

Cannock Chase AONB Partnership

**Meeting of the Joint Committee, 10am, Tuesday 12th March
2019, Council Chamber, Staffordshire County Council, Martin
Street, Stafford**

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Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**
- 3. Declarations of interest**
- 4. Update on AONB activity**
 - a) Task and finish group updates – visitor management**
 - b) Website and management plan production**
 - c) Deer management project**
 - d) Heathland restoration opportunity**
 - e) AONB sustainable development fund**

Verbal updates by the AONB Officers and T&F Group Chairs

- 5. AONB Management Plan and associated reports**

Report of the Vice Chair of the OWG and presentation by consultants Robert Deane and Louise Tricklebank
- 6. Draft AONB Business Plan**

Report of the Vice Chair of the OWG
- 7. Finance report**

Report of the Treasurer to the Joint Committee
- 8. Planning matters in the AONB**

Report of the AONB Landscape Planning Officer
- 9. Partner news**

All partners to update on relevant news and activity

10. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

6th June 2019 from 10 am – 12 pm

Minutes of the meeting of the Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee
17th January 2019 at 10am
Council Chamber, Lichfield District Council

Name	Representing
Councillor Frances Beatty (FB)	Stafford Borough Council
Councillor John Preece (JP)	Cannock Chase Council
Councillor Gill Heath (GH)	Staffordshire County Council
Councillor Len Bates (LB)	South Staffordshire Council
Councillor Brian Cox (BC)	South Staffordshire Council
Councillor Ian Pritchard (IP)	Lichfield District Council
Officers	
Sarah Bentley (SB)	Staffordshire County Council
Kelly Harris (KH)	South Staffordshire Council
Alex Yendole (AY)	Stafford Borough Council
John Broad (JB)	Treasurer to the Committee, Staffordshire County Council
Glenn Watson (GW)	Cannock Chase Council
Janene Cox (JC)	Commissioner for Culture and Communities, Staffs County Council
Julia Banbury (JCB)	Cannock Chase AONB officer
Richard Harris (RH)	Cannock Chase AONB officer
Advisers	
Hazel McDowall (HM)	Natural England
Councillor Pat Ansell (PA)	Staffordshire Parish Council's Association
Mike Shurmer (MS)	RSPB
Jeff Sim (JS)	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Mary Cope (MC)	Beautesert Park Farm / NFU
Roger Broadbent (RB)	West Midland Bird Club

Agenda Item No	Description	Action
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Councillor Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>Nick Carter, Historic England, John Rowe, Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>FB welcomed Councillor Brian Cox to the Committee, who has stepped in to replace Councillor Bob McCardle who sadly died in December.</p>	

Agenda Item No	Description	Action
	2 minutes silence was held in memory of Councillor Bob McCardle. FB recorded this sad loss to the Partnership along with gratitude for the immense support and advocacy that Councillor McCardle gave to the AONB, which has been enormously valued.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising FB confirmed these could be signed off as an accurate record. Any matters arising would be covered in the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4.	<p>Staffing update SB introduced the two new AONB Officers: Richard Harris: AONB Landscape Management Officer and Julia Banbury: AONB Landscape Planning Officer, to the meeting. Both Richard and Julia will be working with partners to develop and deliver the statutory management plan for the AONB and developing initiatives to conserve and enhance its special qualities. Richard will be leading on nature conservation and historic environment work for the AONB including volunteering and the AONB Sustainable Development Fund; Julia will be providing landscape-related planning advice on plans and proposals affecting the AONB and developing landscape guidance to conserve and enhance its special qualities. Julia will also be leading on landscape-related projects including Fixed Point Photography. Recruitment for 2 further posts, AONB Development Officer (to deal with team management, visitor management and CIO development) and part time administration support, is awaiting job evaluation.</p> <p>FB stated it has been a difficult time for officers during the last 2 years to 18 months and to record thanks to officers for their hard work in carrying the AONB through this period and driving forward the development of the Management Plan.</p>	
5.	Update on AONB Activity	
5a)	<p>AONB Management Plan Review SB summarised that the Draft Management Plan was approved at the last Joint Committee meeting, and the Plan has now had a public consultation over 9 weeks. Development of the Plan had extensive input from officers, partners and stakeholders through the Task and Finish Groups, workshops, and the Annual conference. 37 responses were received (some are still arriving from partners and will be taken into consideration). 93% of respondents agreed</p>	

Agenda Item No	Description	Action
5b)	<p>with the special qualities; 96% agreed with the vision and policy framework. Generally, respondents were pleased with the draft Plan but had comments on points of detail. Development of the Plan had been led by an overarching desire to simplify, however there is concern that it is too stripped back, and more detail needs to be re-inserted. The Consultants will be preparing a report for presentation to the OWG on 11th February 2019. The report will outline each response and make recommendations as to how comments should be addressed. It is proposed that the OWG discussion will focus on resolving where more significant changes are needed.</p> <p>The final Plan will be presented to the March Joint Committee meeting, following which any necessary minor modifications will be made before production. The Plan is to be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of March, to meet the Statutory deadline.</p> <p>SB outlined key areas that need greater reference and focus in the Plan. These include HS2; proposals for the Commonwealth Games 2022 event to be held in the AONB; minerals operations and priority species. She also reported that officers are confident that the Plan will provide a good policy framework for the next 5 years.</p> <p>Members requested clarification regarding the consultation the Secretary of State will undertake with Natural England (NE). HM reported that NE will be asked to make observations on the Plan, and she does not expect there to be any likelihood of adverse comments. NE has submitted a response to the public consultation and hence any issues can be resolved prior to publication.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Committee welcomed the progress made and were happy with the proposed arrangements.</p> <p>Updates from Task and Finish Groups</p> <p><u>Visitor Management</u></p> <p>KH Reported that the 'Hub' website being developed by the SAC and the Signage Audit are progressing. The Car Park Strategy is nearing draft form. There will be a consultation with landowners prior to wider consultation.</p>	

