**DRAFT POSITION STATEMENT ON DARK SKIES AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHT**

AGENDA ITEM 9

**Summary:** To present a draft position statement on Dark Skies and Artificial Light for adoption.

**Recommendation: That, subject to any agreed amendments, the draft Dark Skies and Artificial Light Position Statement is adopted.**

**Officer Ref:** Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer (01451 862006) and

 George Lambrick, Board Member

**Background**

1. The Board considered a report on Dark Night Skies at its meeting on 6th December 2018 and resolved that a Position Statement on Dark Skies and Artificial Light is prepared for adoption. The draft for adoption is attached as **Appendix ’A’**.

2. It is intended to provide guidance specific to the Cotswolds AONB when resources become available but as an interim measure the draft position statement is supported by guidance on artificial lighting from the Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Commission for Dark Skies.

3. The Draft Position Statement was considered by the Executive Committee on 26th February 2019. Minor amendments were made and the draft recommended to the Board for adoption.

4. Following adoption by the Board, the position statement will be placed on the Board’s website and circulated to local authority partners, parish councils and parish meetings.

5. The Board currently has an adopted position statement on Tranquillity and Dark Skies[[1]](#footnote-1) which will become out of date and effectively cast tranquillity adrift. The new Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018 – 2023 has a much stronger policy and supporting text on tranquillity. Therefore a new tranquillity position statement is not needed to develop policy, but would be useful in expanding the explanation of ‘tranquillity’ and signpost interested parties to other supporting policy documents such as the National Planning Policy Framework and the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan. A draft Tranquillity Position Statement will be prepared for adoption by the Board on 25th June 2019.

**Supporting Paper(s):**

**Appendix ‘A’ – Draft Position Statement on Dark Skies and Artificial light**

1. https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/our-landscape/position-statements-2/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)