

The Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales

Stage Two

Background

Welsh Ministers want to ensure that Wales' designated landscapes are equipped to meet current and future challenges, and they become internationally recognised exemplars for sustainability.

They commissioned this review in September 2014 to consider whether the current arrangements will deliver these objectives and, if not, what changes should be made in order to achieve them. The Review will engage with the public and designated landscape stakeholders in order to collate, examine and assess evidence concerning the designation, purposes, aims and governance of designated landscapes in Wales.

In the medium to long term, the new arrangements must enable any future body/bodies that govern our designated landscapes to further develop and enhance their strategic, policy making and operational delivery abilities such that they will:

- i. Deliver on designated landscape purposes.
- ii. Ensure the special qualities of designated landscape are protected.
- iii. Maximise the potential of these areas.
- iv. Support Natural Resource Management.
- v. Be exemplars particularly in landscape management and sustainability.
- vi. Develop clear and consistent ways of collaborating
- vii. Secure national leadership and yield the most effective use of resources.
- viii. Avoid duplication and maximise the use of scarce expertise.
- ix. Reinforce local accountability and decision making.

In January 2015 the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales reported on Stage One which examined the purposes and duties of designated landscapes, and whether there should be one designation covering both National Parks and AONBs.

Remit and Terms of Reference

The Minister for Natural Resources has since provided an update concerning the Review and has written to the Chairman of the Review, Prof. Terry Marsden (for ease of reference enclosed) to set out the remit and terms of reference for Stage Two.

Within this stage the Review has been asked to consider:

- The governance and managements arrangements of our designated landscapes;
- How any future governing body/bodies would best promote collaboration and joint working while avoiding duplication;
- How any future governing body would best reinforce local accountability and decision making

The Review has also been asked to consider the future role of National Park Authorities as planning authorities; how the boards of these national assets can better reflect Welsh society in terms of gender, disability and ethnicity and specific issues of National Park Authority governance raised by the Review of Public Service and Delivery last year.

The following questions have been developed to help the Review identify and collate the evidence required to be able to reach its Stage Two conclusions. The first question, is referred to as the “Grand Challenge” by Professor Marsden in his covering letter/preamble, the additional questions have been constructed to assist the Panel and others in reaching their conclusions.

Questions for Stage Two

1	<p>What are the most effective governance arrangements for designated landscapes that allow them to lead on and meet ambitious outcomes within and for Wales?</p> <p>In order to answer this question you may want to consider and respond to these additional, related questions:</p>
2	<p>In light of the Review’s Stage One report and recommendations and the Minister for Natural Resources’ written statement (dated the 4th March) what is your vision and ambition for the direction of Wales’s designated landscapes in the medium to long term?</p>
3	<p>From a governance perspective, what factors are preventing and/or likely to prevent designated landscapes from achieving the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?</p>
4	<p>From a governance perspective, what factors will allow designated landscapes to achieve the vision and ambition you set out in response to question 2?</p>
5	<p>Are there other designated landscape/protected area governance models/approaches you wish to bring to the attention of the Review?</p>