

RECOMMENDED REVISION OF AONB PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Summary

This paper brings forward the recommended new Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership from the Management Board.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to endorse the new Terms of Reference to go forward for formal approval by the two Councils, subject to any comments and amendments which may be agreed.

Background

The Management Board decided to lead the review of the Partnership's Terms of Reference process through a sub-group of 5 people which has met three times, along with discussion at several meetings of the Management Board itself. New draft Terms of Reference documents as a recommendation from the Management Board were circulated electronically to Partnership members for comments on 10th August and 7th September. They are now brought to the Partnership meeting for endorsement, before formal approval by the two local authorities is sought.

The main recommended changes in the new draft documents are as follows:

- The previous single document has been separated into:
 - Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership – which will be approved by the two Councils directly
 - Procedures of the Partnership
 - Terms of Reference for the Management Board (proposed to be renamed the Strategy & Performance Committee) – these will be approved by the AONB Partnership only
 - A structure diagram (to help clarity, which has no formal status)
- Background explanatory text which does not describe actual activity of the committees has been removed.
- The number of seats allocated to different membership categories is no longer specified, and the maximum number of seats is proposed to be raised from 41 to 45.

- It is proposed that the Management Board be renamed the Strategy & Performance Committee, and that this have amended functions and to have the ability to co-opt people who are not members of the AONB Partnership.
- The term of office for the Chair and Vice Chairs, and for appointments to the Partnership and the Strategy & Performance Committee is proposed to be raised from two to three years.

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/>.

The previous Terms of Reference are available at <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Partnership-Terms-of-Reference.pdf> (note that these were endorsed by the Partnership in November 2015 but did not progress to formal approval by the two Councils due to the restructuring initiated in 2016).

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

Appendix 1 Recommended new Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership

Appendix 2 Procedures of the AONB Partnership

Appendix 3 Recommended amended Terms of Reference for the Management Board – to become the Strategy & Performance Committee

Appendix 4 AONB Partnership structure diagram