infrastructure projects. It complies with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and the National Policy Statement on Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), and retains the principles of the Holford Rules which give guidance on the routing of overhead lines.

[Click to view National Grid - Our approach to the design and routing of new electricity transmission lines](#)

[Click to view National Grid - The Holford Rules](#)

Permitted Development Order - Electronic Communications Codes

DCMS consultations in 2010 and 2011 refer to additional planning controls being maintained in National Parks and AONBs.

[Click to view Consultation on Relaxing the Restrictions on the Deployment of Overhead Telecommunications Lines](#)

The Government announcement in September 2012 concluded such planning restrictions for broadband roll out and mobile communications would be removed – subject to consultation. This would require amendment of the Permitted Development Order and the Electronic Communications Code which has the default position of undergrounding wires at any location.

Moves to boost the roll-out of mobile broadband, were published in May 2013 for consultation.

[Click to view Mobile Connectivity in England](#)

The Growth and Infrastructure Act

This makes provision for amending the DCMS Secretary of State's duties under the Comms Act (including promoting growth) for a period of 5 years. However due to the weight of interventions by interested parties and helpful new clauses developed jointly by NAAONB and NPE the Act does not make changes to S85 of CRoW due to this clause.

[Click to view Growth and Infrastructure Act](#)

s9(2B) The Secretary of State is to be treated as also having complied with any duty imposed in connection with that exercise of that power by either section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or section 85(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in National Parks and AONBs, the CAA is required have regard to these statutory purposes under s.19 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

It was widely recognised that this was a legitimate issue to be looked into by the CAA and NATS rather than disagreeing about the effect on tranquility. Guidance to the CAA's Directorate of Airspace Policy refers specifically to tranquility. Several AONBs and National England responded to the consultation. CAA has legal duty to have regard to AONBs and National Parks as s19 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Civil Aviation Act 1982 make clear that the CAA is a public body.

[Click to view Aviation Act 1982](#)

Section 70(2) of the Transport Act 2000¹ requires the CAA to take account of any guidance on environmental objectives given to it by the Secretary of State.

[Click to view Guidance to the Civil Aviation Authority on Environmental Objectives Relating to the Exercise of its Air Navigation Functions](#)

- where practicable, and without a significant detrimental impact on efficient aircraft operations or noise impact on populated areas, airspace routes below 7,000 feet (amsl) should, where possible, be avoided over Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Parks as per Chapter 8.1 of this Guidance; and
- Therefore, whenever practicable and in line with the priorities presented in Chapter 4.1 of this Guidance, the CAA should also take into account the concept of tranquility when making decisions regarding airspace below 7,000 feet (amsl).

National Air Traffic Service NATS New Framework 2013 [Click to view Aviation Policy Framework](#)

Airspace

3.31 The routes used by aircraft and the height at which they fly are two significant factors that affect the noise experienced by people on the ground. Consistent with its overall policy to limit and where possible reduce the number of people adversely affected by aircraft noise, the Government believes that, in most circumstances, it is desirable to concentrate aircraft along the fewest possible number of specified routes in the vicinity of airports and that these routes should avoid densely populated areas as far as possible. This is consistent with the long-standing concept of noise-preferential routes which departing aircraft are required to follow at many airports, including the noise-designated airports. Within the countryside, in common with other relevant authorities, the CAA has legal duties to have regard to the purposes of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks and must therefore take these into account when assessing airspace changes.

AONB Agricultural Statistics

[Click to view Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June \(AONB stats 2007 - 2013\)](#). AONB breakdowns are only available in the years that correspond to the EU Farm Structure Survey. The latest available results are for 2010 and 2013. The next updates will relate to 2016 and then 2020.

AONB Policy Papers

Most of these official papers have been digitised and are held on Natural England's online library (OLIB) with copies in Defra files.

Countryside Agency papers

AP 00 11 CRoW Bill - no provision for AONBs within - Referred to Early Day Motion get AONBs inserted - with draft clauses. Board was gravely disappointed that AONBs had been omitted from the Bill. The Board supported the proposed clauses, which should be sent to the Minister and made available for partners and MPs, along with further briefing from the Agency.

AP 01/05 - post CRoW. Advice on 50% grants changed - sought 75% from Board. AONBs struggling to maintain momentum under 50% seen as risk in delivering aims of CRoW Act. Attention to core posts rather than projects. Improve governance issues.

Govt did not ("unusually") provide local authorities with direct funds through the Standard Spending Assessment mechanism to take account of their new statutory AONB responsibilities. Instead made through CA.

Autumn 2003 – effectiveness of funding programme.

Draft Corporate plan suggests drastic cuts to AONB programme. A number of AONBs contact Defra leading to a Defra Ministerial briefing on direct funding. In the end 04/05 AONB funding only slightly decreased.

July 04/26 Board – Evaluation of the AONB Programme. Concluded successful new funding arrangements; keep funding over 3 years; improve core / project consideration and better monitoring of performance. Staff levels in AONBs average 1.9 in 1998/99, up to 4.5 in 2003/04. 97% increase in LA funding cf 1998/99. 2004/05 Defra funds NPAs at 100% (3 year trial)

05 /17 Board - Tests to guide the decisionmaking process when considering suggestions for protected landscape boundary modifications.

Criteria for review suggested following extensive public consultation. Four tests – Intent; Evidence; Benefits; Priority.

Natural England Board Papers

Dec 2007 **Natural England Board** Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnerships: Relationship development and operational delivery (Corporate Plan Target 1.1.6.3)

- Clarify how Natural England's relationship with AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards can be linked more strongly with our Strategic Direction
- Identify options for delivery that will set the scene for a new, more mature relationship
- Agree a consultation framework with Defra, NAAONB and other stakeholders
- Clarify timescales for implementation
- Agree national team would oversee a new national statement of AONB support and negotiate SLAs spanning core activities and the Sustainable Development Fund.

Dec 2007 **Natural England Board** - hard choices AONB funding maintained.

4.3 The second option seeks to adjust the balance between staff and activity expenditure in order to minimise the impact on our heartland activities such as Local Biodiversity Partnerships, National Trails and Bridleways and AONBs and our work on NNRs.

April 2008 **Natural England Board** NEB PU10 02 2008/09 Budget Briefing on Hard Choices.

Funding at 07/08 levels for National Trails, AONBs and NNRs, to a total of £17million;

ANNEX 1 – Target 1.1.2. Protected Landscapes and areas of importance for geodiversity...

2008/09 £11.919m; 2009/10 £11.919m; 2010/11 £11.919m. **£9.85m for AONBs.**

Jul 2010 **Natural England Board**- new (AONB, NP) Designation guidance.

Agenda Item 6d



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Date: 17 July 2018

Subject: Progress and Delivery Report – Period 1 (2018/19)

Report by	Executive Director Operations
Contact Officer	Mark Sturgess Chief Operating Officer mark.sturgess@west-lindsey.gov.uk 01427 676687
Purpose/Summary	To consider the Progress and Delivery Report for Period 1 of 2018/19

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. To assess the performance of the Council's services and key projects through agreed performance measures and indicate areas where improvements should be made, having regard to the remedial measures set out in the report.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Financial: FIN/76/19

Staffing: None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None

Risk Assessment: None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

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Introduction

1.0 Introduction

This report forms the period 1 performance report for 2018/19. It is about the services the council is delivering in order to meet the objectives it has set itself in the Corporate Plan. The report contains information relating to those measures where performance has fallen outside agreed tolerance levels for two periods or more. Information relating to service based performance is included on an exception basis (above or below target) as Appendix A.

2.0 Overall Summary of Performance

Table 1 shows an overview of council performance for Period 1 (April and May 2018) and provides comparison against the previous period. During the period, 26% of performance measures returned performance within agreed tolerance levels whilst 45% exceeded these levels and 21% performed lower than the tolerance. These figures are consistent with performance from the previous period.

Work is underway to review the measures where performance has been returned outside agreed tolerance levels to further understand the reasons for this and the and potential impact on service delivery.

RAG	P4 (2017/18)	P1 (2018/19)
	41%	45%
	22%	26%
	25%	21%
Missing information	13%	8%

Table 1: Overall summary of performance

3.0 Performing Well

- [Benefits](#) – all indicators are performing on target, despite the challenges caused by the roll out of Universal Credit
- [Economic Development and Town Centre Management](#) – a development partner has been secured which will see the delivery of a number of regeneration schemes over the next 5-12 years.
- [Garden Waste](#) – green waste collection has seen a positive roll-out with a higher than expected number of subscribers due to a successful engagement and communications campaign.
- [Healthy District](#) – performing well overall with the number of new users of the Leisure Centre exceeding expectation.
- [Trinity Arts Centre](#) – Audience figures are higher than anticipated and there is an increased number of events thanks to a successful marketing campaign. The cost of the service remains low.

4.0 Risk Areas

- [Council Tax and NNDR](#) – the Council Tax in year collection rate remains below target. There continues to be an increase in the number of taxpayers choosing to pay in 12 monthly instalments.
- [Development Management](#) – the income received is below target due to a reduced number of major planning applications.
- [Enforcement](#) – the time taken to process requests and the number of open cases remains high due to a high number of complex cases.
- [Home Choices](#) – the use of temporary and B&B accommodation remains high as a result of complex cases, evictions and out of area referrals.
- [Markets](#) - the number of market stalls remains below target. There is a marketing campaign and options appraisal currently underway.
- [Regulatory Services](#) – the number of premises receiving a proactive food inspection remains lower than anticipated and the ability to meet FSA targets is affected by the resources available.

Measures where performance is outside agreed tolerance levels for at least two consecutive periods

Service	Measure	P4 (2017/18)	P1 (2018/19)	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Asset and Facilities Management	Rental income – car parks	£33,334	£77,761	Performance has been above target for two periods. Expected 1 st quarter result as customers renew their permits.
	Rental portfolio voids	7%	2%	Above target for at least the last five periods. Void levels remain low but termination notices have been received for 5 units within June (equivalent to 10%). So far 3 potential tenants have been sourced and lease offers have been sent to them.
Building Control	Cost of the service	£12,188.75	£4,747.80	Above target for two periods. Savings on salaries until positions/ SCPs have been finalised in restructure.
Contracts Management	Savings generated through the Procurement Lincs exercise	£18,700	£0	A number of procurements facilitated by PL are in progress at present and so performance is expected to improve
Council Tax and NNDR	Cost of service per property tax base	£5.80	£3.24	Above target for at least the last five periods against a target of £9.10. Summons income costs and reimbursement of charging order fees posted during April and May have contributed to low cost of service per property base. Carrying vacancy following maternity leave which has been appointed to and post should be filled June/July.
	Number of properties on tax base per FTE	5,830	5,753	Above target for at least the last five periods against a target of 5,000. Carrying vacancy following maternity leave which means staff have more properties to deal with. Vacancy has been appointed to and post will be filled from June/July.
	Council tax in year collection rate	98.15%	15.38%	Below target for at least the last five periods. The overall target for 2018/19 has been lowered by 3% compared to last year. Increase in the number of council taxpayers paying 12 monthly instalments. Performance expected to be on target by year-end.
	NNDR collected	£16,136,962	£4,595,918	Performance exceeding target after five periods of not meeting target. Inland Revenue have paid large account in full during May 2018.
Customer Services	Cost of service delivery per customer contact	£1.21	£1.46	Above target for the last two periods. There has been a decrease in customer activity as requests for GGW service reduces
Democratic Services	Member satisfaction with training and development	97%	100%	Performing consistently above a target of 90%
Development Management	Received planning applications	394	259	Performing consistently on or above a target of 230
	'Major' planning applications determined within national target	93%	90%	Performing consistently above a national target of 70%
	'Non-major' planning applications determined within national targets	99%	100%	Performing consistently above a national target of 80%

