

## PROGRESS OF THE REVIEW OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

**Summary:** To present an update on the progress of the Climate Change Strategy review

**Recommendations:**

1. That progress is noted
2. A steer is provided on ambition vs purpose of designation
3. That comments on the detail of the drafted Climate Change Strategy sections are submitted by email by 3 June

**Report by:** Mark Connelly, Land Management Lead

## INTRODUCTION

1. As part of the 2020/21 Business Plan and work programme, the Board agreed in March 2020 to set up a Climate Change Working Group to review the 2012 Climate Change Strategy.
2. The working group was established and first met on 25 June 2020. The current membership of the working group is:

Richard Lloyd (Chair)	CPRE Glos and former CCB Member
Norman Kay	CCB Board Member
John Matthews	CCB Board Member
Dom Morris	CCB Board Member
Ben Dent	CCB Board member
Chris Crookall-Fallon	Head of Climate Action, Cotswold District Council
Simon Smith	Nature Recovery Lead, CCB
Mark Connelly	Land Management Lead, CCB

Brendan Costelloe, Board Member, has had to step down due to work commitments as has Lucy Demery, Managing Director and Global Head of Fintech Banking at Standard Chartered, who provided economic input. Both, however, are copied in to all correspondence.

3. The remit of the working group is:
  - To review the Climate Change Strategy for the Cotswolds AONB
  - To understand how climate change is likely to impact on the ecosystem services and special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB.
  - Recommend to the Board any follow up review, where required, of relevant position statements and guidance
4. The original proposal was for the Board to adopt the new Climate Change Strategy in March 2021. This, however, has not proved possible due to competing demands and deadlines and the need for a reasonable period for consultation with stakeholders. The proposal now is to take a pre-consultation draft to the Board meeting in June, followed by consultation over the summer and adoption by the Board in October

2021. Adoption in October may provide the opportunity to launch the new Climate Change Strategy to coincide with the COP25 Conference in November.

5. The working group has drafted 12 themes, attached as a work in progress in Appendix 'A' and Appendix 'B'. Members of the Executive Committee are invited to comment on detail within the 12 themes, via email to [mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk) by Thursday 3 June. There is potential for a further theme on Community Resilience although this may be a better fit within the introduction and overarching section. There is also the need for a consistency check across all the drafted sections in terms of terminology, repetition and etc.
6. The introduction and overarching section has yet to be drafted. It is envisaged it will include:
  - Introduction to the AONB, purposes of designation, etc.
  - Overview of the UKCP18 figures
  - Purpose of the Climate Change Strategy
  - Overview of National Climate Change policy and targets
  - The challenge for the Cotswolds and tension with the purpose of AONB designation
  - Nature Based Solutions and their role
7. Appendices will be included as necessary, e.g. to explain the principles of regenerative agriculture.
8. Discussion within the working group has raised fundamental questions on which guidance from the Executive Committee is sought.
  - Bearing in mind the scale of climate change and the transformational change needed how ambitious should the Board be; should we accept adverse impacts/harm to the landscape and special qualities of the AONB and if so how much harm would be acceptable, or are we expecting measures to be delivered in a way that is compatible with the purpose of AONB designation? If so, what would our position be if these measures were not compatible with this purpose?
  - For example, should the Cotswolds AONB generate the electricity needs of its circa 58,000 households? For an all-electric future, including power, heat and electric vehicle charging the demand for domestic consumption only is approximately 545GWh per year.
  - This would require approximately:
    - 1,000ha (10km<sup>2</sup>) ground mounted PV
    - OR 230 wind turbines, hub height of 55m and blade tip height of 80m, or
    - OR 36 wind turbines, hub height of 150m and blade tip height of 250m
 Northleach, a town of around 2,000 households would need 39Ha of PV or 1.2 no. 250m to blade tip wind turbines or 8 no. 80m to blade tip wind turbines. Or do we not take this step for landscape reasons?

**SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- **Appendix A** – Work in progress – Landscape, Biodiversity, Historic Environment, Farming, Soils & Water and Woodland & Trees
- **Appendix B** – Work in Progress – Energy, Development, Transport, Economy, Health & Wellbeing and Access, Recreation & Tourism

May 2021