

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	July 2 nd 2025
TITLE	AONB Management Plan Review
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	AONB Service Officer
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the information

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report contains further information on the review of the AONB Management Plan. At the previous meeting of the Joint Committee, held on November the 26th, there were two separate reports on the Management Plan – one related to the background and the second regarding the process and Vision.

2.0 GUIDE ON THE REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

2.1 As noted previously we will need to follow the steps outlined in the Guide on preparing and reviewing Management Plans. This Guide has recently been updated by Land Use Consultants on behalf of Natural Resources Wales.

2.2 Keith Davies, Principal Advisor Designated Landscapes at Natural Resources Wales appeared at the previous meeting to provide background on the Guide, more information is available in the committee minutes. The Guide is a substantial document, however it is understood that a summary document is going to be produced but is yet to be published. A copy of the complete Guide can be seen on the following link: [Designated Landscape Management Plan Guidance - Landscapes Wales](#)

2.3 In brief the Guide suggests following the steps noted below when reviewing the 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 Aims/ Objectives and Policies.
- Create a new Action Plan for the plan period.
- Reviewing the Strategic Environmental and Habitats Impact Assessment.

2.4 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 but following a request at the previous meeting a copy of the full report was sent out to JAC members on e-mail.

3.3 Comments on the State of the AONB Report (2021) were received by some JAC members and Natural Resources Wales. A summary of those comments can be seen below:

- Why is the report in English only ?
- There is a lack of information on some matters, specifically those regarding climate change, landscape, wellbeing, pollution and biodiversity.
- There is no reference to the Shoreline Management Plan.
- More recent information is now available on some topics eg agriculture.
- It would be good to see an assessment of how other plans – the Local Development Plan, the State of the AONB Report, Gwynedd and Môn Wellbeing assessment – correlate as part of the revised Management Plan content.
- The State of Report needs to reflect the recent Guide that was commissioned by Natural Resources Wales.

3.4 On the basis of the responses received our intention is to arrange for the State of the AONB to be revised and updated so as to gain a better understanding of the area and pressures on the environment. Also, the revised Report will be bilingual. The aim is to get the revised State of Report completed by the next JAC meeting which

is scheduled for November 2025.

4.0 SPECIAL QUALITIES

4.1 Information regarding the defined special qualities of the Llŷn AONB had been provided to the last meeting. No comments were received in respect to these definitions therefore they will be carried over into the revised Plan.

5.0 THE VISION

5.1 A revised Vision for the Llŷn AONB area (based on a 2050 date) was presented at the meeting held in November 2024. There was considerable debate on the Vision and one change was suggested i.e to include “ and their habitat”. With this change the revised Vision was accepted to be included in draft revised Plan. The Vision now reads as:

AN AREA OF BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND COAST, SUPPORTING A WEALTH OF WILDLIFE **AND THEIR HABITATS**, 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.

6.0 KEY ISSUES

6.1 As an initial step in the review process members of the JAC were requested at the last meeting for their opinion regarding key issues which are having an impact upon the qualities and the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Also, comments and suggestions were requested as to possible actions or projects which could engage with the challenges facing these qualities. However there was only a limited discussion on this (please see the minutes for more details).

6.2 As a follow on, when we sent out a message regarding the State of the AONB in January 2025, a link to the existing management Plan was included and also a request for comments on two specific questions. JAC members were welcomed to respond by contacting the AONB team to arrange a meeting or sending comment in via email or post. The questions posed were:

- What, in your opinion, are the main environmental, economic and social (including cultural) challenges that face the area over the next 20-25 years?
- Which possible actions could help to address these challenges ?

6.3 Numerous responses were to this request for comments, thanks to all who responded. A summary of the responses received can be seen in **Appendix 1**. Some of these comments were of a more general nature, the response to those are shown below:

- It is believed that it was agreed that individual members wanted to be part of the discussion and therefore it would be easier if each other's comments can be seen – therefore everyone's e-mail was included in order to get an open discussion.

The reason for not including the e-mail addresses of all individuals in the original message was based on data protection.

- Would like to get a clearer picture of the AONB's structure within the County Council i.e is the "AONB Unit" the same as the "AONB Team", who are the individuals who are part of the AONB Unit and/or Team ?What is the relationship of the AONB Team and/ or Unit with other Council departments?

The AONB Unit is part of the Planning Policy, Landscape and Nature Service in the Environment Department. The AONB Team are the AONB Unit staff which consist of 4 members – Bleddyn Jones (AONB Service Officer, Morus Dafydd (Prosiect Officer), Kevin Roberts (Countryside Warden, Elin Hughes (Activities Officer).

- How and where do the priorities plans, which have been identified in the Ardal Ni Development Plan intertwine with the AONB plans?

The AONB team have contributed to the Ardal Ni plans and are aware of their contents. Also they will be considered as part of the Management Plan review.

6.4 The AONB will take all the comments received into consideration when moving ahead with Management Plan review work.

7.0 THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Although some elements of the existing Plan are dated, many of the Plan's aims and policies remain relevant. 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 and comments received thus far. 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 The existing Plan also contains an Action Plan (5 year work programme) which includes many individual actions. These action vary – some are fairly small scale while others are more far reaching - they all contribute to realising the Plan’s aims/ policies. These actions are not exclusively for the AONB Unit, some are relevant to other Council Departments or bodies such as Natural Resources Wales, The National Trust, Scottish Power etc.
- 7.3 Most of the actions in the Action Plan have been completed but not all. We have not prepared an analysis of each of these actions but this can be done if members are of the opinion it would be worthwhile and a good use of resources.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 Accept the information.
- 8.2 Support the intention to update the State of the AONB Report as the continuation of the work to review the Management Plan.