

Agenda Item 11
Report NPA37/18

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	18 December 2018
By	Director of Countryside Policy & Management
Title of Report	SDNPA response to the Glover Landscapes Review call for evidence

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended:

- 1. To agree the SDNPA response to the call for evidence as set out at appendix 1;**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Director of Countryside Policy & Management, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make any minor, non-substantive changes to text prior to submission.**

I. Introduction

- I.1 Members will be aware that in January 2018, the Government published its 25 year plan for the Environment. One of the actions within this plan was a commitment to undertake a review of the English National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).
- I.2 At the end of May terms of reference were published to guide the review. These include:
 - a) the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
 - b) the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25-Year Plan for the Environment
 - c) the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
 - d) how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
 - e) the financing of National Parks and AONBs
 - f) how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
 - g) how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
 - h) how well National Parks and AONBs support communities.
- I.3 The writer and former Government advisor Julian Glover is leading the review and is being supported by an advisory group. He and members of his team have visited all the National Parks (including the SDNP on 26th/27th July) and a number of AONBs, where he has met several Members and officers as well as local businesses, land managers and visitors.
- I.4 Final recommendations will be made to the Government with implementation to be led by the Defra Secretary of State. The Government anticipates that the review will report in autumn 2019 and the call for written evidence has a deadline of 18th December 2018.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 In responding to the call for evidence the SDNPA sought the widest range of views possible, via an online discussion forum using the intranet, and through a dedicated e-mail address. An initial communication was sent to all Members, Volunteers, Partners and staff encouraging them to respond directly to the review or provide input/information in relation to the questions posed in the call for evidence.
- 2.2 Subject matter experts from amongst the SDNPA staff were tasked with considering the issues raised and drafting responses to each of the questions, based on their expert knowledge and input received from the forum and via email.
- 2.3 During the same period as the call for evidence, officers from the SDNPA were able to meet Julian Glover as part of the National Trails Partnership and the South East Protected Landscapes. This gave the opportunity to feed in some of the context in which the SDNP and the South Downs Way sit.
- 2.4 The review has been highlighted by us at the Autumn series of Parish workshops, at the SDLAF meeting and other fora and responses encouraged
- 2.5 The landscape review is a nationally important piece of work and will contribute greatly to the shaping of the future of National Parks and AONBs in England and responding to the call for evidence has been considered a priority for the SDNPA.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 The full draft response to the call for evidence is set out at **appendix I**.
- 3.2 The deadline for response is the 18th December 2018 (the same day as the NPA meeting to consider the draft response) therefore only minor changes will be able to be made. If members have any concerns/issues in relation to the response they are encouraged to submit these in advance so, if necessary, an amended draft can be tabled at the NPA meeting on the 18th.
- 3.3 Authority to make any minor, non-substantive changes to text will prior to the submission deadline will be delegated to the Director of Countryside Policy & Management, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.

4. Options & cost implications

- 4.1 The costs for this work have been met from within existing budgets.
- 4.2 Due to the importance of this review in shaping the future of England's National Parks and AONBs not responding the call for evidence was not considered as an option.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 Following agreement of the response by the SDNPA the Director of Countryside Policy & Management will submit the response to the review team for consideration.
- 5.2 Any response or further updates from the review team will be shared with members if/when it becomes available.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	It is not expected that further decisions will be required.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	There are no resource implications arising from this paper.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The landscape review will impact upon the future of the SDNPA therefore ensuring the authority is able to influence this as much as possible is considered good value for money
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the	No

proposal?	
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Equalities issues have been considered where appropriate (particularly in relation to access, inclusion etc.) in respect of the Authority's response. The equalities implications of any actions arising from the landscape review will be considered at the appropriate time by the SDNPA.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Data Protection implications?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	The Landscape review has the potential to impact on all 5 principles within the SDNPA sustainability strategy

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 7.1 Failure to submit a response to the landscape review would mean that the view of the SDNPA would not be taken into account when the review considered its recommendations
- 7.2 By encouraging a wide input from Partners, Volunteers, Members and staff the SDNPA response will be as robust and informed as it can be.

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South Downs National Park Authority

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 Appendices I. SDNPA response to the Landscape Review call for evidence
 SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management;
 Director of Planning; Monitoring Officer;
 External Consultees None
 Background Documents **Landscape review call for evidence questions available at:**
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence/>

