

TASK AND FINISH GROUPS AND WORKING GROUPS

Summary: A progress update on the Board's task and finish and working groups.

Recommendations:

- (a) To note the progress updates;**
- (b) each group to confirm who the group's Chairman or lead officer should be for the year ahead by the end of May 2019;**
- (c) to agree the remits for task and finish and working groups for 2019/20.**

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Background

1. The report below provides a summary of the work of the task and finish and working groups since the report submitted to the March 2019 Board meeting.
2. Each group should confirm who the group's Chairman or lead Officer should be for the year ahead by the end of May 2019.

Caring for the Cotswolds Task and Finish group

- Calls for funding applications closed on 5th April.
- Grant awards reported to Executive Committee in separate paper.
- Group has completed its remit.

Rural Skills Task & Finish Group.

- Last meeting held on 21st February 2019
- Development proposal for the programme and supporting information is due to be considered by the Executive Committee on 30th April.
- Group due to have completed its remit.

A417 Task & Finish Group

- Last meeting was 19th March 2019, sub meeting held 16th April 2019.
- Landscape and environment technical working met on 28th March 2019.
- Highways England (HE) aim to submit their Environmental Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 29 April. HE expects PINS to commence consultation on the report in early May; consultation period is for 28 days.
- Board, National Trust and Wildlife Trust still await reply from SoS at Defra after highlighting that the scheme is not applying policies or approaches outlined in Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.
- Board wrote to local MPs 25th March 2019 outlining comments in regard to Preferred Route Announcement
- Board wrote to HE 9th April 2019 highlighting a lack of response to earlier suggestions and ongoing concerns with the details of Option 30.

- Strategic Stakeholder Panel due to meet 2nd May 2019.

Dark Skies Task & Finish Group

- Group has completed its remit.

Walking & Exploring Working Group

- Last meeting held on 8th January 2019.
- No change since last report.
- Date of next meeting: 30th April 2019.

Planning & Infrastructure Working Group

- Last meeting held on 31st January 2019.
- No change since last report.
- Date of next meeting: 29th April 2019.

External Funding Working Group

- Last meeting held on 13th March 2019.
- No change since last report.
- Date of next meeting 13th June 2019.

Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands Working Group

- Inaugural meeting held on 28th March 2019 at Sherborne Estate
- Project has progressed rapidly, meeting with 45 farmers and 12 partner organisations lining up 12 donor sites and 30 recipient sites across the Cotswolds.
- Outline 3-year programme discussed. Additions agreed for draft 2.
- Agreed to charge from the outset for seed harvester and staff time.
- Need to establish branding for the project/service that will work for a self-financing service after the three years. Branding brief revised.
- Agreed to seek promotional opportunities across the range of media. Need to undertake a baseline survey to assess awareness of project.
- Accepted invitation to take part in Open Farm Sunday at Guiting Manor Farms on 6th June 2019.

Task & Finish and Working Group Remits

1. At its April 2018 Meeting the Executive Committee agreed the following remits for each task and finish and working group, which was endorsed by the June 2018 Board Meeting (below is an extract of remits from the full April 2018 paper).
2. The review of task and finish and working groups in February 2019 signalled that members believed the groups were delivering against their remits whilst officers considered some groups were not fully delivering their remits.
3. The review also identified potential new groups as follows: Natural capital of the AONB; Social, financial and health and wellbeing benefits of the AONB; Cultural capital of the AONB; Agri-environment; National Park planning; Governance & Finance; Relations with local authorities and other stakeholders; Tourism. In

doing so the review recognised the need to close groups down before establishing new groups.

4. The review also identified that Dark Skies could be established as a longer term working group if resources became available to develop this project.
5. It is suggested that the Executive review and refresh the remits for the task and finish and working groups for the year ahead. Much of the detail remains highly relevant to 2019/20.

Task and Finish Groups

Caring for the Cotswolds (Visitor Giving) task and finish group: stood down, completed remit January 2019.

Dark skies task and finish group: stood down, completed remit autumn 2018.

Rural skills task and finish group: due to complete its remit April 2019.

Working Groups

A417 Missing Link task and finish group: became working group from April 2019, due to longer term timescales required of the group

- Group remit:
 - To engage and contribute to Highway England's Steering Group, Value Management Workshops and Technical Working groups as appropriate;
 - To advance the agreed Vision, Design Principles, Objectives and Sub Objectives when considering any detailed route proposals;
 - To consider Highway England's response to the route options consultation and identification and advancement of a preferred route;

Planning and infrastructure working group

- Group remit for 2018/19:
 - To advise on the criteria used for determining when the Conservation Board should respond on planning and transport policy consultations and planning applications;
 - To advise on the Board's responses to consultations on:
 - National planning and transport policy,
 - local plans,
 - neighbourhood plans and
 - individual planning and transport applicationsensuring that the purposes of AONB designation and the purposes and duty of the Conservation Board are taken into full account and applied consistently across the AONB;
 - To review, propose updates to and promote the Board's Planning and Transport related Position Statements, in particular:
 - Neighbourhood Plans

- Renewable Energy
- Housing & Development
- Minerals and Waste Planning
- Development in the Setting of the AONB
- Affordable Housing
- Transport
- Telecommunications and Broadband
- Biodiversity and Planning;
- To identify the need for, draft and promote new Position Statements;
- To monitor the operation and need for planning accords with partner organisations;
- To monitor as appropriate compliance with Section 85 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000;
- To monitor as appropriate the overall impact of planning and transport development on the AONB.

Walking & exploring capital working group

- Group remit for 2018/19:
 - To develop a liaison and exchange network for the range of walking, riding and cycling trail promoters and managers across the AONB;
 - To seek to broaden the level of engagement and use of the access and enjoyment opportunities by younger (15 – 25 year) and urban audiences;
 - To establish a renewed and expanded Trails and Access Forum, strategically looking at access and enjoyment provision across the whole AONB;
 - To establish the Cotswolds Discoverer rail/bus pass on a firm financial footing and engage fully with private sector transport providers.

External funding working group

- Group remit for 2018/19:
 - To review and advance HLF proposals, two of which are currently being developed with existing stakeholder groups, with their Expressions of Interest due to be submitted by July / August;
 - To develop proposals for advancing the Board's approach to
 - running appeals and securing on line donations via its website and social media accounts
 - seeking investment for specific projects via crowd funding;
 - To consider the Board's approach to securing external funding to date and assess the officer time investment per funding approach compared to the success of securing funding.

Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands Working Group: established March 2019

- Group Remit:
 - To support the delivery of the Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands project and the establishment of the Cotswolds Meadows Service.
 - Support and monitor project progress against indicators and targets

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- To advise on the establishment of the Meadows Service as a self-financing operation.
- To provide an interface with the land managing community of the Cotswolds including farming, equine, conservation bodies and highway authorities.

Supporting Paper(s):

None.