	<p>The Committee would like more information on the Commonwealth Games proposals. It is understood that meetings are ongoing and officers from the SAC Partnership have been involved.</p> <p>ACTION Engage with Forestry England to seek information.</p> <p>KH presented the Proud to Protect Principles that have been developed by Hettie Pigott and the SAC Partnership to support Love Your AONB. The principles emphasise that Cannock Chase AONB is a protected landscape, a working landscape and a landscape for all, and that the starting point for visitors should be to care for it and treat it with respect.</p> <p>MS welcomed the proposals and suggested there should be reference to Cannock Chase's importance in a regional, national and international context.</p> <p>KH advised that the Principles would be promoted initially through the Love Cannock Chase work, but also through the HUB website, through other literature and through Projects.</p> <p>RB advised that the Bird Report 2017 recommended more interpretation boards to help inform visitors of the wildlife and advise them to keep to paths.</p> <p>KH responded that many visitors use the internet for information before visiting, however, rationalising signage is a topic for this Group</p> <p>ACTION: KH to circulate Proud to Protect Principles electronically for comment</p> <p><u>Historic Environment</u></p> <p>SB reported the main recent work had been responding to the Management Plan Consultation and developing projects to implement the plan.</p> <p>Two key pieces of work are emerging:</p> <p>Pulling together the legacy work from the Chase Through Time Project: LiDAR has identified 400 new archaeological sites. More work is needed to analyse what this tells us about the evolution of the Chase, along with work around survey of condition and identifying any conservation work required.</p>	<p>JCB/RH</p> <p>KH</p>
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5c)	<p>Linked to this is a project around Parkland. This will involve survey and work with landowners to conserve historic features and gain a better understanding of historic parkland where evidence has been eroded. It will also include identifying veteran trees, so these can be conserved and managed for the future.</p> <p>Landscape and Planning</p> <p>HM reported that the Group had previously had the main remit of commissioning the review of the Landscape Character Assessment for the AONB as an evidence base for the Management Plan, which it had delivered, and not needed to meet frequently since then. The ambition now is to move this Group forward to include planners from the partner authorities. The Group would also welcome membership from National Trust and Forestry England.</p> <p>The extended Group met on 11th January and the group has jointly inputted into the Management Plan consultation. Future work will include developing a Design Guide for the AONB and providing training and advice to planning officers on AONB landscape matters.</p> <p>A review of the Planning Protocol commenced some time ago. Planning officers have been asked to comment on the updated Protocol by early February, so this can be finalised.</p> <p>The Group will also act as a sounding board for the AONB Landscape Planning Officer to seek advice and consensus on significant planning applications.</p> <p>Land Management</p> <p>SB, who has been acting as interim group chair, reported that the Group had met to jointly formulate a response to the Management Plan consultation.</p> <p>The group also considered projects to implement the plan, including a range of species and habitat surveys to better understand wildlife needs in the AONB and inform future management. Mike Shurmer had kindly agreed to chair this group going forwards.</p> <p>Membership of the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB)</p> <p>SB reported that the AONB has re-joined NAAONB. Membership is of benefit to the AONB, from being involved in national level discussion, and sharing information and best practice. FB reported that she had attended a meeting of AONB chairmen and found it extremely informative and positive.</p>	
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5d)	<p>Website and branding</p> <p>SB reported that the current website is out of date, needs modern presentation and reinvigorating moving forward. Budget is available this year to carry out the work, and the site will be live by the end of the financial year. Working with SCC Web-team, a new site will be created that brings in AONB projects currently hosted separately (Fixed Point Photography, Chase Through Time), and be able to accommodate future projects.</p> <p>Part of this work includes an update to freshen-up the AONB branding. SB explained that the SAC HUB will be a visitor focussed website with links to events and will cover areas outside the SAC. The AONB website will be more focussed towards the special qualities of the AONB - the landscape wildlife and historic environment and the work of the AONB – with links to the HUB.</p> <p>JS asked how SWT should co-ordinate linking their activities to the HUB and offered to pursue this.</p> <p>PA (SPCA) suggested it is important to make the system simple to encourage visitors and reinforce the need to protect and conserve.</p> <p>MS was concerned that the SAC HUB should not be too SAC focussed.</p>	
5e)	<p>Deer management</p> <p>SB reported that new deterrent devices will be trialled at a deer casualty blackspot at Birches Valley.</p> <p>The major landowners would be repeating the Deer Census in April, with the help of local deer stalkers and smaller landowners, to gather information on population trends. Work was also underway on deer impact assessment and monitoring through trail cameras.</p>	
5f)	<p>Development of a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)</p> <p>SB explained that this work stems from DEFRA's requirement for the AONB to be more sustainable. Public sector funding is more limited, and resources are needed to be able to act on the Management Plan. A charity can attract funding and memberships not open to a local authority.</p> <p>A draft Constitution and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been prepared. The CIO will operate alongside and will not replace the Joint Committee, to source funding to support projects. The SCC legal team have been appointed to provide advice.</p>	

5g)	<p>ACTION SB to bring this as an item to the Joint Committee meeting in June</p> <p>AONB Sustainable Development Fund</p> <p>JB reported that the Panel had met on 13th November 2018 and agreed to fund 4 projects: Restoration and Maintenance at Etching hill (Friends of Etching Hill), Gym equipment at Marquis Drive Visitor Centre (Staffordshire County Council), Grazing awareness day(s) at Marquis Drive Visitor Centre (Staffordshire County Council Ranger Service), Production of book about the WW1 Hospital and links to Brindley Village (Brindley Village Legacy Group).</p> <p>Committed grant funding amounts to £8,930 of the available £20,560. The programme for inviting applications was delayed due to no AONB staff being in post. Efforts are being made to allocate remaining funds. Organisations have been invited to submit applications that can be delivered this financial year, and a further two have been received, with expressions of interest from others. For speed of decision making these will be emailed to the Panel.</p> <p>RH is now administering the fund.</p>	SB
6.	<p>Glover Review of protected Landscapes</p> <p>HM explained that the Glover Review is an independent review for the Government, looking at the structure, funding and purpose of National Parks and AONBs. A Call for Evidence sought responses by 18th December 2018. HM had prepared a paper and draft response, and this was circulated to Committee Members and included as an Agenda Item for discussion at the Joint Committee meeting originally set for December 2018. However, this meeting had been cancelled due to the meeting not being quorate. Committee members had been invited to make written comments on the draft and were thanked for the useful comments received. HM confirmed that these were incorporated into a final response and submitted by the consultation deadline.</p> <p>ACTION: Members requested the final response should be circulated to members with Minutes of the Meeting for information.</p>	JCB
7.	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>JB gave an update on the current AONB budget and forecasted spend. It was noted that DEFRA had agreed that the current underspend could be carried forward to support implementation of</p>	

