



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Public Document Pack



Tirwedd Cenedlaethol

**Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley
National Landscape**

Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy AHNE
Park Cenedlaethol Loggerheads, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir Ddinbych CH7 5LH

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB
Loggerheads Country Park, Nr. Mold, Denbighshire CH7 5LH

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To: Members of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee

Date: Friday, 8 November 2024

Direct Dial: 01824 712589

Email: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee, Friday, 15 November 2024 at 10.00 am in Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold and by video conference.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

- 1 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 2 ELECTION OF CHAIR**
- 3 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (Pages 5 - 8)**
To consider the minutes (copy attached) of the previous meeting of the AONB Joint Committee held on 21 June 2024.
- 4 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2024 (Pages 9 - 14)**
To note the minutes (copy attached) of the National Landscape Partnership Meeting held 18 October 2024 (HS).
- 5 FOR INFORMATION - INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT (Pages 15 - 22)**

To receive a information report regarding the internal audit report.

6 EUROPARC YOUNG RANGER CAMP AUGUST 2024

To receive a presentation from Rachel Jones and Imogen Hammond on the Europarc Young Ranger Camp August 2024.

7 UPDATE ON NORTHEAST WALES NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION PROJECT

To receive a verbal update by NRW Programme Manager Ash Pierce (NRW) on the Northeast Wales National Park Designation Project.

8 PRESENTATION BY DWR CYMRU

To receive a presentation from Dwr Cymru.

9 JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL RETURN UPDATE REPORT (STANDING ITEM) (Pages 23 - 26)

To consider the Joint Committee Annual Return Update report (copy attached) (SG and PO)

10 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (STANDING ITEM) (Pages 27 - 32)

To consider the Forward Work Programme (copy attached) from the AONB Officer (HS).

11 FUTURE MEETING DATES

For Information – the next meeting date of the AONB Joint Committee is 11 April 2025.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

David Healey
Hugh Jones
Chris Dolphin

Nigel Williams
Emrys Wynne

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Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

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Agenda Item 3

Minutes of a meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held in Council Chamber, Guildhall, Wrexham and by video conference on Friday, 21 June 2024 at 10.00 am.

AONB JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors David Healey (FCC), Dave Hughes (FCC), Emrys Wynne (DCC), and Councillor Hugh Jones (WCBC).

ALSO PRESENT

Steve Gadd (Head of Finance and Property DCC), Paula O'Hanlon (Senior Finance Officer, DCC), Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Officer), David Shiel (AONB Area Manager), Karen Weaver (AONB Co-ordinator), Clare Lord (Solicitor/Places Team Leader), Helen Mrowiec, Andy Worthington, Mike Pather, David Shiel, Ian Hughes, Rhun Jones, Elinor Cartwright, Mike Skuse and Marie Russell (Committee Officer WCBC/zoom host) Huw Rees (DCC)

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The meeting was opened by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Officer and Ranger Service Manager, Howard Sutcliffe.

Apologies were received from Councillor Nigel Williams (WCBC) and Ash Pearce. Councillor Alan James (DCC)

There were no declarations of interest.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

The draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Committee held on 12 April 2024 were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

Clare Lord provided a verbal update in relation to the legal agreement which had been sent to Flintshire and Wrexham for comment. This document had been approved and now required joint signing.

3. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE STEERING GROUP HELD ON 30 APRIL 2024

The draft minutes of the AONB Partnership held on 30 April were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be agreed as an accurate record.

4. VARIATION IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

AGREED – That Item 6 - Joint Committee Annual Return report - be brought forward and taken at this time.

5. JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL OUTTURN AND ACCOUNTS (STANDING ITEM)

Steve Gadd introduced the report and advised that Members were asked to note the financial outturn for 2023/24 (Appendix 1) and the Reserve Balances as of 31st March 2024 (Appendix 4).

Members were also asked to formally approve the 2024/25 draft budget (appendix 2) and review and sign the Annual Return for 2023/24 (Appendix 3). 4.

In introducing his report Steve referred in particular to the summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2023/24 (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report). He stated that the final outturn position showed an overall overspend of £26,439 which had been funded from the revenue Reserve.

AGREED – That the report be noted.