Service	Measure	P4 (2017/18)	P1 (2018/19)	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Enforcement	Number of days taken to resolve a housing enforcement request	75	211.5	With the exception of Q4 2017/18, performance has been consistently below target for at least the last five periods. There have been a high level of complex cases during the period and the focus is now on reducing the time taken to resolve requests which should lead to an improvement in performance during the course of the year.
	Time taken to resolve a planning enforcement request	180	300	Performance has been consistently below target for at least the last five reporting periods with a steady decline in the direction of travel. There have been a high level of complex cases during the period and the focus is now on reducing the time taken to resolve requests which should lead to an improvement in performance during the course of the year.
	Open planning enforcement cases	152	134	Performance has been below target for the last three periods. Some cases that have been open for months have now been closed. A focus on ensuring that investigations are carried out effectively should result in a reduction of the number of open cases over the course of the year, allowing for a true reflection of the service to be recorded.
Healthy District	Customer satisfaction with leisure facilities and activities	95%	96%	Performing consistently above a target of 90%
	Cost of leisure management fee per user	£0.82	£0.85	Performing consistently above a target of £1.10. This is the last month of the current contract.
	New participants	698	467	Performing consistently above a target of 400. A good range of activities and proactive marketing is attracting new customers
Home Choices	B&B nights	63	89	Below target for at least the last five periods. Due to complex cases that were difficult to move on from temporary accommodation meaning B&Bs had to be used.
Housing	Long-term empty properties brought back into use	8	3	Below target for two periods. Focus on more complex cases resulting in less activity across a wider number of properties
IT and Sys Dev	Incident and problem management	240%	107%	Performing consistently above a target of 90%
	Change management	105%	100%	Performing consistently above a target of 93%
	Online customers signing up to self-service accounts	11,321	2,082	Performing consistently above an overall annual target of 4,000
Local Land Charges	Income received	£25,196	£17,143	Below target for two periods. The timing of receipts causes overachievement in some months and underachievement in others.
	Local Land Charges searches received	630	440	Above target for four out of the last five periods. This indicator is determined by the property market and it is expected to even out by year end

Service	Measure	P4 (2017/18)	P1 (2018/19)	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
<u>Markets</u>	Average number of stall on a Saturday	17	17	Below target for two periods. Market review and options appraisal currently underway. Low turn-out of traders due to adverse weather in April
	Average number of stalls on a Tuesday	36	41	As above. Below target for at least the last five periods.
<u>Regulatory Services</u>	Food premises receiving a pro-active food inspection	79	43	Below target for two periods. Ability to meet FSA target affected by resources available
	% of food premises rated 3* or above	96%	94%	Above target for two periods.
<u>Street Cleansing</u>	Volunteer litter picks	20	25	Above target for two periods.
<u>Trinity Arts Centre</u>	Cost per user	£8.98	£4.16	On target overall due to the effect of accruals for the previous year
	Received surplus	£17,310	£14,165	Above target for at least the last five periods. Increased number of events and improved online & email marketing.
	Audience figures	4,460	3,048	Above target for at least the last five periods. Increased number of events and improved online & email marketing.
<u>Waste</u>	Cost of delivering the service per household	£42.58	£28.28	Consistently above target for the last four periods. Cost per household has reduced significantly this period with the introduction of the garden waste charge.

Table 2: Measures performing outside agreed tolerance levels for two consecutive periods

Corporate Health

Measure	Tar	P1 Perf	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Budget forecast outturn	tbc		To follow - figure not available at present	
Compliments received	tbc	88	N/A	Target to be identified in P2. Continue to monitor compliments received.
Complaints received	tbc	32	A mixture of complaints relating to service decisions made, quality of the service received and process.	Target to be identified in P2. Quality Monitoring Board to meet in July to determine where improvements can be made.
Complaints where the Council is at fault	tbc	44%	The Council were partially at fault for eight complaints and at fault for the remaining six. This equates to 41.5% of complaints being upheld during the reporting period	Target to be identified in P2. The Quality Monitoring Board is scheduled to meet in July to look at upheld complaints to determine where improvements can be made. A learning action log will be created and implemented.
Digital demand received	40%	44%	A good increase, some of which can be attributed to Green Garden waste subscriptions.	The digital element of the project needs to be taken forward to all new services that the council introduces in the future to promote digital as the customers initial choice of contact
Calls answered	80%	82%	Performance is on-track;	Continue to monitor
Staff absenteeism	0.7 days	0.41	Performance is on-track	Continue to monitor
Service and system availability	98%	100%	Proactive and continuous monitoring being carried out.	Also applying released patches in a timely manner reduces vulnerabilities.
Tax base growth	0.50%	tbc	To follow – figure not available at present	
Time taken to pay invoices	30 days	tbc	To follow – figure not available at present	

Table 3: Corporate Health measures

Programme Delivery

Programme	RAG	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Crematorium	Amber	Programme delivery is on track
Customer First	Amber	Programme delivery is on track
Housing	Amber	Programme delivery is on track
Land and Property	Amber	Programme delivery is on track
Leisure	Amber	Programme delivery is on track
West Lindsey Growth	Amber	Programme delivery is on track

Table 4: Programme delivery

Appendix A: Service Exceptions

Asset and Facilities Management

Asset and Facilities Management has started the year with excellent performance in terms of rental income from car parks and received assets with targets for both being exceeded during the reporting period. Planned and responsive maintenance is below target, however the ratio tends to fluctuate throughout the year with the actual position not fully known until the end of the financial year.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Planned and responsive maintenance	70/30%	2%	Actual is 65/35% but no 18/19 capital works orders have been invoiced as yet. This ratio tends to fluctuate with the real outcome not fully known until the final quarter	Influenced by award and delivery of works programmes. There is some delays inc LED lighting and decorations of the offices which is being held back to tie in with the proposed office refurbishment.
Rental income – car parks	£16,667	£77,761	Permit renewals	Expected 1st quarter result as customers renew their permits
Rental income – received assets	£83,334	£123,542	1 st quarter rental income receipts	Receipt of 1 st quarter rental payments in advance
Rental portfolio voids	12%	2%	Healthy low level of voids	Void levels remain low but termination notices have been received for 5 units within June (equivalent to 10%). So far 3 potential tenants have been sourced and lease offers have been sent to them.