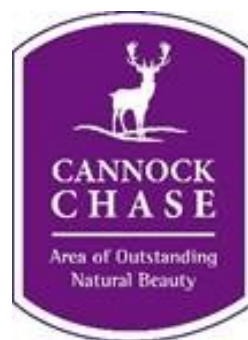
	<p>the AONB management plan; a clear business plan showing how the funds would be allocated was required. DEFRA also wanted a visit in April to meet the new team.</p> <p>Members expressed concern about the SDF underspend and noted that we may be allocating too much funding to the SDF. Officers reported that the staffing situation had meant that the SDF was not promoted as early in the year as normal and this may have impacted on delivery, however in future years that partnership may wish to allocate some funds to AONB-led projects.</p> <p>A business plan would be brought to the March committee meeting outlining how funds will be used. Members noted that some of the reserve may be required to support the CIO as this might require an operating reserve.</p> <p>ACTION: SB to get legal advice on the likely level of operating reserve required for the CIO.</p>	SB
8.	<p>Planning Matters in the AONB</p> <p>JCB reported that Clive Keble’s contract to provide planning advice to the AONB Partnership terminated in December, and she is now dealing with planning consultations. The Partnership’s thanks to Mr Keble was recorded.</p> <p>Following the cancelled Joint Committee meeting in December an updated Planning Report was circulated which includes the additional consultations and decisions made during and since December.</p>	
9.	<p>Partner news</p> <p><u>SAC Partnership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Car Park Strategy and Site User Strategy are nearing completion. Stakeholder consultation will take place in the next few months. <p><u>Natural England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing re-organisation. Marion Spain is the new interim Chairperson, who is very supportive of AONBs. • HM is now working part time for the Planning for a Sustainable Future Team. • NE are involved in meetings with Forestry England regarding the Commonwealth Games. <p><u>RSPB</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential similarities between Cannock Chase and Sherwood Forest. MS offered to forward a report on tracking the effects of recreation disturbance on lowland heath <p><u>Staffordshire Wildlife Trust</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLF funding for Transforming the Trent Valley has been confirmed. New Wolseley Visitor Centre should be opening Easter 2019. Dave Cadman and Jeff Sim are sharing the role of Head of Conservation. Have taken on 99 year lease of Gentleshaw Common and will be undertaking a consultation on future management. Bid to National Grid via AONB has secured £200k for habitat management at Gentleshaw Common. <p><u>West Midland Bird Club</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group will be surveying for Willow tits as part of national survey, and regional survey on farmland. Looking for project opportunities. <p><u>Staffordshire County Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work was ongoing on the new countryside stewardship scheme for Cannock Chase Country Park; a grazing awareness day would be held in March in advance of a grazing pilot scheme to be developed in 2020/21. Proposals for the Council's countryside estate review were to be discussed at the Council's Select Committee on the 18th January in advance of discussion by cabinet in March. The proposals included options to explore potential management transfers and the creation of a trust to support future sustainability of the sites. 	
10.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Nothing reported.</p>	
11.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Next meeting 12th March 2019 – 10am – 12.00 pm Staffordshire County Council, Council Chamber, Martin Street, Stafford</p> <p>Future Meetings:</p> <p>6th June 2019 – 10 am – 12 pm 3rd September 2019 – 10 am – 12 pm</p>	

Item 5	AONB Management Plan
Item for:	Discussion and Decision
Author:	Sarah Bentley, Vice Chair OWG
Financial implications:	Funding is in place for production and publication of the Plan
Recommendations:	The Committee is requested to consider the draft AONB management plan and associated documents and agree with any amendments determined at the meeting

Background

1. Consultants from Rural Focus developed a draft AONB Management Plan, based on a review of previous management plans, evidence from the State of the AONB report and extensive input from the task and finish groups and the annual AONB conference.
2. There was a public consultation on the draft plan from November 2018 to January 2019. All comments received have been considered and a response to each is given in the review report (attached).
3. An amended plan, taking on board comments from the consultation, is now presented to the Committee for final comments and approval. The plan will then be finalised, with any revisions agreed at the meeting, and published by 31st March in order to meet the statutory deadline.
4. A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment have been undertaken in line with legislative and policy requirements. The draft final reports are attached. The SEA finds that there are no negative environmental impacts from the plan and the HRA finds that there should be no negative impacts on any European site.
5. The consultants will present the final plan to the Committee at the meeting, summarising the key changes arising from the consultation. The Committee is requested to consider the proposed amendments and approve the plan with any final amendments.



Cannock Chase AONB Partnership

Business Plan

2019 – 2021

Draft for Joint Committee meeting March 2019

Who are we and what do we do?

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Cannock Chase AONB Partnership brings together local authorities, statutory agencies, voluntary and community bodies to manage the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 1.2. The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. In pursuing this primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.
- 1.3. The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-24 sets out the vision for the AONB and the policies and actions required over the next five years to work towards that vision. The Management Plan provides a framework for everyone operating in the AONB and includes actions that many organisations may be involved in delivering.
- 1.4. This business plan sets out how the AONB Partnership itself, notably through its dedicated staff team, will operate to deliver its commitments in the AONB Management Plan over the next two years.

2. Governance of the AONB

- 2.1. The Cannock Chase AONB Partnership has the following governance structure:

AONB Joint Committee	Decision-making body for the Partnership including voting members from the five local authorities (elected members) and advisory members from statutory agencies, landowning bodies, voluntary and community organisations.
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AONB Officers Working Group	Provides steer and support to the AONB team and task groups to help implement the Joint Committee's decisions and support implementation of the AONB management plan; may make decisions under delegation from the JC.
Task and Finish Groups	Bring together relevant partners to work with the AONB team to implement the management plan. Advisory and delivery-focused, report to the JC.
AONB Team	Delivery-focused team working to the Joint Committee supported by the OWG; works with the task and finish groups to deliver, monitor and review the management plan by coordinating activity with partners, leading project development and delivery as appropriate.

3. The AONB Team

3.1. The AONB Team has been significantly restructured over the last 12 months with new staff joining the team in late 2018 and further appointments being made in early 2019. The new team structure includes the following roles:

- AONB Development Manager
- AONB Landscape Planning Officer
- AONB Land Management Officer
- AONB Support Officer

3.2. The team is hosted by Staffordshire County Council and based at their main office at Staffordshire Place in Stafford. Line management support is through the County Council's Rural County team; however, the team is accountable to the AONB Joint Committee and all work plans and priorities are agreed through the Officers Working Group based on the business plan approved by the Joint Committee.

Where are we trying to get to?

