

CRANBORNE CHASE AND WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Management Plan for the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has been reviewed to cover the period 2019-2024. The Management Plan sets out objectives and policies for the plan period.
- 1.2 This report recommends that the Council approves the Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Section 89 of the CROW Act requires local authorities with an AONB in their area publish a management plan and review it every five years.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The CROW Act 2000 places a statutory duty on constituent local authorities of AONBs to prepare, publish and review a management plan. In 2002 the Council committed to joining the AONB Partnership and to share in the preparation of a Management Plan for the AONB with its other constituent authorities. As part of the partnership agreement, an AONB Team was formed with the task of formulating and reviewing the Management Plan. This is the third review of the Plan.
- 2.2 Included within New Forest District is the Cranborne Chase part of the AONB which includes the parishes and villages of Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury.

3. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 3.1 The Management Plan 2019-24, titled Cranborne Chase Partnership Plan is included as an Appendix to this report. The Plan will be published in full, with illustrations and photographs, following its approval by all constituent local authorities and Natural England.
- 3.2 The Plan is presented around three themes which form the main body of the document. These are: Outstanding Landscapes; Living and Working Landscapes; and Special Landscapes to Enjoy. Under each theme there are related topics and for each topic the key issues to be addressed by the Plan are listed and explained. The objectives that the Plan seeks to achieve are set out, together with policies to achieve them. Each topic area also includes a section describing what has been achieved so far. A draft version of the Plan was subject to public consultation for three months from August to November 2018.
- 3.3 In general, the various topics, aims and policies of the Plan apply across the AONB, but the background to the Plan includes detailed evidence of the character of the different landscapes within the AONB which will inform how the policies are applied in detail in different parts of the area.

- 3.4 The final section of the Plan looks at the partnerships, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan. A separate delivery plan (not part of the Plan review) which is reviewed annually will set out actions to be taken in each of the years covered by the Management Plan.
- 3.5 The Management Plan was endorsed by the AONB Partnership at its meeting in January 2019 and should now be approved by all constituent authorities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As a signatory to the Partnership Agreement, New Forest District makes a financial contribution to the work of the AONB. Natural England funds 75% of costs of preparing the Management Plan and also contributes to the costs of projects within the AONB. Contributions are apportioned amongst the constituent local authorities according to the proportion of the AONB area falling in each authority. About 6.8% of the AONB falls within New Forest District and Hampshire County. This contribution is shared between the District and County, which means the District Council's share of the cost is relatively small at 3.4%. This contribution amounts to £2,187 for the current financial year.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS / CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Management Plan contains aims, objectives and policies intended to maintain and improve the environment within the AONB set within the statutory requirement to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Cranborne Chase Partnership Plan 2019-24 is approved.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Signed: ..CLLR E J HERON.....

Date: 4 September 2019.....

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Background papers:
Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership
Plan
2019-24

Date on which notice of this Decision given - 4 September 2019

Last date for call-in - 11 September 2019