Table 5: Asset and Facilities Management performance exceptions

Benefits

The Benefits Team have performed well during April and May when compared to 2017/18 and all measures are performing within target, the number of working age Housing Benefit claims transferring over to Universal Credit (Lincoln postcodes) is steady but significant which is proving challenging for the team trying to assess Council Tax Support entitlement for these claimants. The ability to process claims was affected during April and May due to technical difficulties with downloading ACIS housing rents. This has now been resolved, allowing processing to recommence.

Building Control

The Building Control service has started the year with continued excellent performance in terms of fee income target being exceeded in the first two months. The number of applications received still remains at a good level with high volume received over both months. Market share is below average, the service has seen a couple of larger housing developments being lost again this month. One application of 62 dwellings and a smaller one of 10 dwellings. Quadrant Approved Inspectors are responsible for 50% of the initial notices received this month. However, income target has been exceeded. The target for applications should be noted, as in the previous year the team saw windfall applications from ACIS which will be repeated at some point in this year. The team have seen success with some press releases promoting the completed commercial units at Saxilby Enterprise Park as well as the completion of a housing site by Cyden Homes in Bigby. The team have also seen 3 projects shortlisted in the East Midlands regions LABC Building Excellence Awards, for schemes by J K Builds, Chestnut Homes and Cyden Homes.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Cost of the service	£18,882	£4,747.80	Slightly over achieved on fee income. Savings on salaries until positions/SCPs finalised in restructure.	
Total income received	£36,466	£40,453.07		
W/L Market Share	80%	71%	This is below average, the service has seen a couple of larger housing developments being lost in the first month of the financial year. However, income target has been exceeded	

Table 6: Building Control performance exceptions

CCTV

CCTV continues to monitor and respond to high levels of shoplifting offences in Gainsborough. Shopwatch bans are issued as appropriate. Retailers in Gainsborough continue to experience anti-social behaviour especially at key times during early evenings and school holidays. Current demand from the Police to conduct CCTV reviews and investigations continues to be high. On average we are conducting 10 reviews at any one time. On-going incidents of ASB, criminal damage and threatening behaviour are being monitored in Hemswell Cliff. CCTV monitoring in Hemswell Cliff has accounted for a large proportion of our staff time with a number of reviews taking place to produce evidential footage. Increased CCTV patrols are being maintained at Hemswell Cliff and Richmond Park, Gainsborough due to levels of ASB and other crimes. CCTV Member Visits are continuing to enable Members to learn more about our CCTV operations and the role it plays in keeping communities, residents and businesses safe. CCTV monitoring figures are produced at the end of each quarter. Quarter 1 reporting figures shall be included within the P&D Period 2 report.

Community Safety

Anti-Social Behaviour and environmental crime cases are at levels that are expected and are continuing to be investigated and resolved within the target timescales. As of June 2018 an additional officer will be working within this area and will be focussing on Fixed Penalty offences within the Gainsborough and Hemswell Cliff areas. Investigations in relation to fly-tipping are ongoing and additional signage is due to be placed across key locations over the coming months to advise residents of their responsibilities.

Contracts Management and Procurement

During this period, work has been undertaken to identify all contracts that the Council has with providers who process personal data. This is to ensure that GDPR compliance is achieved across contractual arrangements. Work has also commenced on a number of large procurements which will complete as the year progresses.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Savings generated through Procurement Lincs	£18,750	£0	A number of procurements facilitated by PL are in progress at present and so performance is expected to improve	

Table 7: Contracts Management and Procurement performance exceptions

Council Tax and NNDR

During mid-March 2018 44,628 council tax bills and 2,906 business rate bills were issued for the new financial year. Procurement has recently been concluded to appoint an external contractor to conduct a single person discount review on behalf of all the Lincolnshire district authorities and work is expected to commence in June 2018. The recovery process has commenced with the first liability court hearing of the new financial year taking place at the end of May 2018 and charging order recovery work continues in respect of several properties within the district which it is hoped will be concluded during late summer.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Cost of service per property tax base	£9.10	£6.84	Summons income costs and reimbursement of charging order fees posted during April and May have contributed to low cost of service per property base. Carrying vacancy following maternity leave which has been appointed to and post should be filled June/July.	Monthly budget monitoring takes place to ensure all costs are posted each month. Vacancy has now been appointed to and post should be filled June/July.
No of properties on tax base / FTE ratio	5,000	5,753	Carrying vacancy following maternity leave which means staff have more properties to deal with.	Vacancy has now been appointed to and post should be filled June/July.
Council tax in year collection rate	20.14%	15.38%	Increase in the number of council taxpayers paying 12 monthly instalments	In year collection monitored each month and is expected to be maintained within this financial year.
NNDR £ collected	4,397,663	4,594,918	Inland Revenue have paid large account in full during May 2018.	Monthly monitoring of collection rates and monthly meetings with Revenues manager of shared service takes place. In year collection is expected to be maintained within this financial year.