4. Strategic Direction

- 4.1. Cannock Chase AONB Partnership has undergone a number of changes in recent years through a thorough review of its governance and operating model. The purpose of the review was to make the partnership more streamlined, efficient and resilient to future change, and to achieve more effective and focused delivery of the AONB management plan. There is also a desire to make the Partnership more outward-looking; this is a very small AONB in an area with significant urban growth, so we must be able to influence activity beyond the AONB boundary if we are to deliver our statutory purpose. This is an ongoing change process and will continue to provide a strategic focus through the life of this business plan.
- 4.2. The key changes so far have included:
 - 4.2.1. Streamlining governance and bringing advisory partners into the Joint Committee to contribute directly to decision-making;
 - 4.2.2. Establishing task and finish groups to bring together key partners and experts to help deliver the AONB management plan by developing and delivering projects; and
 - 4.2.3. A new operating model for the AONB team with posts focused on key areas of AONB delivery, reducing the need to buy in external resources.
- 4.3. The revised Management Plan 2019-24 also links to the overarching change of approach for Cannock Chase AONB with a focus on connectivity. The plan has been streamlined from its previous iteration, retaining a high aspiration for the AONB but with a more coherent policy framework and more achievable action plan.
- 4.4. In 2018 Cannock Chase AONB re-joined the National Association of AONBs (NAAONB), supporting the outward-facing approach and facilitating greater learning and sharing of experience with other AONBs across the country. This will be of tremendous value as the new team becomes established and will enable Cannock Chase to make a full contribution to national work on protected landscapes.
- 4.5. A further element of the Partnership's strategic direction is to explore development of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO, potentially called the Cannock Chase Landscape Foundation, would support the financial sustainability of the AONB, providing

a vehicle to enable communities to more directly support AONB management and accessing funds that the current local authority model cannot access. This will be a significant area of work over the next two years.

How will we get there?

5. A range of activity is planned over the next two years to deliver AONB purposes for Cannock Chase and to achieve the strategic direction outlined above. This activity is broken down into core activities (defined by Defra), projects and how we will utilise the AONB sustainable development fund. This mirrors the funding streams for the AONB which are detailed in the next chapter of the plan.

6. Core Activity

6.1. The following table outlines the core tasks that will be delivered from 2019-21, including who within the AONB team will lead them.

Task	Description	Defra core activity	Management Plan action	Team lead*	Team input*	2019/20	2020/21
Organising and supporting partnership meetings	Quarterly meetings of the Joint Committee and Officers Working Group	i)		DM	All		
	Organising and coordinating task and finish group meetings, currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape & Planning (LPO) • Land Management (LMO) • Historic Environment (LMO) • Visitor Management (DM) • CIO development (DM) 	i)		All			
	Organising and running the Annual AONB Conference	b), i), j)		DM	All		
NAAONB activity	Contributing to the activities of the NAAONB including annual	h)		All			

	conference and meetings as appropriate						
Monitoring delivery	Monitoring progress with the management plan and reporting to the JC	e)	✓	DM	All		
	Production of an annual report on AONB activity	e)		DM	All		
Project development and fundraising	Develop projects to deliver AONB management plan priorities	c)		DM	All		
	Undertake research and development work for next phase of heritage project for the AONB	c), g), j)	✓	LMO	DM		
	Undertake research and development work to develop natural environment enhancement project in the AONB	c), g), J)	✓	LMO	DM		
	Secure external funding to support project delivery	g)		DM	All		
CIO development	Explore development of a charitable incorporated organisation to support AONB delivery, including functions, relationship to partnership, how it would work, resourcing etc.	g)	✓	DM			
	Establishment of CIO including recruitment of trustees etc. as agreed by Partnership	g) j)	✓	DM			
Raising awareness of the AONB	Promotion of the new AONB website, further development of project sections	b)		DM	All		

	Raising awareness of AONB activity via press / media, partner websites, talks and events – minimum 4 events per annum	b), j)		DM	All		
Community involvement	Support further development of Love your AONB initiative to engage communities and businesses in the management and celebration of the AONB	b), j)	✓	DM	All		
Liaison with partners and stakeholders	Liaison with landowners, local authorities and other partners to facilitate engagement in AONB activity	c), d), i), j)	✓	All			
Provision of landscape planning advice	Review of AONB planning protocol	d), k)		LPO			
	Input to planning policy and development management	d), k)		LPO			
	Development of design guidance for the AONB	d), k)	✓	LPO			
	Development of AONB guidance on views and the AONB setting	d), k)	✓	LPO			
	Review current guidance on highways and horsiculture to determine how to take forward	d), k)	✓	LPO	LMO		
	Input to HS2 landscape group and Commonwealth Games to minimise negative impacts and maximise benefits to the AONB	d), k)	✓	LPO	DM		
Undergrounding	Work with statutory undertakers to explore opportunities for	c)		LPO			

	undergrounding powerlines in the AONB						
Monitoring landscape condition	Coordinate fixed point photography monitoring	f)	✓	LPO			
	Assess condition of local wildlife sites in the AONB	f)	✓	LMO			
	Undertake targeted surveys of flagship and indicator species	f)	✓	LMO			
	Monitor condition of SAMs in the AONB – Historic England to support	f)	✓	LMO			
Manage the Sustainable Development Fund	Promote SDF, support development where required and coordinate funding panel; management of claims etc.	g) j)		LMO			
Volunteering in the AONB	Coordination and support to existing AONB volunteers	j)		LMO			
	Review of volunteering in the AONB to determine how the Partnership can add value to existing activity	j)		LMO			

*DM – Development Manager; LPO – Landscape Planning Officer (part time); LMO – Land Management Officer; SO – Support Officer (part time)

7. Utilisation of AONB reserve

7.1. Changes to the partnership's governance and staffing arrangements over the last two years resulted in some unutilised funds being carried forward in the AONB reserve. With staff now in place and a new management plan to deliver, the partnership will utilise some of the reserves to kick start plan delivery and develop the evidence base for future funding bids. These are referred to in the table above and further information is provided here.

