

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Summary:** To (1) provide a high level summary of activity since the last Board Meeting in March 2020 and (2) outline the key decisions/ discussions required from this Board Meeting.

**Recommendation:** That the Board notes the report

**Reviewed by the Executive Committee:** Yes / No

**If yes, the Committee's comments:** N/A

**Report by:** Andy Parsons - Chief Executive

**PRIORITY ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MEETING** (not recorded in other papers)

## 1. Team

- The overarching objective has been to ensure that the team have been able to continue working effectively during the Covid-19 lockdown. Mandy Pressland has led much of the work around IT, etc. to support everyone and to ensure communication channels are maintained.
- Weekly 'Ops Updates' have been taking place – an opportunity to catch up with colleagues, understand more about their workload and take part in a quiz!
- In addition, weekly 1-1s have taken place with all direct reports.
- The new employee appraisal system has gone live and all members of the team now have objectives (annual and quarterly) and a development plan.
- The Wardens have held regular meetings during the period, attended by myself and Becky Jones.

## 2. External Engagement (Chief Executive)

- 3 April and 14 May – attended Board meetings of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership.
- 3 April – had an introductory phone call with Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP.
- 21 April – met with Will Godfrey, Chief Executive of Bath and North East Somerset Council.
- 5 May – spoke with Sue Holden, a consultant working for Defra, about the Glover Review and, in particular, governance structures and the plan for a National Landscape Service.
- 7 May – met with Steve Gardner-Collins of Visit Gloucestershire to learn more about this new initiative.
- 21 May – with Mark Connelly, met with Ground Control (a large grounds maintenance and environmental company) to discuss possible partnership opportunities.
- 22 May – responded to Defra's request for information on what the Board is doing (and plans to do) in response to Glover and Covid-19.
- 4 June – with Ann Wyatt, met with a partner of Stone King LLP to discuss Intellectual Property and Trademarks for the new and existing brands/ logos.
- 4 June – with Alana Hopkins, attended the Strategic Cotswolds Tourism meeting.
- 12 June – Joined the Board as members of the Visitor Safety Group – [www.vscg.org](http://www.vscg.org)

- 15 June – met with Simon Geraghty, Leader of Worcestershire County Council.
- 15 June – represented the National Association of AONBs at a meeting hosted by Defra on Covid-19 Rural Recovery and Renewal.

### **OVERVIEW OF THIS BOARD MEETING – 24 June**

3. The key items of focus at this meeting are:
- *Year-End* – the formal approval of the Annual Governance Review and the Annual Accounts for 2019/20. Thank you to David Shelmerdine for overseeing the production of these papers and for fulfilling the role of Finance Officer on an interim basis.
  - *Annual Review* – we have set out to change the tone of the Annual Review so the thoughts of the Board would be appreciated.
  - *Sculpture Trail* – this proposal has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and feedback received. We are looking for the Board to support the trail, which will take place in 2021, and delegate final approval to the Executive Committee.
  - *Rebrand* – a really exciting piece of work and an opportunity for the Cotswolds to take forward one of the recommendations within the Landscapes Review. Our internal and external consultation is now largely complete.
  - *Impact of Covid-19* – the team has worked brilliantly to mitigate the financial and operational risks and challenges of Covid-19. There is a need to closely monitor an ever changing picture over the coming months to ensure we protect our reserves.
  - *Key Performance Indicators* – these will be introduced this year and will help to track performance against the Business Plan 2020-23.
  - *Environmental Land Management (ELM)* – an opportunity to learn more about the Board’s Test and Trial outcomes and to think about how the Board responds to Defra’s ELM Policy discussion.

### **SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- None

JUNE 2020