6. PRESENTATION CURLEW CONNECTIONS PROJECT

Rhun Jones gave a detailed presentation which provided information under the following headings.

- Curlew were woven through out history, art and culture
- What do we know about the curlew?
- They live for 30 years
- Breeding distribution and how previous years compared to recent data
- Changes % in numbers of breeding curlew across the UK and Ireland
- Reasons for losing curlew population, changes in Agricultural practices and loss of habitat
- ~~High~~-Due to low numbers of curlew predators (fox and crow) are considered a factor in trying to sustain the tiny population of them.
- The UK has lost nearly half its breeding curlew in twenty years
- The first 10 weeks when curlews were chicks is when they are most vulnerable
- Need to find a solution to increase and maintain the population sustainably.
- Welcome to the Curlew Wales website
- Recovery plan is available on the website
- Curlew Celebration Event was held in April 2024.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the interesting and informative presentation and responded to questions accordingly thereafter.

AGREED – That the presentation be noted.

7. UPDATE ON NORTHEAST WALES NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION PROJECT

Howard Sutcliffe gave an update on behalf of Ash Pearce who had submitted his apologies. He advised that the project had been through the engagement process and draft ideas were currently being considered i.e. reviewing boundaries. Conclusions were being drawn and full consultation would take place in Autumn 2024.

AGREED – That the update be noted.

8. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Standing Item)

HS introduced the FWP and referred to the main issues for consideration.

The current pressures that LG were currently facing were referred to. It was hoped that WG would be considering loosening of the revenue scheme and thus allowing greater access towards core funding for staff.

It was noted that most items within the programme were on track and there were a number of new projects.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

9. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting would be held on 15 November 2024.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding by Ian Bancroft, Chief Executive WCBC took place at the conclusion of the meeting.

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National Landscape

Agenda Item 4

Meeting of the National Landscape Partnership
Friday 18th October 2024
at 10:00
held at the Old School Room
Llanarmon yn Ial

In Attendance

NL Partnership Members

Andrew Worthington OBE (Chair)
Councillor Martyn Hogg DCC
Councillor Bobby Feeley DCC
Councillor Dave Healey FCC
Ian Papworth Urban interest
Michael Skuse Landscape interest
Del Roberts Jones Urban Interest

John Roberts Access & Recreation
Interest
Les Starling Natural Environment
Interest
David Davies Individual Interest
Sandy Archdale Land Management
Rajan Madhok Urban Interest

NL Joint Committee Member

Councillor Emrys Wynne DCC

Clwydian Range & Dee Valley NL (AONB) Team

Howard Sutcliffe NL Officer
David Shiel NL Area Manager
Ceri Lloyd NL SDF Officer
Gwenno Jones NL Dark Sky Officer
Karen Weaver NL Coordinator
Ros Stockdale NL Development
Officer
Imogen Hammond NL Ranger
Rachel Jones NL Senior Ranger

Denbighshire County Council (DCC)

Huw Rees Countryside &
Heritage Services
Manager

Flintshire County Council (FCC)

Stuart Jones Access & Rights
of Way Officer

Wrexham County Borough Council

Mike Bather

Natural Resources Wales

Richard Dearing
Ash Pearce

CADW

Guy Salkeld

Translator

Catrin Gilkes (online)

Apologies for absence were submitted from:

Fiona Gale, Fiona Grant, Roger Cragg, Christine Evans, Cllr Dave Hughes (JC Chair),
Cllr Alan James, Cllr Jeremy Kent, Cllr Dan Rose, Tom Woodall,

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting, and welcomed Stuart Jones, (Flintshire County Council Access Officer), explaining that Mr Jones was substituting for Tom Woodall. He also welcomed National Landscape Dark Sky Officer, Gwenno Jones and Catrin Gilkes, translator for the meeting.

Around the tables introductions were held.

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Update on the Review of Working Groups – Farming Group

National Landscape (NL) Officer, Howard Sutcliffe explained that 1.5 million had be spent on joint projects with farmers and landowners over a period of three years. A meeting had been held at Genus, and another meeting would be convened.

