



Cannock Chase AONB Partnership

**Annual General Meeting of the Joint Committee, 2:00pm, Thursday 25th July
2019, Trentham Suite, Staffordshire Place 1, Stafford**

For directions [click](#)

Agenda

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

This item to be overseen by John Rowe, Honorary Secretary to the Joint Committee

2. Apologies for absence

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

4. Declarations of interest

5. Work programmes & task and finish group updates

Updates from the AONB Officers and T&F group chairs

6. Financial Report

Report of the Treasurer to the Joint Committee

7. Staffing Update

Verbal update Sarah Bentley, Staffordshire County Council

8. Grazing

Presentation by Sarah Bentley, Staffordshire County Council

9. Planning Update

Report of the AONB Landscape Planning Officer

a) Planning

b) HS2

10. Annual Conference

Report of AONB Officers

11. National Conference

Report of the AONB Officers

12. Any other business

13. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

3rd September 2019, 10am, venue provisionally Staffordshire Place

Item 5 – Work Programmes and Task and Finish Groups Updates

Item for:	Information
Author:	AONB Officers
Financial implications:	Covered in Finance report – this paper covers progress on activity towards utilisation of budget
Recommendations	1. Members note the work programmes set out for AONB staff to deliver business plan priorities including funds carried forward and the progress being made on delivery. 2. Members note the progress and activity of the task and finish groups in supporting delivery.

Background

1. At the last meeting, members approved the AONB business plan and proposals for utilising funds carried forward from previous years with Defra approval.
2. The following spreadsheets set out the individual work plans for the three members of the team. Officers will talk through progress on key activities at the meeting.
3. There is also a sheet outlining progress on the suite of projects utilising the funds carried forward from previous years. This has been realigned to reflect the current activity, taking into account staffing resources. It should be noted that some projects are likely to come in above original estimates based on the specifications under discussions, therefore full spend is anticipated.
4. The Task and Finish Groups are playing an active role in supporting the development of the projects, helping to develop project specifications and supporting delivery as appropriate.

Staff Work Plans

Development Officer - 5 days per week (plan for 140 days dur to start date 5th August)																
Workplan 2019/20																
Task	Outline	Priority	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Estimated time	% time
Induction	Induction, training, familiarisation	High					3	6	3						12	6.86
Business planning and oversight	Retain oversight of unit progress; lead development of unit business plan and work plans, grant claims etc.						1	2	1	4	2	2	3	3	18	10.3
Line management	Line management of LMO						2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	16	9.14
Organising and supporting partnership meetings	Reporting to Joint Committee and OWG	High					1	2.5		2.5	2.5		2.5	2.5	13.5	7.71
	Running and reporting to Visitor Management Task & Finish Group	High					1			1.5			1.5		4	2.29
	Running and reporting to CIO Task & Finish Group	High						1.5			1.5			1.5	4.5	2.57
	Support and develop Love your AONB groups	High							1.5			1.5			3	1.71
	Help organise and take part in AONB Annual Conference	High					1	1.5	1.5						4	2.29
NAAONB activity	Input to national activity	Med					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	4.57
	Input to monitoring of progress on management plan delivery	High											2		2	1.14
Monitoring progress	Contribute to AONB annual report	High													0	0
Raising awareness of the AONB	Keep AONB website up to date	Med						1		2		1.5		2	6.5	3.71
	At least two talks / events to raise awareness	Med											1		1	0.57
Project research and development	Explore potential visitor payback scheme	Med												3	3	1.71
	Explore funding options for emerging AONB projects	High									1	2	3	3	9	5.14
CIO development	Produce proposals for CC Landscape Trust	High					0.5	1	1						2.5	1.43
	Commence establishment of CIO subject to JC approval	High								1	1	2	2	2	8	4.57
Business and community engagement	Online learning tool and promotional materials for Love Your AONB campaign	High							1	1	2	2	3		9	5.14
Sustainable Development Fund	Promote, support and oversee SDF grants process and management	High							1	2	2	2	2	3	12	6.86
Volunteers	Input to review of volunteering in the AONB and where AONB can add value	Med									1	1	1	1	4	2.29
															140	80

Landscape Planning Officer - Julia Banbury - 3 days per week (135 working days - plan for 130)																
Workplan 2019/20																
Task	Outline	Priority	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Estimated time	% time
Organising and supporting partnership meetings	Reporting to Joint Committee and OWG	High		1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	8	5.93
	Running and reporting to Landscape and Planning Task & Finish Group	High	1.5			1.5			1.5			1.5			6	4.44
	Help organise and take part in AONB Annual Conference	High					1	1							2	1.48
NAAONB Activity	Contribute to Taking the Lead programme	Med	1			1			1			1		1	5	3.7
	Input to national activity	Med		0.5			0.5			0.5			0.5		2	1.48
Monitoring progress	Input to monitoring of progress on management plan delivery	High											1		1	0.74
	Lead production of AONB annual report	High		1	1										2	1.48
Raising awareness of the AONB	Help update website	Med	1			0.5			0.5			1			3	2.22
	At least one talk / event to raise awareness	Med											1		1	0.74
Provision of landscape planning advice	Review AONB planning protocol with LPA partners	High	6												6	4.44
	Planning guidance - setting / views	High	3			4.5		3							10.5	7.78
	Planning guidance - design	High				3		4.5			3				10.5	7.78
	Input to HS2 group and Commonwealth Games	High	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	6	4.44
	Provide planning advice to LPAs		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	60	44.4
Undergrounding	Work with statutory undertakers to explore undergrounding of powerlines	Med	1			1			1						3	2.22
Monitoring landscape condition	Coordinate fixed point photography monitoring	Med	1			1			1			1			4	2.96
															130	96.3

