

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	November 26 th 2024
TITLE	Reviewing the AONB Management Plan
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the Information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Preparing and reviewing the Management Plan is one of Gwynedd Council's responsibilities in relation to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as part of the CROW Act 2000.
- 1.2 The existing Llŷn AONB Management Plan is dated and needs to be reviewed. Unfortunately a number of factors, including the pandemic, work on other projects and capacity issues have delayed the review process.
- 1.3 This report refers to the role of the Joint Advisory Committee in the Plan review process, type of meetings and also to the Guidance that is available to Local Authorities.

2.0 THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S ROLE

- 2.1 The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) has a role to play in the AONB Management Plan preparation and review process. It is noted in the Terms of Reference that the role of the JAC is as follows:
 - To advise on the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the AONB.
 - To monitor and evaluate the progress within the Management Plans action programme annually and to review the plan itself regularly.
- 2.2 The Joint Advisory Committee includes representatives of Cyngor Gwynedd (6), the relevant Community/ Town Councils (10) and the following organisations/ bodies:
 - Natural Resources Wales
 - Arfon and Dwyfor Access Forum
 - Cyfeillion Llŷn
 - Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
 - The National Trust
 - Farmers' Union of Wales
 - National Farmers' Union
 - FWAG Cymru
 - Pysgotwyr Llŷn
 - Gwynedd Archaeology

- Tourism sector representative
- Business sector representative

3.0 JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 Prior to the pandemic meetings were held face to face, usually at Pwllheli. Like all other committees the meetings had to move to virtual ones as a consequence of the pandemic.
- 3.2 Recently, some members have asked about the possibility of re-introducing face to face meetings, or possibly hybrid meetings with some members in a committee room with others joining virtually.
- 3.3 The Joint Advisory Committee is administered by Cyngor Gwynedd. The Council has adopted a protocol whereby only specific meetings are held face to face/ hybrid (Full Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny and Planning committees) while all other meetings are held virtually. Furthermore, it must be stressed that technical equipment is needed for hybrid meetings and the Council does not have a room with this provision at Pwllheli.

4.0 GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 4.1 When reviewing Management Plan relevant Authorities are expected to follow the guidelines which have been published on preparing and reviewing AONB Management Plans. The original such guidelines were published by the former Countryside Council for Wales many years ago. These guidelines provided information on what should be included in the Plan, how to set it out etc.
- 4.2 Recently Natural Resources Wales has commissioned *Land Use Consultants* to review and update these Guidelines and to make them relevant to National Parks as well as AONBs (Wales' Designated Landscapes). The purpose of the Guidelines, as outlined in the introduction, is ensure that management plans:
- guide, plan and manage transformational change;
 - are aligned with relevant policies and legislation;
 - engage key stakeholders and partnerships throughout the process.
- 4.3 The final version of the Guidelines are expected to be published soon. A representative from Natural Resources Wales will join the meeting to provide more information on the new Guidance.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Accept the information.