

Report to: **Council**

Date: **21 February 2019**

Title: **South Devon AONB Management Plan Review 2019-2024 final draft**

Portfolio Area: **Customer First**

Wards Affected: **Allington and Strete; Blackawton and Stoke Fleming; Charterlands; Dartmouth and East Dart; Ermington and Ugborough; Loddiswell and Aveton Gifford; Kingsbridge; Marldon and Littlehempston; Newton and Yealmpton; Salcombe and Thurlestone; South Brent; Stokenham; Wembury and Brixton; and West Dart.**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Urgent Decision: **Y** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately

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Recommendations:

That the Council:

- 1. Notes the content of the Final Draft of the Management Plan following the formal consultation exercise; and**
- 2. Confirms adoption of the final Management Plan for 2019-2024.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report presents the final South Devon AONB Management Plan to Council for adoption prior to submission to DEFRA before March 31st 2019.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), it is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce Management Plans for AONBs in their area, and to review adopted plans at periods of not more than five years.

- 2.2 The District Council as well as the three other relevant Local Authorities has delegated the authority to review and implement the South Devon AONB Management Plan for the next five years to the SD AONB team. The reviewed Management Plan must be sent to the Secretary of State by 31st March 2019.
- 2.3 A light touch approach has been taken to the review, adopting commonality between the format and structure between AONBs, with a view to reflecting changes in the statutory and legislative background, changing circumstances and resources, new knowledge and agendas, and lessons learned from implementation of previous Plans.

3 The Final Draft of the Management Plan

- 3.1 The draft Management Plan was subject to formal consultation with the AONB partnership, statutory (namely Natural England and the Environment Agency) and local authorities and through the online public consultation and eight public consultation events throughout the AONB. Consultation responses have been recorded, assessed, cross referenced with the plan and necessary amendments have been made and reflected in the final draft of the Management Plan.
- 3.1 The Final Draft of the Management Plan adopts the common format and structure agreed for all the reviewed AONB Management Plans with strategic themes for 'Place, People and Working together'.
- 3.2 As is required through legislation, Habitats Regulations and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screenings have been undertaken of the final draft of the Management Plan. The Habitats Regulations screening concluding that the Management Plan will not have any likely significant effect on any European Site, and the SEA screening concluding that a full SEA was not required because the Management Plan demonstrated little deviation from its 2014-19 iteration – the previous iteration having been subject to full SEA and therefore the current revision is considered unlikely to display further significant environmental effects.
- 3.3 The final draft of the Management Plan will be presented to the other Unitary, City and County Councils in February 2019 for adoption with a view to sending the new Management Plan to the Secretary of State in March 2019.

4 Proposed Way Forward

- 4.1 The CoP Lead for Place Making was given delegated authority by Full Council on the 27 September 2018 to agree the final content of the formal Council response to the Consultation Draft of the Management Plan.
- 4.2 Officers have assisted the SDAONB team with a review of consultation responses as appropriate during December 2018. The final Management

Plan has been amended following the formal consultation and has been presented to the SDAONB Executive and Partnership Committee.

- 4.3 It was agreed that the final Management Plan would be presented to the Council in February 2019 for adoption, and will follow due procedure at the other relevant Local Authorities, with a view to sending the new Management Plan to the Secretary of State in March 2019.

5 Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal / Governance	Y	Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act, 2000) sets out the statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce Management Plans for AONBs in their area, and to review adopted plans at periods of not more than five years. The Council (as well as other constituent Local Authorities – these Devon County Council Plymouth CC and Torbay Council. SHDC has delegated the authority of reviewing the Management Plan to the SD AONB team.
Financial	Y	<p>The Council's 2019-20 budget proposals include an annual contribution of £20,749 for core funding of the SD AONB, which along with constituent Local Authority contributions amounts to 25% of the budget, a further 75% being provided by Defra.</p> <p>This contribution enables the current core costs of the AONB team to be met including the production of the AONB Management Plan. Delivery of the AONB Management Plan is mainly achieved through project activity and whilst the Council currently made a £9,700 in year contribution toward these costs the Council's budget proposals for 2019-20 reduce project funding to £0.</p>
Risk	Y	Failure to publish a plan and submit to the Secretary of State by end of March 2019 would result in the Council failing to meet the statutory duty set out in Section 89 of the CRoW Act.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	No direct implications.
Safeguarding	N	No direct implications.

Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	Y	No direct implications.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	No direct implications.
Other implications	N	No direct implications.

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Final draft of South Devon AONB Management Plan

Background Documents:

Habitats Regulations Assessment; and Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report.