Landscape Management Officer - Richard Harris - 5 days per week (224 working days - plan for 215)																
Workplan 2019/20																
Task	Outline	Priority	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Estimated time	% time
Organising and supporting partnership meetings	Reporting to Joint Committee and OWG	High		2	2		2	2		2	2		2	2	16	7.14
	Running and reporting to Land Management Task & Finish Group	High		1.5			1.5			1.5			1.5		6	2.68
	Running and reporting to Historic Environment Task & Finish Group	High			1.5			1.5			1.5			1.5	6	2.68
NAAONB activity	Help organise and take part in AONB Annual Conference	High					2	1							3	1.34
	Input to national activity	Med		1		2		1		2				1	7	3.13
Monitoring progress	Input to monitoring of progress on management plan delivery	High											2		2	0.89
	Contribute to AONB annual report	High		2	1										3	1.34
Raising awareness of the AONB	Help update website	Med	3			2			2			2			9	4.02
	At least two talks / events to raise awareness	Med					3						1		4	1.79
Project research and development	Heathland restoration feasibility study	High			5	4	3	3	4	5					24	10.7
	Chase through Time legacy project development	High	4	2	0.5	0.5	3	4							14	6.25
Monitoring condition of AONB	Wildlife Sites Survey	High	4	3	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	3						13.5	6.03
	Crayfish survey	High			1	0.5		1	3						8.5	3.79
	Collation of invertebrate data	High			3	0.5	2								5.5	2.46
	Nightjar survey	High		3	1	0.5	0.5	1							6	2.68
	LE Owl survey	High										1	0.5	1	2.5	1.12
Invasive species monitoring - contract to determine best course of action	Bat survey	High		3	1	0.5	0.5	2	3						10	4.46
	Input to deer monitoring and development of deer management plan	Med						3	1	1	1	2			8	3.57
	Scheduled Monuments condition survey	Med		1				3	1	1	2		1	1	10	4.46
Sustainable Development Fund	Promote, support and oversee SDF grants process and management	High	4	2	2	2	2								12	5.36
	Liaison and coordination of existing volunteers	High	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	24	10.7
Volunteering	Review of volunteering in the AONB and where AONB can add value	Med									5	4	4	4	17	7.59
															216	96.4

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee- 25th July 2019

**Financial Update
Final Outturn 2018/19 and 2019/20 Budget Update**

Report of the Treasurer to the Joint Committee and the AONB Officer

Recommendations

1. Final Revenue Outturn 2018/19

That the Joint Committee approves the final outturn position for 2018/19 for the Core and Project Costs and the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

2. Revenue Budget 2019/20

That progress on the current net revenue spend for 2019/20 is noted.

Part A

Why is it coming here – what decision(s) are required?

3. The Joint Committee in its role under the Partnership Agreement is responsible for:-
- Approving the final accounts for the year 2018/19 as soon as possible after the year has ended and this report sets out the accounts for consideration.
 - This report sets out the new 2019/20 budget which has been formally approved by Defra and its current, initial forecast outturn position.

Reasons for Recommendations:

4. The recommendations represent an effective way to continue to carry forward the implementation of the Management Plan for the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership.

Part B

Background:

5. Final Outturn 2018/19

The detailed net revenue outturn for 2018/19 for both the Core and Action Projects Budget is set out in *Appendix 1* and is compared to the £187,920 approved budget for

the year. The final net revenue spend was £103,575 compared to the budget resulting in an underspend position of £84,345.

However, following discussions with Defra, the final claim for 2018/19 was reduced by £15,321 and Defra paid £130,759 of the expected funding of £146,080. This was based on the previous forecasted underspend, which had formed the basis of project proposals to utilise that underspend. It was felt that additional projects would be difficult to achieve given the already ambitious work programmes agreed.

The individual community projects which were supported from the £20,557 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) are set out in *Appendix 2* and cover a wide range of community-based activities and providers. The total spend on the SDF was £14,530 for the year leaving an underspend of £6,027, net of the £2,056 administration fee.

6. Budgets 2019/20

The 2019/20 net revenue budget for the Core and Action Projects budget was previously approved by the Joint Committee at the January 2019 meeting.

As previously stated, the net revenue budget for 2019/20 generally reflects an expected annual inflationary uplift of 2% on salaries and 0% on all non-pay items respectively. The 2019/20 budget for the Core and Project costs is £167,360 of which £125,520 will be funded by the annual Defra revenue grant and a £23,069 allocation set for the SDF. The SDF budget has been increased by £2,512 (12.22%) compared to last year's SDF allocation.

A summary of the current amount spent or committed to the 24th May 2019 is included in *Appendix 3*. To date, a nominal £35,081 of the budget has been spent and given current staff vacancies (£24,108) within the AONB Unit, which has been offset by additional spend on training (£1,158), a £22,950 underspend is currently anticipated at this early stage of the financial year.

