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## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, 19th October, 2017 at 2.00 pm in Bolton-by-Bowland Village Hall,  
Main Street, Bolton-by-Bowland BB7 4NS**

### **Agenda**

#### **Schedule of Events**

10am	Arrival and refreshments at Bolton-by-Bowland Village Hall
10.30am	Depart for project site visits
12.45pm	Return to Village Hall
1pm	Lunch
2PM	MEETING
4pm	Finish

- 1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**
- 2. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Presentation on Pennine Peat LIFE Project, Dr Chris Miller**
- 4. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.
- 5. Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference** (Pages 1 - 4)

The Joint Advisory Committee is asked to approve the attached constitution, membership and terms of reference for 2017/18.
- 6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 April 2017** (Pages 5 - 10)

The Committee are asked to consider approving the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 20 April, 2017.

7. **AONB Partner Updates**
8. **Revised Estimates 2017/18 and Revenue Budget 2018/19** (Pages 11 - 16)
9. **AONB Unit Activity Report** (Pages 17 - 24)
10. **Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership update**  
Verbal Update.
11. **Management Plan Review - Outline Plan** (Pages 25 - 28)
12. **Any Other Business**
13. **Urgent Business**  
An item of Urgent Business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Members' intention to raise a matter under this heading.
14. **Date of Next Meeting**  
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 19 April 2018 in Lancaster, at a venue to be confirmed.

Samantha Gorton  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston

# Agenda Item 5

## **Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee 2017/18**

### **Issue for Consideration**

The Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee for 2017/18.

### **Information**

It is reported for the information of the Committee that the Constituent Authorities of the Advisory Committee have informed the Secretary of their representatives appointed to serve on the Committee for the year 2017/18. The Constitution and Membership of the Advisory Committee for 2017/18 is, therefore, as follows:-

#### **Lancashire County Council**

County Councillor A Atkinson  
County Councillor S Charles  
County Councillor S Turner

#### **North Yorkshire County Council**

County Councillor R Welch

#### **Craven District Council**

Councillor I Thompson

#### **Lancaster City Council**

Councillor J Parkinson

#### **Wyre Borough Council**

Councillor V Wilson

#### **Ribble Valley Borough Council**

Councillor Mrs R Elms

#### **Preston City Council**

Councillor J Browne

#### **Pendle Borough Council**

Councillor J Starkie

**Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

Mr M Helm

**Yorkshire Local Councils Association**

Mr C Price

**United Utilities**

Mr M Upton

**Environment Agency**

Ms H Dix

**Natural England**

Mr M Burke

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

Mr G Jones

**Bowland Land Managers' Forum**

Mr A Taylor

**Ramblers Association**

Mr D Kelly

**Champion Bowland**

Mr P Reynolds

**Friends of Bowland**

Ms J Baddeley

**Moorland Association**

Vacant

The Committee and its constituent bodies are responsible for the implementation of the AONB Management Plan. The role of the Committee and its Terms of Reference, is as follows:-

The Joint Advisory Committee supports and encourages an active partnership between all of the agencies involved and co-ordinates management over the whole of the AONB. The aim is to:

- promote the AONB at national, regional and local level,
- ensure that the landscape of the AONB is conserved and enhanced appropriately through the implementation of the AONB Management Plan,
- work to assist the social and economic well-being of the AONB commensurate with the conservation of its special qualities,
- provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas,
- consider any issues likely to affect the area adversely and agree appropriate action
- make recommendations for new initiatives

A range of organisations with interests in the AONB is eligible for membership. Members include local authorities and the key organisations and interests, including representatives of local people, whose involvement will assist in implementing the Management Plan. Membership is kept under review and is at the discretion of the local authorities. Ideally there should be between 10 and 20 members and, where it is not practicable to include all of the represented interests, regular consultation mechanisms should be established.

Brief for the Joint Advisory Committee:

- co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of strategic plans for the AONB, including the preparation of the statutory Management Plan
- advise local authorities preparing structure plans, local plans or other plans covering all or part of the AONB, to ensure that policies and practices (including those for development control) are co-ordinated and consistent with the statement of commitment and AONB Management Plan
- advise local authorities and other agencies on the level of resources required for effective AONB management
- lobby to influence organisations that are not members of the JAC in the delivery of their services and programmes in order to benefit Bowland communities, businesses and the environment
- advise on, and co-ordinate the actions of the constituent organisations to achieve the objectives of the AONB and, in particular, ensure that the statement of commitment and Management Plan are implemented and reviewed. This includes:

- receiving monitoring reports from the partners on progress and achievements in implementing the Management Plan, reviewing the Management Plan every five years and producing an annual report,
- agreeing an annual work programme for the AONB to be delivered by the partners and the AONB Staff Unit,
- carrying out special studies of key issues, as they arise, for example by setting up working parties or conducting research
- advising the appropriate local planning authority about any developments within or adjacent to the AONB that are likely to affect significantly the landscape character of the area,
- acting as forum for the discussion of major issues affecting the character of the AONB
- promoting other action that is necessary to further the objectives of the AONB designation



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## **Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20th April, 2017 at 2.00 pm in Sports Pavilion, Bentham Moor Road, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 3LJ**

### **Present:**

#### **Chair**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

#### **Committee Members**

Councillor John Browne, Preston City Council  
County Councillor Mrs Susie Charles, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Councillor Jane Parkinson, Lancaster City Council  
Councillor James Starkie, Pendle Borough Council  
Councillor Ian Thompson, Craven District Council  
Michael Helm, LALC  
David Kelly, Ramblers Association  
Councillor Colin Price, Yorkshire Local Councils Association  
Mr Andrew Taylor, Bowland Land Managers Forum

