

CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary: To update the Executive Committee on progress to date in the preparation of a Climate Change Strategy for adoption by the CNL Board in February and on the Climate Crisis Commitment.

Recommendation: That the report is noted.

Report by: Mark Connelly, Land Management Lead and Andy Parsons, Chief Executive.

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

1. The Board was advised in October 2021 of the need to revise the schedule for adopting the CNL Climate Change Strategy. Progress had been delayed by the advent of Farming in Protected Landscapes and the need to consult on the draft Climate Change Strategy.

Progress to date:

2. The draft Climate Change Strategy was completed and sent for consultation in December 2021 with a deadline for comments of 31 January 2022, the week following the Executive Committee meeting. The draft was circulated to all CNL Board Members and stakeholders including all local authorities, NFU, CLA, Local Nature Partnerships and FWAG. All were asked to forward the consultation to others who may be interested.
3. The deadline of 31 January allows a week to prepare the final draft for the Board meeting on 22 February. At the time of writing, four responses have been received. The Executive Committee will be verbally updated on responses received by the meeting and, if needed, to provide a steer on any particularly challenging comments/suggested amendments.

CLIMATE CRISIS COMMITMENT

4. Through additional Defra funding for this current financial year, we have been able to secure £12,000 to complete the carbon baselining assessment of the Cotswolds National Landscape.
5. We will be working with a company called Small World Consulting to complete this work. They have completed similar assessments for some National Parks and currently have a schedule to complete assessments for the remaining National Parks and the Welsh AONBs.
6. As well as helping us to better understand our baseline position, thereby significantly improving our 'carbon literacy', Small World Consulting will also be putting forward suggestions for 'quick wins' and mid-long term targets for the CNL.

7. Recruitment for the funded role of 'Net Zero Landscape Officer' has been disappointing to date and we have therefore extended the deadline for applications to 31 January.
8. For the extended period we have paid to advertise in the Guardian and also used our local authority and Defra networks to promote the concept of a potential secondment.

Supporting Information - none

JANUARY 2022