

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

**E3563**

**B&NES Endorsement of Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	<b>Cllr Matt McCabe, Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development</b>
<b>The Issue</b>	<p>Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 local authorities and Conservation Boards (where applicable) are required to produce Management Plans for National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) within their boundaries and to review them at intervals of no more than five-years. These plans describe in more detail how the National Landscapes will be protected to maintain their special character. The Cotswolds National Landscape Board adopted the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025 on 21st February 2023, following a review of the 2018-2023 Management Plan. This plan runs for two years rather than the usual five. This is because the Cotswolds National Landscape Board anticipated significant national and local policy developments for protected landscapes during this period, particularly with reference to climate action. Local authorities within which part of the National Landscape falls are requested to endorse the Management Plans.</p>
<b>Decision Date</b>	16th September 2024
<b>The decision</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Endorses the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023-2025 as the basis for safeguarding and managing the unique beauty and distinctive character of the National Landscape and to be taken into account in the preparation of the Council's Local Development documents and as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</li></ol>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>By endorsing the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan, the Council will fulfil its duties under the provisions of Section 85 of the CRoW Act for local authorities to have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the National Landscape when carrying out their operations and statutory duties within the National Landscape. It is recommended that B&amp;NES Council endorse it for the purposes of informing preparation of Local Development Documents and determining planning applications. The Management Plan will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, with the weight to be determined by Development Management case officers. It should be noted that the Bath and North East Somerset Council Development Plan will retain primacy as the statutory basis for determining planning applications. This is a crucial point procedurally, and has been outlined within the management plan.</p>

<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	Council currently contributes £6,526 per annum to supporting the Cotswolds National Landscape Board and its operations. Endorsing the Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan will not incur any additional expenditure for the Council. Reviewing and inputting into its preparation has been undertaken within existing resources and budgets.
<b>Issues considered</b>	Sustainability; Property; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Other Legal Considerations
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Section 151 Finance Officer
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	Consultation undertaken by the report officer with other Cotswolds constituent local authorities.
<b>Other options considered</b>	None.  Failure to endorse and have a Management Plan in place for the Cotswolds National Landscape will leave the Council in breach of its statutory duty under the CRoW Act.
<b>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:</b>	None
<b>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</b>	None

<b>Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s</b>	Cllr Matt McCabe Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development
<b>Date of Signature</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision**