

Item 6 (d) – Kent Downs & High Weald AONB Management Plan Review

The attached report was considered by the Cabinet on 6 February 2014, relevant minute extract below:

64. Approval of High Weald and Kent Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans Second Revision

The Portfolio Holder for Local Planning & Environment presented a report which introduced a proposal to adopt the Second Revision of the Management Plans for both the High Weald and the Kent Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Both AONB Units had revised their Management Plans to cover the period April 2014 to March 2019, fulfilling the statutory duties of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) on behalf of the constituent Local Authorities covering each AONB.

The report summarised the main amendments to the current Management Plans and sought approval for formal adoption of the two Plans. Neither review represented a significant policy shift, but more generally light touch reviews of the existing respective Management Plans. It was noted that these were not consultation documents; detailed consultation had already taken place on the two proposed plans. The Council had been involved in the development of the plans through its membership of the two AONB Units and through Portfolio Holder comments on the draft plans. Any changes requested through the adoption process should be minor in nature and not materially affect the plan. The statutory adoption deadline for each plan was 1 April 2014.

The Portfolio Holder and the Chairman of the Local Planning & Environment Advisory Committee reported that though the last meeting had not been quorate Members present had discussed the report, had all been in favour and had praised Officers for their work.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be **recommended to Full Council** that the the Kent Downs and High Weald AONB Management Plans be adopted and copies made available on the Sevenoaks District Council website.