#### **Officers**

Alison Boden, Wyre Borough Council  
Cathy Hopley, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Sandra Silk, Forest of Bowland AONB Unit  
Liz Small, North Yorkshire County Council  
Mike Williams, Pendle Borough Council

#### **Apologies**

County Councillor Kevin Ellard, Lancashire County Council  
Councillor Val Wilson, Wyre Borough Council  
Mike Burke, Natural England  
Jeremy Duckworth, Bleasdale Estate  
Graham Jones, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
David Hewitt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
David Porter, Lancaster City Council

Alex Shutt, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Tom Wiggans, Preston City Council

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

County Councillor Albert Atkinson welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were presented on behalf of the Committee members and Officers listed above.

Before the meeting started the Committee received a presentation from Sarah Littlefield, the Secretary and Project Manager for the Lune Rivers Trust, a charity dedicated to the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of the River Lune throughout its whole length and its associated tributaries.

Sarah described a number of current and recently completed projects undertaken by the Trust. These included working with businesses and partners to mitigate the impacts of the December 2015 floods and to put in place measures to prevent any future flooding.

The Trust was also working with partners to:

- Open up manmade obstacles allowing the upstream movement of migratory fish;
- Restore and repair the spawning side channels and pond of the Lansil section of the Lune;
- Provide innovative solutions for improving water quality and flood risk management throughout the North West.

Other activities included:

- Working with 16 to 25 year olds to help build up their CV's through environmental volunteering and project work through the 'Dirtworks' initiative.
- Working with volunteers from the Lancaster and Morecambe College to clear flood damaged areas and assist with a number of environmental projects;
- Hosting several events to log and remove invasive non-native species from the area including Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed;
- Providing educational presentations for local community groups and schools.

Sarah also reported that the red squirrel population was doing well in the North West. This was in part due to the culling of grey squirrels in the area. Sarah invited anyone interested in increasing the red squirrel population or managing the grey squirrel population to contact her.

The Committee noted the presentation and thanked Sarah for her informative contribution.

## **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None declared.



### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2016**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 November 2017 be signed and confirmed by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **5. AONB Budget Update**

Elliott presented a report on the revised and updated budget for 2017/18.

The revised estimates took account of the protected AONB funding settlement agreed by Defra in January 2016. In addition, minor adjustments had been made to salaries and on-costs to reflect the 1% local authority pay increase.

The budget allowed for £97,671 for an annual programme of projects to help deliver the AONB management plan. Elliott emphasised that this 'Projects funding' would continue to be used for match-funding to attract additional funding.

**Resolved:** That the revised AONB budget for 2017/18 be noted.

### **6. AONB Partner Updates**

The Chairman asked representatives of partner organisations around the table to update the Committee on activities.

Alison Boden referred to the earlier presentation with regard the Lune Rivers Trust. She advised that Defra was currently developing a strategic plan to improve the water environment of the River Lune and the River Ribble. Alison therefore suggested that this would be a good time to approach Defra with the aim of securing funding in this respect. This could be used to develop community involvement projects such as identifying the number of invasive non-native species of plants along the catchment areas.

Alison circulated a leaflet with details of the Garstang Walking Festival which would be held from the 6th to 14th May, 2017.

Mike Williams reported that the Pendle Walking Festival would be held from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August. The meeting was informed that the event would promote the Pendle Way which was now 30 years old, and complement the work of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

Andrew Laycock circulated a short guide on the advice available to eligible businesses wishing to obtain grant funding for projects in the Craven District. He advised that businesses should be encouraged to apply for funding and urged interested parties to contact the District Council as soon as possible.

**Resolved:** That the updates as set out above, be noted.

## **7. Delivering the AONB Management Plan**

### **A) AONB Unit Activity Report, October 2016 – April 2017**

The Committee received the AONB Activity report which provided details of some of the key AONB projects and activity delivered by the AONB Unit, since the last meeting in November. These included:

- The Bees Needs and Pollinator project – This would assist large scale land-owners within the Northern Upland Chain to support the five strategic aims of the National Pollinator Strategy.
- Funding for additional peatland restoration on the Abbeystead Estate.
- The delivery of 18 hedge-laying training days during 2016/17.
- Obtaining funding for maintenance and fingerpost signage.
- Producing the 'AONB Discovery Guide' which included details of 'Festival Bowland 2017'.
- Meeting with partners to discuss future actions to address the decline in the UK curlew population.

In addition, the meeting was informed that the AONB Unit was looking at the governance arrangements of Champion Bowland. It was hoped that by the end of the year, Champion Bowland would be established as Charitable Incorporated Organisation and registered as a charity. This would hopefully enable it to extend and enhance the range of its planned activities and fund raising opportunities.

The meeting was also given an update on the establishment of the Northern Hill Farmers Panel. It was noted that their remit would include promoting high nature value farming in the uplands and supporting development of future agri-environment schemes to support HNV farming, as the UK leaves the European Union.

### **B) Draft AONB Unit Business Plan 2017/18**

The Committee received the draft AONB Unit Business plan which represented an ambitious programme of activity whilst recognising the current economic climate.

Alison Boden commented that Wyre Borough Council had a large volunteer base and would welcome the opportunity of participating in a variety of funded projects with various AONB partners in the future.

