

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Summary: To propose that the Board creates a new Working Group focused on Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion

Recommendation: That the Board approves the proposal.

Reviewed by the Executive Committee: Yes / No

If yes, the Committee's comments: The Executive Committee recommended that the proposal should be presented to the Board for adoption.

Report by: Andy Parsons - Chief Executive

BACKGROUND

1. At the Board's Annual General Meeting a decision is made on what Working Groups are required for the next 12 months, focusing on the Board's strategic priorities. At the AGM in March 2020 the following groups were agreed and Board Members were nominated to work alongside the executive team:
 - Climate Change (Lead: Mark Connelly)
 - Fundraising (Lead: James Webb)
 - Planning and Infrastructure (Lead: John Mills)
 - Walking and Exploring (Lead: Rebecca Jones)
2. In addition, the Board also operates three Steering Groups, which focus on more time limited areas of our work:
 - A417 Missing Link (Lead: Andy Parsons)
 - Cotswolds Champions Rail Corridor Enhancement (Lead: Scott Brown)
 - Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands (Lead: Harvey Sherwood)
3. Recent discussions amongst Board Members have identified that we need to have a much stronger focus on the themes of health, wellbeing and social inclusion.
4. The need for this focus is clearly supported in the Landscapes Review:
 - Proposal 7 – *a stronger mission to connect all people with our national landscapes*
 - Proposal 9 – *new long term programmes to increase the ethnic diversity of visitors*
 - Proposal 10 – *landscapes that cater for and improve the nation's health and wellbeing*
5. At the same time, there is acknowledgement that, due to limited team resources, there isn't current capacity to create and operate an additional working group.

RECOMMENDATION

6. A new working group – Health, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion – is formed within the next 1-2 months and operating with clear Terms of Reference.
7. Board representation should be between 4-5 members.
8. As previously agreed, priority should be given to Board Members that do not currently sit on the Executive Committee. Although consideration must be given to ensuring the group has the relevant skills and experience.
9. Margaret Reid, Head Warden of the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens, has asked to be on this group. My recommendation is that this is approved.
10. In addition, the group should seek to invite external expertise to join the working group (no more than two people).
11. Ann Wyatt, Head of Finance, will be the Lead Officer for the new Working Group. Other team members will support the group when required, e.g. Trails, Access and Volunteer Lead; Communications Lead; Partnerships and Fundraising Lead; Nature Recovery Lead.
12. To maintain the current number of working groups (four) it is also recommended that the current work of the Walking and Exploring Working Group is covered by:
 - The Cotswolds Trails and Access Partnership (chaired by Ed Macalister-Smith)
 - The new working group (where appropriate)Therefore, the Walking and Exploring Working Group should cease to operate in the next 1-2 months.

NEXT STEPS

13. If the Board approves this proposal the Head of Finance will, within two weeks, email all Board Members inviting them to register their interest in joining the working group.
14. To help Board Members decide whether they would like to be involved, a high-level 'Purpose' will be drafted and sent out with the email. NB – more detailed 'terms of reference' will be agreed when the new group is formed.
15. A voting system may need to be used should the number of interested Members exceed the recommended number.