

REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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**FOREST OF BOWLAND AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
(AONB) MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2024**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the updated Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 be adopted.
- (2) That the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be delegated with the authority to agree any amendments to the management plan prior to publication.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To provide a strategic approach to the management of the AONB.
- (2) To conserve and enhance the landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB.

ISSUE

1. The requirement for all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's) to have a management plan was established with the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. It also requires that management plans are regularly updated and that local authorities are the responsible body for the production of the plans along with a long-term vision for the AONB.
2. The current management plan was developed by the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and approved in 2014. It provides a positive management framework for the partners to work towards the delivery of the visions and objectives of the AONB.

3. In October 2017 the Forest of Bowland AONB JAC agreed to carry out the review of the management plan on behalf of partner local authorities. Cllr. B. Newman is the Council's representative on the JAC. The JAC approved the draft management plan on the 1st March 2019 subject to the final recommendations of the associated Environmental Report.
4. The draft management plan has been subject to public consultation from November 2018 until January 2019. The final draft of the plan contains amendments made after the completion of the consultation period.
5. The final draft management plan (appendix 1) takes in to account the findings of the Environmental Report required to meet the statutory obligations relating to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations.
6. A screening report for Habitat Regulations Assessments has been completed and is currently with the appropriate authority (Natural England) for formal consultation.
7. A map showing the extent of the AONB in the Borough and the Parishes included in the designated area can be found in appendix 2
8. The management plan consists of three main themes. These are:
 - An outstanding Landscape for Natural and Cultural Heritage
 - Resilient and sustainable communities
 - A strong connection between people and landscape.
9. It is requested that delegation be granted to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager to agree any changes to the Management Plan that may be required before publication. It is expected that any changes will be minor and mainly editorial.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

ENV1 of the Local Plan makes reference to the management plan as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The management plan is also given weight in the Forest of Bowland AONB Supplementary Planning Guidance document.

Financial:

In 2019/20 the Council's contribution to the AONB Partnership is £6,800.

Legal:

The CROW Act 2000 establishes the statutory requirement that local authorities have an up to date management plan for AONB's.

Risk Management:

None

Health and Safety:

None

Sustainability:

The development of the management will ensure that a structured framework for the management of the AONB is in place. Many of the projects highlighted in the plan contribute to tackling climate change and protecting the much-valued landscapes, habitats and species of the AONB.

Community Safety:

None

Equality and Diversity:

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019-2024, Final Draft

Appendix 2 – Forest of Bowland AONB Map

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Forest of Bowland AONB Environmental Report](#)

[Forest of Bowland AONB Screening Report for Habitats Regulations Assessment](#)