**Resolved:** That:

- i) The AONB Unit Activity Report be noted.
- ii) The AONB Unit Business Plan 2017/18 be approved.

## **8. Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Update**

Cathy Hopley, Development Officer, presented an oral update on the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

Cathy informed the meeting that work was underway on the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application which would be submitted in September 2017.

She also presented an update on the Partnership's programme of planned projects. These were categorised under 4 headings – 'Environment', 'Economy', 'Everyone' and 'Bringing it altogether':

**Environment** projects would include:

- Repairing the network of dry stone walls and hedgerows that give the landscape its characteristic appearance.
- Seeking funding to repair footpaths and to provide a shelter for walkers on the Pendle Hill summit.
- Further work to restore woodlands and eradicate invasive species.

**Economy** projects would include:

- Creating opportunities for graduate trainees.
- Developing the 'Discover Pendle' guide to promote tourism and boost the local economy.
- Working with Lancaster University on the 'What's a hill worth' project.

**Everyone** – Projects providing an opportunity for everyone included:

- A series of linked projects investigating and interpreting the Pendle Radicals: free thinkers and non-conformists.
- A number of developing projects including the Story Map and the PEN project (focusing on providing outdoor opportunities for people suffering from isolation or mental health issues).
- Community archaeology and heritage placements to widen understanding and interest.
- Funding.

**Bringing it all together:**

- To weave together the two different sides of the hill, , and the variety of people who live, work in and visit the area with a creative approach, building cohesion, introducing dialogue and creating shared points of view.

The Committee raised questions in relation to the proposed shelter for walkers as referred to above. In response, Cathy advised that they were working with Manchester University on a design for the proposed shelter which would be built into the existing dry stone wall and remain open-topped whilst still offering shelter from the wind.

**Resolved:** That the oral update be noted.

## **9. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **10. Provisional Dates of Next Committee Meetings**

The Committee noted that the next two meetings would be held on Thursday 19 October 2017 in Ribble Valley and Thursday 19 April 2018 in Lancaster.

Cath Rawcliffe  
Democratic Services

Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston

## Revised Estimates 2017/18 and Revenue Budget 2018/19

(Appendix A refers)

### Issue for consideration

- a) Revised Estimates 2017/18
- b) Revenue Budget 2018/19

### Background

The budget provision for the Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee is funded by eight constituent local authority partners and grant from Defra, which is also enhanced by additional and contribution from United Utilities.

A core team is established from this budget provision, to assist in the delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee and the local authorities. The AONB Unit continues to work to a 3-year business plan (2017 - 2020), on which Partners are consulted to ensure it reflects local priorities for the AONB.

#### a. Revised Estimates 2016/17

The costs of the Partnership are managed as part of the Lancashire County Council's 'Devolved Financial Management' scheme. Since Committee approval of the 2017/18 estimates in October 2016 and support for the contributions requested from funding partners, it is understood the full requested contributions will be met.

Defra advised that the grant offer for 2017/18 was £215,364.

The contributions advised by the constituent local authorities for 2017/18 were as follows: -

	£
Craven District Council	6,800
Lancaster City Council	6,800
Pendle Borough Council	6,800
Preston Borough Council	6,800
Ribble Valley Borough Council	6,800
Wyre Borough Council	6,800
Lancashire County Council	40,800
North Yorkshire County Council	5,340

The net effect of any changes allows an AONB projects programme totalling £98,031 to be delivered in 2017/18.

The revised estimates take account of any changes (see Appendix A, Column 3) in comparison with the Original Estimates in Column 2.

The principal revisions relate to an estimated reduction in salary costs due to secondment and V-time reduction in hours for the Development and Funding Officer and maternity cover and V-time reduction in hours for the Sustainable Tourism Officer. These staff cost savings have allowed the AONB Unit to contract support services to temporarily 'backfill' and cover existing AONB Partnership responsibilities:

- Project development and funding support for the AONB Unit

- Countryside access maintenance and improvements due to the loss of support from Lancashire County Council Environment and Community Project Officers

Since last reported in April 2017, the AONB Unit has been successful in obtaining the following additional funding to support delivery of projects within the area:

<b>Project</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Organisation(s)</b>
Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership	50,000	Heritage Lottery Fund
Peatland habitat restoration for Brown Syke South, Tarnbrook	65,000 30,000	Defra/Natural England Environment Agency
Bowland Haytime Project	15,000	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
AONB Discovery Guide	4,500	Business adverts taken by local tourism businesses
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,500</b>	

#### **b. Revenue Budget 2018/19**

##### Revenue Budget 2018/19

This section sets out in Appendix 'A' column 4, the costs associated with the Partnership's projects and management service in 2018/19, including estimated pay and price levels.

Provision reflects the core team, operational budgets for core activities and projects:

- Principal AONB Officer (1 FTE)
- Development and Funding Officer (1 FTE)
- Sustainable Tourism and Communications Officer (0.8 FTE)
- Projects Officer (1 FTE)

Total Partnership income from contributions has been included in the budget for 2018/19, based on estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for the previous year (£6,800).

In addition, it is also based on a continuation of a contribution from United Utilities, matching the level requested district/borough councils.

Income in respect of grant support from Defra towards core costs and projects costs has been included on the basis of a further inflationary increase on 2017/18 grant offer.

It is also assumed that the Defra grant for 2018/19 will continue to be a single grant offer to be used in ways which the AONB Partnership considers will deliver the best performance in terms of achieving delivery of the Management Plan, without restrictions placed on the percentage of grant to each area of supported activity.

