

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
12 March 2019

**Subject: HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2024**

**Raskelf and White Horse and Huby
Portfolio Holder for Planning: Councillor D A Webster**

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and recommend for adoption the revised Management Plan for the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) 2019-2024.
- 1.2 A copy of the Management Plan has been placed in the Members' Lounge.
- 1.3 The existing Management Plan runs from 2014-2019 and a new plan has to be adopted by the three constituent local planning authorities (Hambleton, Ryedale and North Yorkshire) and submitted to Defra by 1 April 2019.
- 1.4 The focus of the Management Plan is the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area, which is the primary purpose of the Area's AONB designation. The aim of the Plan is to raise the profile and demonstrate the commitment of all public bodies, statutory undertakers and other interested organisations to the management of the area.
- 1.5 The Management Plan sets out a Vision, together with a set of Objectives and Actions under the following headings:
- A Living Landscape
 - Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services
 - A Rich Heritage
 - Natural Environment
 - Historic Environment
 - Living and Working in the Howardian Hills
 - Enjoying the AONB
 - Recreation Access and Tourism
 - Awareness and Promotion
- The Plan includes a detailed Action Programme and Monitoring Systems, which identify the role of the Council and other partners in delivery.
- 1.6 The revised Management Plan also includes as a separate document 'Landscape Management and Priority Sites' (2019-24). The plan is supported by a strong evidence base.
- 1.7 The Plan's preparation has been co-ordinated by the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB, which includes Member and Officer representatives from the Council. Comments made by the Council on the Management Plan consultation draft have been accepted and are incorporated in this final version now presented. There are no outstanding issues and concerns for the Council and the Plan is worthy of full support.

2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

2.1 The Plan supports the Council Plan priorities of Caring for the Environment and Providing a Special Place to Live. Implementation of the Management Plan will also help to promote sustainable economic growth of rural businesses and encourage participation in outdoor recreation which also link to the Council Plan priorities for Economic Vitality and Health and Wellbeing.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

3.1 There are no risks in approving the recommendation.

3.2 The key risk is in not approving the recommendation as shown below:-

Risk	Implication	Prob*	Imp*	Total	Preventative action
The Council is failing to meet its statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to revise, update and adopt a Plan in a timely manner	The Council could face challenges on planning decisions relating to the AONB	3	4	12	Adopt and publish the Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-24

The risk of agreeing with the recommendations outweighs the risks of not agreeing them and is considered acceptable.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 Hambleton is a statutory funding partner for the Howardian Hills AONB Partnership and makes an annual revenue contribution of £5,800 which is funded from the Councils Revenue budget. There are no additional financial implications in adopting the Management Plan.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There is a statutory requirement to carry out the review of the Management Plan within 5 years of publication. The current Management Plan 2014-19 will continue to exist until such time as the new Management Plan 2019-24 is adopted by full Council.

6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:

6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that the Management Plan for the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Landscape Management and Priority Sites (2019-24) documents be adopted.

MICK JEWITT
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background papers: Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-2024
Landscape Management and Priority Sites 2019-2024

Author ref: AS

Contact: Ann Stewart, Senior Planning Policy
Direct Line No 01609 767278