

Mendip Hills AONB Partnership Committee		
Committee meeting date:	19 th March 2020	Paper: E
Title:	National Association for AONB (NAAONB) Update	
Presented by:	Jim Hardcastle, Mendip Hills AONB Manager	
To be noted.		

1.0 Glover Review

Defra has created a working group in their Protected Landscapes team who are working with the NAAONB and National Parks England to look at delivery of the Glover Review. Members of this working group are visiting the AONB Unit on 24th April to discuss the recommendations on planning and interactions between the AONB Unit and the rural economy.

2.0 Continuing Collaborative Work

Following the conclusion of the Future Landscapes programme, the National Lottery funded scheme that resulted in staff development training and task groups, the NAAONB core team is now less than 3FTE and some activity that was directly and indirectly delivered by the programme will not be delivered.

This includes:

- Support and coordination of Topic Working Groups and other Future Landscapes Collaborative activity.
- Collation of information and data such as the KPIs and other technical data to inform government.

Additionally, suggestions for further collaborative activities cannot be taken forward at current capacity.

- Coordination of meetings of AONB staff on a thematic/regional basis.
- Creation and maintenance of a database of AONB staff with development training for more effective networking.

During the AONB managers meeting in February, attended by Jim Hardcastle, a number of requests were made for a broad range of commitments towards other collaborative activity that will need careful coordination if it is to be delivered effectively. The meeting felt that it was really important to maintain capacity in the NAAONB in this collaborative role and asked the NAAONB Chief Executive to gauge the level of one-off support for this activity through crowd sourcing from the AONB partnerships.

Our current subscription to the NAAONB is £2,600. The NAAONB approached all partnerships to ask whether we would be willing to contribute to this work financially. They were requesting contributions from a couple of hundred pounds up to a £1,000 toward this work in financial year 2020/21. The AONB Unit agreed to contribute £500.