



**REPORT FROM:** HOUSING, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGER

**TO:** EXECUTIVE

**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2018

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## **PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Members about the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme, and the areas of activity that the scheme will cover over the four year funding period.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the report.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To make Members aware of the scheme and how it can benefit the Pendle area.

### **Background**

1. The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team drew together a partnership of communities, landowners, creative agencies and Councils who decided that Pendle Hill would be a suitable landscape to benefit from a Landscape Partnership Scheme (Appendix 1 – Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Area)
2. Landscape Partnership schemes are Heritage Lottery funded programmes which aim to conserve and protect landscapes. Pendle Hill is a very iconic landscape, not only for the rural communities on the hill itself, but also for the neighbouring urban populations who have view of this landmark every day. The Hill also contains a rich heritage and an intriguing physical landscape, both of which are under threat of becoming lost and degraded.
3. A stage 1 bid was accepted in October 2015, after which a full final Stage 2 Development bid was submitted in September 2017. The Development of the programme included various consultants and partners researching and developing a range of different reports, all

of which helped finalise project details and ensure that local communities, businesses, individuals and the physical landscape fully benefit from the Landscape Partnership

4. Heritage Lottery Funding was approved in 2018. The total programme is estimated to cost £2.7m and the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership has secured £1.8m from Heritage Lottery Fund. The remaining £900,000 is being raised from partners including the AONB Partnership, statutory bodies like Natural England and Environment Agency, European Rural Development Programme funding, Landfill tax funds, local businesses and charitable trusts, and volunteer time. The programme will run for four years from April 2018.
5. This programme of activity looks to re-connect people with their landscape and their past, to safeguard the area's wildlife and heritage and to improve people's access to this popular countryside area.
6. The Landscape Partnership will do this by providing opportunities for training and volunteering; by supporting research and devising digital interpretation to inspire a new generation about our heritage; by restoring important landscape features, and by working with communities to re-tell the stories of radical Pendle people. This programme will increase pride in this special place and raise aspirations amongst communities, and it will bring in new investment to support the environment and the economy.
7. The Pendle Hill LP scheme has three themes:
  - To improve the **environment**
  - To build the local **economy**
  - To provide opportunity for **everyone** to get involved.

## Programme Activity

8. Over the four years the Landscape Partnership will deliver twelve projects across the three main themes, including:
9. Environment projects will include:
  - Repairing the network of dry stone walls and hedgerows that give the landscape its characteristic appearance, and offering training in these traditional rural skills
  - Surveying and managing special wildlife sites, linking these with farmland managed for biodiversity, and running a number of community wildlife activities
  - Managing existing woodlands and creating new woods for wildlife and to reduce the risk of downstream flooding. The project will also seek to eradicate invasive species such as Himalayan balsam in targeted areas.
  - Restoring the busy summit area of Pendle Hill itself by improving paths and renovating eroded peatland, and also creating a new dry stone built shelter for walkers
10. Economy projects will include:
  - Developing visitor hubs at established 'honeypots' using digital technology and traditional methods to inform people, to reduce pressure on over used sites and to reduce conflicts. The Partnerships also aims to improve access for all by repairing and promoting key routes
  - Offering apprenticeships for young people in traditional rural and heritage skills.

- Researching the value of Pendle Hill's 'ecosystem services', essentially calculating what the hill is worth, including its contribution to people's health and wellbeing
- Supporting tourism businesses to promote a sustainable destination and to work together with communities to welcome and inform visitors.

