

**Report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer & Head of
Democratic Services**

Council – 17 June 2014

**AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION
GOWER AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)
PARTNERSHIP**

Purpose:	To amend the Terms of Reference for the Gower AONB Partnership, to improve its management and open-ness.
Policy Framework:	The Gower AONB Partnership enables the Council to fulfil its statutory duties with regard to the management of the AONB. The Partnership acts as an advisory Group to the Council.
Reason for Decision:	To approve amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Gower AONB Partnership
Consultation:	Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group Legal Finance Access To Services Natural Resources Wales
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The amended Terms of Reference are adopted as part of the Council Constitution
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Legal Officer:	N Havard
Access to Services Officer:	K Roderick

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Gower AONB Partnership (‘The AONB Partnership ’) is an advisory group to the Council, convened by them, to facilitate the management of the Gower AONB, in fulfilment of their legal responsibilities and duties with regard to the Gower AONB.

- 1.2 The Terms of Reference (ToR) which underpin the management of the Gower AONB are part of the Council Constitution.
- 1.3 The ToR provides for a “Gower AONB Partnership” – a body open to any individual or organisation with an interest in the AONB. This will provide the overall body in which the management of the AONB is undertaken.
- 1.4 The AONB Partnership will nominate a Steering Group, which will act as the management group of the AONB, primarily overseeing the development and implementation of the AONB Management Plan, and the coordination of the day-to-day management of the AONB. The nominations will be endorsed by the Council.
- 1.5 The AONB Steering Group includes Councillors and representatives from Natural Resources Wales, and 10 other representatives nominated by the Partnership.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 places a duty upon the City & County of Swansea (‘the Council’) to “prepare and publish a management plan which formulates their policy for the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it”.
- 2.2 The Act also places a statutory duty on relevant authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB when exercising or performing any functions affecting land in the AONB. "Relevant authorities" are any public bodies including local and statutory authorities, parish councils and statutory regulators.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The current ToR allows for the annual election of the 10 other representatives.
- 3.2 The AONB Steering Group has requested that the ToR be amended to allow the appointments to be for a term of 2 years. This is to help retain the knowledge of those representatives within the Steering Group, and to increase the effectiveness of the group through greater continuity. This continuity is seen as particularly important during the formal review of the AONB Management Plan which is currently underway.
- 3.3 Steering Group meetings are open to the public, and minutes and other documents of the Steering Group will continue to be made available to the public through the AONB website.

3.6 The AONB Partnership will hold an annual meeting, which will aim to engage with the public, and celebrate the AONB and the work undertaken by the partners. The meeting will also include the nomination of Steering Group members.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The relevant statutory provisions are set out in Paragraph 2 of this Report and the Appendix

6.0 Access To Services Implications

6.1 There are no access to services implications associated with this report.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Amended Terms of Reference – Gower AONB Partnership.