MEETING OF

THE COTSWOLDS CONSERVATION BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE CONSERVATION BOARD OFFICES, NORTHLEACH

THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   |  Chairman - Liz Eyre |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| David BroadNigel Colston (until 1.10 p.m.)Mike Dean George Lambrick | Ed Macalister-SmithTony MerryMartin Veal  |

Apologies:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brendan McCarthy | David Thackray |

Also in Attendance:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mark ConnellyMartin LaneJohn MillsSimon SmithJames Webb | Land Management OfficerDirectorPlanning and Landscape OfficerProject Development and Business Planning OfficerLEADER Programme Manager |

E 4.1 INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

 The Chairman and Land Management Officer informed the Committee of notification received the previous day in that the Board’s Bid to the Esme Fairbairn Foundation and the Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands had been successful. The Land Management Officer explained that £211,000 of funding had been secured and that, whilst there was no specific start date for the project, the funding was not time restricted, which would enable the Board to undertake some commercial work in regards to the project.

E 4.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

E 4.3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

E 4.4 MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 19th July 2018 be approved as a correct record.**

E 4.5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

 The Executive Committee received the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 28th June 2018.

E 4.6 REVISED NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

Summary:

 To consider an update on the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), focusing on the extent to which the Board’s NPPF consultation comments had been addressed.

 Key Considerations:

 (i) The NPPF Government guidance.

 (ii) The Board’s Consultation comments.

 (iii) The operation progress as detailed within the Board’s Revised Consultation comments.

**Decision(s):**

**RESOLVED that:**

**(a) the report be noted;**

 **(b) it be noted by the Executive Committee that the Planning and Landscape Officer will continue to engage further with local authorities in regards to the Consultation.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

The Committee was mindful of the benefits that the comments presented in relation to the Board to interested parties.

E4.7 MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-2023 ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION

Summary:

To consider consultation responses incorporated into the Management Plan; and Plan adoption by the Executive Committee (as delegated by the Board on 28th June 2018).

Key Consideration(s):

1. The current status of the Plan.
2. The proposed changes to the Plan.

(iii) The next steps for the Plan.

(iii) The responses provided to the questions posed in the Management Plan / SEA / HRA consultation.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that:**

 **(a) progress on the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 be noted;**

 **(b) the proposed changes to the Management Plan be endorsed, including the revised wording ‘Promotion of the case for the Cotswolds being England’s next National Park’ in regards to Mission 4 of the Plan;**

 **(c) the Management Plan be adopted.**

Reason for Decision(s):

 To enable the Management Plan to be finalised and completed, as a legal requirement of the Board.

 Notes:

 (i) Mr. Lambrick wished it be recorded that he did not support the above amendment to Mission 4.

 (ii) The Chairman wished it also be recorded that she abstained from the vote in favour of adopting the change, owing to her position within the Board.

E 4.8 REFRESHED BUSINESS PLAN Q1 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Summary:

 To review progress in Quarter 1 of the financial year 2018/19 using refreshed financial information.

 Key Consideration(s):

 (i) The issues regarding recent turnover of Board Officers and consequent restrictions on on-line payments.

 (ii) An unplanned invoice in regards to installation of a fire alarm system at The Old Prison.

 Action(s) arising:

 The Quarter 2 Financial Review be presented in conjunction with a paper from Officers regarding the Board’s Reserves Policy.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

Reason for Decision(s):

 The Committee was mindful of the recent pressures in relation to this item and of the progress made to date.

E 4.9 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2022

Summary:

 To invite discussion and comment on the 2019-22 summary work programme.

 Key Consideration(s):

(i) Progress to date.

(ii) The results of an Officer workshop on 24th August 2018 regarding the work programme.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that:**

 **(a) comments on the 2019-2022 summary work programme be noted alongside any further comments made before the deadline of 5th October 2018;**

 **(b) Executive Committee Members be requested to advise the relevant Officer(s) of any emissions/errors within the Plan by the above deadline.**

Reason for Decision(s):

 The Committee was mindful of the time pressures in relation to the Plan and the necessary work prior to the deadline.

E 4.10 NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL UPDATE AND NATIONAL REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Summary:

 A progress review on the exploration of the merits for a Cotswolds National Park.

