







NAAONB Activity Report 2018-20
March 2019

Strategic Objective	Action	Key milestones and deadlines	Narrative 3, March 2019	
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Instigate regular meetings with Ministers, Cabinet Secretaries, and civil servants to highlight the value of the AONB designation, AONB partnerships and Conservation Boards to society	See advocacy action plans As required	Continual dialogue with civil servants around the full suite of Glover Review. Input to policy development particularly agri environment, grant in aid profiling, planning, and nature recovery	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Respond to government consultations, drawing on the evidence and experience of the NAAONB and across the AONB Family	Consultation responses agreed, submitted and uploaded to L4L website As required	A response to the Government's consultation on Net Gain was prepared and submitted on 8 February 2019. A Government consultation on Conservation Covenants is currently being considered. Briefing paper prepared on AONBs role in housing and development in their areas. High level discussions with Defra, Natural England and others around delivering 25YEP targets including Nature Recovery Network, Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1C. Extensive work underway to ensure that natural beauty is considered in governments thinking around the Environment Bill.	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Produce an Advocacy Strategy for England and Wales	Strategy in place October 2018	The development of our communications and advocacy functions is the subject of a Taking the Lead Topic Working Group.	●

			NAAONB to support this approach and consider recommendations.	
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Produce and lead on the delivery of communication action plans for England and Wales	Action plans in place October 2018	The development of our communications and advocacy functions is the subject of a Taking the Lead Topic Working Group. NAAONB to support this approach and consider recommendations.	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Lead on the delivery of an AONB communications action plan, linked to the advocacy plans for England and Wales	Ongoing	The development of our communications and advocacy functions is the subject of a Taking the Lead Topic Working Group. NAAONB to support this approach and consider recommendations.	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Regular input to meetings As required		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Explore options around a designated landscape offer for place-based agri-environment delivery post-Brexit October 2018		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Provide guidance on management plan content to AONB partnerships in Wales to reflect changed need associated with the above December 2018		●

<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to the Future Landscapes Wales programme	Develop the principle of a hub approach to working beyond boundaries- test and document this in one non-designated landscape December 2019		
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Devise a resourcing strategy for the NAAONB	Agree strategy October 2018	Awaiting outcome of governance review	
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Foster relationships with other trusts and funding bodies to explore shared agendas	High level meetings with CEOs/trustees/chairs Annually	No resources to deliver	
<i>All</i>	Trustee recruitment	July annually		
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Work with the AONB Family and Defra to develop a set of performance metrics linked to the AONB purpose(s) and the 25 Year Environment Plan	Key metrics agreed May 2018	The Draft metrics have been shared with Defra as part of the NAAONB response to Defra's 25 YEP Performance Indicator Framework Consultation. Further work is in preparation for defining the metrics and how AONBs can record performance against each of them. Paper in preparation around the future evidence needs of AONBs and how they can be better managed and co-ordinated.	
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Website development and information management	Case studies of exemplary work collated and presented on website May 2018	The development of our communications and advocacy functions is the subject of a Taking the Lead Topic Working Group. NAAONB to support this approach and consider recommendations	

<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Explore options with Defra around an AONB offer for place-based agri-environment delivery post-Brexit	Iterative development complete – final offer submitted to Minister April 2018	The NAAONB's submission to Defra request for potential Tests & Trials for a new Environmental Land Management system has been successful along with a further 49 submissions. Farming for the Nation was the only collaborative submission involving 13 AONBs. We have run a workshop in London with Defra for all the AONBs involved and submitted Strategic Objectives and bid for funding. Important amendment tabled relating to Part 1 of this Bill. Continued advocacy around its support by parliamentarians.	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Improve Basecamp and its use	Make recommendations for improvement May 2018	Work on new forum to replace Basecamp underway, testing should begin in March 2019	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family	Scope opportunities June 2018	Insufficient resources to allocate to this area of work currently	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family	Develop 2 x bids July 2018 and Jan 2019	Insufficient resources to allocate to this area of work currently	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Proactive national funding bids to charitable trust to build further resilience within the NAAONB and AONB Family	Applications submitted Aug 2018 and Feb 2019	Insufficient resources to allocate to this area of work currently	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Maintain high level relationships with the Heritage Lottery Fund	Input to strategic planning Annually	Engagement in launch of National Lottery Heritage Fund Strategic Direction	●

All	Trustee induction and training	April annually		●
All	Training and development programme for staff agreed	April annually		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide guidance on management plan content to AONB partnerships in England to reflect change need associated with agri-environment delivery	Presentation at regional meetings x3 June 2018	Support provided to AONBs to embed the ecosystem approach into management plans, through self-assessment checklist, and expert advice provided through workshops and webinars.	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Improve Basecamp and its use	Implement recommendations July 2018	Work on new forum to replace Basecamp underway, testing should begin in March 2019	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Build on existing dialogue and continue to grow trust and support by liaison/direct contact with national bodies. Represent the AONB Family in discussions around the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes (FMEOPL)	Provide input on behalf of the AONB Family to Natural England's landscape advisory group Biannually	New Chair of NE appointed. Invitation to meet will be sought later in spring	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Website development and information management	Website technical development planned and implemented July 2018	On-going	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Wildlife Trusts Biennially		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Woodland Trust Biennially		●