Page 3 item 4.- Curlew Connections Project

National Landscape (NL) Area Manager, David Shiel, updated that four nests had produced eggs that had hatched unfortunately, none of the fledglings had survived. The farming community and landowners had integrated well with the project. The Team was now getting ready for next year with optimism. It was pointed out that although curlew is often seen, they live for 30 years and the ones that are seen may have been around a significant length of time.

Page 3 item 5 Sustainable Tourism & Action Plan

The Joint Committee had signed off the Plan, and copies of the new plan were circulated.

Page 5 item 7. Any Other Business – SDF Panel Working Group Meeting

Howard confirmed that only members of the Partnership could be added to the group, and that outside bodies were not permitted.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2b

Our Picturesque Landscape Project (OPL)

David Shiel explained that the six-year project would end on 5th November, and that a final report of the project would brought to the next meeting.

Action

OPL Final Report brought to the next meeting.

3. National Park for Northeast Wales Project

The Designated Landscapes Programme Team Leader, Ash Pearce (AP), provided an update on the progress of the project which included information on the following points: -

- Public Consultation – Autumn 2024
- Analysis and publish a Consultation Report.
- Complete evidence gathering.
- External Advisory Groups
- On going stakeholder engagement.
- NRW Board decision.
- Statutory Consultation - Autumn 2025.
- Prepare and Submit a Designation Order to Welsh Government (WG)

4. Questions and Answers

Who would manage a new National Park?

AP - Discussions were starting to be held to consider transition arrangements. The transition period would last for around 2 years. The National Park Authority would establish a Management Plan.

Had the boundary between Wales and England, Shropshire World Heritage Site (WHS) been discussed?

AP -Natural England and Shropshire had expressed an interested in the process. Welsh Government may be open to discussions with Natural England. Natural England had not expressed an interest to date.

Would there be any collaboration with the models used in England and Scotland?

AP – Natural Resources Wales (NRW) were discussing processes and legality liaising, but not the exact details of this project. There was an appetite for change, and Welsh Government would like to make a decision on the project within this Senedd term, and at

this stage NRW were still working with original model. The Models that were being considered to date were a National Park or an increased National Landscape or to stay the same.

Funding – misconceptions?

AP- Funding was critical and NRW were discussing funding with the Welsh Government however, there had been no clarity to date. The size, population and the progression of the project were firstly being considered. Clarity of funding arrangements were constantly raised we have been informed that 'new funding' ¾ from Welsh Government and a ¼ from the Local Authorities, in reality all would all come from WG. AP had been informed that Welsh Government can afford a National Park. Ongoing.

Would there be a case in the future for a boundary extension ?

AP – Probably not immediately, it would be at least 10 years plus before any consideration would be given.

Why was Halkyn Mountain taken out of the search area?

The mountain provided excellent open access for people to explore and also had the history of lead mines.

AP- the landscape did not fully meet the criteria; the main principal was that the beauty was comprised by overhead lines etc. Full information was available via the Evaluation Report.

Gronant Dunes

It was raised that Gronant Dunes, and the Natterjack Toads were a very important part of the landscape and should be considered to be reintroduced in the boundary.

Effects of the Status on the Farming Community

AP – National Park Status would not necessarily have a negative effect on farming work or business, there may be slightly more planning regulations (outside the existing NL area), however, there would be additional opportunities and grant funding. The status would not be an oppressive force coming in to effect anyone's business. Welsh Government would consider all views as part of the consultation, including that of NFU, before they make their final decision.

Was the Wind Farm project at Mynydd Mynyllod the reason that the area was taken out of the search?

The wind farm was not a factor, the area was assessed purely on the landscape, and it did not meet the criteria.

Car parks were very busy in the National Landscape, what considerations would Local Authorities be given over the car parks

AP - Visitor numbers would have to be evidence based, and not any preconceptions, models of other National Parks would be considered. Most of the areas were already designated and received a lot of visitors, how many more visitors there would be with a National Park status would be considered.

Local Authorities were financially struggling , and losing the car park fee would be a loss of income

HS -South Downs National Park did not include the Seven Sisters Country Park and therefore the car parks were kept by Local Authority. Toilets were also an issue that the National Park could assist with.

Action

AP proposed a view to be submitted from the National Landscape Team and a view from the Joint Committee and Partnership.

