

**REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE**

**Date: 04<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**TOPIC: ADOPTION OF THE NORTH DEVON COAST AREAS OF  
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB) -  
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2024**

**REPORT BY: LANDSCAPE & COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek formal adoption of the statutory North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan 2019-2024.
- 1.2 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, Sections 89-90, require local authorities to review adopted and published management plans at intervals of not more than five years.
- 1.3 The Management Plan was adopted in January 2014 and its 5 year action plan is nearing completion. In the years since its adoption, priorities have changed and new issues are influencing the AONB.
- 1.4 At the request of relevant local authorities (North Devon Council, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council), the North Devon AONB Partnership has undertaken the 5 year statutory review of the current management plan on their behalf.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Management Plan 2014 -2019 for the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty be approved and adopted.

## **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To fulfil the Council's statutory duty to formally adopt a Management Plan for the North Devon Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## **4 REPORT**

- 4.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, Section 89, created a statutory responsibility on local authorities to prepare and publish a plan that formulates their policy for the management of their AONB and for carrying out of their functions in relation to it.
- 4.2 In the case of the North Devon Coast AONB this responsibility is shared between North Devon Council, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council.

- 4.3 Section 90 requires local authorities thereafter to review adopted and published AONB plans at intervals not more than five years.
- 4.4 The purpose of the management plan is;
- To provide a statutory plan that sets out the objectives and policies for the designated AONB
  - To identify the special qualities of the area that contribute to its natural beauty
  - To inform and influence the determination of planning applications and appeals as the plan is a 'material consideration' in the planning system
  - To inform public bodies how they can demonstrate compliance with their statutory duty to "have regard to" the AONB designation
  - To inform and engage local people, visitors and organisations with the AONB's purpose 'to conserve and enhance' through their actions to deliver the Management Plan objectives; and
  - To guide the work of the AONB Partnership and other local actors and organisations
- 4.5 It should be noted that the plan belongs to the all of the relevant local authorities and will be delivered by all partners and not just the AONB unit.
- 4.6 The plan will be of interest to the communities, parishes, residents, businesses, landowners and farmers, agencies, authorities, utilities, organisations and amenity groups operating within, or with an interest in, the area. In this sense, it is a shared strategy that has been influenced by, and will continue to be developed through extensive consultation and partnership working.
- 4.7 There will also be a separate Annual Delivery Plan produced by the AONB Partnership each year that reports on progress against the management plan and which sets more specific objectives for the following year.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional costs to North Devon Council other than the already identified core costs of the North Devon AONB covered by the Council's existing grant contribution of £16770 per year to the service. Costs of implementing the plan will involve contributions from a wide range of sources and the plan aims to offer added value to local partners.

## 6 CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Article and paragraph	Appendix and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?	A key decision?	In the Forward Plan?
	Appendix 4, Paragraph 17	No	No	No

## 7 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

## 8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Draft North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan 2019 is available at <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/about/management-plan-2019-2024>

## 9 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and officers.

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Executive Member: Councillor Cann

Author: Andrew Jones                      Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Reference: AONB Management Plan 2019-24