- 7.2. **Planning Guidance** – a priority action in the new AONB management plan is to develop AONB planning guidance. This is particularly important given the scale of potential development which could possibly have an impact on the AONB. A suite of guidance is suggested but the immediate priority is guidance on the setting of the AONB and the conservation of key views in and out of the AONB. This is the suggested priority due to the scale of development likely to occur in the setting and the current lack of clarity regarding treatment of the setting and views. The next priority is design guidance for development in the AONB to promote appropriate standards of design and materials and consideration of scale, setting and character. In both cases, the guidance will draw on best practice from other AONBs to provide a bespoke guide relevant to the Cannock Chase landscape. The advice will be targeted to planners and developers; local planning authorities may adopt it as SPD.
- 7.3. **Project development – Chase through Time Legacy** – the first phase of the Chase through Time project ran from 2016-18 with funding and support from Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England, Staffordshire County Council and the AONB. This project identified an amazing number of new archaeological features and the next stage of the project needs to be developed to explore their survival, condition, management needs and what they tell us about the evolution of the landscape. Linked to this, the AONB has been working with the Staffordshire Gardens and Parks Trust to develop an initiative focused on historic parklands which make up some 20% of the AONB. A short consultancy contract is proposed to analyse the data and develop these ideas into a project bid, identifying potential funding streams.
- 7.4. **Species and habitat monitoring** – the primary purpose of the AONB is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, which includes flora and fauna, and one of the core activities defined by Defra is to monitor the condition of the AONB. The condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest is regularly monitored, however there are 30 Local Wildlife Sites, representing much of the priority habitat of the AONB, which have not been surveyed for at least 10 years. Resurveying these sites would provide a clear indication of the condition of priority habitats in the AONB and would also identify conservation management needs which could be picked up through projects bids, landowner liaison and potentially volunteer activity. There are also a number of species monitoring projects which would contribute to our understanding of the condition of the AONB landscape and would also inform development of a future nature recovery project, which will be taken forward as funding allows.
- 7.5. **CIO development** – initial work has been undertaken to explore development of a Cannock Chase Landscape Foundation CIO to support the work of the partnership. Within the next two years the partnership will need to decide whether it wishes to proceed with

the CIO and work will be required to establish it. Some funds and resource will be required to support this and while the detail has not yet be defined, some initial provision is proposed in future budgets.

8. Sustainable Development Fund

- 8.1. The sustainable development fund is a sum of money within the Defra single pot that the Partnership can allocate as grants to third parties to support projects that contribute to AONB purposes. The fund is widely promoted and applications for funding are considered by a grants panel which includes a voting member of the Joint Committee and representatives from the business, community and recreation sectors. The AONB team draws 10% from the fund to cover the costs of administration.
- 8.2. The sustainable development fund has typically been held at around £20,000 though in some years it has been difficult to find sufficient projects that meet the criteria to fund. It is suggested that the SDF remains at the current level in 2019/20 with improved promotional material. However, as AONB projects develop in coming years it may be necessary for some of the single pot to be utilised as pump priming money for funding bids, reducing the amount available as SDF grants. The SDF would then be targeted at local community projects, with more strategic projects being funded via the single pot.

9. AONB Projects

- 9.1. **Chase Through Time** – This project (2016-18) included a Lidar and aerial photography survey of the AONB and identification and mapping of historic environment features. Over 430 new archaeological sites, comprising thousands of individual historic features, were identified through the project. The project also focused on the many Great War features on the Chase, with trained volunteers undertaking field survey of features. Trained volunteers also undertook archive research into the development of the Chase over the last 400 years. The project also included a commemoration element for the Great War, including a public event on the Chase.
- 9.2. The Chase Through Time was an initial element of a larger project and this now needs to be developed. The overall purpose is to understand how the landscape has been shaped by people over time, and to consider the landscape of the future given the many pressures it now faces. The project seeks to work with landowners and communities to manage and interpret the historic environment, bringing the AONB's heritage into positive management. This will include a programme of survey of the many

archaeological features identified through the Lidar, with positive conservation management where required. The initial project developed a core of trained volunteers who are keen to continue field survey, archive research and interpretation. The next phase will seek to increase community involvement, including targeted work to involve younger members of the community.

9.3. In addition to this broader work, a specific strand of work will be developed focusing on historic parklands. These originally made up at least 20% of the AONB, a significant component of the landscape. Many of the parkland features have been impacted by development or are in need of conservation management. This project will include archive research to understand the parklands, survey work to determine survival of features and condition, a network for parkland managers, conservation management advice and interpretation and awareness raising of this aspect of the AONB's heritage.

9.4. **Nature Recovery Project** – the AONB is home to some of our most rare and endangered species and habitats. The Land Management Task & Finish Group has identified a suite of conservation priorities that require investigation and potential conservation management. These form the Nature Recovery Project which will include targeted survey, monitoring and conservation of key habitats and species, including:

9.4.1. Survey and management support for 33 Local Wildlife Sites in the AONB

9.4.2. Habitat network modelling and opportunity mapping (developed by or utilising work undertaken for local plans by LPAs)

9.4.3. Targeted survey and conservation for the following species:

- White-clawed crayfish – including eDNA analysis to detect crayfish plague and non-native crayfish species
- Key bird species in the AONB (nightjar, woodlark, redstart, willow tit, cuckoo)
- Bats
- Key invertebrates (bog bush cricket, hazel pot beetle, black darter, Welsh clearwing, small pearl bordered fritillary etc)
- Invasive species

How will we resource it?

10.Introduction to funding

10.1. Defra is the major funder for the AONB and issues a grant which includes funding for core activity, sustainable development fund and project funding. The grant is issued as a 'single pot' giving partnerships the flexibility to decide how to allocate it to different areas of activity, in line with treasury funding rules.

10.2. The proposals for allocation of the funding over the next two financial years are set out below.

11.Core funding

11.1. Core funding covers essential activities to run the AONB partnership and are set out by Defra. They include staff costs, partnership running costs, management plan and monitoring. AONB funding levels are based on a national funding formula and Defra provides grant in aid to meet 75% of the costs as part of the single funding pot. The remaining 25% is provided by the local authorities based on a formula which takes into account the proportion of the AONB within their administrative areas.

11.2. Core income for 2019-21 is as follows:

Source	% contribution	2019/20	2020/21
Defra	75%	£125,520	£125,520*
Staffordshire County Council	12.5%	£20,920	£20,920
Cannock Chase District Council	5%	£8,368	£8,368
Stafford Borough Council	5%	£8,368	£8,368
South Staffordshire Council	1.25%	£2,092	£2,092
Lichfield District Council	1.25%	£2,092	£2,092
TOTAL	100%	£167,360	£167,360

*Defra grant to be confirmed

11.3. Core expenditure proposed for 2019-21 is:

Core item	Total 2019/20	Total 2020/21
Staff salaries and associated costs	£149,490*	£152,360*
Office equipment	£2,400	£2000
Annual audit	£400	£400
Volunteer costs	£500	£400
NAAONB membership	£2,570	£2600
Print and publicity	£500	£100
Partnership running costs	£8,000	£8,000
AONB website	£500	£500
Monitoring	£500	
Annual conference	£1,000	£1000
Community involvement	£1,000	
Core activity	£500	
TOTAL	£167,360	£167,360

*pending job evaluation for new post

12.SDF

12.1. AONB Sustainable Development Fund budgets are proposed as follows:

Item	2019/20	2020/21*
SDF grant allocation	£20,762	£9,000 - £13,500
SDF administration (10%)	£2,307	£1,000 - £1500
Total	£23,069	£10,000 - £15,000

*Defra grant to be confirmed

13.Utilisation of AONB Reserve

13.1. With the reorganisation of the AONB Partnership and recruitment of a new AONB team from 2017-19 the budget was not fully utilised during this period and funds have been held in reserve to allow delivery of the new AONB Management Plan from 2019. The following table outlines how the AONB reserve will be utilised for this purpose. Descriptions of the tasks are given in section 7 above. Delivery of these items will be focused in the first two quarters of 2019/20.