11. Projects providing opportunity for Everyone will include:

- Delivering community archaeology projects and heritage placements: investigating the Iron Age hill fort at Portfield and providing training to aspiring archaeologists to widen understanding and interest
- Creating a series of projects researching and creatively interpreting the Pendle Radicals: free thinkers and non-conformists who came from the area and left their mark in Pendle and in wider society
- Working with people experiencing mental health issues and social isolation, introducing them to the area, and building understanding and confidence to enable a wider range of people to access and enjoy the countryside
- Managing a Pendle Hill Fund to support community-led projects focusing on heritage, landscape and the environment, and generating income to the fund via Visitor Giving and sponsorship

**Project Delivery.**

12. The programme is managed by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board made up of local organisations, community and business representatives (Appendix 2 – Board Membership).
13. Lancashire County Council, via the AONB Unit will employ a small project delivery team who will be based in Clitheroe and work with the various communities and partners to deliver the activity.

**Pendle Council Involvement.**

14. Pendle Council Members and Officer will remain on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership board, which will help progress and shape the projects and how they are delivered across the four year funding period.
15. Although Pendle Council won't be directly delivering any of the twelve projects listed, the support and in kind contribution may be required in achieving the aims and objectives of the Action Plan. An officer from the Economic Development team sat on the steering/delivery group to assist in developing the Action Plan and will continue to work closely with the Landscape partnership Team throughout the project, linking with relevant Council departments/officers where appropriate.
16. The following paragraphs give examples of how the Council has assisted with Landscape Partnership so far, and how our in kind support can be pivotal at the project delivery stage.
17. During the development stage the Communications team worked with the Board to produce and design the 'Landscape Conservation Action Plan' which was a key element of securing the Heritage Lottery Funding. The Landscape Partnership Team may continue to need support in promoting their projects and events through our Communications and Tourism Teams.

18. A key element of the Landscape Partnership is engaging volunteers, during the development stage volunteers worked with the Countryside Access Officer to identify issues and replace footpath signage, improving access in and around Pendle Hill.
19. Part of the biodiversity project would like to look at Council owned land in Barley and would require close working relationship with our parks department who currently maintain the area. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnerships delivery partner will work closely with our teams to ensure both the needs of the project and the Council are met. This particular projects will Implement a management plan –example works may include:
- Manual removal of Himalayan Balsam
  - Cutting back of expanding areas of bramble scrub
  - Removal of non-native trees
  - Restoration of the hay meadow area
  - Planting native fruit trees
20. Further update reports will be submitted to the Executive throughout the four year funding period, outlining the progress made on the twelve main projects.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** none directly from this report

**Financial:** none directly from this report

**Legal:** none directly from this report

**Risk Management:** none directly from this report

**Health and Safety:** none directly from this report

**Sustainability:** none directly from this report

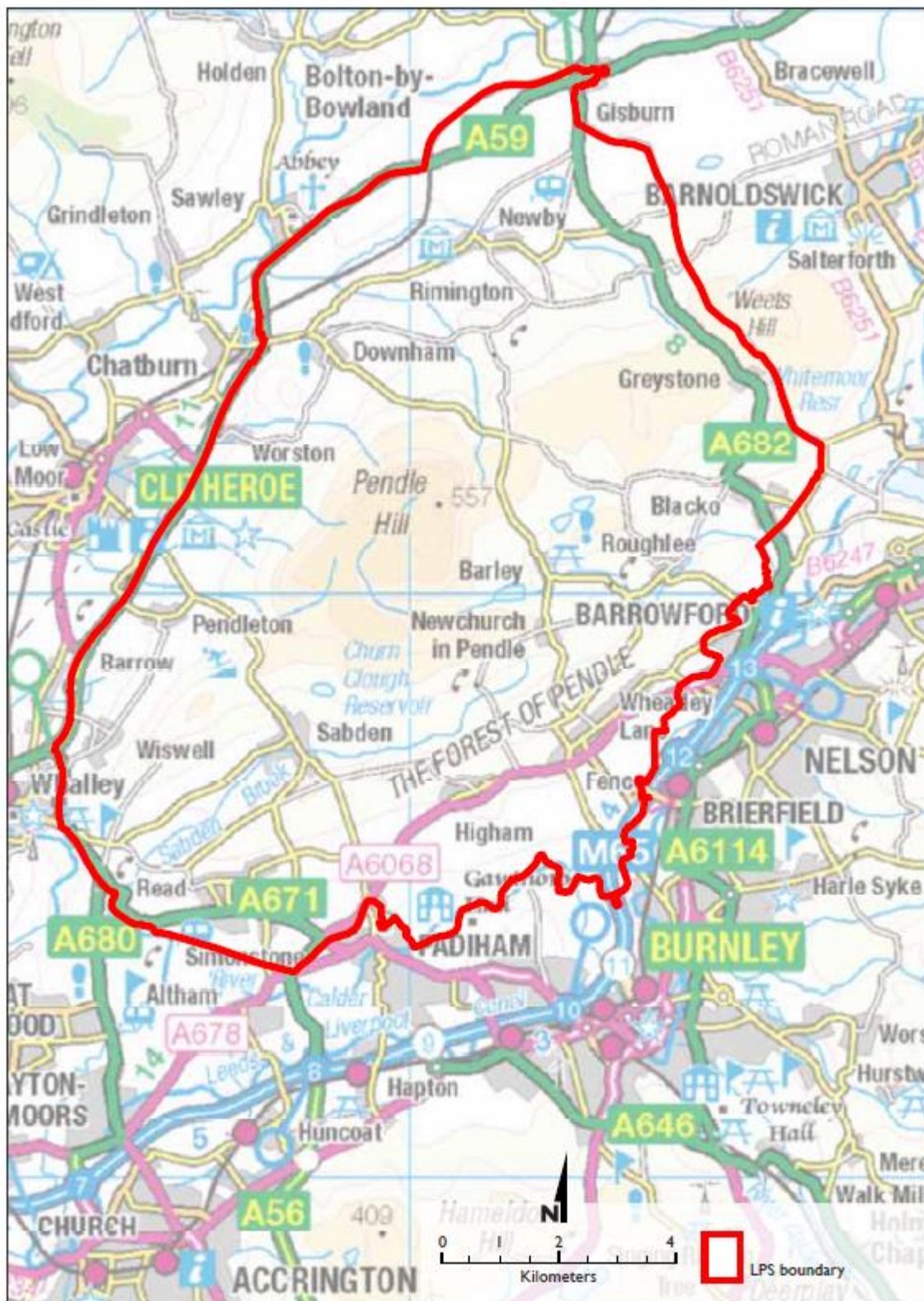
**Community Safety:** none directly from this report

**Equality and Diversity:** none directly from this report

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Area.

**Appendix 2** – Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board



## **Appendix 2 – Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board**

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| AONB                       | Cathy Hopley             |
| AONB                       | Elliott Lorimer          |
| AONB                       | Jayne Ashe               |
| AONB JAC                   | Cllr James Starkie       |
| Bowland Experience         | Margaret Wright          |
| Environment Agency         | Jackie Monk              |
| Farmers & commoners        | Mark Hartley             |
| Heritage Trust North West  | John Miller              |
| Lancashire County Council  | Christian Wakeford       |
| Land owner/manager         | Brian Rycroft            |
| Land owner/manager         | Ralph Assheton (Chair)   |
| Land owner/manager         | Helen Vickery            |
| Marketing Lancashire       | Justina Ma               |
| Pendle BC                  | Brian Newman (Pendle BC) |
| Pendle BC - Officer        | Paul Collins             |
| Pendle Parish              | Derek Heap (Barley)      |
| Pendle Parish              | Susan Nike (Barrowford)  |
| Ribble Valley Parish       | David Peat               |
| Ribble Valley BC           | Cllr Robert Thompson     |
| Ribble Valley BC - Officer | Dave Hewitt/Alex Shutt   |

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

For background information about the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area and the projects that will be happening the 'Landscape Conservation Action Plan' can be downloaded.

<http://www.forestofbowland.com/files/uploads/pdfs/PENDLE%20HILL%20LCAP%20web.pdf>