At present, no spend commitments have been made to date against this year's SDF budget allocation. Currently, £12,776 has been allocated to projects with £7,986 remaining unallocated (net of the expected £2,307 annual administration fee). Details of the current 2019/20 SDF budget are set out in *Appendix 4*.

7. The Cannock Chase AONB Reserve

The Reserve at the end of the financial year 2018/19 stood at £146,728 following the net transfer in of the £36,417 previous year's Core and Action Projects and SDF underspend balances and allowing for reorganisation costs previously reported to the committee; £104 of membership fees; £169 in donations income plus, accrued interest for the year of £685. A detailed statement of how the Reserve has gradually accumulated since 2007-08 is set out in *Appendix 5*.

It has previously been agreed that the priorities for the use of the reserve funds should be as follows:

- Income from sales, donations and consultancy work should be available to supplement the delivery of projects within the Annual Action Plans and to provide matched funding for any major grant applications and,
- The remaining funds should be earmarked to enable the AONB Unit to respond to the implications of any reductions in future funding.

These priorities need to be reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual update of the Risk Register.

The reserve also holds funds carried forward from the previous two financial years with Defra approval totalling £96,636. Proposals for use of these underspends were agreed at the last meeting of the joint committee and subsequently agreed with Defra. The team is working hard to deliver the projects and anticipate full spend this year, which will then bring the budget back to a standard level of funding from next financial. Progress against the underspend projects is reported under item 5 on the agenda.

Following utilisation of the reserve for restructure costs early in 2018/19, plus the agreed utilisation of the carried forward funds agreed with Defra, the reserve will stand at £52,399 plus any additional funds added through donations, memberships and fees this financial year.

8. Equalities Implications

This report has been prepared in accordance with the equal opportunities policies of the County Council.

9. Legal Implications

Actions recommended in this report are in accordance with the provisions of the current Cannock Chase AONB Partnership Agreement.

10. Resource and Value for Money Implications

This report recommends actions to ensure the continued efficient delivery of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan. The matched funding requirements to make up the 25% of contributions towards the core activity are set out in the Partnership Agreement. The SDF is a funding “pot” to be administered to partners who can provide the necessary matched funding for their Management Plan project proposals.

11. Risk Implications

If continuity of funding and spend are not continued as recommended to the Joint Committee, then the five authorities involved in the partnership will need to seek other

methods of fulfilling their statutory obligations for the AONB under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Report authors:

Authors Names:

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Rural County

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CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Outturn for 2018/2019 for
Cannock Chase AONB Core and Project Costs

	Previous Years			2018/2019		
	Actuals 2015/2016	Actuals 2016/2017	Actuals 2017/2018	Budget	Final Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>AONB Core Budget</u>						
Staff Salaries and Associated costs	121,794	104,555	102,405	104,760	30,837	-73,923
Accommodation /Office Equipment	7,421	7,599	6,689	3,500	966	-2,534
Transport	5,113	4,839	4,762	270	591	321
Volunteer Costs				500	0	-500
National Association of AONB's Membership				2,570	1,325	-1,245
Consultation Events				500	0	-500
Print & Publicity	2,784	3,166	1,132	1,000	0	-1,000
Sustainable Development Fund	5,000	15,649	17,881	20,560	14,530	-6,030
Partnership running costs	6,600	6,600	6,600	7,600	7,600	0
	148,713	142,406	139,469	141,260	55,849	-85,411
<u>Core Action Projects</u>						
AONB Website	160	160	160	160	3,885	3,725
Monitoring Projects	0	3,696	2,568	9,000	8,742	-258
Annual Conference		774	987	1,000	640	-360
AONB Annual Review	388	1,208	0			
Governance Review and CIO		11,876		6,000	0	-6,000
Management Plan Review	0	0		25,000	19,436	-5,564
Community Involvement and Awareness Events	3,415	2,797	1,915	2,000	1,667	-333
Planning Support Project	6,240	8,820	7,440	3,500	3,300	-200
Deer Management				0	10,056	10,056
Maximising Income	1,525	1,925				0
Advisory Partnership WW1	3,151	1,250	2,203			0
Dementia Friendly Community Project	5,206	3,110				0
Visitor Management yr 2		5,109				0
Gateway Signs	4,875	0				0
Interpretation Strategy	4,814	0				0
Peace & Tranquillity	3,600					0
Fixed Point Photography Analysis Report	6,224	-5				0
	39,598	40,720	15,274	46,660	47,726	1,066
TOTAL BUDGET	188,311	183,126	154,743	187,920	103,575	-84,345
FUNDED BY:						
Natural England	4,300					0
Defra	138,792	141,179	143,606	146,080	130,759	-15,321
Lichfield District Council	2,092	2,092	2,092	2,092	2,092	0
South Staffordshire District Council	2,092	2,092	2,092	2,092	2,092	0
Cannock Chase District Council	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	0
Stafford Borough Council	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	0
Staffordshire County Council	20,920	20,920	20,920	20,920	20,920	0
	184,932	183,019	185,446	187,920	172,599	-15,321
Sales and Donations	996	0	0	0	0	0
Membership Fee Income		0	0	0	0	0
Funding from(+)/to reserve(-)	2,383	108	-30,703	0	-69,023	-69,023
	188,311	183,126	154,743	187,920	103,575	-84,345

CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Budget Update for 2018/2019 for Sustainable Development Fund

March 2019

	2018/2019		
	Budget £	Final Outturn £	Variation £
AONB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND			
Approved Projects			
Brindley Village Legacy Group	2,000	2,000	0
Friends of Etching Hill	730	704	-26
Staffordshire County Council - Grazing Awareness	2,200	2,200	0
Butterfly Conservation Leaflet	1,420	1,420	0
Longdon PC	700	0	-700
Museum of Cannock Chase	4,900	4,900	0
Staffs Wildlife Trust - Play Area	5,000	0	-5,000
Love Your AONB	2,500	1,250	-1,250
Total Approved Projects	19,450	12,474	-6,976
Admin Fees	2,056	2,056	0
Currently Unallocated	-949		949
TOTAL	20,557	14,530	-6,027

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

Cannock Chase AONB Core and Project Costs

Predicted Outturn for 2019/2020

July 2019	Budget	Spent or Committed to Date	Predicted Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£	£
Core Budget				
Salaries	132,500	18,420	108,392	-24,108
Travel and Subsistence	2,200	257	2,200	0
Training & First Aid Payments	1,760	1,768	2,918	1,158
Recruitment	400	299	400	0
Equipment, Phones, Audit, etc.	3,000	4,490	3,000	0
Volunteer Costs	1,000	0	1,000	0
Print & Publicity	3,000	0	3,000	0
National Association of AONB's Membership	2,700	2,700	2,700	0
Partnership Running Costs	9,000	9,000	9,000	0
Core Budget subtotal	155,560	36,934	132,610	-22,950
Programmes and Projects				
Community Involvement and Awareness	2,000	0	2,000	0
Website	1,000	0	1,000	0
Monitoring Projects	2,000	0	2,000	0
Annual Conference	1,800	0	1,800	0
Core Activity	5,000	0	5,000	0
Programmes and Projects subtotal	11,800	0	11,800	0
Sustainable Development Fund	23,069	-1,853	23,069	0
Total Budget	190,429	35,081	167,479	-22,950

Funded By:				
DEFRA Grant				
Core	125,520	0	108,308	-17,213
Sustainable Development Fund	23,069	0	23,069	0
DEFRA Grant subtotal				
Local Authority Contributions				
Lichfield District Council	2,092	0	2,092	0
South Staffordshire District Council	2,092	0	2,092	0
Cannock Chase District Council	8,368	0	8,368	0
Stafford Borough Council	8,368	0	8,368	0
Staffordshire County Council	20,920	20,920	20,920	0
Local Authority Contributions subtotal	190,429	20,920	173,217	-17,213
Sales and Donations	0	0	0	0
Membership Fee Income	0	0	0	0
Funding from(+)/to reserve(-)				
			-5,738	-5,738
Total Funding	190,429	20,920	167,479	-22,950

Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee

Sustainable Development Fund

Budget Update for 2019/2020

July 2019	Budget	Spent or Committed to Date	Predicted Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£	£
Approved Projects				
Longdon Parish Council - Information Boards	700	0	700	0
Love Cannock Chase - Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles	1,250	0	1,250	0
Beaudesert Care Farm CIC - Beaudesert Eco Arts Trails	4,828	0	4,828	0
Chelmarsh Ringing Group - Bird Boxes	1,498	0	1,498	0
Brereton and Ravenhill PC - Information board	500	0	500	0
Museum of Cannock Chase - Interpretation of the AONB	4,000	0	4,000	0
Approved Projects Total	12,776		12,776	0
Admin Fees	2,307	2,307	2,307	0
Currently Unallocated	7,986		7,986	0
TOTAL	23,069	2,307	23,069	0

Cannock Chase AONB Reserve

Financial Year	Opening Balance	Income/ Donations	Membership Fees	Visitor Survey Work	Balance of Admin Fees / Underspends	Interest	Closing Balance
	£	£		£	£	£	£
2007/2008	10,214				-1,766		8,448
2008/2009	8,448	572			7,713		16,733
2009/2010	16,733	1,326			5,795		23,854
2010/2011	23,854	896	525	9,564	3,823		38,662
2011/2012	38,662	1,240	1,367	17,845	-221		58,893
2012/2013	58,893	387	1,108		2,685	195	63,270
2013/2014	63,270	1,001	1,675		2,459	249	68,654
2014/2015	68,654	596	1,720		1,273	289	72,532
2015/2016	72,532		569		-1,883	293	71,512
2016/2017	71,512	1,475	553		1,457	132	75,129
2017/2018	75,129	1,471	52		32,512	189	109,353
2018/2019	109,353	169	104		36,417	685	146,728
2019/2020	146,728						149,035
		9,134	7,673	27,409	92,572	2,033	149,035

Item 9 - Planning matters and High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a

Item for:	Information
Author:	Julia Banbury, AONB Landscape Planning Officer
Financial implications:	None
Recommendations	1. Members to note the progress of the work of the local group on High Speed Rail (HS2) Phase 2a 2. The Joint Committee notes progress made on planning matters since the last meeting, as shown below.