13.2. The current AONB reserve sits at just under £75,000 at February 2019 with an estimated underspend of £36,000 to be added at the close of the financial year taking it to around £110,000. The Joint Committee has agreed that reserve funds should be used for two purposes – some to be held to enable the partnership to respond to changes in funding and some to be used to pump prime funding bids to deliver the AONB management plan. Defra requires that Treasury funds carried forward are utilised by September 2019. This would include an estimated £45,000 depending on the final outturn in 2018/19.

Task and outline	Estimated cost
Priority tasks	
Planning guidance on AONB setting and views	£20,000
Survey of 30 Local Wildlife Sites in the AONB	£25,000
Heritage project research and development	£7,000
Collation of invertebrate data and crayfish monitoring	£8,000
Total	£60,000
Further potential tasks to be considered	
Planning design guidance for the AONB	£15,000
Further species monitoring and nature recovery project development	£20,000

14. Project development

- 14.1. The projects listed in section 9 will be developed in 2019/20, with research and development costs funded through the AONB reserve. It is therefore not proposed to allocate any of the single pot to project funding in 2019/20. However, in 2010/21 match contributions for funding bids may be required and it is proposed that some of the single pot should be allocated for this purpose. The Defra grant for 2020/21 is not yet confirmed but around £8 - 13k is estimated for this purpose. Some additional funds may also be required from the reserve. This will become clear as the development work proceeds.

Local Members Interest
N/A

**Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee
12th March 2019**

**Finance Update
Revenue Budget 2018-19**

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

Recommendations

1. a) **Revenue Budget Outturn 2018/19**

That progress on the current net revenue spend and forecast for 2018/19 is noted.

b) **The AONB Reserve**

That the current balance held on the AONB Reserve is noted.

Part A

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

2. The Joint Committee in its role under the Partnership Agreement is responsible for:-
- The management of the core funding from Defra and the co-ordination of partner projects. This report updates the Joint Committee on progress to date on the current year's budget.
 - The approval of budget provision. The current proposal for the 2019/20 net revenue budget is recommended to the Joint Committee.

Reasons for Recommendations:

3. 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:

4. **Revenue Budget Update 2018/19**

minimise the growth in the AONB's forecast underspend and consisted of further AONB website development spend (£4,835) and the expansion of Deer Management 'accident prevention' technology (£12,095) at key routes through Cannock Chase and also deer impact assessment work.

- 4.2 This forecast underspend, if fully realised, will be transferred to the AONB Reserve to a level that is acceptable to Defra. Defra has recently agreed to the carry forward of some of the funds in principle based on certain conditions being met in that the underspent sum is to be spent on delivering the AONB's Management Plan and meeting its key milestones set. Sarah Bentley (Rural County) is meeting with Defra in London to confirm and agree the details of the Defra Grant carry forward spending plan and will report the outcomes of this meeting to the joint committee.
- 4.3 The latest forecast position for the 2018/19 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for 2018/19 is set out in *Appendix 2* with the total projects approved to date now equating to £19,450 in total. After the administration fee earned by the AONB Unit of £2,056 is deducted from the SDF Grant this leaves a small commitment overspend of £949 for this year. If this sum is not invested by the end of March 2019 then this too will be carried forward into the 2019/20 financial year at the year end.

5 The AONB Reserve

- 5.1 The balance on the Cannock Chase AONB Reserve stood at £74,690 at the start of 2018/19. A summary of the Reserve is attached as *Appendix 3*.
- 5.2 It has previously been recommended that the priorities for the use of the Reserve Fund 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 (approximately £44,690) and;
 - The remaining funds should be 'earmarked' to enable the AONB unit to respond to the implications of any potential future reductions in funding (approximately £30,000).
- 5.3 These priorities are reviewed annually in December of each year in conjunction with the annual update of the Cannock Chase AONB Risk Register which is undertaken in December of each year.

6. Equalities Implications

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Equal Opportunities policies of the County Council.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

This report recommends actions to ensure the continued efficient delivery of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan and reflects the principles set out in the Partnership Agreements.

9. **Risk Implications**

If continuity of funding and spend are not continued as recommended to the Joint Committee, then the five authorities involved in the current 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:

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List of Background papers

None

CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Predicted 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	Spent or Committed to Date	Predicted Outturn	Variation
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>AONB Core Budget</u>							
Staff Salaries and Associated costs	121,794	104,555	102,405	104,390	18,585	33,767	-70,623
Accommodation /Office Equipment	7,421	7,599	6,689	3,870	2,821	3,292	-578
Transport	5,113	4,839	4,762	270	549	662	392
Volunteer Costs				500	0	0	-500
National Association of AONB's Membership				2,570	1,325	1,325	-1,245
Consultation Events				500	0	0	-500
Print & Publicity	2,784	3,166	1,132	1,000	0	0	-1,000
Sustainable Development Fund	5,000	15,649	17,881	20,560	2,056	21,506	946
Partnership running costs	6,600	6,600	6,600	7,600	7,600	7,600	0
	148,713	142,406	139,469	141,260	32,935	68,151	-73,109
<u>Core Action Projects</u>							
AONB Website	160	160	160	160	160	4,995	4,835
Monitoring Projects	0	3,696	2,568	9,000	8,742	8,742	-258
Annual Conference		774	987	1,000	640	640	-360
AONB Annual Review	388	1,208	0				
Governance Review and CIO		11,876		6,000	0	1,500	-4,500
Management Plan Review	0	0		25,000	16,385	20,740	-4,260
Community Involvement and Awareness Events	3,415	2,797	1,915	2,000	1,667	1,667	-333
Planning Support Project	6,240	8,820	7,440	3,500	3,460	3,460	-40
Deer Management				0	9,862	12,095	12,095
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	40,916	53,839	7,179
TOTAL BUDGET	188,311	183,126	154,743	187,920	73,852	121,991	-65,929
FUNDED BY:							
Natural England	4,300						0
Defra	138,792	141,179	143,606	146,080	0	146,077	-3
Lichfield District Council	2,092	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	2,092	0
Cannock Chase District Council	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	0
Stafford Borough Council	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	8,368	0
Staffordshire County Council	20,920	20,920	20,920	20,920	20,920	20,920	0
	184,932	183,019	185,446	187,920	41,840	187,917	-3
Sales and Donations	996	0	0	0	169	0	0
Membership Fee Income		0	0	0	104	0	0
Funding from(+)/to reserve(-)	2,383	108	-30,703	0	0	-65,926	-65,926
	188,311	183,126	154,743	187,920	42,113	121,991	-65,929

