

DIRECTIONS FOR REVISION OF AONB PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Summary

This paper updates Partnership members on work by the Management Board to revise the Terms of Reference of the Partnership and of its sub-group the Management Board. The intention is to bring new draft documents to the next Partnership meeting in October for endorsement, before formal approval of the Terms of Reference is sought from both Councils.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note and comment on the activity to revise the Terms of Reference for the Partnership and Management Board.

Background

Following our meeting in London with Defra Minister Lord Gardiner on 21st March, the Partnership agreed in April through email correspondence the following:

- to put aside alternative independent options until the findings of the national review are known, and
- for the Management Board to look at possible refinements to the Partnership's current Terms of Reference, to bring as recommendations to the Partnership next meeting on 19th June, before seeking formal approval of these by both Councils.

The Management Board on 6th April agreed to form a sub-group to look at the Terms of Reference, made up of James Williamson, Tim Jenkins, John Long, Cecilia Motley and Hilary Claytonsmith, with Phil Holden in attendance. The sub-group met on 26th April and on 11th May, and reported back to the Management Board meeting of 22nd May.

Tim Jenkins had received advice from Shropshire Council's Legal team recommending a fuller revision of the Terms of Reference, since they currently include broader things about the AONB structure that go beyond strict terms for a Committee. Advice was also that the Terms of Reference for the Management Board should be in a separate document, which would be for the Partnership to approve and not the Councils. It was confirmed that, as a Joint Advisory Committee under the Local Government Act 1972, delegation by the Councils to the Partnership or Management Board of decision making powers on delivery is not possible. The second sub-group meeting considered a first draft of new Terms of Reference for the Partnership and for the Management Board (proposed to be re-named) which had been

prepared by Tim Jenkins and James Williamson. These were discussed further at the Management Board on 22nd July and it was agreed not to bring recommended drafts of new Terms of Reference to this June Partnership meeting, but instead to the October meeting after further work.

List of Background Papers Papers of the Management Board and sub-groups are available at http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/aonb-partnership/partnership/management-board-meetings/ .
Human Rights Act Appraisal The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.
Environmental Appraisal The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.
Risk Management Appraisal Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.
Community / Consultations Appraisal The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.
Appendices None