

## COTSWOLDS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

**Summary:** To receive the Draft Cotswolds National Landscape Climate Change Strategy for adoption by the Board

**Recommendation:** That, subject to any agreed amendments, the Climate Change Strategy is adopted.

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

### INTRODUCTION

1. The current Cotswolds AONB Climate Change Strategy was adopted in 2012 and its review agreed by the Board in 2020. The original timetable was for adoption of the revised Climate Change Strategy in 2021 but was delayed by the launch of the Farming in Protected Landscape programme.
2. To undertake the review, a Climate Change Working Group was established, first meeting in June 2020. The Working Group comprised of Board members and external experts.
3. The draft Climate Change Strategy was completed and circulated to key stakeholders and all CNL Board Members for comment in December 2021. The deadline for comments was 31 January. 14 responses were received including from four Board members and the Planning and Infrastructure Working Group. Following consultation, the draft has been revised and is attached as Appendix 'A' for adoption.
4. The Climate Change Strategy is for the Cotswolds National Landscape and identifies the CNL Board as a stakeholder where relevant. These are listed in Appendix 'B'. This includes *E11. Review and if necessary, revise CNL position statements and guidance on Renewable Energy and the Energy Guide*. The review of the Board's Position Statement on Renewable Energy is in the work programme for 2022/23. See agenda item 8C.
5. The next review is timed for ten years, following the next expected set of UK Climate Projections due in 2028/29 or earlier if there are significant changes to Government policy. However, the CNL Board has commissioned work to calculate the carbon baseline for the CNL and is in the process of recruiting a Net Zero Landscape Officer. The Government is also consulting on its response to the Landscapes (Glover) Review which includes a review of the role of protected landscapes in achieving the Governments net zero and nature recovery targets and the purpose of AONB Designation. Once the CNL carbon baseline is established, different combinations of mitigation and adaptation considered and the Government's response to the Landscape review confirmed, an early review of the Climate Change Strategy is likely to be required, possibly as early as 2023/24.

6. Following adoption, the Climate Change Strategy will be circulated to stakeholders and put on the CNL website. The strategy will provide guidance for the Management Plan review and inform the revision of Board Position Statements and guidance.

**Supporting papers:**

Appendix 'A' – Draft Cotswolds National Landscape Climate Change Strategy for adoption

Appendix 'B' – Strategies that identify the CNL Board as a stakeholder.