CANNOCK CHASE AONB JOINT COMMITTEE

Budget Update for 2018/2019 for Sustainable Development Fund

March 2019

	2018/2019		
	Budget	Forecast	Variation
	£	Outturn	£
	£	£	£
AONB SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND			
Approved Projects			
Brindley Village Legacy Group	2,000	2,000	0
Friends of Etching Hill	730	730	0
Staffordshire County Council - Grazing Awareness	2,200	2,200	0
Butterfly Conservation Leaflet	1,420	1,420	0
Longdon PC	700	700	0
Museum of Cannock Chase	4,900	4,900	0
Staffs Wildlife Trust - Play Area	5,000	5,000	0
Love Your AONB	2,500	2,500	0
Total Approved Projects	19,450	19,450	0
Admin Fees	2,056	2,056	0
Currently Unallocated	-949		949
TOTAL	20,557	21,506	949

CANNOCK CHASE AONB RESERVE

Financial Year	Opening Balance	Income/ Donations	Membership Fees	Visitor Survey Work	Admin Fees	Transfer to Reserve	Balance of Admin Fees	Interest	Closing Balance
	£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
2007/2008	10,214					-1,766	-1,766		8,448
2008/2009	8,448	572			9,303	-1,590	7,713		16,733
2009/2010	16,733	1,326			6,166	-371	5,795		23,854
2010/2011	23,854	896		9,564	4,744	-921	3,823		38,136
2011/2012	38,136	1,240		17,845	3,983	-4,204	-221		57,001
2012/2013	57,001	387			3,218	-533	2,685	195	60,269
2013/2014	60,269	1,001			2,459		2,459	249	63,979
2014/2015	63,979	596			1,327	-54	1,273	289	66,137
2015/2016	66,137				500	-2,383	-1,883	293	64,547
2016/2017	64,547	1,475			1,565	-108	1,457	132	67,612
2017/2018	67,612	1,471	7,569		1,809	30,703	32,512	189	109,353
2018/2019	109,353				-32,606	36,129	3,523		112,875
		8,966	7,569	27,409	2,468	54,902	57,371	1,347	112,875

Notes:

Admin Fees earned against the SDF may be subject to 25% 'match funding' if drawn down to offset revenue budget or project spend.

Item 8 - Planning comments made since the last Joint Committee - Report of AONB Landscape Planning Officer

Recommendation (1) The Joint Committee notes progress made on planning matters since the last meeting, as shown below.

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/18/015 Installation of solar PV array and associated infrastructure. Cannock Wood Mine Water Treatment Site, New Hayes Road, WS12 0PL	No objection. Conditions requested on: - Access & construction work. - Re-instatement of ground (to heathland/grassland). - Dark green fencing to match existing for new boundary. - Remove equipment/restore site, if generation ceases.	Comments reflected AONB input on earlier Environmental Assessment. Refused 05.02.19 (Green Belt grounds)
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. Design and Access Statement does state that the ménage would be dug into the slope on the north side and filled on the south side, and it is possible that this could address concerns. Seek clarity prior to determination to ensure that the proposal would be acceptable. This should be in the form a plan showing existing and proposed contours, along with the level of the ménage relative to existing buildings at Dorfield and Stafford Brook Road, to demonstrate that the ménage and associated fencing could be largely screened by landform.	Awaiting decision.
LDC 18/01704/FUL Porch, First Floor extension, rear extension Freshwood, Lower Way, Upper Longdon, Rugeley	No objection The Design and Access Statement and elevations indicate recessive materials sympathetic to local character. The chimney stack and new roofs would be below existing roof level and therefore subservient to the main house. 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.	Awaiting decision.

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), I consider the proposal would be unlikely to give rise to issues of concern.	Awaiting decision.
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 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. The Design Statement refers to the site being steeply sloping, but there is no clarity around whether the slope would need to be modified. Similarly, there is 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. These factors could adversely impact on landscape character and visual intrusion, adversely affecting the character and natural beauty of the AONB.	Awaiting decision.
LDC 18/01841/FUL Outbuilding (double garage) Holmwood, Lower Way, Upper Longdon, Rugeley	Conditions requested The site is on Lower Way, where there are a variety of house styles. Several properties on the south side of Lower Way have standalone garages at the front of the property, some with pitched roofs. The application is for standalone double garage with pitched roof; height to ridge 5.498m. Elevations suggest a brick and tile construction. No tree removal. No objections in principle, conditions requested for details of materials.	Awaiting Decision
CCC CH/18/455 First floor bay windows 188, Chaseley Road, Rugeley	No objection. Proposal is a minor modification to the property frontage. Subject to there being no removal of trees and hedges, no concerns.	Approved
SS 18/01031/OUT Land West Of Cannock Road And	Conditional objection Lack of clarity regarding the proposed height and bulk of the apartments indicated on the north	Awaiting decision

<p>South Of Hazelstrine Lane Stafford</p> <p>155 dwellings (C3 use) and 55 apartments with care (C2 use)</p>	<p>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>CCC CH/18/457 2m fence (retrospective) Stonehouse Cottage, 6, Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley</p>	<p>No objection.</p> <p>The sections of fencing to be replaced are between Stonehouse Cottage and The Stone House, and therefore not more widely overlooked. 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>Awaiting decision</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 Penkridge Bank Road and Post Office Lane, which would detrimentally impact on the landscape character of this part of the AONB.</p> <p>I question whether there is space for this development without impacting on trees and securing their long-term survival. I note that it would not be possible to assure the retention of trees between the development and the road(s) to secure visual mitigation, as this is beyond the site boundary. Objection, but in the event of approval, conditions requested for materials and a landscaping scheme including measures to secure the retention and long-term management of existing trees. In addition, I request that you consider removing permitted development rights.</p>	<p>Awaiting Decision</p>

