



Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 3 December 2018

AONB Management Plan

Introduction

The Gower AONB Officer informed the last Steering Group that the next review of the AONB Management Plan was due to commence.

This paper provides the Steering Group with an outline of the context, process and requirements of the review.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 requires Swansea Council to prepare the Gower AONB Management Plan 'which formulates their policy for the management of the area...and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it.' The CRoW Act also requires the management plan to be reviewed every 5 years.

The Council published the first CRoW Act statutory management plan in 2006. The last review concentrated on updating the:

- policy context;
- state of the AONB;
- objectives; and
- action plan

That review process finished with the adoption of the current plan as Council policy in March 2017. This current review process should therefore aim to be completed by March 2022.

The aims and objectives of the Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group include the preparation of the AONB Management Plan on behalf of the Swansea Council.

Review Process

There are statutory requirements for the Review process to consider, particularly:

- CRoW Act 2000
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/Sustainability Appraisal
- Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) produced guidance on the review of AONB management plans in 2008. Although much of this guidance is still relevant, Natural Resources Wales are expecting to update the guidance at some point in this review period; this is expected to include guidance on how AONB plans should address and

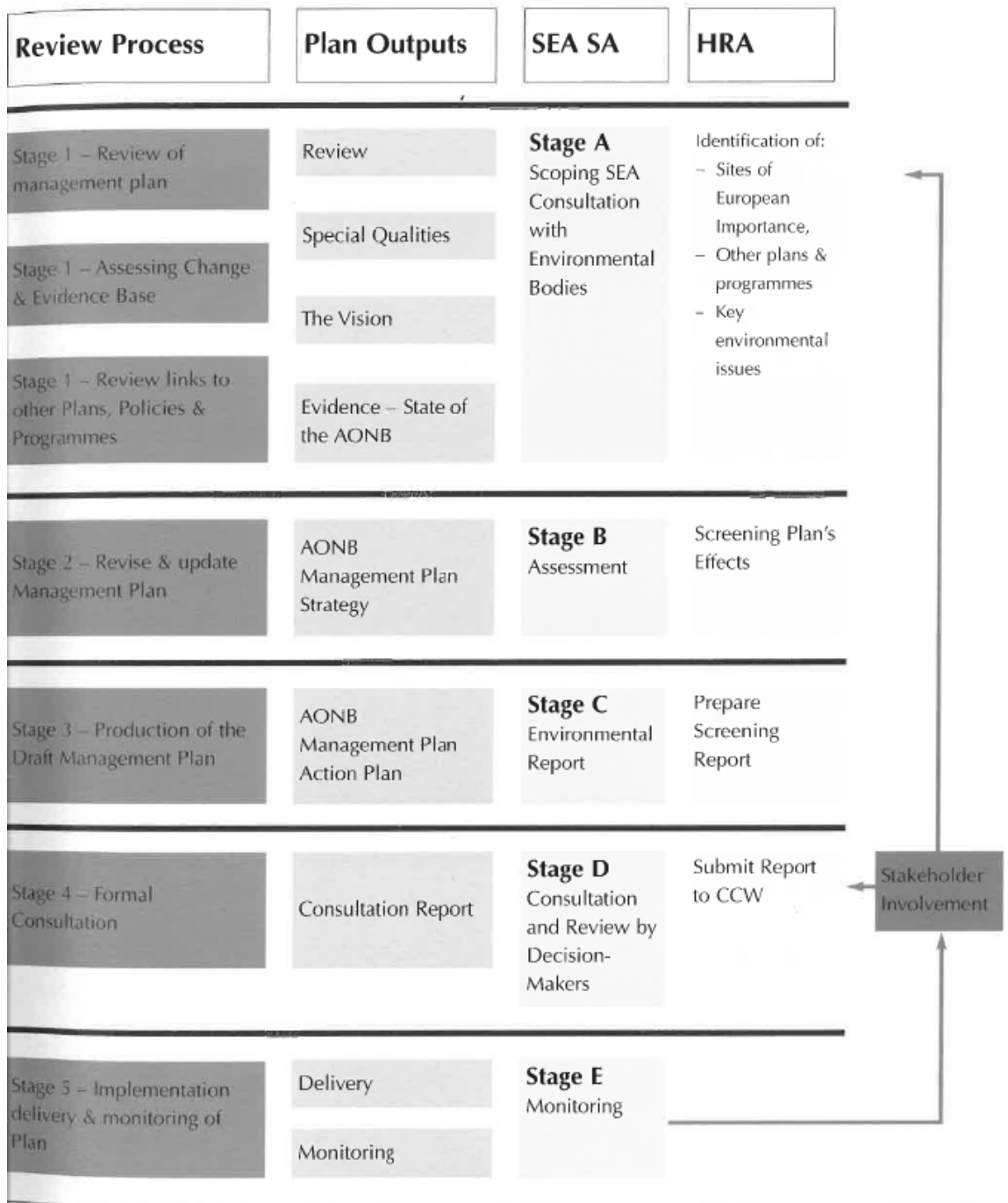
integrate: the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources; Area Statements; and other relevant policy context.

The attached figure (Box 5.1) from the CCW Guidance outlines the overall review process.

Recommended Review Priorities/Issues

The Action Plan in the current Management Plan covers a period up to 2018; an updated version for 2018-21 is agreed by Swansea Council with NRW as the delivery basis for its AONB Partnership grant-aid programme. As a first step, it is recommended that the Action Plan is reviewed to include an extension to cover the remainder of the existing plan period (up to 2022) and agreed through the Partnership.

It is also recommended that 'Management Plan Update' becomes a standing agenda item for the Steering Group.



Chris Lindley

Gower AONB Team Leader

23 November 2018