Therefore, the level of provision for 'Projects' is based on the resources estimated to be available to the Partnership after providing for the staffing of the AONB Unit at the existing office base, plus related core activities costs.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the following:

### **1. Gross Expenditure**

It is proposed that total expenditure be £370,099 in 2018/19. The total expenditure results from providing for the effect of increased pay and prices, staff increments (where applicable), employers national insurance and superannuation contributions, host authority support costs and reflecting a level of provision for 'Projects'.

### **2. Income**

Defra grant for 2017/18 towards core costs and projects costs of £219,069 reflects an inflationary increase on grant offer for 2017/18.

The estimated contributions from funding authorities, equivalent to maintaining the requested contribution for the previous year (£6,800).

A contribution of £6,800 from United Utilities has been included, on the basis that the company will maintain a level of contribution equivalent to that of the district/borough councils.

### **3. Net Expenditure**

The £314,269 net cost of management services is based on maintaining the level of contributions from the funding authorities requested for 2016/17. It is essential that the funding authorities are notified of the planned AONB Partnership expenditure and requested to make due provision in their own estimates.

### **4. Additional Resources**

It should also be noted that, as has become customary, resources from other funding bodies for projects in AONB will be sought during 2017/18 (e.g. Lottery funds, European Union, Government Agencies, Lancashire Environment Fund), which are over and above the Partnership budget provision and this will continue into 2018/19.

Furthermore, the AONB Unit contributes to the generation of additional schemes and projects in liaison with partner organisations operating in the area e.g. local authority countryside services, Rivers Trusts, the Wildlife Trust and others.

### **Decision Required**

The Committee is requested to:

- i) note the 2017/18 Revised Estimates
- ii) approve the 2018/19 Revenue Budget as set out in the report
- iii) subject to the approval of (ii) above, to request the funding authorities to make appropriate provision in their revenue budgets





**APPENDIX 'A'**  
**AONB Partnership Budget**

	<b>Estimated 2017/18 (Out-turn Prices)</b>	<b>Revised 2017/18 (Out-turn Prices)</b>	<b>Estimated 2018/19 (Out-turn Prices)</b>
(1)	(2) £	(3) £	(4) £
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
<b><u>Core Costs</u></b>			
Salary, N.I. and Superannuation	147,663	143,519	160,432
Contract support services#	16,170	20,314	7,000
Out-based premises	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel and subsistence	8,900	8,900	8,900
Central, Departmental & Tech. Support	51,387	49,945	55,830
Core Activities	19,800	19,800	19,800
Sub total of Core Costs	263,920	262,478	271,962
<b><u>Non Core Costs</u></b>			
Projects (Management Plan delivery)	98,031	98,031	98,137
Sub total of Non Core Costs	98,031	98,031	98,137
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>361,951</b>	<b>360,509</b>	<b>370,099</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Defra Grant	215,364	215,364	219,069
<b><u>Contributions</u></b>			
United Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b><u>County Councils</u></b>			
Lancashire	40,800	40,800	40,800
North Yorkshire*	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b><u>District Councils</u></b>			
Craven	6,800	6,800	6,800
Lancaster	6,800	6,800	6,800
Pendle	6,800	6,800	6,800
Preston	6,800	6,800	6,800
Ribble Valley	6,800	6,800	6,800
Wyre	6,800	6,800	6,800
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>310,564</b>	<b>310,564</b>	<b>314,269</b>
Contrib. to support costs (LCC in-kind)	51,387	49,945	55,830
	<b>361,951</b>	<b>360,509</b>	<b>370,099</b>

# Contract support services to 'backfill' due the secondment of- and V-time reduction in hours for Development and Funding Officer, maternity cover and V-time reduction in hours for Sustainable Tourism Officer and loss of LCC Environment and Community Projects Officers

\* Incl. agreement with NYCC PRoW to support project delivery in Craven area of the AONB



## AONB UNIT REPORT TO JAC: APRIL TO OCTOBER 2017

(generated from Interactive Management Plan on 19/10/17)

Activity title	Action	Description	Other Partners
Upskilling Lancashire - bid to European Social Fund	Action 2.1G	A European funding bid application for skills for growth was submitted on the 10th March 17 by a strategic partnership of Universities, Colleges and Forest of Bowland AONB. The Upskilling Lancashire project aspires to increase the competitive and productive capability of SMEs and microbusinesses across the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership area. Notification was received July 2017 that the outline application was successful, with the partnership invited to submit a full application by the 21st September 2017. Subject to the success of the full application, the project seeks to support businesses to identify, design, develop and implement work-force education and training programmes linked to the strategic needs of businesses. If successful the project is now likely to start in January 2018 ending September 2020. In support of Forest of Bowland agricultural industry this will see the project developing new Apprenticeship standards related to rural skills and heritage. As the delivery partner Myerscough College are partnering with FOB AONB on the development of these, and will assess SME interest in developing a broader apprenticeship offering including Arborist, Horticulture and Landscape Operative, Conservator, Countryside worker, Environmental Manager, Ecologist, Forest Operative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-UCLan</li> <li>-Myerscough College</li> <li>-Burnley College</li> <li>-Burnley Council</li> <li>-Preston College</li> <li>-University of Cumbria</li> <li>-Edge Hill University</li> <li>-Small to Medium-sized Enterprise (SMEs)</li> </ul>
Caton Gala	Action 3.6B	FOB AONB representatives in partnership with Lune Valley Bee Keepers attended Caton Gala on the 10th June 2017 to promote Networks for Nectar and Pollinator Verges projects in the Caton and Hornby area, providing educational messages about the importance of Bees and pollinators and how people can help to provide better habits within their own gardens. Some local people put forward sites for potential future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lune Valley Bee Keepers</li> <li>-Organising Committee Caton Gala</li> </ul>
LEADER and European Social Fund applications	Action 4.2D	<p>The AONB successfully secured just over £62,000 from the North Lancashire and Bowland Local Action Group to support the Pendle Hill Summit project (as part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership).</p> <p>The AONB is also a project partner in a £-multimillion bid to the European Social Fund to support the development of apprenticeships with employers in rural Lancashire.</p>	
UVA 2016 - 2017	Action 1.7H	The UVA scheme for a 3km stretch of overhead line between Crimpton and Ing Barn (on the Cow Ark to Newton road) is scheduled to commence in spring 2017.	-Electricity Northwest

			Limited
Undergrounding for Visual Amenity Programme 2017/18	Action 1.7H	<p>The UVA Scheme to underground 3km of overhead lines between Cow Ark and Newton is largely complete. The redundant poles will be removed during autumn 2018.</p> <p>Two schemes in development at Twiston and Bleasdale will not now be able to go ahead due to wayleaves issues with landowners. These schemes have now been removed from the UVA programme and replaced with schemes drawn from a reserve list or where new schemes are identified.</p>	- Electricity Northwest Limited
Landscape Planning Update	Action 1.7A	<p>During the first two quarters of 2017, the Principal Officer has been commented on and attended a number of meetings relating to the following plans affecting the AONB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Various Lancaster City Council Local Plan consultations, including Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD, Development Management DPD and the Sustainable Settlement Review Draft Methodology</li> <li>- Bolton-by-Bowland and Gisburn Forest Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>- Caton with Littedale Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>- Wray with Botton Neighbourhood Plan</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Principal Officer has reviewed 81 planning applications between April and October and provided comments on behalf of the AONB to the local planning authority for 15 of these.</p>	
Restoring Black Grouse to the Bowland Fells	Action 2.1D	<p>During Spring 2017, the Bowland Land Managers Forum contracted the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to gather information for- and submit a licence application to Natural England for translocation of black grouse from the species core areas of Northern England to sites in the Forest of Bowland AONB. However any plans by landowners to carry out translocations are on hold, due to another poor breeding season in 2017 and to also hold further discussions on the project objective with local and national partners.</p>	
Pendle Hill Access Projects	Action 3.1E	<p>The 'Access for All' and 'Pendle Summit' projects of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership include creation and improvement of various strategic routes on and around Pendle Hill, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvements to the Pendleside cart track and the north and south footpath approaches to the summit</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Downham to Chatburn concessionary bridleway</li> <li>- Spring Wood link footpath</li> <li>- Heys Lane byway improvements, near Barley</li> <li>- Pendle Sculpture Trail link footpath</li> <li>- Hookcliffe to Pendle Summit concessionary footpath</li> </ul>	
2017 Discovery Guide Launch	Action 3.4C	The Discovery Guide was launched at an event held at Holmes Mill, Clitheroe on 2nd February. The launch attracted a large number of partners including BEx members, Champion Bowland Trustees, Festival Bowland organisers and tourism partners. The guide was well supported by members in terms of advertising and the guide has so far been well received.	-Bowland Experience -Tourism Officers
2017 grants	Action 2.3I	Although the SDF grant scheme has officially closed, some funds have been unspent or projects have not taken place. In 2017 we have therefore been able to support 2 new grants, to Tosside village hall to install LED lighting, and to Remix Summits Ltd to support the development of a new website called Pendlefolk, which will support the Pendle Hill LP scheme with innovative new IT opportunities and a volunteer editorial board.	
Pendle Hill LP PEN Pilot project	Action 3.6C	The PEN (People Enjoying Nature) project is being piloted as part of the Pendle Hill LP scheme in summer 2017. Led by Jayne Ashe, assistant development officer for the scheme, and working in partnership with NHS colleagues from East Lancashire, we will run 12 afternoon trips to the LP area for people dealing with mental health and social isolation issues. Funded through the HLF grant clients will have opportunity to build a dry stone wall, try bushcraft activity, geocaching, wildlife surveys etc. The pilot will be fully evaluated and learning fed into the project plan to be delivered 2018-22.	
Pendle Hill LPS Development work	Action 1.6B	The LP is now in development stage and we plan to submit our stage 2 application to HLF in September 2017. To date we have appointed 4 lead partners for projects and intend to appoint 1 or 2 further partners soon. The AONB/LP team will lead the remaining 10 or so projects. We are currently applying for match funds and drafting project plans for individual projects, and also carrying out pilot activity such as establishing the Pendle Hill volunteers and organising a summer PEN scheme - working with people dealing with social isolation and mental health issues.	
Phase 1 survey of Pendle Hill LP area	Action 1.3B	As part of the development stage of the LPS Rigby Jerram was commissioned in 2016 to undertake a phase 1 habitat survey of the entire LP area (120km sq) which includes the	

