
**East Devon AONB
Partnership Plan
2019-24**

**Statement of
community
involvement**

July 2018

1 Introduction

1.1 This Statement of the Consultation Process sets out in broad detail how the East Devon AONB Partnership will consult on the review of the existing 2014-19 East Devon AONB Management Strategy.

1.2 The AONB Partnership has agreed that a 'light touch' review should be undertaken and not a wholesale change to a Strategy that is working well and delivering positive outcomes across the AONB.

1.3 It is not intended to amend the existing key objectives or policies in the existing Management Strategy. The focus will be on restructuring and updating the evidence/background/context and forces for change to enable the identification of a Delivery Plan that is relevant and targeted to current and future challenges.

2 The AONB Management Strategy (renamed 'Partnership Plan')

2.1 The revised AONB Partnership Plan will comprise three parts.

- The main Plan document, setting out the context, vision, strategic aims, key objectives, policies, priority actions and indicators
- The Delivery Plan, detailing the targets and actions for the plan (this will follow after completion of the public consultation on the main Plan document)
- Supporting documents, including the environmental assessments/reports, surveys, background and evidence documentation and statements of consultation and approvals.

2.2 We will consult internally and externally on the draft main Plan document and key assessments, confirming the context is relevant and up to date and the evidence and forces for change are appropriate.

2.3 As part of this process we will seek views on the key priorities to enable a targeted Delivery Plan to be developed for the Plan period.

3 Statement of the Consultation Process

3.1 This Statement of the Consultation Process sets out the minimum we will apply in undertaking consultation and engagement with the public. The table shows how we intend to consult at each stage of the review. In some cases, we may add to the consultation, as opportunities arise. It will be updated accordingly and revised versions will be placed on the AONB web site.

The colour coding used shows the following

Stage completed
Stage underway
Stage not yet started

Period	Internal /External	Details	Consultation we will undertake	Action/update
Jul-Dec 17	Internal	<p>Initiate review process – confirmation of AONB Partnership role and requirements from EDDC/DC to implement review</p> <p>Evidence gathering and scoping for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</p>	<p>Local authority partners consulted to confirm requirements of the review</p> <p>AONB Partnership consulted on review expectations/scope</p> <p>National evidence and context gathering through NAAONB and Natural England</p>	<p>EDDC/DCC confirmed AONB Partnership to implement 'light touch' review</p> <p>Review to focus on the changing context and updating targets whilst maintaining existing objectives and policies.</p> <p>SEA scoping sent to NE/EA/HE</p>
Jan 18 – April 18	Internal /External	<p>Review and update evidence/background and policy context for the Plan sub- themes and identify priority actions, indicators</p> <p>Carry out scoping for the SEA Report</p>	<p>Internal consultation with AONB Partnership</p> <p>SEA scoping with statutory Agencies and LA partners</p>	<p>Consultation carried out - redrafting underway</p> <p>Completed.</p>
April 18 - July 18	Internal /External	<p>Produce review report /revised draft Plan</p> <p>Assessment of SEA scoping, Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Draft Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)</p> <p>Public awareness survey commissioned</p>	<p>Present draft Plan to AONB Partnership for approval for wider public consultation (April 25th)</p> <p>Local Authority approval for consultation scheduled for (12 July) DCC ED Locality Committee and (11 July) EDDC</p> <p>SEA/HRA and SA drafted</p> <p>Awareness Survey with public in key towns around the AONB</p>	<p>Completed and approved</p> <p>Completed and approved</p> <p>Drafted</p> <p>Survey completed</p>
July – Sept 2018	External	Minimum 6-week formal consultation process on Draft Plan & associated assessments (SEA, HRA)	<p>Draft documents available for public/agency consultation through press release, www, email to key consultees/contacts and drop-in session.</p> <p>Draft Plan in all local libraries.</p>	Due to commence 23 July – 18 September
Oct – Nov 18	Internal	Analysis of consultation and revised Plan for AONB Partnership recommendation to EDDC/DCC	Feedback report presented at the November 2018 Partnership meeting with revised final draft for approval /final input from LA officers	
Nov 18- Jan 2019	External	Consult LA Officers and then Natural England over final draft report/plan	LA Officer Formal confirmation of final draft and seeking any Natural England comments prior to adoption process	
Jan-Feb 2019	Internal	Report to EDDC/DCC on revised plan/report.	Local authority confirmation and adoption	
Mar 2019	External	Defra approval /Plan Adopted	Publicise	