**NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL UPDATE AND NATIONAL REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

**Summary:** The outline response to the Glover Review of National Parks and AONBs and the draft Position Statement for a Cotswolds National Park.

**Recommendations:**

**(a) To review and endorse the outline response to the Glover Review of National Parks and AONBs;**

**(b) to review and recommend the draft Cotswolds National Park Position Statement for adoption by the Conservation Board and for subsequent submission to the Glover Review.**

**Officer Ref:** Martin Lane, Director (01451 862005)

**Glover Review of National Parks and AONBs**

1. The background and remit of the Glover review have been highlighted and discussed previously, along with the early visit from two Advisory Panel members in mid August.
2. The Review has called for evidence from 20th October, with a deadline of 18th December.
3. The Review invites responses to a series of questions and advises that responses are limited to 500 words per questions. The main questions are detailed in Appendix A and the initial draft headline response per question is provided. Board members are invited to endorse and or amend the headline responses, which will then be developed in greater detail by staff for presentation to the full Board in December ahead of the 18th December deadline.
4. There is only one specific question concerning new designations or the potential for new National Parks. It is therefore envisaged that the Board would make a separate submission to the Glover Review focussed on the case promoting the Cotswolds as England’s next National Park.

**A Cotswolds National Park Position Statement**

1. At its September meeting the Executive Committee agreed the adoption of a new Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018 - 2023. It also agreed that one of the four Management Plan Ambitions should be; “To promote the case for the Cotswolds being designated as England’s next National Park” and to publish an associated Position Statement in 2018/19.
2. In mid October all Board members were issued with a draft Position Statement in order to help ensure that all members were up to date with discussions. The Position Statement and its potential appendices have evolved from earlier Executive and Board papers, in particular the discussion paper released after the March 2018 Board meeting.
3. The Draft Position Statement is attached at Appendix B. It is potentially supported by a series of appendices that outline the discussions to date and the promotion of the case for a National Park;

* Cotswolds National Park discussion timeline
* A one page resume of the case for a Cotswolds National Park
* Cotswolds National Park Evaluation of Natural Beauty Criterion – a table that the Board was asked to complete by Natural England
* Cotswolds National Park Evaluation of Recreation Criterion – a table that the Board was asked to complete by Natural England
* Frequently Asked Questions, FAQs

1. The existing National Park family does not easily provide evidence of life before compared to life after Park designation. The evidence trail is therefore not always as straight forward or clear cut as we might expect or like.
2. The attached are informed by a visit made by Tony Merry, Executive Committee member in mid October to the South Downs National Park Authority and discussions with their planning team.
3. The South Downs Park Authority has also agreed to host a visit from the Liz Eyre, Ed Macalister Smith, George Lambrick, Mark Connelly and Martin Lane on the 12th November, which will again inform the Position Statement and evidence base. This visit will not simply discuss National Park status, but also explore Dark Skies policy / practice and Highways England’s proposed improvements for the A27 and the associated consultation exercise. The visit will undoubtedly inform the draft Position Statement further.

**Supporting paper(s):**

**Appendix ‘A’ - Draft headline response to the Glover Review call for evidence**

**Appendix ‘B’ (i-vi) - Draft Cotswolds National Park Position Statement and appendices.**