

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	December 4 th 2019
TITLE	National AONB matters.
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Officer
ACTION	None

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides further information regarding the national situation in relation to the Welsh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 1.2 The Minister with responsibility for the AONBs and National Parks in Wales is Hannah Blythyn AM (Labour, Delyn area).

2.0 VALUED AND RESILIENT

- 2.1 In July 2018, the document titled “**Valued and Resilient – The Welsh Government’s Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks**” was published.
- 2.2 The document includes **four goals** in regard to the designated landscapes namely:
- That they are **Valued Places**
 - That they contain **Resilient Environments**
 - That they support **Resilient Communities**
 - That the AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities adopt **Resilient Ways of Working**.
- 2.3 Also, 10 priority themes were set. The expectations for the Designated Landscapes in the declaration are broad, varied and significant. Also, the declaration mentions establishing a performance review system and a management arrangement to measure the effect of the designation and efficiency in terms of the administration.
- 2.4 Valued and Resilient draws attention to the marked differences between AONBs and National Parks with regard to **status, profile and resources**.

3.0 PARITY WITH THE NATIONAL PARKS

- 3.1 The AONB Partnerships, Natural Resources Wales and the National Association for AONBs worked together to prepare a paper with proposals in terms of gaining more equality between the AONBs and National Parks. The response presents 12 proposals that would increase equality between the AONBs and Parks in terms of **status, profile and resources**.

3.2 The proposals have been discussed at a meeting with the Minister at the end of 2018 and with Welsh Government officers (Land, Nature and Forestry Dept) in May 2019. A further meeting to discuss the proposals will be held in December 2019.

4.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 As an initial step Welsh Government has consulted on setting up a **Wales National Landscapes Partnership**. The aim of this institution would be to improve partnership working, exchange information and best practice and create links with other sectors. An update on this matter is expected soon.

4.2 Also, the National Association of AONBs (which operates in Wales, England and Northern Ireland) has received grant funding from Welsh Government to fund a **Wales Development Manager**. The purpose of the post is to support AONB Partnerships in implementing the priorities set out in Valued and Resilient.

4.3 In recent years AONB Units have had the opportunity to submit proposals to Welsh Government for resources to fund projects. In the past only the National Parks used to get this opportunity. Information regarding some projects that have been funded by this source has been included in the report on projects.

5.0 REVIEW OF DESIGNATED AREAS IN ENGLAND

5.1 During the past 2 years a review of designated areas in England (10 National Parks and 34 AONBs) has been undertaken under the leadership of Julian Glover. A panel of 5 individual with relevant experience and knowledge also assisted with the review.

5.2 A process similar to that undertaken in Wales was followed which included research, analysis and consultation. The final report was published in October 2019.

5.3 The main finding of the review was that Designated Areas had the potential to do a lot more by working together as a family under a new “National Landscapes” body. Also a total of 27 specific proposals are included in the report under the following headings:

- Landscapes for nature and beauty
- Landscapes for all
- Living landscapes
- More special places
- New ways of working

5.4 A full copy of the final report and summary (generally known as the “Glover Review”) on the UK Governmental website :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

5.5 The hope is that this Review will create a new momentum to move things forward in Wales.

6.0 RECOMENDATION

6.1 To accept the information.