

Impact Analysis to Enable Informed Decisions						
Background Information						
Directorate	Assistant Director Area	Service Area	Lead Officer	Person / people completing analysis	Date of workshop / meeting	Version
Communities	Environment, Planning and Customer Services	Environmental Services	Steve Jack	David Hickman	Workshops with stakeholders, including local communities and businesses through 2011-12	2
Title of the policy / project / service being considered		Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan				
General overview and description		Lincolnshire County Council has a statutory duty to have regard to biodiversity and, in particular, to ensure that an up to date Management Plan is in place for the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. This duty is jointly shared with West Lindsey District Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, and is a requirement for drawing down grant funding from Defra. On behalf of the partnership which manages the AONB, Lincolnshire County Council acts as the hosting Authority for the Wolds Countryside Service, which delivers the Management Plan objectives. The Council contributes towards the overall funding of the partnership, the bulk of which is provided by Defra.				
Current status		Revised Plan		LCC shares statutory responsibility with West Lindsey DC and North East Lincolnshire Council for developing and implementing the Management Plan, and contributes directly to delivery		
Timescales for implementation		2013-2018				
Analysis						
1. What is the current situation?		The previous Wolds AONB Management Plan has now come to the end of its life, and the Wolds Countryside Service have been consulting extensively since 2011 in order to develop and implement a revised and updated Management Plan for 2013-18.				

<p>2. What are the drivers for change?</p>	<p>Defra White Paper, <i>The Natural Choice</i>.</p> <p>LCC and partner restructuring has offered the opportunity to prioritise resources where most effective.</p> <p>Funding partners are under a statutory duty to ensure that the Management Plan is periodically reviewed and updated.</p>
<p>3. What difference will we make?</p>	<p>We will increase the number of local people, visitors and businesses that derive economic, health and social benefit from the environment of the Wolds, while conserving this unique landscape and environmental resource for future generations.</p>
<p>4. What are the assumptions about the benefits?</p>	<p>There is good evidence that access to, and interaction with, a high quality environment has a beneficial impact on people's health and general wellbeing. There are also economic opportunities arising from tourism and sustainable use of natural resources, with demonstrable improvements for businesses and local communities in the AONB area.</p>
<p>5. How are you testing your assumptions about the benefits?</p>	<p>In broad terms, the need to conserve and enhance biodiversity and habitats is fundamental to maintaining the ecosystem services on which human health and economic vitality depend, as recognised in the Government's most recent national assessment of UK biodiversity, and the subsequent Natural Environment White Paper. In respect of the AONB area itself, achievements monitored from completion of the previous version of the management plan have informed the review of the plan, and the development of an updated version.</p>

<p>6. The assumptions about any adverse impacts. Could it have a negative impact on anyone?</p> <p>If Yes, go to 6.1 and 6.2 If No, please explain how you know this is the case</p>	<p>There are no groups identified on which the Management Plan could have a negative effect. While it can be more difficult for people with limited mobility to access some sites, the 'access for all' approach of the Management seeks to proactively improve access for all groups as far as the nature of the landscape and the topography of specific sites allows. Implementation of the Management Plan will ensure such issues are encountered less often.</p>
<p>6.1 Which groups / individuals could it have a negative impact on?</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;"> </p>
<p>6.2 Please state how it could have a negative impact on these groups / individuals? Please refer to the list of protected characteristics to assist your answer.</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;"> </p>

<p>7. How are you testing your assumptions about adverse impacts?</p>	<p>Individual projects and initiatives co-ordinated by the Management Plan include a range of measures to monitor public participation and access, and these will continue to be the principal quantitative means of measuring progress on the ground.</p>
<p>7.1 What further evidence do you need to gather?</p>	<p>Ongoing evidence of implementation of projects within the Management Plan, including visitor numbers and profile during the life of the Management Plan.</p>
<p>8. Who are the stakeholders and how will they be affected?</p>	<p>Primary (those directly affected, either positively or negatively by the organisation's actions)</p> <p>Funding partners (Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, Defra) Local elected members Wolds AONB Joint Management Group Wolds AONB Joint Advisory Group Local businesses Local communities Parish councils Visitors to the area Local voluntary groups</p> <p>Funding partners will be provided with a revised and updated set of priorities, objectives and measures for management of the AONB up to 2018. Local communities, businesses, parishes and voluntary groups will continue to be engaged and involved in developing and implementing initiatives to improve the local environment and economy, while the area's 'offer' to visitors will be improved, generating additional expenditure in the local economy and a higher profile for the Wolds AONB as a visitor destination.</p>

	Secondary (intermediaries, people or organisations who are indirectly affected by the organisation's actions)	
	Communities outside the AONB boundaries Potential visitors outside the county or region Existing visitors to other parts of the county who may be attracted to the Wolds by improved publicity and an improved tourist 'offer'	
9. How are you assessing the risks and minimising the impacts?	A detailed strategic environmental assessment has been undertaken for the revised Management Plan, and detailed monitoring arrangements have been developed as part of the Management Plan.	
10. What changes will the Council need to make as a result of introducing the policy / project / service etc?	The Management Plan will provide the Council with an updated and clearly prioritised plan, developed within current and potential future budget constraints, allowing for more effective prioritisation of its resource contribution to the AONB.	
11. How will you undertake evaluation once the changes have been implemented?	Through existing monitoring mechanisms.	
Further Details		
Are you handling personal data? If so, please give details.	No	

How was this analysis undertaken? Facilitated workshop? Who attended?	Facilitated workshops during the development of the Management Plan, attended by principal stakeholders that form the Wolds AONB Joint Advisory Committee. These include statutory funding partners, parish council representatives, local community and business representatives, local voluntary groups, Natural England, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Heritage Lincolnshire. This was followed by detailed consultations on successive drafts of the Management Plan with these stakeholders. The present analysis is based on the views of stakeholders expressed throughout the consultation period.		
Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Impact Analysis has been? If No, who needs to be involved?	Yes		
If this is new, or requires a decision by Councillors to revise, has this impact analysis been included with the committee report?	Yes		
Actions required Including any actions identified in this analysis for monitoring in the relevant service area work plan?	Action	Lead officer	Timescale
	Continue to monitor measures developed as part of the Management Plan	Steve Jack	2013 - 2018
Signed off by	Steve Willis Assistant Director (Environment, Planning & Customer Services)	Date	15 th January 2013

* Cells of the form with shading will help you form your consultation plan, should you need to carry out a consultation as a result of Impact Analysis discussions.