Table 8: Council Tax and NNDR performance exceptions

Customer Services

The Customer Services Team has continued to experience demand for subscription to the Green Garden Waste service and this is being dealt with within the existing team. Demand for Customer Services continues to grow with some new services for our team coming on line in June 2018. Detailed analysis of the work we carry out is being undertaken by the Customer Experience Team and will help us to better understand what we are doing and how much time is spent on delivering services on the Council behalf. This will enable plans to be made move some of that demand to digital or self-service.

During this period we dealt with 7,621 telephone calls and 9,219 face to face enquiries or 16,840 customers 410 customers a day.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Cost of delivery per customer contact	£2.00	£1.46	Decrease in customer activity as requests for GGW service reduces	
Average number of days to resolve a complaint	21	18		Will continue to monitor as we would like to see complaints resolved within 15 days each quarter.

Table 9: Customer Services performance exceptions

Democratic Services

Since April, the Council has held its annual Community Awards event which was well attended by Members. A new chairman of the Council has also been elected. Training events held for Members include GDPR awareness, Waste Strategy, Corporate Plan development and discussions to determine and develop the Council's vision, mission and values. Work has also been undertaken to redesign the method of processing FOI requests. This has dramatically reduced the administrative burden associated with FOI processing and produced a more efficient system.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Member Satisfaction with training and development	90%	100%		

Table 10: Democratic Services performance exceptions

Development Management

Development Management have started the year with continued excellent performance. Targets have been significantly exceeded for all planning application fees, with non-major applications maintaining a 100% record. Appeals are also within target, with no appeals being allowed during the two months. The number of applications received still remains well above target with high volume received over both months. Income is below projected targets for period 1 due to a reduced number of major applications, high pre-application income reported in May.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income received	£83,282	£49,111	Reduced number of major applications	No financial pressures reported and performance is not expected to be below target by year end.
Received applications	230	259		
Major apps determined within target	70%	90%		
Non-majors determined within target	80%	100%		

Table 11: Development Management performance exceptions

Economic Development and Town Centre Management

- Development Partner – Muse Developments Ltd – approved to work with WLDC to deliver a number of regeneration schemes over the next 5-12 years;
- Business Plan for draw down of first £1.6m LEP funding (to support Gainsborough Growth) finalised and submitted to LEP for due diligence;
- Housing Infrastructure Fund – due diligence completed for £2.1m to support delivery of phase 1 of the Southern SUE;
- Townscape Heritage Bid for Gainsborough approved at stage 1;
- Saxilby workspace – exchange of contracts and construction due to commence next period;
- Commercial Loan Policy approved to support development and growth;
- Business Growth (NDR Relief) Policy approved to support business growth/delivery of new employment floorspace on Somerby Park and the FEZ;
- First shop-front and flat above completed on Market Street;
- Sun Hotel ‘Topping Out’ ceremony;
- Made in Gainsborough – funding strategy approved/support from Gainsborough Development Trust to deliver engineering and apprenticeship opportunities in Gainsborough
- Support for business continues via Lindsey Action Zone and Gainsborough Growth Fund, and via the Growth Hub

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enforcement

The focus within the enforcement work areas is on reducing the time taken to resolve requests, whilst at the same time ensuring that investigations are carried out effectively. Over 75 planning enforcement cases have been closed within this period, some of which have been open for a number of months, resulting in a higher than normal measure for April. This measure is expected to decrease as this approach continues to enable a true reflection of the service to be recorded. Selective Licensing continues to give successful outcomes in regards to prosecutions and the number of landlords being licensed is increasing as expected month to month. There is still generally a high level of demand across the enforcement services, which will continue to be monitored.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
% of landlords breaching selective licencing conditions	5%	1%	Minimal breach of conditions	Continue to monitor via compliance checks
Time taken to resolve a housing enforcement request	90	211.5	High number of complex cases	Continue to review and monitor
Time taken to resolve a planning enforcement request	150	300	79 cases closed during the period, including a number of long-term historic cases	Continue to focus on quicker case closure in line with revised policy
Open planning enforcement cases	120	134	Ongoing high demand within the work area	Continue to review and monitor caseload

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Number of open cases at month end	30	19		
% of licensed property in licensing area	85%	78%	License processing ongoing	Expected to be above target by year end

Table 12: Enforcement performance exceptions

Enterprise and Community Services

Our refreshed Community Grants Programme is open and running. This includes the continued deliver of the Councillor Initiative Fund and the Match Funding Grant. As of May 2018 we have received 2 new applications for match funding and received confirmations of match funding being secured from grant awards made in the last financial year. In this period a further 5 defibrillators have been installed as part of our Community Defibrillator Scheme. These have all been in rural village locations throughout the district. The scheme is continuing and further promotion is planned to take place during period 2. The Council is due to being providing land management services at Hemswell Cliff from 1st July 2018. Preparations have now been completed to begin providing the range of services required which will help the Council achieve positive outcomes as part of our Hemswell Cliff Strategy. Reporting figures for our Community Grants and Match Funding are produced quarterly. The figures for Quarter 1 shall be included within the P&D Period 2 reporting.