Background

1. Members will recall the paper circulated for the Joint Committee meeting in June 2018 setting out details of the independent group focused on the area where HS2 will cross the Trent valley north of Great Haywood. The group's remit is:
 - To develop design principles which aim to achieve exemplary landscape and viaduct design;
 - To provide advice and response to HS2 on the design of the key infrastructure of the railway in this area, namely the Great Haywood Viaduct and Ingestre Green Overbridge, as well as landscape, earthworks and planting design;
 - To work in partnership to harness local knowledge and pro-actively identify and propose new environmental enhancement measures outside of Bill limits;
2. The group has recently appointed Land Use Consultants to assist with the development of design principles and support the development of the package of environmental enhancements. The group is currently compiling a long-list of enhancement proposals and are inviting suggestions from key stakeholders. Ultimately a short list of enhancement proposals will be selected, based on broad prioritisation criteria. Consultation events will be taking place over the next few months to seek stakeholder's views and support for the proposals. HS2's programme dictates the group's programme for production of the design principles and the environmental enhancement plan, which need to be completed in early December 2019, for submission to the Secretary of State for approval.
3. Sam Caraway has been appointed Project Manager to co-ordinate the work of the group, lead in the development of the environmental enhancement plan and communicate with stakeholders. He takes up this role full time in August
4. In order to publicise the group's work a web presence is essential, and the most practical way of achieving this is via a group member hosting a few pages dedicated to the group and administered by the Project Manager. This will be hosted on the

new AONB website, although Staffordshire County Council has agreed to host these pages temporarily pending the launch of the new AONB website in late summer.

AONB Planning advice and engagement, March – July 2019

The table below shows the comments made on planning applications, policy documents and any related planning issues. The information is presented in summary form, but the full responses are available on request from the AONB Landscape Planning Officer

Category	Summary of response	Outcome/notes
Planning Application		
CCC CH/18/409 Proposed menage Dorfield, Stafford Brook Road, Rugeley	Further information required Key concern is it would be visible on higher ground from Stafford Brook Road, and from that location would be visually intrusive and domineering. Subsequent consultation regarding landscape mitigation	Approved 17.04.19 With agreed landscape mitigation
LDC 18/01704/FUL Porch, First Floor extension, rear extension Freshwood, Lower Way, Upper Longdon, Rugeley	No objection The proposal would be at a scale appropriate to the local residential area, and has incorporated appropriate design features and materials, such that the development should not give rise to detrimental effects on the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB.	Approved 18.01.19
CCC CH/18/418 Outline 1 dwelling 28 West Butts Rd, Etchinghill	No Objection Subject to the new dwelling being at a scale appropriate to the area and of a style in character with other properties (i.e. either a single storey or two storey building constructed of materials and roof style consistent with the character of the area).	Approved 26.02.19
SSDC 18/00910/FUL West Wing Shore Croft Sandy Lane Hatherton Private Driveway to stable and field	Objection Sandy Lane forms the AONB boundary in this location and the site is inside the protected area in a prominent position. The site is visible to passing traffic and the area is served by a network of Public Rights of Way. Shoal Hill Common lies to the north at a higher elevation, potentially overlooking the site. The site also lies within in the Green Belt. The urban edge of Cannock abuts the	Withdrawn 04.01.19

	<p>south side of Sandy Lane, but the site is not within this residential area. Historic parkland associated with Hatherton Hall lies approximately 300 metres to the west of the site.</p> <p>No clarity around whether the slope would need to be modified, no clarity regarding whether trees adjacent to the highway would need to be removed to accommodate visibility splays, or whether construction falls within tree root protection areas.</p> <p>These factors could adversely impact on landscape character and visual intrusion, adversely affecting the character and natural beauty of the AONB.</p>	
<p>LDC 18/01841/FUL Outbuilding (double garage) Holmwood, Lower Way, Upper Longdon, Rugeley</p>	<p>Conditions requested No objections in principle, conditions requested for details of materials.</p>	<p>Approve 08.02.19</p>
<p>SS 18/01031/OUT Land West Of Cannock Road And South Of Hazelstrine Lane Stafford</p> <p>155 dwellings (C3 use) and 55 apartments with care (C2 use)</p>	<p>Conditional objection Lack of clarity regarding the proposed height and bulk of the apartments indicated on the north eastern side of the site. Tree cover on the eastern and south eastern site boundaries is sporadic, therefore this part of the proposed development would be more open to views, potentially for some years during establishment of tree and shrub planting. There is potential for greater detrimental effects than stated in the LVIA, and clarity should be sought to ensure that the apartment block would not be obtrusive and overly dominant when viewed from the AONB</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure proposals do not appear to have been informed by the position of the AONB and the sensitivity of views from the AONB, to the east. The deepest landscape buffer is located on higher ground along the southern site boundary. Whilst this would enhance screening and assimilation into the landscapes to the south, it does not help provide mitigation for sensitive views from the AONB.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>CCC CH/18/457 2m fence (retrospective) Stonehouse Cottage, 6, Penkrige Bank Road, Rugeley</p>	<p>No objection. Subject to there being no removal of trees there would be no direct demonstrably adverse impact on the landscape and scenic beauty of the designated area</p>	<p>Approved 06.03.19</p>

