

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	November 26 th 2024
TITLE	AONB Management Plan
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Agree on a Vision for the Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report contains information on the initial steps to be taken in the process of reviewing the Management Plan. Some elements of the contents of this report have been presented to the Joint Advisory Committee previously, however no decision was made at that time.

2.0 THE REVIEW PROCESS

2.1 As noted in the previous report we will need to follow the steps outlined in the guidelines on preparing and reviewing Management Plans. These guidelines have been prepared by Natural Resources Wales (Countryside Council for Wales previously). A revision of the guidelines is underway and is expected to be published soon.

2.2 In brief this means following the steps noted below when reviewing the Plan:

- Consider the effectiveness of the existing Plan
- Consider the latest information regarding the area's features (condition)
- Take into account information and obligations of relevant plans and strategies
- Review the Plan's Vision, Aims/ Objectives and Policies.
- Create a new Action Plan for the plan period.
- Reviewing the Strategic Environmental and Habitats Impact Assessment.

2.3 It is important to consult with the AONB's inhabitants and other stakeholders during the review process. The Joint Advisory Committee has a role to play here as there is a good representation of various areas and of organisations and bodies among the membership.

3.0 STATE OF THE AONB

3.1 One of the first steps to be taken as part of the Management Plan review therefore is to assess the condition of the various features and see if there have been changes over time. These changes may be for better or worse.

3.2 The AONB Unit commissioned an update of the State of the AONB Report in 2021. This Report contains information on the condition of the AONB's special features and pressures upon them. A summary has been presented to the JAC in the past. Although the information in this report has dated slightly

it is felt that it is still useful for the review process.

- 3.3 To compliment the State of the AONB report more up to date and local information can be collected and used during the review process.

4.0 PLANS AND STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Some time ago the AONB Unit commissioned consultants to update the Management Plan's context. The work included updating information on plans, strategies, Acts etc which are relevant to the AONB Management Plan. This information will be useful to the full plan review process.
- 4.2 The AONB Unit will review this information over the next few months to ensure it is up to date and comprehensive.

5.0 SPECIAL QUALITIES

- 5.1 As part of the preparation work on the earlier Management Plans the special qualities of the Llŷn AONB were defined – these can be seen below. These qualities are fairly general and we do not foresee a need to change these for the revised Plan.

- Beautiful landscape and coast
- Tranquility and a clean environment
- A wealth of wildlife and habitats
- The Historic Environment
- The Welsh language and culture
- People and close knit communities
- Local produce and businesses
- Access and rights of way

6.0 THE VISION

- 6.1 A Vision for the Llŷn AONB area (based on a 2040 date) is included in the existing Plan and reads as follows:

AN AREA OF BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND COAST, SUPPORTING A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE AND PROVIDING A RANGE OF NATURAL SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. HISTORIC FEATURES AND OTHER QUALITIES BEING VALUED AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUSTAINING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

- 6.2 It is believed that this Vision in the most part is still mostly relevant but could be somewhat simplified and be amended to include some other relevant matters. Therefore it is suggested that the following amended Vision is included in the revised Plan (based on 2050):

AN AREA OF BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND COAST WHERE INDIGENOUS WILDLIFE THRIVES WITH LOW LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND A VARIETY OF PUBLIC ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND FEATURES IN GOOD CONDITION, LOCAL BUSINESSES SUCCEEDING AND LLŶN COMMUNITIES SUSTAINING THE WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

7.0 AIMS/ OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

- 7.1 Soon the AONB Unit will start to assess and revise the existing Plan's aims/ objectives and policies and suggest updating/ changes to respond to new information and/ or a change in circumstances. There may be a need to include additional new policies. A meeting of the JAC will be arranged to discuss the draft aims/ objectives and policies.
- 7.2 When the aims/ objectives and policies have been agreed upon there will be a need to review the Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assesments. The aim is to appoint a Consultant to undertake this work.
- 7.3 Hand in hand with other work on the Plan there will be a need to update the Action Plan. The Action Plan which includes information on the work which it is intended to undertake during the Plan period, stating who will be lead partner, a timeline and if possible the source of finance. It must be remembered that in this respect the Plan is for the area not for the AONB Unit and a variety of organisations and bodies can implement actions to achieve the aims/ objectives of the Plan.
- 7.4 There will be a need to undertake a period of consultation on the revised draft Plan. As part of this work we will consult with public and private sectors, societies and individuals by various methods to get their views on the Plan. The Joint Advisory Committee will have a key role in assessing the responses received during the consultation period.

8.0 KEY ISSUES

- 8.1 As another initial step in the review process members of the JAC are requested to suggest what, in their opinion, are some some of key issues which are having an impact upon the qualities and the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as noted above.
- 8.2 Also, we would welcome suggestions as regards possible actions or projects which could engage with the challenges facing these qualities.

9.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Accept the amended Vision to be included in the Management Plan.
- 9.2 Provide comments regarding key issues and pressures on the area's qualities.