



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 24 th November 2020	<u>Item</u> 7
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AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT, GREEN RECOVERY CHALLENGE FUND BIDS AND PARTNER ACTIVITY

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Summary

This agenda item provides an opportunity for partner updates on activity.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the information provided and contribute as appropriate.

Background

Management Plan

The five year AONB Management Plan sets out actions which are delivered by a wide range of partners. In many cases this includes things which partners are already doing, while in some cases the Plan seeks new or extended activity or better co-ordination, to benefit the AONB. A first progress update on the current Management Plan has been prepared and is given at Appendix 1. If any members wish to add to or amend this progress update, information will be gratefully received, and then the update will be published.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund

In September and October bids were invited to the Government's £40m Green Recovery Challenge Fund managed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is understood that bids have far exceeded the available funding – being at least 7 times oversubscribed. Some applicants have recently been told they have been unsuccessful. The one stage application process for grants of less than £250k is ahead in time of the two stage process for larger grants. The NAAONB's expression of interest for a nature recovery project involving an officer for each AONB team was unfortunately not successful. Bids for projects operating within the AONB of which we are aware that have not yet been decided include:

- Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership bid on peatlands, working with Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- National Trust bid for Stepping Stones project
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust bid for work on Trust nature reserves.

If there are any other bids still current within the AONB which members are aware of, it would be useful to share information on these.

The timescale for delivery of the projects under this fund is up to 31st March 2022.

Partner updates

Verbal partner updates can be given at the meeting as time allows. If members wish to give an update it would be helpful to know this in advance.

List of Background Papers None
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 Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan Actions Progress Report October 2020