

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary: To seek the views of the Board on the issues that will influence the 2023 – 2028 management plan and its production.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the 2023 – 2028 management plan’s revised production schedule.

Report by: Simon Smith – Nature Recovery Lead

INTRODUCTION

1. The current Cotswolds National Landscape management plan was adopted in September 2018. There is a legal requirement to review it and have an updated plan in place within five years (September 2023).

PROGRESS TO DATE

2. The extent and pace of change in both the real world and the resulting policy responses has been considerable in recent years. We have already undertaken a great deal of work developing our responses to these changes. An issues paper, Appendix ‘A’ summarises work that is likely to influence the plan, it considers:
 - National Guidance
 - National Policy Development
 - Cotswolds National Landscape Policy Development
 - Cotswolds National Landscape Forward Planning Day
 - Initial assessment of the 2018 – 2023 Management Plan
3. Some of the results from the forward planning day are in Appendix ‘B’. Additionally, outcomes identified for the Cotswolds at the workshop have now been ordered under the workshop’s main themes in Appendix ‘C’. This is both fascinating and provides an insight into our current thinking.

FEEDBACK FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4. The Executive Committee considered the production of the 2023 – 2028 management plan at its meeting of January 2022. Points made at the meeting included:
 - The extent and pace of change calls for a thorough review of the plan and we have already made a lot of progress in developing the relevant thinking.
 - There is a balance to strike between ensuring consensus, consulting with partners and producing a plan they can adopt, and demonstrating vision and leadership for the area.
 - An appropriate approach would be to undertake a review aiming for both a process and a plan that is short and focussed.

5. A revised production schedule, Appendix 'D' has been produced in response to these comments. It leads to the plan's adoption in February 2023 and proposes two full cycles of consultation but without additional workshops unless a need emerges. It is also better aligned with meetings of the Executive Committee and Board.

NEXT STEPS

6. In accordance with the new production schedule work will now commence on the first draft. Work will initially focus on two tasks:
 - A review of the plan's outcomes, structure and content in the light of the issues paper and the brief to produce a concise document.
 - An initial organisation wide review of management plan policies.
7. A steering group will be formed to support and guide the plan's production (see item 8d -Working and Steering Groups 2022/23).
8. The production of this plan is subject to a number of legal requirements including issuing formal notification to Natural England and local authorities. Subject to the extent of revision between plans it may also be necessary to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment. It is likely that they will be required in this case.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- Appendix A – Management Plan Issues Paper
- Appendix B – Planning Day Results
- Appendix C – Planning Day Outcomes
- Appendix D – Management Plan Timeline

February 2022