

West Sussex County Council

Proposed Executive Decision for **31 January 2019** call-in deadline **5 p.m. on 11 February 2019**

The following proposed decision has been endorsed by the Cabinet Member and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Adoption of the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 ENV14 18.19
Cabinet Member responsible for Decision	Mrs Urquhart - Cabinet Member for Environment
West Sussex Plan priority	A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	No
Purpose	<p>The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers parts of Crawley Borough and Horsham and Mid Sussex District Councils. Legislation requires local authorities with land in an AONB to prepare and publish an up-to-date plan that <i>'formulates their policy for the management of the area and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it'</i>. Where AONBs cross administrative boundaries, local authorities are required to act jointly to prepare the plan.</p> <p>In the High Weald, this requirement is delivered through the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), a partnership that includes all 15 local authorities covering the area, including the County Council, together with community, environment and land-based sector representatives.</p> <p>There is also a legal duty that requires adopted and published management plans to be reviewed at intervals of not more than five years. Accordingly, the current High Weald AONB Management Plan 2014-19 will be replaced by a new plan covering the 2019-2024 period.</p> <p>Consultation on a draft plan took place in summer 2018 and the High Weald JAC is recommending that the individual local authorities adopt the new Plan (included as Appendix A to the report) before the end of March 2019. As a local authority policy document, the Management Plan will guide the County Council's plan-making and decision-taking by providing an objective, evidence-based tool articulating what matters in terms of AONB purpose and the fulfilment of statutory duties.</p>
Decision	The Cabinet Member for Environment has approved the adoption of the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2019-24.
Interest and nature of interest declared	None.
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Background Papers	See report for details