		Pendle Hill outlier of the AONB. This data is now published (March 2017) and available via LERN and the AONB to partners involved in the scheme. Data includes BHS target notes, GIS mapping, analysis, and an action plan recommending priority sites to improve management. Full details available on request	
Hedgelaying training in Pendle Hill area	Action 1.1C	Two days of hedgelaying training were held at Higher Gills Farm in Rimington in early 2017. Thanks to the Pilkington family and tutors Geoff and Joe a good length of young hedge was laid by 17 eager volunteers.	
Bleasdale Circle Interpretation	Action 2.3B	Supported Bleasdale Parish Hall with £150 towards refurbishment of Bleasdale Circle interpretation panel frame. (Spring 2017)	
Bowland Explorer - Summer 2017	Action 3.6D	<p>The Forest of Bowland AONB has been working with Bentham Community Rail Partnership and the Dales &amp; Bowland CIC to promote a summer Sunday/Bank Holiday bus service between Bentham and Clitheroe, linking with rail services in both these towns. The bus starts and finishes in Lancaster, providing a service between Lancaster and Bentham when there is no scheduled train service.</p> <p>As well as providing a local public transport service across the heart of Bowland, linking with rail services from Manchester and Leeds also allows visitors from these urban areas to access the AONB, opening up walking opportunities and the chance to support local tourism businesses.</p> <p>The service has been promoted in the press, on the partners' websites and regularly via social media and will be reviewed in October.</p>	<p>-Dales and Bowland CIC Bentham -Community Rail Partnership</p>
PEN pilot project completed	Action 3.6C	<p>The Pendle Hill People Enjoying Nature pilot has completed and the evaluation is now available.</p> <p>The pilot proved to be a great success and work will be continued and improved as part of the LP delivery phase 2018-22.</p>	
The Music of the Forest	Action 3.6E	June 15th 2017 saw the premiere of a new choral work written by William, 16th Lord of Bowland, and set to music by acclaimed Lakeland composer, Christopher Gibbs. Exploring the history and landscape of the Forest of Bowland, the piece was performed by the Renaissance Singers of Blackburn Cathedral under the baton of Samuel Hudson.	

		<p>Internationally acclaimed trombonist and experimental musician, John Kenny, played the carnyx - an ancient Celtic warhorn. An audience of 65 attended the performance, which was held at Slaidburn Village Hall.</p> <p>The story was covered by local press, radio and BBC North West Tonight and a recording of the performance is now available on the AONB website at <a href="http://forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Song-Cycle">http://forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Song-Cycle</a></p>	
Natural Capital Accounting Seminar	Action 1.2B	<p>AONB Principal Officer attended a training seminar on 'Natural Capital Accounting' held by the Ecosystems Knowledge Network during September 2017.</p> <p>Natural capital accounting is the process of calculating the total stocks and flows of natural resources and services in a given ecosystem or region. Accounting for such goods may occur in physical or monetary terms. It is anticipated that Defra's '25 Year Environment Plan' to be launched in late 2017 will apply a 'natural capital approach' to managing the environment.</p>	
Clitheroe Food Festival	Action 2.3A	Attended CFF in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 providing AONB information and family-friendly activities.	-Lancashire Museums
Hodder Valley Show	Action 2.3A	Staffed a trade stand at the HVS in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017	
Volunteer Route Monitors	Action 3.2D	Refresher training session held for volunteer path monitors in August 2016. Recruitment of new volunteers is ongoing.	
Finger post renewal (Spring 2017)	Action 3.1C	Worked in partnership with LCC PROW team to fund cost of upgrading replacement/refurbished roadside waymarkers with wooden finger posts (as opposed to plastic posts) at priority locations within Ribble Valley and Lancaster districts of the AONB. A total of 82 waymarker posts/blades were funded.	-LCC PRoW
Festival Bowland press	Action 4.4B	<p>Press releases produced for:</p> <p>2017: Festival Bowland June Events; FB Summer Events; FB Autumn Events; Lord of Bowland Annual Lecture</p>	
General Press	Action 4.4B	Press releases produced for:	

		2017/18: Bowland Clothing Company Ltd charity range; Bowland Explorer bus service;	
View Ranger	Action 3.1A	<p>HB investigated and set up View Ranger page for FoB AONB promoted routes so that walk information can be updated in-house in a more timely way. Visitors can either use the routes via the View Ranger app or download a printed version.</p> <p>SCS etc will progressively update routes and add them to the View Ranger page.</p>	
Bursary Update (September 2017)	Action 3.6F	<p>The first tranche of Farm Visit Transport Funding (£2000) ran from January 2013 until December 2016. In that period 19 groups benefited from a Fund bursary. In total, 29 visits were made involving 768 adults and children.</p> <p>A further £2000 was added to the Fund budget in December 2016 and, to date, 6 schools, making 10 visits and involving 243 adults and children have been supported with a bursary. The Fund continues.</p>	
SSSI Condition update	Action 1.3A	<p>Protected Landscape data for 2017 from Natural England shows there has been very little change in SSSI condition since 2013.</p> <p>Currently of the 16,382 hectares of SSSI land in the Forest of Bowland AONB just 6.7% are in favourable condition; 78% are in unfavourable but recovering condition; 14% are in unfavourable and declining condition (improved from 18% in 2013).</p>	
HLF Stage 2 application submitted	Action 1.6B	<p>A full application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted on 4th September 2017. This includes a 4-part landscape conservation action plan (LCAP) which includes an assessment of the landscape and its heritage, identification of needs and issues, and 15 fully developed project plans with budgets, timetables and target outputs and outcomes. The full scheme is worth £2.7m with nearly £2m of this coming from HLF.</p> <p>The Regional Committee of HLF will consider this application in December 2017 and we hope to start delivery of the plans in April 2018.</p>	
AONB Calendar 2018	Action 2.3J	The Forest of Bowland 2018 calendar has just gone on sale and really captures the unique sense of place of this beautiful area. Featuring some wonderful, seasonal landscape and wildlife photographs, the calendar can be purchased via the website online shop	<p>-Champion Bowland</p> <p>-Bowland Experience</p>



