

Item 4 - Manager's Report to Partnership – September 2019

1.0 Management Plan Delivery 2019/20



Annual Priorities – Biodiversity and Health & Wellbeing

Biodiversity	AONB role	Progress
B1 Support and promote approaches to conserve and enhance habitats and species, increase wildlife richness and ensure the resilience of the landscape	Partner	SDF – Taw Torridge Estuary High Tide Roost Study published in September 2019; producing costed action plan
	Partner	Get Devon Buzzing – Bumblebee Conservation Trust delivering habitat management and survey work in AONB INNShore surveys of marine invasive species continuing on AONB beaches
B2 Identify and address actual and potential impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change	Partner	Awaiting funding decision on Trees Outside Woodlands (Ash Dieback project). Ancient Woodland Inventory proposed for whole of Devon, depending on funding
Access, Health and Wellbeing		
H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved access to and interpretation of the natural environment	Lead	Coastal Heritage project installing 3 new interpretation Panels and 12 Posts along the SW Coast Path and on heritage sites.
	Lead	AONB 60 th Boundary Relay with community groups, starting mid-September and through October.
	Lead	Production of 'Discover North Devon' - the AONB nature tourism map
H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors	Lead	Joint AONB and BR project – Nature's Tonic under development and bidding for external funding - to facilitate connection with nature through green/blue prescribing to complement North Devon GPs' piloting of social prescribing work.
	Partner	Wave Rangers project at Croyde appointed officer in June and will work with AONB to support social action projects with young people on heritage and beach cleans.

2.0 Projects Update

2.1 North Devon Coastal Heritage – Conservation work and surveying carried out on 6 scheduled monuments with 56 volunteers; survey team of 26 people trained and now surveyed 12 scheduled sites; events programme, displays and brochure produced for 75th D-Day commemorations over weekend of 14-16 June across the area working with local museums, NBCP and team at Braunton Burrows; interpretation work as above.

2.2 Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project – successful Bat day at Braunton Countryside Centre; ongoing surveying by the public and seasonal bat walks/talks. Evaluation report completed including plans for legacy work and funding bids.

2.3 Coastal Creatures Legacy work – ongoing INNShore surveys of invasive species indicating climate change; successful World Oceans Day event on 8 June at Croyde with Coastwise and PFND.

2.4 Life on the Verge – Biosphere – evaluation report completed and plans to bid for additional funding.

2.5 Plastic Free North Devon – working with partners to support bids for core funding for **PFND charity** and for funds to deliver the people engagement and education elements of the **Consortium’s Strategy**.

2.6 Defra Pioneers – Landscape – Final reports and investment cases being drafted. Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Biodiversity Net Gain produced but lead officer from Highways England no longer available; **Environmental Land Management** test and trial proposal approved, awaiting contract and selection of farms including some from the coastal margins (possibly in AONB). See

www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/landscape-pioneer.html **Marine** – stakeholder workshop held on 9 May in Ilfracombe to develop actions and activities to deliver priorities and challenges in the Marine Natural Capital Plan. See details at: - www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneerevents.html

2.7 ND Catchment Partnership – successful bids by BR for further natural flood management and woods for water work in AONB at Kenwith and Combe Martin.

3.0 Annual Review 2018-19 and Key Performance Indicators for AONB Team

- Document produced for previous financial year reporting activity and progress (tabled).
- North Devon Coast AONB submitted data on Key Performance Indicators relating to work of the AONB team to NAAONB, that will be collated from all the AONBs for Defra in September. Summary:

	Collated Indicator	2018-19
1	Hectares of land conserved or enhanced (e.g. beaches cleaned and area of power line removal)	1,142 Hectares
2	Heritage assets conserved or enhanced	12
3	Number of people engaged	4,423
4	Partnerships/initiatives influenced by AONB team	14
5	Planning/policy appraisals carried out	63
6	Value of work delivered or secured by team	£179,000

4.0 Sustainable Development Fund

- **Budget of £22,000 for 2019/20 – 9 Projects funded** totalling £16,850 grant, 76% of fund allocated, with 2 projects in the pipeline.

Grant	Area	Applicant	Projects Approved	Total Value (incl. in-kind)
£1,950	AONB	Red Herring	Stepping Out (seabird theatre & walks)	£18,890
£3,000	AONB	Barnstaple Museum	D-Day 75th Commemorations	£32,600
£1,650	North Devon	Combe Rail	Ilfracombe Railway Heritage Trail	£6,500
£250	North Devon	Braunton Museum	Walks Around Braunton	£400
£2,500	AONB	PFND charity	Plastic Free Visitor Campaign	£23,691
£2,000	North Devon	Woolacombe Village Hall	Solar Panels on roof	£5,881
£2,000	North Devon	Ilfracombe Harbour	Waste Shark Launch System	£5,500
£1,000	AONB	Devon CC/NHS	Wild Things Training programme	£4,450
£2,500	ND district	ND Coast AONB	Nature's Tonic	£29,728
£16,850	TOTALS			£127,640

5.0 Communications

- **Reports** for June, July and August 2019 (attached)
- **Communications Working Group** – met in July to finalise 60th anniversary plans
- **Interpretation Materials** – nature tourism map of AONB produced in August and distributed; Review of 2018-19/60th anniversary booklet in production.
- **60th Anniversary events** – 19th September at Westward Ho! with speakers and guests after Partnership meeting; AONB Boundary Relay during September/October; ‘Stepping Out’ outdoor art performances in June and September; public speaking competition for sixth form/college students in November.
- **70th anniversary of 1949 Act** - Arts Council England is funding the NAAONB supported by Activate Performing Arts to deliver a training and information programme to increase arts and landscape engagement by AONBs. Agreed to do a Devon wide promotion in local press in December 2019.