The Chair proposed that a briefing note of all of views and key issues to be drafted along with the Local Authority, conservation, and biodiversity views. A balanced view could then be gained.

Action

A date to be convened - A special meeting to be held before the end of the consultation period.

If anyone has a specific item that they would like to be considered, please bring to Karen's attention.

AP requested a Teams meeting.

5. **National Landscape Dark Sky Project**

David Shiel and Dark Sky Officer, Gwenno Jones provided a PowerPoint presentation which included the following points:

- Project commenced 2018 and commissioned Dark Sky Wales to consider our skies, and produced a document stating the benefits.
- 92% of the dark skies of the National Landscapes were the best in Wales and worth preserving
- Nos partnership was created in 2019 with a shared Dark Sky Officer
- Astro photography was produced for the NL
- Lots of Dark Sky events with communities were held.
- 2010- 2020 Supplementary Guidance for dark skies was produced by NL
- Dark sky friendly lighting installed at Loggerheads and won an award.
- Project was now with the 8 protected landscapes in Wales,
- The Dark Sky Team having been leading on various projects with communities and business to change the lighting in some buildings, leisure centres, tennis courts, schools
- Close to submitting application to Dark Sky International Association.

Referring to the dark sky friendly lighting David Shiel explained that essentially businesses were being asked to switch to LED and smart lighting. Gwenno was corresponding with lighting manufacturers to try to ensure that dark sky friendly lighting was produced extensively and were easy to buy. The funding was from Welsh Government.

Dark Sky Friendly Lighting at Ruthin Rugby Club Project

David Davies expressed an interest as secretary of the Club. He added that the new lighting at the club had made a huge difference with promising with efficiency savings too and thanked David and the team for all of their help.

An application had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for assistance with ecological projects - 60 % of biodiversity and pollination were dependent on dark skies.

Application to the International Dark Sky Association

David Shiel confirmed that a draft application had been submitted to International Dark Sky Association and the response received stated that the street lighting within the three Local Authorities currently did not conform, and without those authorities conforming the application would be problematic.

6. **General Update from National Landscape Officer**

Howard referred to the recent crisis with the role out of Denbighshire's CC new bin collection system, adding that he would like to thank all of the National Landscape Team for all of their help in assisting with bin collections, adding that it was a good example of the flexibility of the service, by aiding another service that was struggling.

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) Budget

Howard shared his concerns regarding the extreme financial pressure that Denbighshire Local Authority was currently under, which was a threat to the Service, with large cuts being proposed.

Ffridd booklet

HS introduced the Ffridd booklet explaining the unique landscape of the Ffridd. The booklet was a technical guide to managing the landscape and had been published in partnership with PONT.

7. **Any Other Business**

- **International Young Ranger Camp**

National Landscape Ranger, Imogen Hammond, gave brief overview of the key elements of the international camp explaining that the camp was hosted by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

National Landscape and funded by Tirweddau Cymru Landscape Wales and the Welsh Government. It took place from the 20 - 27 July 2024 and was attended by 12 Mentors and 32 Junior Rangers. The participants were from 16 different Protected Areas across 11 European countries. (see attached report).

The Chair commented that it was great effort by the National Landscape Ranger Team and that it was nice to see so many young people enjoying themselves in the countryside.

8. **Future Meeting Dates**

Friday 21st February 2025 10:00

DRAFT

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D242504- Internal Audit of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 2023-24

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Purpose and Scope of Review

The Committees internal audit, acting independently and on a basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

Background

The AONB is an area which covers the Clwydian range and Dee Valley; it includes parts of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

Denbighshire County Council is the lead authority on the Joint Committee of the AONB and therefore, the financial regulations, contract standing orders and Rules of Debate of this authority apply.

Audit Opinion

Our review identified effective controls in place for monitoring of income and expenditure with supporting documentation in place. Examples include providing financial reports to the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Committee on a quarterly basis and regular reconciliations of AONB accounts. Appropriate treatment of VAT, National Insurance and PAYE were in place and comply with corporate financial regulations for purchases.

We reviewed petty cash transactions which identified that a small number of VAT receipts were not correctly treated. While the unclaimed VAT amount was not significant with a value of £30.18 further guidance has been provided to the service on the treatment of VAT when purchasing through petty cash. We will perform further testing in our next review to verify VAT is properly accounted.

