

## **CRANBORNE CHASE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY- PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree renewal of New Forest District Council's signatory to the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - Partnership Agreement for the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2020.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers much of the Downlands area of this District and includes the villages of Martin, Damerham, Rockbourne and Whitsbury.
- 2.2 The aims of the Partnership Agreement are set out as:
- a. The aim of this partnership agreement (the "Partnership Agreement") is to define roles and responsibilities for the Partnership Panel, to secure the commitment of its members, and to ensure an equitable and transparent relationship between the work of the Partnership Panel and influence over its direction.
  - b. Each member organisation of the Partnership Panel is expected to commit itself to the aims of the Partnership Panel and to achieving the national and local objectives for the AONB in the ways outlined in the Charter for the AONB found in the Appendix to this Partnership Agreement. The AONB Charter provides a common framework for action, which has been further developed through the production of the statutory AONB Management Plan for Cranborne Chase AONB. This Partnership Agreement determines how the Partnership Panel and its members should operate to maximum effect within that framework.
- 2.3 Wiltshire County Council is the Host Authority for the partnership. Other local authorities in the partnership are: Dorset County Council, Hampshire County Council, Somerset County Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Mendip District Council and South Somerset District Council. The main funding is provided by Defra, and includes an annual grant contribution of 75% of the costs of core work (staff costs, accommodation and administration, and the cost of producing the AONB Management Plan). All the local authorities involved are requested to contribute to the funding of the Partnership (approximately the remaining 25%, proportionately to their area within the AONB).

### **3. THE PARTNER AGREEMENT 2016- 2020**

- 3.1 The new Partner Agreement will run from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. New Forest District Council is requested to contribute 3.42% of the Local Authority funding. The cost to this Council for the next four years is as follows:

<u>2016/17 (as 2015-16)</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>
£2,088.14	£2,124	£2,160.55	£2,197.69

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Financial implications are set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The arrangements set out in the Memorandum of Agreement will enable the AONB Management Plan to be implemented. The Management Plan contains aims, objectives and actions intended to maintain and improve the environment within the AONB set within the statutory requirement of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area.

#### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

#### **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS**

8.1 The Portfolio Holder welcomes the report and supports the recommendation that he should sign the Partnership Agreement on behalf of the Council.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATION:**

9.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation sign the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership Agreement (1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020) on behalf of New Forest District Council.

#### **For further information contact:**

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#### **Background Papers:**

Report A to Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership Panel Meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> 2016.