<p>CCC CH/19/008 Detached single dwelling and garage Outline 26 , Post Office Lane, Slitting Mill, RUGELEY, WS15 2UP</p>	<p>Objection</p> <p>The proposed house would be a substantial structure, and along with the garage (which appears to require removal of boundary vegetation) would result in a virtually continuous built elevation between Penkrige Bank Road and Post Office Lane, which would detrimentally impact on the landscape character of this part of the AONB.</p>	<p>Withdrawn 16.05.19</p>
<p>CCC CH/19/005 2, Fair Oak Cottages, Birches Valley, Rugeley, WS15 2UH Garage extension retrospective</p>	<p>No objection</p> <p>Although the site is located adjacent to public rights of way the site is well vegetated, and the extension itself is located at the rear of the existing garage, which itself affords screening.</p>	<p>Approved 03.03.19</p>
<p>SS 18/00765/FUL 33 Gratley Croft Huntington Cannock South Staffordshire WS12 4PZ Amended application</p>	<p>No Objection</p> <p>The front extension would be similar in character to other extensions in this part of Gratley Croft, and the flat roof extension proposed at the rear is set back from the rear elevation of the property. Conditions requested for materials and finishes.</p>	<p>Approve subject to conditions 11.03.19</p>
<p>LDC 19/00153/FULH Retention of solar panels on garage roof Park House, Lower Way, Upper Longdon, Rugeley</p>	<p>No objection.</p>	<p>Approve 20.03.19</p>
<p>LDC 19/00177/FULH Single story rear extension to form orangery L'Allegro, Chapel Lane, Gentleshaw, Rugeley</p>	<p>No Objection</p> <p>Conditions requested for materials and finishes sympathetic to local character.</p>	<p>Approve 27.03.19</p>
<p>SBC 18/29199/FUL Gas fired electricity generation Land North Of, Bellamour Lane, Colton, Rugeley</p>	<p>The application does not fully take account of the designated status of the AONB and the importance of its setting. I am concerned that the effects of the proposals on the setting of the AONB would be more significant than stated in the LVIA.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>LDC 18/01303/FULM Gas fired electricity generation Land North Of, Bellamour Lane, Colton, Rugeley</p>	<p>Comments as above</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>

LDC 19/00019/FULM Variation of conditions Parchfields Farm, Colton Road, Colton	No objection	Approve 14.06.19
CC CH/19/104 Extension to Hay Barn Alteration to access Stafford Brook Farm, Stafford Brook Road, Rugeley, WS15 2TU	Conditional objection Concerns regarding proximity of trees to extension. Development that leads to loss of trees should be resisted to ensure no detrimental impact on the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB, and opportunities should be taken to provide visual mitigation and enhance the setting of the farm. Replacement hedgerow requested	Awaiting decision
CC CH/19/109 Single storey extension and garage replacement 43 Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood	No objection Condition requested for approval of materials and finishes.	Approve with conditions 10.05.19
LDC 19/00077/PREAPP CC CH/19/0033 Major housing and employment with open space Rugeley Power Station EIA Scoping opinion updated	No further comments except to draw attention to new Management Plan and highlight Policies LCP8 and 10	N/A
CC CH/19/112 Single storey side extension Cannock Chase Cycle Centre, Birches Valley Forest Centre	No objection subject to use of sympathetic materials. Condition for approval of materials and finishes requested.	Approve with conditions 30.05.19
CH/19/114 Single storey side and rear extension 26 West Butts Road, Etchinghill	No objection In this case because of the type of property and the built-up nature of the area, albeit that the character is one of spaciousness, there would be no demonstrably adverse impact on the AONB. Condition on materials requested.	Awaiting decision
SB 19/30217/HOU Single storey extension Oakmoor 59 Pool Lane Brocton	No objection	Awaiting decision

CC CH/19/124 Listed building consent Minor alterations The Cottage, Chaseley House, Peakes Road, Etchinghill	No objection	Approve 20.05.19
CC CH/19/134 Loft conversion and dormer window 11 Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood	No objection	Approve 17.05.19
CC CH/19/128 Single storey extension for gym Holly Grove, Holly Hill Road, Cannock Wood	Objection Set close to the property frontage and with a comparatively large footprint relative to the house frontage, would have a detrimental effect on the character of this part of the AONB.	Awaiting decision
CC CH/19/134 2 storey extension to rear 11 Bradwell Lane, Cannock Wood	No objection	Approve 17.05.19
CC CH/19/154 Storage building for equestrian Court Bank Farm, Slang Lane, Cannock Wood	Objection The proposed building would potentially result in over-development of the site, would be visually intrusive and have a detrimental effect on the character of this part of the AONB.	Awaiting decision
SB 19/30339/HOU Double garage, rear extension Cliffs Meadow lane Little Hayward	No objection	Approve 30.05.19
CH/19/053 Pursuant to CH/13/0449. vary Condition 3	Objection The proposals for the site do not appear to consider potential visual impacts and effects on the AONB. Clearance of the corner plot allows views of the entire site	Awaiting decision

