

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2013  
**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT  
**SUBJECT:** THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA  
OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To advise Members of the recent extension of the Clwydian Range Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its implications for Flintshire County Council.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Clwydian Range was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by the Secretary of State for Wales in July 1985 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. There are just five AONBs in Wales - including the Wye Valley which straddles the English-Welsh border.

2.02 Due to their special qualities, AONBs have more protection than other areas under the planning process and the quality of their scenery is considered to be equal to that of National Parks.

2.03 The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty – which includes not just the landscape but also flora, fauna and geological features.

2.04 In November 2011 the Welsh Government's Environment Minister confirmed a southerly extension to include much of the Dee Valley from Corwen to Newbridge along with stunning natural features such as the Eglwyseg Escarpment, Horseshoe Pass and Esclusham Mountain. The extension added a further 229 square kilometres to the 160 square kilometres of heather, hillforts and limestone cliffs that make up the Clwydian Range. It was the first new area of land in Wales to be awarded AONB status for 26 years. At the same time, the whole area became known as the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.

2.05 A presentation will be given at the Committee meeting, which will focus on the extent of the AONB, the management arrangements and the implications for Flintshire County Council.

**3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 To be covered in the presentation.

**4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That the report be noted.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None directly.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None directly.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None directly.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None directly.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None directly.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Ongoing through the management of the AONB.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Significant recent consultation undertaken with respect to the extension to the Clwydian Range AONB.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Not applicable.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

**Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow  
Telephone: 01352 703201  
Email: andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk**