 Key Consideration(s):

 (i) The Board’s resume of activity since March 2018

 (ii) Evaluation Framework for Natural Beauty Criterion

 (iii) Evaluation Framework for Recreation Criterion.

 Action(s) arising:

 The Director be requested to recirculate information in regards to the difference in status between AONB and National Park status.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that progress, overall reactions and interest in the idea of a Cotswolds National Park be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The Committee was mindful of the growing public interest for the arguments for and against the creation of a Cotswolds National Park.

E 4.11 A417 MISSING LINK PROPOSAL UPDATE

Summary:

 To consider an update on the identification of options for the A417 Missing Link.

 Key Consideration(s):

 (i) Board’s formal response to Highways England Consultation on route options.

 (ii) The results of the Strategic Stakeholder Group Meeting of June 2018.

 (iii) The results of the Stakeholder Panel and Landscape, Environmental and Heritage Technical Working Group.

 (iv) The results of the Board Chairman’s interview with an Independent Assurance Review Panel in June 2018.

 (v) The subsequent timetable of works.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the progress report be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The update provided was for noting only.

 Note:

 The Director, on behalf of the Committee, wished to extend his thanks to Mr. Lambrick for his work in connection to the report and in connection with the Board’s professional partners.

E 4.12 DEFRA ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT TESTING AND TRIALS ADVISORY GROUP

Summary:

 The Board’s Land Management Officer had been invited by DEFRA to be a Member of the Environmental Land Management Testing and Trial Advisory Group.

 Key Consideration(s):

 The rationale behind the invitation to the Board’s Land Management Officer.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The report was for noting only.

E 4.13 LEADER PROGRAMME UPDATE

Summary:

 To consider an update on the progress of the LEADER Programme.

 Key Consideration(s):

 (i) To note the current issues facing the LEADER Programme.

 (ii) Information relating to closed and contracted projects of the Programme.

 Action(s) arising:

 The Executive Committee noted and requested the Director to act upon the current staffing issues in relation to the Programme.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the update report be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The update was for noting only.

E 4.14 TASK AND FINISH AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Summary:

 To consider a progress update on the Board’s Task and Finish and Working Groups.

 Key Consideration(s):

 Information in regards to the work of the Board’s Caring for the Cotswolds and Rural Skills Task and Finish Groups.

 **Decision(s)**:

 **RESOLVED that:**

 **(a) the progress update be noted;**

 **(b) responsibility for the Cotswolds National Park proposals rest with the Executive Committee and not a Board Task and Finish and Working Group.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The National Park proposals were considered too greater a responsibility for a Task and Finish Group alone.

E 4.15 DISCOVERY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Summary:

To consider an update on the Cotswolds Discovery Centre Partnership Board.

 Key Consideration(s):

 The previously undertaken and proposed actions in regards to the Discovery Centre.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the progress report be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 This item was for noting only.

E 4.16 EXTERNAL FUNDING BIDS SUMMARY

Summary:

To consider an update on progress in applying for external funding.

 Key Consideration(s):

 (i) The Summary of External Bids Appendices as previously requested by the Executive Committee

 (ii) The update on the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The item was for noting only.

E 4.17 BOARD SITE VISITS, BRIEFINGS AND WORKSHOPS ON 4TH OCTOBER 2018

Summary:

To consider the programme for the Board’s site visits and briefing on 4th October 2018.

 Key Consideration(s):

 To consider the programme for the events on 4th October 2018.

 Action(s) Arising:

 All Members to respond by Monday 24th September 2018 regarding their availability for the date or otherwise, and preference for either of the Site Visits.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the Programme be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 The item was for noting only.

E 4.18 AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 8TH NOVEMBER 2018

Summary:

To review the proposed Agenda for the Executive Committee Meeting of 8th November 2018.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the Agenda be noted.**

Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 This item was for noting only.

E 4.19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN 2017/18-2018/19

 Summary:

 To note the updated Executive Committee Forward Plan for 2017/18-2018/19.

 **Decision(s):**

 **RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.**

 Reason(s) for Decision(s):

 This item was for noting only.

E 4.20 OTHER BUSINESS

 There was no other business.

The Meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and closed at 1.15 p.m.

Chairman