

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
18 March 2014

Subject: MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Wards: White Horse and Stillington
Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Waste Management: Councillor B Phillips

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and adopt the revised Management Plan for the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 1.2 A copy of the Management Plan has been placed in the Members' Lounge.
- 1.3 The existing Management Plan runs from 2009-2014 and a new plan has to be in place. It has to be adopted by the three constituent local planning authorities (Hambleton, Ryedale and North Yorkshire) and submitted to Defra by 1 April 2014.
- 1.4 The Plan has been updated and refreshed in a slimmer, easier to read document, and is backed up by a strong evidence base. It provides a Vision, together with a set of Objectives and Actions. It raises the profile and demonstrates the commitment of all public bodies, statutory undertakers and other interested organisations to the management of the area. 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 designation. In achieving a vision it addresses: a Vision for a Living Landscape; the Ecosystem Approach; a Rich Heritage; Living and Working in the Howardian Hills; Enjoying the AONB and Awareness and Promotion. It is backed up by a full action programme and monitoring systems, which identifies the involvement of the Council in delivery.
- 1.5 The Plan's preparation has been co-ordinated by the Joint Advisory Committee of the AONB, which includes Hambleton Member and Officer representatives. Most of the comments made by Hambleton 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 support.

2.0 LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES:

- 2.1 The Plan supports sustainable economic growth and helps support the community to participate in sport and active recreation which are aims in the current Council Business Plan.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

- 3.1 The risk to the Council in not adopting the Management Plan for the Howardian Hills is that it would be failing in its statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to revise, update and adopt a Plan by April 2014.

3.2 There are unlikely to be any risks to the Council arising from, or associated with the adoption of the Management Plan.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 There are no financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Failing to be involved in the revision and updating of the existing 2009-14 Management Plan would mean that the Council would not be complying with its statutory duty to revise and update the existing Management Plans before April 2014.

6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION:

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve and adopt the Management Plan for the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

MICK JEWITT

Author ref: RGB

Contact: Graham Banks
Planning Policy Manager,
Direct Line No: 01609 767097

Background Documents: Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-19
Schedule of Responses to Consultation