		<p><a href="http://www.forestofbowland.com/Forest-Bowland-AONB-Shop">www.forestofbowland.com/Forest-Bowland-AONB-Shop</a></p> <p>The 2017 raised over £700 for Champion Bowland to support a range of fantastic local environmental and community projects.</p>	
ViewRanger Walking App	Action 2.4J	<p>We are currently in the process of migrating our walking routes to the nationally recognised ViewRanger App and web-based walking resource. This free platform enables the AONB to provide access to our routes in a more efficient way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It means that updates on the information related to the routes can be updated more easily and quickly</li> <li>• Access to the routes via business websites is much more succinct, and it means that any new updates will be reflected directly to their websites</li> <li>• The technology is more up to date and provides a resource for those who use mobile devices as well as those who still prefer a paper download</li> </ul>	
New informal BEx network meetings	Action 2.4B	<p>A new informal style of meeting has been set up to encourage businesses to meet more regularly, to share ideas and network informally. The meetings last 2 hours and are hosted by different members and include an introduction/overview from the host business. It's a great opportunity to share information more regularly without a formal agenda.</p>	-Bowland Experience
Short Break Itineraries	Action 2.4A	<p>We are currently developing 5 short break itineraries linked with Bowland Experience members. The itineraries are thematic and cover 5 geographical areas of the AONB to encourage visitors to have a short-break and stay and explore in the AONB. The itineraries highlight the sustainable tourism opportunities, and the businesses are providing offers to encourage uptake. The itineraries will be launched in November 2017 at the Forum, and they will be promoted by the BEx network via social media.</p>	-Bowland Experience
New photography	Action 3.5C	<p>We have recently had new photography through the work of Salar Media and Mark Sutcliffe, who has helped in developing content and images for the 2017 Discovery Guide. Mark is currently working on content for the 2018 guide with accompanying images.</p> <p>We've also received a large number of images via the photo sharing gallery on the website. Visitors are able to upload and share their photos with the opportunity for them to be</p>	

		<p>included in the 2018 AONB Charity Calendar. These will provide us with a useful stock of images for projects and interpretation.</p> <p>Also, thanks to Graham Cooper, we now have a large stock of Pendle Hill photos, which he voluntarily shared with the AONB to support the Pendle LP bid submission. These will also be very useful next year!</p>	
New web content	Action 3.4A	We regularly update the website with new content. We had a wealth of content and imagery from the 2017 Discovery Guide, so we've been adding this and promoting it via social media. It has included popular content on the 'Faces of Bowland' and new web pages showcasing the 'The Music of the Forest', commissioned by William Bowland.	
Bowland Experience Network	Action 2.2C	<p>Since April 2017, there has been the following activity amongst the network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 new members</li> <li>• 2 breakfast club meetings established with 8-10 businesses attending each at Dale House Camping Barn and Bentham Golf Club, to share ideas and good practice</li> <li>• 7 businesses attended the 'Star Tips for Profit' workshop on 26th September run by astronomer Robert Ince, to enable members to become 'Dark Sky Friendly' businesses linked the AONB's Dark Sky Discovery Sites</li> <li>• The Bowland Clothing Company has set up a new AONB clothing range, with 60% of profit from sales being donated to Champion Bowland</li> </ul>	
Green Accreditation	Action 2.2E	<p>Three businesses within the BEx network recently requested support for Green Tourism accreditation, and are currently in the process of working through the criteria and applying for accreditation. These are: Spread Eagle, Sawley; Wigglesworth House &amp; Cottages; Ribble Valley Holiday Homes - we look forward to hearing how they progress.</p> <p>A press release dated 28/09/17 from Marketing Lancashire also announced that Bowland Experience Network Member Browsholme Hall had once again been shortlisted for the 2018 Sustainable Tourism Award. They have held this award for the last two years, so we wish them well at the awards event in November.</p>	<p>-Bowland Experience -Green Business</p>

## Management Plan Review – Outline Plan

### Introduction

AONB Management Plans are statutory plans which provide a framework for delivery of the statutory purpose of AONBs: to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the designated landscape. The Management Plan should provide a policy context, key forces for change and provide an action plan to guide the work of the AONB Unit and Partnership including local authorities, government bodies, landowners, farmers, businesses, communities and other interested organisations.

The function of the AONB Management Plan should not be a static one, it needs to respond appropriately to new challenges (such as climate change and the increased impacts of flooding) or changing political and regulatory conditions (e.g. agricultural and environmental policy following the UK's departure from the EU, or new primary legislation).

The first statutory Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan was published in 2004 and has subsequently been reviewed and revised twice (during 2008-9 and 2013-14), within five year period as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Management Plan published in 2014 is now due to be reviewed under the periodic review timetable set out in the Act. This report provides the context for the Review and an outline plan and timetable for consideration by the Committee.