<p>SCC PAS/137/SS/604 M Pottal Pool Pre-app discussion</p>	<p>The application will need to be informed by up to date landscape character assessments, and Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <p>Item 1: The proposal (Plan P21/228) to steepen the final quarry faces and restoration profiles to 1 in 1, compared with the approved Restoration Plan (P21fc/139), which indicates restoration to a naturalistic valley landform with slopes no steeper than 1 in 4, is of great concern. The revised proposal does not appear to respond to the designated status of the AONB or deliver the requirements of the Minerals Local Plan Policy for Staffordshire (2015-2030) Policy 4(i). A more sympathetic restoration solution should be sought incorporating a more naturalistic landform without extensive retained quarry faces and benches. Incorporating some steeper gradients and exposed faces may be acceptable as part a considered scheme primarily designed to respond to landscape character and deliver landscape enhancement. Some recreational access would be welcomed to potentially help reduce visitor pressure on the nearby Special Area of Conservation (SAC).</p> <p>Restoration to heathland is welcomed and fulfils objectives of the AONB Management Plan. Areas of heathland restoration and broadleaved woodland should aim to enhance connectivity.</p> <p>Item 2: No concerns in principle</p> <p>Item 3: Acceptable in principle, but subject to detail of both proposed height and materials/ colours.</p> <p>Items 4 and 5: Details of the proposed phasing and extension of time relative to the dates of proposed forestry operations are requested to ensure that appropriate site screening is secured. An updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment / Appraisal would be appropriate to provide clarity.</p> <p>Item 6: In principle concern regarding an increase in HGV traffic in a particularly sensitive part of the AONB, adjoining the SAC, but may partially be dependent on routing. Consultation with the SAC Partnership Officer is recommended.</p>	<p>N/A</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>Awaiting Decision</p>
<p>SS 18/00765/FUL</p>	<p>Objection withdrawn</p>	<p>Awaiting Decision</p>

33 Gratley Croft Huntington Cannock South Staffordshire WS12 4PZ Amended application	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.	
CCC, LDC CH/19/0033 EIA 19/00077/PREAPP Rugeley Power Station EIA Scoping opinion	Management Plan 2019 – 2024 is due for publication in April 2019 and should be used as evidence unless the submission pre-dates it. Request correction of AONB Boundary and more than the 2 viewpoints shown on the AONB Boundary. Seeking reassurance that development would not include taller elements that would impact on the setting of the AONB, therefore if these are proposed the Partnership would request consideration of a larger Study Area. Depending on the proposed heights of development it could also be appropriate to consider how the proposal may affect views towards the AONB. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will need to demonstrate that potential effects on the AONB and its setting have been fully assessed, including lighting, and that any detrimental effects have been avoided or mitigated where possible.	
CCC CH/18/457 2m fence (retrospective)- Amended plans Stonehouse Cottage, 6, Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley	No objection. No further comments	Awaiting decision
LDC 19/00153/FULH Retention of solar panels on garage roof Park House, Lower Way, Upper Longdon, Rugeley	No objection.	Awaiting decision
LDC 19/00177/FULH Single story rear extension to form orangery	No Objection Conditions requested for materials and finishes sympathetic to local character.	Awaiting decision

L'Allegro, Chapel Lane, Gentleshaw, Rugeley		
SBC 18/29199/FUL Gas fired electricity generation Land North Of, Bellamour Lane, Colton, Rugeley	<p>The Independent Consultant's Report on the LVIA, raises valid concerns in relation to assessment, lack of clarity regarding significance of impact and the cumulative effects of both developments.</p> <p>The application does not appear to 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. In particular:</p> <p>1. Additional viewpoints in Appendix E of the LVIA from Rights of Way around Etching Hill appear to indicate that views are generally limited by intervening landform and vegetation. However, concerns remain regarding the overall impact of development on the setting of the AONB. The photomontage (View 11 from RoW Colwich 3 at Chapel Hill) illustrates significant adverse landscape and visual effects. It is accepted that the railway is a detracting element, nevertheless overall the valley is characterised by settled farmland, where an industrial-style built form, with flues, is uncharacteristic and would be intrusive.</p> <p>2. Cumulative detrimental impact of potentially two adjacent Gas Fired facilities on the rural landscape that comprises the setting of the AONB is of considerable concern. Furthermore, the cumulative effect of these developments in the context of the approved Anaerobic Digester Plant at Wolesley Bridge on the setting of the AONB should be a consideration.</p> <p>3. Mitigation in the relation to the setting of the AONB is poorly considered. Proposed planting along the southern site boundary unlikely to provide effective mitigation. The photomontages generally show an optimistic timeframe for establishment and density of mitigation planting. Planting at the sizes and densities proposed would not deliver mitigation for at least 10 years. Planting may then start to filter views of the lower elevations (rather than completely screen views), and this would be more limited in winter. The hedge and single tree line shown along the access track would not be sufficiently deep to substantially filter views of the development from the south and west and is</p>	Awaiting decision

	<p>unlikely to reach full stature in this location; woodland planting on the southern site boundary is proposed at densities inadequate for rapid impact and is unlikely to offer mitigation in relation to the AONB context and from more elevated viewpoints in the AONB.</p> <p>4. I appreciate that comments were not previously made regarding the proposed access track, however I consider this worthy of consideration. The plans do not appear to consider potential impacts on trees south of Bellamour Lane or offer mitigation for this track. A more strategic approach to mitigation planting could deliver more effective mitigation and contribute to landscape enhancement.</p> <p>If the authority is minded to approve, the AONB Partnership request conditions to secure sensitive use of recessive materials and finishes, restrictions on the height of flues and an enhanced level of landscape mitigation with management of habitats / planting secured for the lifetime of the operation.</p>	
<p>LDC 18/01303/FULM Gas fired electricity generation Land North Of, Bellamour Lane, Colton, Rugeley</p>	<p>Comments as above, with the exception of point 3</p> <p>3. Mitigation in the relation to the setting of the AONB is poorly considered. Proposed planting to the south and west of the gas engine compound is unlikely to provide effective mitigation. The photomontages and sections generally show an optimistic timeframe for establishment and density of mitigation planting. Planting at the sizes and densities proposed would not deliver mitigation for at least 10 years. Planting may then start to filter views of the lower elevations (rather than completely screen views), and this would be more limited in winter. Retention of existing trees to the south of the compound could help to filter views of the gas engines, however the sections indicate that the compound located on a platform some metres above existing trees, therefore visual mitigation would be reduced. Reducing the elevation of the development platform could assist with mitigation and assimilating development into the landscape.</p>	Awaiting decision
<p>LDC 19/00019/FULM Variation of conditions</p>	No objection	Awaiting Decision

Parchfields Farm, Colton Road, Colton		
Planning Policy		
LDC Local Plan Allocations Main Modifications	No comments necessary	
LDC Sustainable Design SPD	No comments necessary	
LDC Statement of Community Involvement	No comments necessary	