

Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	22nd November 2018	Paper: A
Title:	Mendip Hills AONB Officer Support Group (OSG)	
Presented by:	John Flannigan, North Somerset Council	
To be noted.		

1.0 The AONB Unit

Andy Mallender, Project Development Officer moved on in July and he has recently been replaced by Tim Haselden who joins the unit from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Tim started on 22nd October in time to start work on the 5year Delivery Plan that supports the implementation of the reviewed management plan.

Due to the changes in this project development role the OSG has paid close attention to the annual activity plan to ensure it is still realistic.

To provide additional support for the management plan review process the OSG approved Sarah Catling increase her hours from 22.5 to 37 between July and November.

The OSG has met quarterly to provide advice and assistance to the Manager and the Unit. Due to a restructuring in Bath & North East Somerset Council Sarah Jackson no longer represents this authority on the OSG or Partnership. The OSG formerly thanks Sarah for her advice and support around the appointment of Jim Hardcastle as the manager and during changes to personnel on the OSG. Di Sheppard from B&NES will now attend the OSG and Partnership and we look forward to meeting her.

2.0 Management Plan and National Review

The review of the management plan is a large piece of work that has taken up much time of the OSG and the Unit this year. The AONB Unit have worked through all the stages of consultation necessary and gained good insight. The draft plan is now ready for approval by the Partnership before formal consultation and then adoption on time for the new financial year 2019.

The OSG has also helped the Unit consolidate it's thinking around the response to Glover Review of Protected Landscapes. The deadline for written evidence is December 18th 2018 but the OSG look forward to further chances to inform and influence the panel via visits and other opportunities next year.

3.0 Budget Update

To draw down the full Defra amount, which constitutes 75% of the AONB's costs, the local contributions will need to be £43,668 this year. This current year the Local

Authority contributions will exceed this amount but the proposed reductions from SCC and B&NES will take us below the required amount in 2018/19. The current agreement from Defra runs out in 2019/20 and no figure has been agreed upon yet.

	2018/19	2019/20
DEFRA	156147	0
SCC	16150	16150
B&NES	8500	8500
SDC	8001	8001
MDC	8017	8017
N.Som	3000	3000
LA contribution Total	43668	43668
LA contribution required to draw down Defra Grant	39037	