

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary: To present and discuss the first draft of the Management Plan for 2023-25.

Recommendation: That the draft plan is approved for the purposes of consultation.

Report by: Simon Smith – Nature Recovery Lead

INTRODUCTION

1. Following approval of the production timeline by the Board in June, formal notification of the review was sent to Defra and Natural England along with all 15 of the local authorities coincident with the National Landscape on the 28 June 2022.
2. On the same day, an invitation to make early comments on the policies within the plan was sent to local authorities, CNL Board Members and team members (including the voluntary wardens). This consultation ran to the 5th August 2022.

CONSULTATION TO DATE

3. The invitation to comment stressed that this review will be limited to updating and better expressing the Board's current position. Any changes representing a significant shift in the Board's current position will be held over for the full review for the period 2025-30.
4. The Executive Committee discussed a revised draft at its meeting on the 13th September 2022 with further revisions being suggested at the meeting and in writing afterwards.
5. Twenty-four written sets of comments were received from eighteen individuals, though several of the local authorities sent compiled comments from across their teams. Of these, twelve were from team members, seven were from local authorities, four were from CNL Board Members (one feeding back from the Climate Change Working Group) and one was from an NGO (one of the local authorities had shared it). There were additional conversations and meetings with team members and local authority officers.

REVISIONS TO DATE

6. Revisions to date are a result of comments received and an initial attempt to take into account policy development since the publication of the 2018-23 plan. A priority is to produce a plan which our local authority partners are happy to endorse. Some structural changes have also been made to remove duplication and streamline the document. Revisions include:
 - Removal of the ambitions
 - Updating the vision with the current one adopted in 2021
 - Updating the name to 'National Landscape'
 - Removal of the Ministerial Foreword. It has become dated and a new one will be sought for the 2025-30 plan
 - Replacement of the old Chairs Foreword with a new one
 - Reworking of the key issues to reflect the outcomes of the awayday held in July 2021
 - Rewording of the outcomes to create a more concise and exciting picture of the desired state of the Cotswolds and their inclusion within the Executive summary.

- Reworking of text relating to climate change to reflect the Climate Crisis Commitment (adopted November 2021), the Climate Change Strategy (adopted February 2022) and the initial results of the Carbon Footprint Assessment
 - Reworking of text relating to biodiversity and nature recovery to reflect the Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan (adopted October 2021)
 - Reworking of the policies relating to planning to account for the National Planning Practice Guidance (2019) and comments from local authorities
 - Inclusion of references to new position statements where relevant, namely:
 - Conserving and Celebrating Cultural Capital (2019)
 - Tranquillity (2019)
 - Dark Skies and Artificial Light (2019)
 - Housing (2021)
 - Landscape Led Development (2021)
 - References to the Landscapes Review (2019), particularly in connection with broadening engagement
7. The three overarching headings: cross cutting, conserving and enhancing and understanding and enjoyment have been given additional broad aims. This is in part to communicate them in a more exciting way but also to better illustrate alignment between the Management Plan and the Board’s Business Plan Framework 2023-26. The broad aims are based on corresponding outputs from the Business Plan Framework although the language has been revised slightly to reflect the broad partnership effort behind the Management Plan rather than the role of the Board on its own.

NEXT STEPS

- 8. Following this Board Meeting the plan will go out to consultation with stakeholders throughout late October and November in accordance with the approved timeline.
- 9. A standalone executive summary will also be produced following the consultation. This will be targeted at the wider Cotswolds community and will focus on the vision and outcomes rather than the policies.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- Appendix A - 2023–2025 Management Plan Consultation Draft

OCTOBER 2022