



Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 23 September 2019

Update – Gower AONB Management Plan Review

The Gower AONB Management Plan is a statutory plan, prepared by the Gower AONB Partnership on behalf of Swansea Council. The Plan 'formulates the policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of the Council's functions in relation to it'.

The current plan was adopted as Council policy in March 2017 and can be found here:

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/gowermanagement>

The Action Plan was reviewed by the last Steering Group meeting (March 2019) and now covers the period up 2022.

We are required to review the Management Plan every five years and Natural Resources Wales has a statutory role in that process. The stages of the review are outlined in Box 1. To comply with that timescale, the Plan review should start in the current year.

The last review concentrated on updating the plan evidence, objectives and actions. The Vision has remained unchanged since the first statutory plan in 2006:

Gower is recognised by residents and visitors as a protected landscape of international importance where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and cultural value, and with high biological diversity. Its natural beauty will be sustained by the conservation and enhancement of its natural special qualities, whilst at the same time supporting a sustainable local economy and maintaining culturally rich communities and is reflected in the quality and scale of the built environment

There have been significant changes and updates to the policy context that the new AONB Plan needs to consider and respond to, including:

- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and how the Plan can contribute to the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the AONB
- The declaration of a Climate Change Emergencies by UK, Wales and Swansea governments

It is recommended that the AONB Partnership Steering Group forms a sub-group with the Gower AONB Team to formally initiate the first stages of the review process; the sub-group would report back to the Steering Group in due course.

Chris Lindley

Gower AONB Team Leader

13 September 2019

Box 1: AONB Management Plan Review Process.

(SEA = Strategic Environmental Assessment
 SA = Sustainability Appraisal
 HRA = Habitats Regulations Assessment)