Garden Waste

The Garden Waste service has seen high levels of performance for the period. This is due to a successful engagement campaign that has seen a high number of residents signing up to the scheme. Sales and communications plans are being developed for year 2 to ensure continued high performance.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Subscription take up	50%	53%	Performance ahead of expectations due to successful resident engagement campaign and provision of value for money service	Year 2 comms and sales plans to be designed
Chargeable bins cumulative	21,651	23,420	Performance ahead of expectations due to successful resident engagement campaign and provision of value for money service	Year 2 comms and sales plans to be designed

Table 13: Garden Waste performance exceptions

Healthy District

May is the final year of the leisure contract. The contractor has been monitored well to ensure there is no slip in performance towards the end of the contract. Cost per user is on track and providing value for money and the numbers of new users are on target. Total throughput numbers for the leisure contract are a little lower than target but this is not unusual towards the summer months and is usually counterbalanced by usage ahead on target in the first few months of the new year. The new contract commenced on the 1st June 2018.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Customer satisfaction-leisure centres	90%	96%	No poor scores recorded	Continue to monitor
Cost of leisure management fee per user	£1.10	£0.85	This is the last month of the contract and performance is within tolerance.	The contract came to an end at the end of May and new targets will be set going forward.
New participants at WL Leisure Centres	400	467	A good range of activities and proactive marketing is attracting new customers	Continue to monitor

Table 14: Healthy District performance exceptions

Home Choices

The changes to legislation from April will mean that there is a greater emphasis on homeless prevention which should mean a reduction in temporary accommodation. Due to a lack of services for high needs clients we have had great difficulty in looking for move on accommodation for the cases we have dealt with. This has meant longer in accommodation than we would have liked. Earlier notification of these cases from agencies will assist towards preventing them from being in temporary accommodation earlier. The new system has some small teething problems but these are slowly being resolved. Issues will mean reporting may be delayed and extra training has been ordered to ensure all staff understand fully the functioning of the system as a whole.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Temp accommodation usage	6	15	A mixture of complex cases, evictions, rough sleeping and out of area referrals	Encourage providers to inform us of evictions earlier. A new reporting system is in place and staff training is underway to ensure the full functionality of the system is understood.
B&B nights	0	89	Complex cases that were difficult to move on from temporary accommodation meaning B&Bs had to be used	Encourage providers to inform us of evictions earlier. A new reporting system is in place and staff training is underway to ensure the full functionality of the system is understood.

Table 15: Home Choices performance exceptions

Housing

The revised Housing Assistance Policy has been agreed and will be implemented from July 2018. This will provide support to landlords, empty property owners and prospective buyers of empty properties. Alongside this the policy will enhance our discretion and provision in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants.

The overall number of empty properties is consistent and the focus within this work area is on compulsory purchase orders for those properties that are in the worst condition.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Average cost of DFGs	£4,000	£9,684	Large complex cases requiring greater grant payments	No action needed. Will not impact overall service delivery
Long-term empty properties brought back into use	25	3	Focus on more complex cases resulting in less activity across a wider number of properties	Continue with current approach and implement Housing Assistance Policy

Table 16: Housing performance exceptions

IT and Systems Development

Performance continues to remain on or above target in this area.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Incident & Problem Management	93%	107%		Pro-active and continuous monitoring being carried out
Change Management	93%	100%		Pro-active and continuous monitoring being carried out
Online customers signing up to self-service accounts	400	2,082		Pro-active and continuous monitoring being carried out
Electronic forms completed and submitted on the website	4,000	5,871		Pro-active and continuous monitoring being carried out

Table 17: IT and Systems Development performance exceptions

Licensing

Period 1 has started positively with income and the number of applications received exceeding the target set and 100% of applications made, have been processed within the agreed timescales.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Applications processed within target time	96%	100%		

Table 18: Licensing performance exceptions

Local Land Charges

On a positive note Land Charges has started this year's performance where it finished last year, by exceeding the target set for the amount of searches received and the time taken to process those applications. Market share is just 1% below target, unfortunately income received is below target compared to the same period last year, which is not unusual but will be monitored closely through monthly budget reports. The amount of searches received and their financial value is however driven by the property market and therefore to some extent beyond our control.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Income received	£19,566	£17,143	Timing of receipts causes underachievement in some months and overachievement in others	n/a
LLC searches received	386	440	This is determined by the property market and we expect it to even out by year end	n/a

Table 19: Local Land Charges performance exceptions

Markets

Gainsborough Market continues to underperform against targets, stall take up by traders has continued to decrease throughout period 1, this has mainly been down to adverse weather conditions and traders taking holidays, however there has been a small reduction of traders on both the Saturday and Tuesday market due to traders giving notice. A report recommending in-house led efficiency savings which would also allow the market to potentially grow was heard by Members in Dec 2017, no final decision was made, further clarity around options is required and further options are to be viewed.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Ave stalls on a Saturday	20	17	Market review and options appraisal currently underway. Low turn-out of traders due to adverse weather in April	Continue with market review and options appraisal
Average stalls on a Tuesday	60	41	As above	As above

Table 20: Markets performance exceptions

Regulatory Services

Customer satisfaction within these work areas continues to be high and will be monitored across the current performance year. An internal audit is currently underway within the work areas to ensure that the service is able to meet its statutory obligations and to review the consistency of approach and overall performance. There is an ongoing issue in regards to meeting the Food Standards Agency inspection target and this is expected to be recognised within the audit outcomes.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Nuisance complaints completed on time	90%	100%		
Food premises receiving a proactive inspection	60	43	Ability to meet FSA target affected by resources available	Continue to monitor
% of food premises rated 3* or above	94%	97%		

Table 21: Regulatory Services performance exceptions

Street Cleansing

Performance throughout the Street Cleansing service is within the parameters set at the beginning of the year despite some challenges.

Street cleansing costs per household for last year was £12.27, this was the second lowest of all the authorities benchmarked through APSE, this trend has continued through period one however there will be challenges with increasing wage rises and fuel costs.

The service continues to have strong links with communities, the Great British Spring Clean initiative helped increase the number of voluntary litter picks in April/May and has helped in keeping communities engaged in further community tidy ups.

Income generation is below target for period one, this is mainly due to a down turn in income generation work, business and marketing plans continue to be developed and reviewed to strengthen this area.