The AONB committee meet regularly using both virtual and in person platforms and have detailed supporting documentation in place for recording discussion and decisions agreed.

A review of the completed annual returns for 2023-2024 identified some variations in income and expenditure in comparison to 2022-2023. Through discussion with officers, we were satisfied that the variances were reasonable and have no concerns.

The AONB risk register is regularly reviewed to ensure risks and mitigating actions are effective.

Our review identified that the service is working towards the sustainable development principles and supporting the council to achieve carbon net zero targets by 2030.

Overall good financial controls and records are well maintained. We therefore provide a high assurance rating. Details of the definitions of the ratings used in our report are included in Appendix 1.

High Assurance ●	Risk and controls well managed and objectives are being achieved
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Appendix 1 – Definition of Ratings Used Within the Report

Assurance Levels

High Assurance ●	Risk and controls well managed and objectives are being achieved
Medium Assurance ●	Minor weaknesses in management of risks and/or controls but no risk to achievement of objectives
Low Assurance ●	Significant weaknesses in management of risks and/or controls that put achievement of objectives at risk
No Assurance ●	Fundamental weaknesses in management of risks and/or controls that will lead to failure to achieve objectives

Action Plan Priority

Priority	Impact	Timescale (indicative)
P1	Action is imperative to ensure that the objectives for the area under review are met	To be implemented immediately. Explanation to Governance & Audit Committee should timeframe extend beyond three months
P2	Requires action to avoid significant risks to the achievement of objectives within the area under review	Implemented as soon as possible. Explanation to Governance & Audit Committee should timeframe extend beyond six months
P3	Action to enhance controls or improve operational efficiency	Implemented within six months. Governance & Audit Committee will be advised if longer timescale is necessary and/or justified

Risk Assessment Criteria

Risk Severity	Escalation Criteria	Likelihood & Impact
Moderate ●	Risk containable at service level – senior management and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) may need to be kept informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event is almost certain/likely to occur in most circumstances with very low impact • Event is likely/possible to occur with low impact • Event will possibly/unlikely/rarely occur with medium impact • Event rare and may occur only in exceptional circumstances with high impact
Major ●	Intervention by SLT and / or Corporate Executive Team (CET) with Cabinet involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event is almost certain to occur in most circumstances with low impact • Event is almost certain/likely to occur in most circumstances with medium impact • Event will possibly/unlikely to occur at some time with high impact • Event rare and may occur only in exceptional circumstances with very high impact
Critical ●	Significant CET and Cabinet intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event is almost certain or likely to occur with high impact • Event is almost certain/likely/possibly to occur with very high impact

Report Recipients

- AONB Officer and Ranger Service Manager
- Lead Officer - Countryside and Heritage
- Senior Finance and Assurance Officer
- Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services
- Corporate Executive Team
- Scrutiny Co-ordinators
- Interim Strategic Planning & Performance Team Leader
- Lead Member for Housing and Communities
- Chair-Performance Scrutiny Committee
- Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
- Governance and Audit Committee

Internal Audit Team

Nia Jones, Senior Auditor (CP)

nia.f.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk

Key Dates

Review commenced	June 2024
Review completed	July 2024
Reported to Governance & Audit Committee	September 2024

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**Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley**
National Landscape

**JOINT COMMITTEE
of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 15th November 2024

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Budget and Forecast Outturn 2024/25

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's current revenue budget outturn position for 2024/25.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's financial position for 2024/5.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the latest forecast financial outturn for 2024/25 (Appendix 1) and the progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 1. The current forecast outturn requires funding of £48,312 which as was agreed in the budget setting, will be funded from the AONB Revenue Reserve.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The proposed budget for 2024/25 was brought to the JC meeting in June and approved.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the latest forecast financial position for the AONB for 2024/25.

In terms of the 2024/25 financial year the funding of the AONB is relying on the use of the revenue reserve. The remaining revenue reserve will be in the region of £22k.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The current budget is dependent on income from NRW and the 3 Local Authorities. Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

	Budget	2024/25	Projected Outturn 2024/25
	£		
EXPENDITURE			
<u>Employees</u>			
Salaries		218,185	218,185
Subsistence			100
Training & Conference		1,000	1,000
Total Employee costs		219,185	219,285
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>			
Vehicle Hire		200	200
Mileage		3,500	3,500
Use of Public Transport		500	500
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses		4,200	4,200
<u>Other</u>			
Protective Clothing		1,000	1,000
Management Plan/Prof fees		2,500	2,500
Subscriptions		3,900	3,900
Audit Fees		1,582	1,582
IT / Communication costs		4,000	4,824
Office Expenses		500	500
Telephones		750	850
Total Other Expenses		14,232	15,156
<u>Projects</u>			
Grants		90,000	90,000
Total Project costs		90,000	90,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		327,617	328,641
INCOME			
NRW CRDV Grant		-100,538	-100,538
SDF Mgmt fee		-10,000	-10,000
SDF Grant		-90,000	-90,000
Misc Income			-6,000
LA Funding		-79,500	-79,500
Contributions from Reserve		-27,579	-22,603
WG Grant Mgmt fees		-20,000	-20,000
TOTAL INCOME		-327,617	-328,641
Total Net Expenditure		0	0

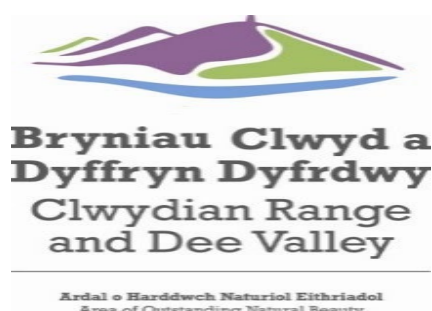
AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Appendix 1

(DENBIGHSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM COUNCILS)

AREA -Financial Statement at 31.10.24

	Budget	2024/25	Projected Outturn
	2024/25		2024/25
	£		£
EXPENDITURE			
<u>Employees</u>			
Salaries		211,619	211,619
Subsistence			100
Training & Conference		500	500
Total Employee costs		212,119	212,219
<u>Vehicle and Travel</u>			
Fuel		7,000	7,000
Fleet		14,000	14,000
Travel		1,800	1,000
Total Vehicle & Travel Expenses		22,800	22,000
<u>Other</u>			
Protective Clothing		1,500	1,500
General Equipment		250	250
IT / Communication costs		3,500	3,500
Telephones		700	834
Projects/Activity expenditure		4,000	4,000
Total Other Expenses		9,950	10,084
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		244,869	244,303
INCOME			
NRW Forestry Partnership		-30,821	-30,821
LA funding		-187,773	-187,773
Contributions from Reserve		-26,275	-25,709
TOTAL INCOME		-244,869	-244,303
Total Net Expenditure		0	0





Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy Agenda Item 10

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**Clwydian Range
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National Landscape

Forward Work Programme November 2024 Update

Project Existing	Detail/Action	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or Problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost -ve or +ve (£ Cost) or neutral (Through existing and external budgets)
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
Finance				
Finance and Funding	<i>Scoping by Internal Audit November 2024</i>	2024-25		Neutral
NRW Core AONB Funding	<i>New Verbal Offer 2025-27 £108k per year for two years</i>	<i>2025-27</i>		-ve
SDF Fund	WG continue fund at £100k.	2024-25		+ve
SLSP Fund	Year 3 at £200k	2024-25		
Strategic Plans 2022-25				
AONB Management Plan	<i>. LUC are producing new guidance after consultation with National Landscapes/AONBs</i>	2024		Neutral
South Recreation Plan	<i>South Area Rec Plan under consultation. North Plan implementing.</i>	2024		+ve
AONB Tourism Plan	<i>Printed Copy now available</i>	2024-30		Neutral
AONB Joint Committee				
Joint Committee Meetings	<i>JC Meetings on track.</i>	2024-25		Neutral
LA Legal Agreement	All agreed and sealed by LAs for next 5 years. <i>Reviewed by Head DCC Legal 31.1.24 in consultation with WCBC and FCC</i>	2019-2024		Neutral
AONB Champions/ AONB Local Members and Community Councils	<i>Become an open invitation 2 per year. Met 7.11.24 Gwernymynydd</i>	2023-24		Neutral