<i>enhancing natural beauty</i>				
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	English Heritage Biennially		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	Visit England Biennially		●
To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty	Support to individual members on technical, policy, and advocacy matters. Determined by the membership, as and when required	As required		●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Improve Basecamp and its use	Assess Basecamp use and efficacy April 2018	Work on new forum to replace Basecamp underway, testing should begin in March 2019	●
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Organise national events to explore issues relating to designated landscapes	Lead Officers' meeting Feb annually	Meeting delayed until March 2019 with additional meeting on Glover Review arranged.	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Further develop our relationship with the sustainability unit of NHS England. Develop a joint bid for funding around promoting the value of natural beauty to health and wellbeing	Bid agreed and submitted September 2018	Work continuing with University of Winchester to develop a final bid to the Research Councils for a significant project termed Significant Spaces.	●
<i>To develop an understanding of</i>	Maintain links with Defra LEP round table	3 x meetings annually Mar annually		●

<i>AONBs and the issues they face</i>				
<i>All</i>	Organise and support Board meetings	X 4 annually	On-going	●
<i>All</i>	Organise and support AGM	Nov annually	Venue booking being made for the 28th of November 2019	●
<i>All</i>	Maintain internal IT and communications systems	Ongoing	No reported IT issues	●
<i>All</i>	Ensure the NAAONB remains compliant with H&S and business legislation	Ongoing	Rolling support to NAAONB provided through Peninsula Business Safe	●
To secure and manage and resources	Future Landscape Project: Successful application to the HLF's Resilient Heritage for the delivery of two related activities 1) Improving the Sustainability and Governance of the NAAONB. 2) Development and delivery of staff Professional and Personal Development programme "Taking the Lead" that will lead to greater levels of collaborative working leading to the establishment of Topic Working Groups (TWGs).	Permission to start secured, staff recruited contracts let and consultants started working.	Taking the lead programme. There have been 5 Regional workshops for staff on the Taking the Lead programme to help them to get the most out of their Lumina Spark profiles. Focus groups have run to identify and confirm priorities for the Topic Working Groups. A launch event has been held in Birmingham. The Sustainability & Governance contract has led to a workshop for Trustees. The Overall evaluation contract has been let and workshop held for all contractors and NAAONB staff.	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards, and the NAAONB work together</i>	Support sub-UK groupings of designated landscape staff with national intelligence and insight. Attend meetings in the South West, South, North, and in Wales	4 x meetings Annually	Meeting scheduled with Northern Group, South East and East Protected Landscapes, and Designated Landscapes in Wales	●
<i>To improve the way in which AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards,</i>	Support and advise the national planning sub-group. Attend meetings as and when appropriate	2 x meetings Annually	Attended meeting on 6th March 2019	●

<i>and the NAAONB work together</i>				
<i>To develop an understanding of AONBs and the issue they face</i>	Organise national events to explore issues relating to designated landscapes	National Conference July annually	Planning underway with local teams	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Refresh Corporate Relationship programme	Clear productive relationships developed with two strategic corporate partners May 2020		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Provide an annual report for Defra, based on key metrics, showcasing positive outcomes from AONB Partnership and Conservation Board work	Annual Report produced March annually	The development of our communications and advocacy functions is the subject of a Taking the Lead Topic Working Group. NAAONB to support this approach and consider recommendations. This must tie in with agreement of key metrics with Defra	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Keep under review the Defra/NE/NAAONB tripartite agreement	Review actions Annually		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with government departments on achieving shared objectives	See advocacy action plans Reported Annually		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with the Landscape Institute to achieve shared objectives and further develop a learning pathway for landscape professionals	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of the LI As required	NAAONB attended the LI national Award event and presented an award.	●
<i>To develop an understanding of</i>	Organise national events to explore issues relating to designated landscapes	Chairman's meeting Nov annually		●

<i>AONBs and the issue they face</i>				
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with Natural England on achieving shared objectives	Bilateral meeting with Chair and CEO of NE Oct annually	Recently become a partner in NE Living Coast initiative.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	The Landscape Institute Biennially	Continued dialogue with LI on a national accreditation pathway and LI membership for AONB and NAAONB staff	●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	University of Winchester Biennially		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with CPRE on achieving shared objectives	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of CPRE As required	Regular meetings with CEO of CPRE on strategic alignment and areas of mutual support and interest. Latest meeting March 1st 2019.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Actively engage with Wildlife and Countryside Link to ensure landscape and supporting data is considered in all areas of policy development	2 x meetings annually Engagement with policy groups as appropriate As required	Watching brief on LINK outputs and briefings and contributing AONB position where necessary.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Participate in National Park Authorities conference	1 x Conference Biennially		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Instigate regular meetings with National Parks England	2 x meetings Annually	Continual dialogue with NPE both at exec and Chair level.	●

<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Participate in Welsh Members' seminar	1 x seminar Annually		●
<i>To secure and manage and resources</i>	High level meetings with Natural Resources Wales on achieving shared objectives	Bilateral meeting with Chair and CEO of NRW Oct annually	Awaiting outcome of parity discussions with the Minister before suggesting meeting	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Evaluate and review/refresh national accords with other bodies	National Parks England Biennially	Continual dialogue with NPE both at exec and Chair level.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with CPRW on achieving shared objectives	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of CPRW As required		●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	High level meetings with CNP on achieving shared objectives	2 x meetings annually with the CEO of CNP As required	Attended AGM and inputted to discussions around Glover Review. Met with CNP interim CEO and team.	●
<i>To support policies for conserving and enhancing natural beauty</i>	Provide input to the emerging Environment Bill.	Spring 2019	Attendance at Ministerial round table on Target setting. Attendance at Broadway/IEMA Shaping the Future Conference. Submission to Defra survey on target setting and IEMA survey on Objective setting.	