<p>Aldene, 7, Stafford Brook Road, Rugeley, WS15 2TY</p>	<p>which is detrimentally affecting the wider landscape. I strongly recommend a scheme of landscape mitigation is submitted prior to a decision.</p>	
<p>CC CH/19/167 Single Storey side extension 6 Henley Grange, Etchinghill</p>	<p>No objection subject to retention of all trees. Request removing permitted development rights to avoid over development of the site.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>CC CH/19/156 Garage, pond, formalise access etc The Stonehouse, Penkrige Bank Road, Rugeley, WS15 2UE</p>	<p>Objection The key issue is the loss of trees and potential impact on trees and resultant detrimental impact on the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB. Need clarity prior to a decision to ensure that the development can be acomodated without excessive loss of trees, ensuring the minimum number of trees are ultimately removed and the character of the area is not compromised. Scheme of mitigation and enhancement should be provided that contribute to the Landscape Guidelines set out in AONB Landscape Character Framework 2017 Request removing permitted development rights.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>CC CH/19/173 Application to regularise use of site as Class B1(c) Light industrial, retention of Building D to house fork lift truck Hill Farm, 84 Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood</p>	<p>Objection AONB Partnership have no objection to retention of the storage building. Strong objection to the proposal to regularise use of the Application Site to Class B1(c) Light industrial, as it would allow a principle for development that would have adverse impacts on the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB. It would only be appropriate for approval to relate to the existing buildings, yard and access road; excluding the majority of the pasture field but allowing sufficient space to provide mitigation for the development. A scheme of mitigation and enhancement is sought, to contribute to Policy LCP1 of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan (2019-2024). Request removing permitted development rights.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>

<p>CC CH/19/192</p> <p>Proposed single storey front & side extensions, new pitched roof to rear, part demolition & conversion of existing detached garage & new 1.8m high boundary walls / electric entrance gates</p> <p>Bellscale How, Chapel Lane, Cannock Wood</p>	<p>Objection to proposed wall and gates which would have a suburbanising influence on local character.</p> <p>A more sensitive proposal for the boundaries on Chapel Lane and on the site's southern side in keeping with local character is sought, along with a Condition for details of materials and colour of render.</p> <p>Request removing permitted development rights.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>CC CH/19/201 and LD 19/00753/OUTMEI</p> <p>Rugeley Power Station redevelopment Outline</p>	<p>No objection</p> <p>Development of the site would not give rise to direct landscape or visual effects on the AONB or its setting. Any potential AONB issues relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for increased user pressure affecting the special qualities of the AONB. - Adequacy of CIL/S106 for SAC mitigation and other AONB related measures. <p>Request direct some CIL funds directed towards work within the AONB to mitigate potential effects of the new development on the area.</p> <p>Support recreational provision on the site and opportunities to link to pedestrian and cycling routes along the Trent Valley and the wider countryside.</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>CC CH/19/214</p> <p>Small extension 25 Bradwell Lane, Cannock Wood,</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>SB 19/30472/HOU</p> <p>Partial removal of porch and extension to form habitable area</p> <p>Meadow View, Meadow Lane, Little Haywood</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>SB 19/30639/HOU</p> <p>Replacement sun room and replacement garage The Gables Chase Rd, Brocton</p>	<p>No objection</p> <p>Request mitigation planting for tree removal and</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>18/01217/OUTFLM</p>	<p>Only issues for AONB are</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>

<p>Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except access) Land at Cricket Lane, Lichfield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for increased user pressure affecting the special qualities of the AONB. - Adequacy of CIL/S106 for SAC mitigation and other AONB related measures. <p>Request direct some CIL funds directed towards work within the AONB to mitigate potential effects of the new development on the area.</p>	
<p>SB 19/30574/HOU Single Storey rear and 2 storey side extension High Beech, Walton Lane, Brocton</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>LC 19/00873/FUH Single storey extension to front 2 storey to rear - Minor alteration to garage extension previously approved under 18/00067/FUL. Hagley House, Lower Way, Upper Longdon,</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>CH/19/215 Single storey rear extension and self contained flat Gorse Hayes, Buds Road, Cannock Wood</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Awaiting decision</p>
<p>Planning Policy</p>		
<p>Cannock Chase District Council Local Plan issues and options + supporting documents</p>	<p>The primary purpose of the AONB designation is '<i>conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area</i>'. Policy needs to fully acknowledge and address impacts arising from recreation such as on landscape character, biodiversity, heritage, tranquillity and visual effects. The AONB would welcome reference to potential instances where mitigation is not possible and therefore a proposal will not be acceptable.</p> <p>Provision of easily accessible high-quality recreational areas outside the AONB would be welcomed to relieve recreational pressure in the AONB, and thereby assist in</p>	

	<p>delivering a more sustainable future for the AONB.</p> <p>Urban extensions or employment allocations that lie in the AONB, or in its setting, would be contrary to the NPPF, the AONB designation and policy in the AONB Management Plan. The Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District (2016) provides supporting evidence of landscape sensitivity that indicate likely detrimental effects on the AONB and its setting if these sites were allocated.</p> <p>Sites for major development should not be allocated in the AONB unless there is there has been full assessment of the type of development and the site, as set out in Paragraph 172 a), b) and c).</p>	
Pre-Application Advice		
<p>Land east of A34 at Bednall Head Residential property</p>	<p>The site is on a key boundary and transport access to the AONB, and there is potential for views of the site from local rights of way.</p> <p>In view of the position of the site in relation to local existing buildings, in this case it seems feasible that sensitively designed development on the site could potentially visually form part of the existing settlement cluster without detracting from the AONB. It would be essential for an application to demonstrate that development would not detract from the special protected status of the AONB and offers enhancement. A landscape appraisal would demonstrate that landscape and visual impact have been fully considered.</p>	

Item 10 – Proposals for annual AONB conference

Item for:	Discussion and agreement
Author:	Richard Harris
Financial implications:	A budget provision of £1,000 was agreed at the previous meeting for the annual conference. A revised estimate of £1710 is proposed.
Recommendations:	1. The Joint Committee agrees the proposals for the annual conference with any amendments.

