

MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 30

Summary: To seek the views of the Executive Committee on the 2025 – 2030 Management Plan.

Recommendations: That the Executive Committee comments on version 2.0 of the plan.

Report by: Simon Smith – Nature Recovery Lead

INTRODUCTION

1. The Board approved the production schedule for the 2025 – 2030 Management Plan in February 2024. In accordance with this schedule public sector partners have been consulted on an early draft. Comments received are being used to develop the next draft that will go to wider public consultation.

KEY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

2. On 25th June 2024 public sector stakeholders were invited to comment on an early draft of the plan. The deadline was set for the 9th August though extensions were granted and the final comments were received on the 28rd August. This invitation was sent to 84 contacts which included all the local authorities and their corresponding board members along with DEFRA, Natural England, Historic England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency.
3. Public sector stakeholders were also invited to a workshop on the 11th July 2024 where relevant CNL subject leads were available to discuss the plan. It was well attended with 35 people recorded as present. CNL officer feedback was that they felt it went well.
4. 14 sets of comments were received. 9 from local authorities which were collated from across multiple officers and one of them from across three authorities. Comments were also received from the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission. Three sets of comments were received internally, one from the Climate Change Committee and two from Officers.
5. The comments were compiled into a single document along with a concise narrative indicating if a change was made as a result of a comment and if not why not. This document runs to 49 pages which is a good indicator of the extent of engagement. A new version of the plan with any suggested changes resulting from this consultation highlighted in yellow is attached (Appendix A). This new version along with the compiled comments, prompts for further consideration and change decisions has been shared with team members leading on various

aspects of the plan. Any suggested changes are provisional subject to them being checked by relevant officers.

COMMON THEMES

6. Several common themes emerged from the comments being made, including:
 - Suggestions for revising the plan in the light of recent proposed changes to the NPPF particularly around renewable energy.
 - Comments around the relative strength and legal weight of the “seek to further” duty.
 - The climate action and water sections attracted the most comments reflecting wider priorities and concerns.

SEA HRA

7. The scoping report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been drafted and is currently with the statutory consultees. This is the most complex stage of the process. Work on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will follow the SEA.

NEXT STEPS

8. Following comments from the Executive Committee and a review of comments and changes by officers an updated version of the plan will go the Board in October 2024 and then onto wider consultation from late October through to early December 2024.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- Appendix A - Management Plan 2025 - 2030 V2.0

August 2024