Weed spraying income is expected to increase for this year by 100% due to an increase in sprays to be completed, income expected is £17,000, this income should start to be seen in period two.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Volunteer litter picks	5	25	Increase due to promotion of the Great British Spring Clean and high participation of community tidy ups	

Table 22: Street Cleansing performance exceptions

Trinity Arts Centre

Trinity Arts Centre continued to trial new programming options, with the objective of expanding both demographic and geographic reach and increasing footfall. Although the introduction of Friday film matinees attracted a mixed response, it is anticipated that the Saturday matinees being introduced into the next season will prove more popular. A broader range of live programming has expanded the demographic of our customer base, with several hundred new customer addresses being added to our box office system during the spring season. Looking forward, our box office operation has been enhanced to introduce five and a half day opening, addressing the weakest link in the sales operation for the theatre. An attractive summer season with strength in its film programme, a strong community element to the live programme and a strong music programme needs to be supported by continued improvements in the marketing of the shows, with a particular focus on reaching out to a wider audience.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Cost of Trinity Arts Centre per user	£5.50	£4.16	Relatively unattractive film releases and a poor response to Friday matinees. Staff costs due to training new members of staff. Performance on target overall due to the effect of accruals for the previous year	July to Sept film releases look stronger, and matinees have been switched to Saturdays, and are expected to prove more popular.
Received Surplus	£7,000	£14,165	Increased number of events and improved online & email marketing.	Continue improvements and enhance the service offered by box office (enhanced opening hours start mid-June)
Audience Figures	1,800	3,048	Increased number of events and improved online & email marketing.	Continue improvements and enhance the service offered by box office (enhanced opening hours start mid-June)
Event Occupancy	55%	45%	Increased number of events increased footfall but reduced per event occupancy	Continue improvements to the marketing function.

Table 23: Trinity Arts Centre performance exceptions

Waste Collection

Performance throughout the Waste Collection service is within the parameters set at the beginning of the year despite some challenges. The recycling rate is 49.6%, which is lower than this time last year but was expected to drop due to the now chargeable green waste service (just under the 50% target). Residual waste collected has gone up slightly but many authorities are seeing a rise in this measure as residents have more disposable income, however West Lindsey's smaller than average residual bins probably encourages recycling. Missed collections are just above targets due to a new line of seasonal workers being introduced into the service. The cost of service is now £28.28 per household, which is around £20 cheaper than last year. Well under target but with rising wages and fuel costs still an excellent rate when benchmarked with others. Commercial Waste continues to outperform predictions in the Business Case and has brought in considerable income of over £20k per month.

Measure	Tar	P1	What is affecting performance?	What do we need to do to improve and by when?
Cost of service per household	£45.37	£28.28	Garden waste charge has led to a reduction in the cost per household	
Trade waste income	£38,000	£42,307	Interaction with crews on highlighting two not using the service	Marketing campaign
Missed collection within the SLA	95%	98%	Staffing levels	

Table 24: Waste Collection performance exceptions



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

17th July 2018

Revocation of West Lindsey District Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for Off Site Contributions For Affordable Housing Adopted March 2006 (2010 Tariff Update)

Report by:

Chief Operating Officer

Contact Officer:

Rachael Hughes

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Purpose / Summary:

To seek approval to revoke West Lindsey District Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for Off Site Contributions For Affordable Housing Adopted March 2006 (2010 Tariff Update)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Members:

1. Revoke the West Lindsey District Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for Off Site Contributions For Affordable Housing Adopted March 2006 (2010 Tariff Update)

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: n/a

Financial : FIN/75/19

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Staffing : This function will be administered using existing planning resource

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : n/a

Risk Assessment : See report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : none

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Link to the adopted Central Lincolnshire Supplementary Planning Document
<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/> (click on infrastructure and viability tab & see Developer Contributions SPD)

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Supplementary Planning Guidance for Off Site Contributions For Affordable Housing has been used by the Council as a guide for developers on the provision of Affordable Housing for over 10years. As such the guidance is out dated and doesn't reflect the current planning policy position.

2.0 Supplementary Planning Documents - Developer Contributions

- 2.1 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012 – 2036 was adopted in April 2017 by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee. One of the requirements following the adoption of the Local Plan was the development of a Central Lincolnshire Guide on Developer Contributions in the form of an Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/> (click on infrastructure and viability tab & see Developer Contributions SPD)
- 2.2 Supplementary Planning Documents should build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on the policies in the Local Plan but should not add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development
- 2.3 The new SPD provides guidance on the interpretation of a number of planning policies within the Local Plan including Education, Highways and Public Open Space.
- 2.4 There is also a section which provides up to date guidance on Affordable Housing, including recommended space standards for affordable units, guidance on likely tenure mix and triggers and phasing for delivery. The guidance also sets out in more detail when the Local Authority's will accept an off site contributions in lieu of on site provision of an affordable unit, known as commuted sums.
- 2.5 The new Supplementary Planning Document for Developer Contributions was formally adopted by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Committee on 25th June 2018. Thus superseding the previous Affordable Housing SPG from 2006.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 To avoid future confusion over current planning policy guidance it is necessary for West Lindsey District Council to formally revoke the Affordable Housing SPG.

Agenda Item 6f



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

17th July 2018

Subject: Appointment of Member Champions 2018/19 Civic Year

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

James Welbourn
Democratic and Civic Officer
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Purpose / Summary:

To appoint Member Champions for 2018/2019
Civic Year.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That those Members named at Section 1.5 of the report be appointed as Member Champions for 2018/19 and the information contained in section 2 be noted.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

In accordance with the constitution.

Financial : FIN-77-19-CC

At present no member champions are entitled to receive Special Responsibility Allowances. Any change to this position would require recommendation by the Remuneration Panel and approval of Full Council. Travel expenses can be claimed for Member Champion duties and any such claims will be contained within the current revenue budget.

Staffing :

None.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None arising from this report.

