



## **NATIONAL LANDSCAPES ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

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### **Summary**

This paper provided updates on various aspects of activity by the National Landscapes Association.

### **Recommendation**

The Partnership is recommended to note and comment on the information provided.

### **Background**

The National Landscapes Association (formerly National Association for AONBs) has significantly expanded its staff team over the last couple of years, partly through undertaking work on behalf of the Protected Landscapes Partnership, which has funding from Defra. The Association provides a very effective co-ordination and advocacy role for National Landscapes and works closely with Defra as a trusted partner.

#### Policy and advocacy

The recent National Landscape Lead Officers (managers) meeting in Birmingham identified the following areas for working up into key priorities for policy and advocacy work by the Association:

- Long term core funding – making the case
- Input to emerging guidance on the new duty to ‘further the purpose’
- What’s next after FiPL? – including role of National Landscape teams in ELMS
- Targets and Outcomes Framework - link to resourcing

#### Green Finance

A new 3 person team for the Association is looking at opportunities across the National Landscapes family for applications of green finance, and looking specifically for three pilot projects to take forward. They are visiting all National Landscapes and we recently had a useful discussion with them on four potential topics – trees & woodland, peat, biodiversity and water. All these are relevant to our area and will continue to be worked on, but there were no quick-win projects in our area identified as suitable for the pilots.

#### Rebranding

This has generally gone well and been well received. It is now working through more areas of documents, materials, etc and through support to partners to make the change.

### Nature Recovery

The Association employs a Nature Recovery Co-ordinator who is working with teams to support nature recovery aspects of management planning and involvement by teams in Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

### Arts

The Association has been awarded Arts Council funding for a nationally significant project 'Nature Calling' until the end of 2025. The project will include commissioning creative writing inspired by the landscapes of the 'hub' locations, which have been chosen for their proximity to target populations. In addition, local arts producers will be engaged to work with under-represented communities to co-create works inspired by these written pieces. We are considering the extent to which we may get involved in this.

### Collaboration structure

The Association is developing a collaboration structure across local teams based on a number of topic-themed Communities of Practice supported by Panels and Champions. Phil is part of the Climate & Nature Panel.

### Training and development

A detailed report has been prepared on future skill needs for members of National Landscape teams, based on a survey of existing staff. A learning framework is set out based on the priorities of: access to up-to-date information, training on role-specific skills, support for positive and inclusive behaviours, and spaces to share experience with peers, all supported by an overall commitment to foster and resource ongoing learning and development.

### Generation Green 2

The Association is part of a coalition of organisations hoping to be awarded government funding to deliver a new programme of countryside activities for young people who don't normally have the opportunity to do these. We are exploring possible involvement in this.

### National Conference 2024

The National Landscapes Conference is being held this year from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July at Harper Adams University, co-hosted by ourselves, Cannock Chase and Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscapes. The conference's theme is "Changing Landscapes: Changing Minds" and will be focusing on two questions:

- What role is there for natural beauty and landscape designation in ever-changing landscapes?
- What are the different ways of working and resilience needed if natural beauty is to prevail in the contested debate on the value and use of land and sea?

As the Shropshire Hills team we are putting on three field visits on the Thursday: on the Clun catchment, FiPL in the Clee Hills and sustainable tourism in the Long Mynd – Stiperstones area.

**List of Background Papers**

Further information on the National Association at <https://national-landscapes.org.uk/about> and <https://national-landscapes.org.uk/our-work>.

Further information about the national conference at <https://www.national-landscapes-conference.org.uk/>.

**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