Forward Work Programme November 2024 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Partnership				
Full AONB Partnership Meetings	3 x AONB Partnership Meetings completed. Met 3 x in 2024	2023-24		Neutral
10 Year AONB Working Group Review	Updated info of Partnership/JC/ Volunteering Opportunities available December	2024		Neutral
Partnership Working Groups:				
Landscape Character and Built Environment	Landscape Character and Quality 2023	2023-24		+ve
Nature Recovery and Climate Change	Met to review national maps	2024-25		+ve
Heritage, Culture and Communities	Historic Environment 2024-25 Regular meets	2024-25		+ve
Tourism	Sustainable Tourism 2024-25 Met x3	2024-25		+ve
Recreation and Health	Access and Recreation 2024 Chair and Lead Officer to meet November. Meet scheduled Dec 2025	2024-25		+ve
Sustainable Development	Sustainable Communities 2024-25 reviewed met, new member Martin Hogg	2024-25		+ve

Forward Work Programme November 2024 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	Updated Action	New Dates		
AONB Special Projects				
SLSP	<p><i>Majestic Moorlands and Wild Woods of the AONB</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPAT Heritage work • Dinas Bran Improvements • Bryn Alyn Accessibility <p><i>Enjoying our remoter landscapes 2022-25.</i></p> <p><i>Projects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moorlands and the traditions of the Commons • Woodlands Study • LNR/Llangollen GI/Pengwern Planting 	2022-25		+ve
SLSP Collaborative	<p><i>The AONB is engaged in three collaborative projects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Traditional Boundaries • All Wales Dark Skies Project • All Wales Education Project 	2022-25		+ve
SDF	2022-25 £100k per annum	2022-25		+ve
Special Project WG	<p>2022-25 £300k allocated to increase staffing:</p> <p><i>Farming/Engagement Officers appointed: Huw Morgan/Mari Jones. AONB Mgt Plan Ros Stockdale</i></p>	2022-25		+ve

Forward Work Programme November 2024 Update Continued

NRW Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Campaign Work Dogs/Litter</i> • <i>Conservation Grazing Signs</i> • <i>Prot Equip/Uniform Young Rangers/Vols</i> • <i>Community Miles/Regional Routes</i> • <i>AONB Tourism Strategy Print</i> 	2024-27		
Our Picturesque Landscape Project	<i>1 year extension final year projects progressing. Closed down November 2024</i>	2024		+ve
Climate Change	<i>New internal and external meets, Clwyd Catchment engagement. Land purchase DCC.</i>	March 2023		Neutral
Northeast Wales National Park Designation Project	<i>One member of Staff attended all engagement meets. TAG and MAG established</i>	June 2023		

Forward Work Programme November 2024 Update Continued

Project Existing	Detail/Action	Timescale	Timescale Not Started or problem =Red In Progress on track =Amber Complete =Green	Cost –ve or +ve or neutral
New	<i>Updated Action</i>	New Dates		
Section 85 Organisations				
SP Network Lines	<i>The Shelf back on track. New schemes in consideration - Shelf, Llangar, Plas Newydd and Llangollen Water Tower. Met March 2024 SPEN new scheme Moel y Plas to Gweryd Lake.</i>	2022-25		Neutral
Dark Skies SPG	<i>Roll out of schemes private and public over Wesh DLs.</i>	2023-24		+ve
National Grid VIP and Landscape Enhancement Initiative	AONB Officer is rep for 46 NLs on National Board. 4 x LEI Schemes Morwinion Valley and Minera Corwen EOI approved NL Award to National Grid on 23.3.23. <i>New scheme for Tremeirchion passed stage 1 worth £200k. Second scheme submitted to NG -Inc Nercwys / Rhos and Minera</i>	2023-24		Neutral
National Landscape Association formally NLA	Rebrand underway from confirmation with JC on 12.4.24. Regular Monthly Meets 1x Lead Officer's.	2024-25		Neutral
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal World heritage Site	<i>HS appointed Vice Chair of Steering Group. HS asked for Nature Area in basin, need to see more Nature Themes within WHS</i>	2023-24		+ve

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