



REPORT TO THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2017

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN 2016/2017 & A DELIVERY PLAN FOR 2017/2018

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide Members of the JAC with an account of progress made against targets approved in March 2016
- b) Seek Member approval for a new set of 2017 – 2018 targets based on the objectives of the 2014 - 2019 Management Plan;

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the JAC:

2.1 Notes progress made during 2016/2017 financial year;

2.2 Approves the 2017/2018 Delivery Plan

3.0 DELIVERY PLANS

3.1 Although it contains measurable objectives, the Management Plan is a high level strategy with a five year time frame. It would be impractical to try and create a work programme looking forward five years as the context will change over this period.

3.2 The Delivery Plan is a work programme that translates Management Plan objectives into a series of targets that are reviewed and refreshed annually.

3.3 Review of 2016 - 2017

3.3.1 The 'Nidderdale Welcomes TdY' banner installed on the flanks of the Coldstones Cut by our volunteers and staff from the quarry didn't win Welcome to Yorkshire's LandArt prize for the event but it put the AONB firmly on the map through television coverage that was relayed to an audience of millions across the world on 29 April. Later in the year, repairs to the vertical flue at Toft Gate Lime Kiln next to Coldstones will ensure that the Scheduled Ancient Monument will survive intact for another generation or two. Also in Greenhow, AONB volunteers helped the owners of Toft Gate Barn construct a new path from Toft Gate to their café where in May, AONB team members hosted a delegation of staff from the North York Moors National Park who came over to try and discover the secret of what they described as Nidderdale AONB's success. They were especially interested in the team's record of attracting external funding to support our work - the team has brought in over £450 000 of new funding for the AONB so far this year. In June, AONB staff also hosted a delegation of Norwegian farmers and policy-makers courtesy of the Ryders at Scaife Hall Farm.

They came to review the AONB's work on Catchment Sensitive Farming in Nidderdale. Elsewhere, the team completed the three-year programme of work at the former WW1 training camp Breary Banks near Ilton (the project's legacy is illustrated on the AONB's website <http://www.nidderdaleaonbww1.org.uk/>).

3.3.2 The 'Service Delivery Plan 2016/2017' report circulated with the papers for this meeting contains more details. The illustrated 2016/17 'Annual Review' will be published on the AONB's website in July.

3.3.3 **Delivery Plan for 2017 – 2018**

3.3.4 This year, the AONB team is collaborating with Kell Bank School near Healey to create a display for the 2017 Tour de Yorkshire. The peloton will pass by the school gates on 29 April after a gruelling climb up the Cote de Lofthouse. Meanwhile, a £50 000 grant from the Princes Countryside Fund to Friends of the AONB will enable the team's farm conservation advisers to work through the implications of Brexit with 35 farmers as part of a combined environment-business planning process that will start from an assumption that public funding for farm support will decline significantly in future. We will also be working with a group of farmers on the river Skell between Ripon and Dallowgill in a joint project with the National Trust at Fountains. The aim of the work, which will result in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a second Landscape Partnership Scheme grant worth £3 million in June, is to link the World Heritage Site with the river catchment. If the bid is successful, it will enable the Trust and the AONB to help visitors to better-understand the historic environment context of Fountains, and to work with landowners upstream to reduce damage caused by flooding and sedimentation, which is costing the Trust thousands in repair work annually.

3.3.5 A detailed account of work proposed in 2017/18 is contained in the papers for the meeting.