### The national context for the Review

The National Association for AONBs and Defra has previously published an "Advice note to AONB Partnerships, Conservations Boards and Relevant Authorities on Management Plan Reviews" back in 2012. The following are key extracts from this advice note:

*'The CRow Act 2000 provides the statutory basis for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of AONBs, and:*

- *defines the role of the statutory agencies, in particular their responsibilities for the designation of AONBs and as consultees in planning matters;*
- *requires local authorities and Conservation Boards to state their policies for management of their AONBs through preparing and publishing a Management Plan; and*
- *requires all relevant authorities to demonstrate their commitment to AONBs by having regard to AONB purposes in their plans and activities.*

*Specifically, and in relation to Local Authorities Section 89 requires the relevant authority [i.e. the local authority or local authorities jointly], or Conservation Board to "prepare and publish a plan which formulates their policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for carrying out their functions in relation to it", within three years. The plan must be reviewed within five years of its original publication and at similar intervals thereafter.*

*It is important to stress that the designation of an AONB:*

- *gives formal statutory recognition to these nationally important landscapes;*
- *requires special land use planning policies to apply; and*
- *encourages an integrated approach to land management.*

*...Individual AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards should decide the extent of a review required. An appropriately “light touch” approach may be taken by some, whilst others may decide a comprehensive review is needed and justified. AONB Partnerships and Conservation Boards will know those areas of their Plans or themes which are constants and do not need re-visiting. They will also have a good idea of the deficiencies and issues to be addressed under the review. Actions will be more readily refreshed in the Management Plan Action Plan / Business Plan, which are more responsive for dealing with transitory or emerging issues.'*

## **Background on the current AONB Management Plan (2014 – 2019)**

The CRoW Act 2000 established the requirement for all AONBs in England and Wales to have an up-to-date Management Plan in place, and provided a timetable for the review and updating of plans. The Act also required that the local authorities are jointly responsible for the production of the Plan to establish a long-term vision for the AONB.

The Management Plan provides the policy framework for achieving the Vision. The Vision as set out in the current Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan states:

*'The Forest of Bowland retains its sense of local distinctiveness, notably the large-scale open moorland character of the Bowland Fells, traditional buildings and settlement patterns of villages, hamlets and farmsteads. Natural and cultural resources are sympathetically managed and contribute to a sustainable and vibrant local economy. The management of the Forest of Bowland AONB has improved the quality of the landscape for all.'*

The current plan has four key AONB outcomes. It is proposed to retain these for the purposes of reviewing the Management Plan and are as follows:

1. An outstanding landscape of natural and cultural heritage;
2. Resilient and sustainable communities;
3. A strong connection between people and the landscape;
4. A dynamic and effective AONB Partnership.

The existing AONB Management Plan includes statements regarding the significance of the landscape designation, the special qualities and important habitats, landscapes and ecosystem services and sets out the vision for the area. Much of this information is still relevant for the new plan and again will be retained, although some enhancements and amendment of content will be necessary to accurately reflect changes or new challenges facing the AONB.

## **Review process and next steps**

In light of the flexibility offered by Defra in its advice on the scope and extent of Management Plan, it is proposed that where issues and actions are well-established and agreed upon by AONB partners, a 'light touch' approach will be adopted. Other sections, where it is felt there are policy weaknesses or where changes are needed to reflect policy, regulatory or societal changes are likely to require a more in-depth review and scrutiny.

The Review process can be split into three principal phases:

1. Scoping and preparing the Review
2. Undertaking the Review
3. Publishing and adopting the Review

The table below attempts to summarise the key review stages and offers an outline timetable for the Review of the Plan. Several of the review stages will be open to wider comment from all interested parties, partly through circulation of review documents, but also using on-line consultation, public consultation events and local information.

<b>Review Stage</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Agree scope and outline methodology for the Review	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017	AONB JAC
Write to the local authorities to notify the AONB Partnership's intention to carry out the Review	Oct 2017	AONB Unit
Statutory notice issues to Natural England (NE)	Nov 2017	AONB Unit
Carry out scoping and evidence gathering for the Review	Nov 2017 – May 2018	AONB Unit
Establish MP Review Working Group	Dec 2017	AONB Unit and JAC
Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report (SEA)	Feb – Mar 2018	Consult with NE, Environment Agency and Historic England and key partners
Public and partner consultation events	April – May 2018	AONB Unit
Draft Revised Plan produced	June 2018	MP Review Working Group
Produce Environmental Report for (SEA)	July – Aug 2018	AONB Unit
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	July – Aug 2018	AONB Unit
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	July – Aug 2018	AONB Unit
Appropriate Assessment for Natura 2000 sites (AA)	July – Aug 2018	AONB Unit
Formal consultation (published online) on Draft Revised Plan Environmental Report (SEA) and AA	Sept – Oct 2018	AONB Unit
Prepare Final Draft	Nov – Dec 2018	AONB Unit
Final version of Management Plan published and approved by AONB JAC	Jan 2019	AONB JAC & Unit
Approved Management Plan to Local Authorities for adoption	Jan – March 2019	Plan adopted by LAs after confirmation by Defra/NE that plan satisfies statutory requirements
Publish Management Plan and submit to Secretary of State	April 2019	Plan forwarded to Defra

The initial stage of the review process is to notify the relevant local authorities of the AONB Partnership's intention to review the Management Plan and to request the local authority's support for the establishment of a 'Management Plan Review Group'. Subject to agreement

by the Joint Advisory Committee, this will be carried out by the AONB Principal Officer as soon as possible following this meeting.

**Recommendation**

The committee is requested to:

- i) Note the report and offer comments
- ii) Approve the outline plan for the Review
- iii) Agree for the AONB Principal Officer to notify partner authorities of the Committee's intention to carry out the Review