**2019-22 BUSINESS PLAN**

AGENDA ITEM 12

**Summary:** To invite discussion and comment on the 2019-22 Business Plan programme.

**Recommendation:**

**That comments on the 2019-22 Business Plan be invited both at the meeting and before the deadline of 14th December 2018.**

**Officer Ref:** Simon Smith, Project Development and Business Planning Officer (01451 862000)

**Background**

Progress to date

1. Following the adoption of the 2018-23 management plan a detailed comparison of the policy sub-paragraphs within the management plan and the actions within the Board’s detailed work programme was undertaken. This has led to a reordering of both the work programme and budget lines within the business plan - see **Appendix A** - in order to accurately reflect the new management plan.
2. This exercise made it possible to produce a new summary work programme ordered with actions under the new Management Plan policies. Many actions support multiple policies so this was achieved by finding the best fit wording in the policy sub-paragraphs. At times this created alignments different from that to be expected by looking at the policy titles alone.
3. Suggested lead officers and Board members have been allocated to actions in the summary work programme. Board members are encouraged to comment on this aspect, particularly if they wish to put themselves forward as the lead member for an area of work.
4. There were few policies in the Management Plan with little or no action by the Board associated with them. Management Plan outcomes where the Board had relatively few actions were climate change, and natural capital and ecosystem services. This is in part due to their cross cutting nature. We are addressing these outcomes but largely through actions more directly associated with other outcomes such as rural land management. They are areas though which the Board may wish to consider addressing more directly.
5. Significant changes to the budget made from previous years include:
   * The removal of the Discovery Centre as it is currently subject to negotiations.
   * The annual review of the Rural Skills Programme’s activity and course structure and pricing.
   * The inclusion of the Glorious Grasslands Programme.
   * The ending of the LEADER programme resulting in a reduced programme during 2020/21 and programme closure at the end of March 2021.

The Discovery Centre and LEADER Programme both cease sharing their portion of central costs though this is in part made up by the Glorious Grasslands project starting to contribute towards its share of these costs.

1. The funding for Glorious Grasslands is up front mainly arriving in Q4 of the preceding financial year. This helps with reserves and cash flow. This is temporary as all of the funding will be spent over a three year period from February 2018 (bridging four financial years).

Next Steps

1. Following feedback from this meeting and further work by Officers a consultation draft will be circulated to funding partners throughout January.
2. The Executive Committee will then consider a post consultation draft in February before a final draft is taken to the Board in March for approval.
3. Officers are simultaneously continuing to work on the detailed work programme and corresponding detailed budget in conjunction with working and task and finish groups as appropriate. This will include a refresh of the apportionment of costs across management plan headings. The results of this work will continue to be fed into the plan through its various drafts.

**Supporting Papers:**

**Appendix ‘A’** - 2019-22 Business Plan Draft 2 (pre-consultation)