

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	18 November 2015
TITLE	Review of Welsh Designated Landscapes
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Service manager
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the information.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides information on the situation regarding the Review of Designated Landscapes commissioned by the Welsh Government.

2.0 REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES

2.1 A Panel of three people were appointed to conduct the Review of Designated Landscapes in 2014, namely Professor Terry Marsden, Dr Ruth Williams and Mr John Lloyd Jones.

2.2 Part 1 of the Review looked at the purpose of the designating landscapes and the pros and cons of categorising these landscapes under one designation. A report on the findings of Part 1 of the Review was presented to the JAC in March 2015 and at the time it was decided to send some additional comments to the Review Panel.

3.0 STAGE 2 OF THE REVIEW

3.1 The Panel then went on to consider Part 2 of the Review – which considered how National Parks and AONB's were being governed and managed. Details and papers related to Part 2 of the Review were presented to the JAC held on the 24th of June 2015.

3.2 Following a discussion a series of comments were made regarding Part 2 of the Review and the AONB sent these on to the Review Panel. Comments and representations were also made on Part 2 by other AONB Units, National Park Authorities and various other organisations which had an interest in the subject. In addition, the Review Panel held a series of meetings with individuals and organisations attending.

4.0 FINAL REPORT

4.1 By now the Review Panel have completed the Final Report and it has been presented to the Welsh Government.

4.2 The Final Report is a substantial document which contains 69 Recommendations. A summary of the report has been attached as an Appendix and a copy of the full version is available from the AONB Unit.

4.2 A Statement on the Review was issued by the Minister, Carl Sargeant on October Hydref 29th; a copy is included in the Appendix. Amongst other things the Statement notes:

“I want these areas which are valued for their natural beauty to be thriving living landscapes containing vibrant, resilient communities, opportunities for outdoor recreation and rich ecosystems...

The report makes 69 recommendations covering a raft of proposals and observations on purposes, principles, vision, governance models, planning, and funding. The scale and scope of these recommendations is considerable, and further work is now needed to understand their potential benefit and their consequences.”

4.3 There are far-reaching implications to the recommendations put forward in the Report and increased expectations regarding Designated Landscapes in the future. In order to move the matter forward the Minister has decided to set up a working group, under the leadership of Lord Dafydd Ellis-Thomas, to consider the recommendations.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Accept the information.

APPENDICIES

A copy of the press statement made by Welsh Governemnt, October 29th 2015

A summary of the Final Report on the Review of Designated Landscapes of Wales.