

REVIEW OF THE BOARD'S POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION

Summary: To present an action plan for completing the review.

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Recommendation: That the Board approves the action plan to review its strategy and position statements relating to climate change.

Background

In October 2019 two Board Members wrote to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive requesting that:

In the light of the climate emergency the Board resolves to implement an immediate review of our land use guidelines and our policy on renewable energy to make it more accessible; and to report to the Board with recommendations by the summer of 2020.

Current Position and Aims

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report and UK Climate Projection (UKCP) figures in 2007 raised alarm and stressed urgency, prompting the Board to take action.

This led to the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy for the Cotswolds AONB in 2012, climate change being a core theme within the current and previous AONB Management Plans, the revision of the Renewable Energy Position Statement and the thorough revision of the Landscape Strategy and Guidelines to climate change proof our policies and guidance whilst delivering the purposes of the AONB and the Board.

The Board's current position and aims, with regard to climate change, are found within the following documents:

- Climate Change Strategy (2012)
- Energy Guide Position Statement (2014)
- Renewable Energy Position Statement (2014)
- Landscape Strategy and Guidelines (2016)
- Management Plan (2018-23)

In addition, earlier this year the National Association of AONBs published the 'Colchester Declaration 2019' (see Appendix A) which is significantly influenced by the Climate Emergency. One of the 'pledges' within the

declaration is that all AONBs should prepare a 'Nature Recovery Plan' by July 2020.

A review of the Board's current publications and the preparation of a Nature Recovery Plan for the Cotswolds AONB will require significant officer time and support.

Action Plan

It is the correct procedure of the Board's governance that all such recommendations/ proposals should, in the first instance, be considered by the Executive Committee. Therefore, the following plan is proposed:

- In light of the climate emergency, and the three recent reports since our Management Plan was published:
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - 2018
 - The State of Nature - 2019
 - NFU 'Achieving Net Zero' - 2019

the Board resolves to ask the Executive at its next meeting on 25 February 2020 to:

- Consider the need and implications of reviewing our strategy, guidelines and position statements as they relate to climate change.
- Identify which current work-streams should be stopped, delayed or downgraded to create capacity, or
- Identify where additional capacity could be acquired to carry out this work.
- Consider how the extensive work the Board has already done on renewable energy and climate change can be more fully accessible to the general public.
- Update, where required in light of recent reports and information, our strategy, guidelines and position statements.
- Maximise the skills of Board members to support officers in this important work.
- Report to the Board at its March 2020 meeting with recommendations and a timetable for work.