Background

1. The Annual Conference is scheduled for Friday 4th October 2019 and will be held at Brocton Golf Club. The venue is booked for 60 people with an estimated cost of £1710.
2. Based on experience from previous years, it is proposed that the conference runs for half a day, closing with lunch.
3. The Officers Working Group has discussed potential options for this year's conference topic. These included Visitor Pressure, Conserving Heathland, Invasive Species and Planning and the AONB setting. Given some of the work currently underway through the Partnership, the proposed theme is Conserving Heathland.
4. The theme will explore how lowland heath and its associated species and habitats is faring. Heathland is a key characteristic of the AONB and the conference will investigate what the future might hold for our heathlands in the light of current management, impacts and pressures. In the original Designation History for Cannock Chase AONB much of the heathland area presented an unspoilt almost semi-wilderness character, standing in contrast to the surrounding developments. Is this still the case and what needs to be done? What do we know of the extent and quality of our heathlands to enable us to target appropriate conservation action and strategies? What are the priority species, their distribution and abundance, and what is the current management and how can it best be adapted to meet the challenges such as climate change, invasive non-native species, increased visitor pressure, and reduced public spending? Current best practice management is to maintain lowland heath as an open habitat, with mosaics of vegetation with a varying structure in all the components (bare ground, heather, scrub), that provides the warm microclimates that many heathland species rely on.
5. Guest speakers could include Natural England on up to date thinking and best practice for lowland heathland management, reptile and amphibian groups, RSPB/West Midland Bird Club/West Midlands Ringing Group for birds and Butterfly Conservation for butterflies and moths. This could be pursued at next Task and Finish Groups. This would build upon current projects such as the County Wildlife Sites survey and Nightjar

surveys. The topic provides the opportunity to highlight the long running Fixed Point Photography Project and the evidence from that around heathland restoration, and the successes and challenges faced in relation to long term management.

6. Proposed programme

1. Welcome from the Chairman
2. Update on AONB activity (including financial accounts, panel questions, etc.)
3. Thoughts from local MP (TBC)
4. Key note speakers
5. Interactive Workshop
6. Chairman's closing comments
7. Lunch and networking

Item 11 – National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscapes for Life Conference 2019

Item for:	Information
Author:	Julia Banbury, Richard Harris
Financial implications:	None
Recommendations:	1. The Joint Committee notes Cannock Chase AONB’s attendance at National Conference and the key topics discussed.

Background

The National Association of AONBs held its Landscapes for Life Conference 2019 on 9th – 11th July. Chairman Cllr Frances Beatty and AONB Officers Julia Banbury and Richard Harris attended.

The Landscapes for Life Conference 2019 looked at the role of natural beauty in nature recovery with the aim to inform, enthuse and engage delegates during a time of unprecedented change and opportunity.

With the Designated Landscapes Review in progress, the Environment and Agriculture Bills due soon and the Government’s aspiration communicated through the 25 Year Environment Plan to leave the environment in a better condition than they inherited, it has never been a more important time to demonstrate the value of designated landscapes.

The conference formed part of the 70@70 celebrations, marking the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act that paved the way for designated landscapes.

The programme offered a range of site visits, presentations and workshops. Key themes were:

1. Raising the profile of ‘natural beauty’. Beauty is associated with pleasure in natural surroundings and enjoyment of nature; improves health and well-being and should be available for all in society to experience. It is difficult to measure and relate to economic benefit
2. Several speakers cited the David Attenborough quote: “No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.” Engaging with the public is critical to long-term care of protected landscapes. Engaging young people is key, particularly children between the ages of 6 and 11 which is a critical age in the development of an individual’s choices

and behaviours. Examples were also given of the benefits of working with dementia groups.

3. There is global evidence that biodiversity is experiencing a crisis. Loss of biodiversity and climate change are interconnected issues. AONBs and National Parks have a key role in nature recovery, strengthening habitat connectivity and building resilience to climate change. There were suggestions that local projects should publicise links to global objectives. A frequent theme in discussion was the need for collaborative, joined up working across the National Parks and AONB network.
4. The Designated Landscapes Review. Julian Glover talked about the review, the importance of the collective voice of AONBs and making the most of opportunities for collaborative, closer working.
5. Delegates had the opportunity to shape a 'Colchester Declaration'. This will act as a statement of intent on how a network of designated landscapes can act together to promote real change. Officers will report back to the Officers Working Group and Joint Committee on the final wording and discussion on becoming a signatory.
6. Workshop topics included: Conserving Natural Beauty; Nature Recovery in AONBs – how can we establish coherent resilient networks; A case study on the first dedicated Development Plan for an AONB; Arts – engaging hearts and minds with Natural Beauty.
7. AONBs were asked to contribute photos or events to the 70@70 celebrations in September 2019, so that all AONBs were represented