Risk Assessment :**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :****Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Member Champions Report – 20 March 2018 – Prosperous Communities

Member Champions Report – 17 April 2018 – Governance and Audit Committee

Call in and Urgency:**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Following changes to the Constitution, agreed by Council in May 17, the responsibility for appointing Champions sits within the remit of the relevant Policy Committee.
- 1.2 At the Prosperous Communities meeting on 6 June 2017 the committee asked that 'a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the role, purpose and positions held by Member Champions, in order that their future use could be better assessed'.
- 1.3 A review into the role of Member Champions was undertaken over the course of the last 12 months by officers. This work, and the feedback gained is documented in the report taken to Prosperous Communities Committee on March 20 2018.
- 1.4 Prosperous Communities agreed a series of recommendations at their meeting on March 20 2018. These were as follows:
- 1) **The number of Member Champions be reduced from the start of the 2018/19 civic year;**
 - 2) **To not nominate Member Champions for areas where a committee Chair or Vice-Chair already has responsibility from the start of the 2018/19 civic year;**
 - 3) **Updates from Member Champions to come every 6 months through the West Lindsey newsletter from the start of the 2018/19 civic year;**
 - 4) **Areas that Member Champions are responsible for to be reviewed again in May 2019; Member Champion roles to be determined for the first meeting(s) of the 2018/19 civic year for both Corporate Policy and Resources and Prosperous Communities;**
 - 5) **Members are asked to comment on the proposed job description attached at Appendix 4, and recommend its adoption to Governance and Audit committee (*this was agreed by Governance and Audit Committee in April 2018*).**
- 1.5 The following Members have been nominated for the following Member Champion roles that sit within the remit of the Prosperous Communities Committee:

Member Champion Role	Proposed Name
Heritage and Tourism	Paul Howitt-Cowan
Young People/Skills	Angela White
Transport	Lewis Strange
Safeguarding/Mental Health	Angela Lawrence
Neighbourhood Planning and Localism	Steve England
Armed Forces	Thomas Smith

2. Proposals

- 2.1 One of the recommendations above was for Member Champions to provide a report for the West Lindsey Newsletter every 6 months; the first of these reports will be due for the January 2019 newsletter;
- 2.2 The appointments above will run until the next Annual Council meeting in May 2019.
- 2.3 In addition to the recommendations listed above in section 1, the research suggested that a review of Member Champion roles should be carried out every two years from May 2019. Policy Chairs will continue to put forward Members to fill these positions, ideally, at the first policy meeting of the civic year.

Prosperous Communities Committee Work Plan

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of reports that are due on the Forward Plan over the next 12 months for the Prosperous Communities Committee.

Recommendation:

1. That members note the schedule of reports.

Prosperous Communities Committee			
Active/Closed	Active		
Date	Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of the report
11/09/2018	FEZ	Marina Di Salvatore	TO BE CONFIRMED
	Joint Working with ACIS - Japan Road	Eve Fawcett-Moralee	Recommendation 3 of the Japan Road paper that went to committee on 06/02/18 stated that a further report would be brought to the Committee in April with a proposed Business Plan of the JVCo and the financial investment implications for West Lindsey District Council.
	planning policy-scampton	Oliver Fytche-Taylor	Confirmation of the correct planning policy approach to planning applications in the former RAF Scampton.
	Caravan Site Licensing - Policy Review	Andy Gray	To amend the current policy in relation to Caravan Site Licensing.

	Gainsborough Living Over the Shop (LOTS) Grant	Elaine Poon	Following the success of the LOTS pilot carried out by Market Street Renewal, Officers recommend the scheme to be rolled out as a grant to encourage more residential dwellings and footfall within the Gainsborough Town Centre. The funding will be reclaimed from the GLLEP as part of WLDC's successful £4 million Single Local Growth Fund bid.
11/09/2018 Total			
23/10/2018	Market Rasen Car Parking Charges - 12month Review	Eve Fawcett-Moralee	To review the car parking charges in Market Rasen to come into effect April 2019, as resolved by Prosperous Communities in October 2017
	Future Communication Options	Julie Heath	to present alternative options for communication with the electorate as resolved by PC Cttee in October 2017
	Councillor Initiative Fund	Grant White	To present Members with an update on the Councillor Initiative Fund and give options for it's continued delivery after March 2019.
	Joint Muncipal Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire	Ady Selby	Following closure of the consultation period a decision will be required on the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy.
	Fees and Charges 2019-20	Tracey Bircumshaw	To review the proposed Fees and Charges 2019-20 for Prosperous Communities Committee
	South West Ward Waste Collections Review Scope	Ady Selby	For Members to approve the scope for review of the waste collection service in the South West Ward of Gainsborough and associated consultation strategy
23/10/2018 Total			
04/12/2018	Public Realm Task & Finish Group	Grant White	Final report to scrutinise the effectiveness of the services offered by public agencies in maintaining the rural public realm.

	Selective Licensing 12 month review	Andy Gray	to provide a further update re progress achievement issues, as resolved by PC Cttee in October 2017
	Report on Housing Company	Eve Fawcett-Moralee	Matters arising from Full Council requested a paper to go to prosperous Communities, arising from a motion. EFM has now confirmed the aim will be for this to go by December 18, ahead of Full Council 19.
	P&D Period 2 Report 2018/19	Mark Sturgess	To consider the Progress and Delivery report for period 2 2018/19
	establishment of a strategic health partnership	Phil Taylor	to establish a strategic health partnership for West Lindsey
	Broadband Options	Ian Knowles	Follow up report following the resolutions made by the PC Committee at its meeting on 5 June 18
04/12/2018 Total			
29/01/2019	Base Budget 19/20	Tracey Bircumshaw	To set the budget for 2019/20
29/01/2019 Total			
19/03/2019	P&D Period 3 Report 2018/19	Mark Sturgess	To consider the Progress and Delivery report for period 3 of 2018/19
19/03/2019 Total			
Grand Total			