



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership  21 October 2008	<u>Item</u>  6	<u>Paper</u>  C
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## UPDATE OF AONB PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

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### Summary

This paper presents for members to note a draft of the new Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership and draft Terms of Reference for the Shropshire Hills LEADER Panel.

### Background

1. The Partnership's Terms of Reference were formally agreed by each local authority in 2004. They need updating now for two reasons – the transition to a unitary Shropshire Council which affects local authority seats, and to take account of delivery of LEADER funding. The actual changes to governance are very small, but the Terms of Reference document is likely to be substantially different, as there is also an opportunity to update wording to reflect better the way the Partnership currently operates, and reference other relevant documents.
2. A new draft of Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership are attached as Appendix 1. A draft of these was seen and discussed by the Management Board on 4 September 2008. There will not be time at the meeting for a full discussion on the draft, and formal approval of the Partnership is not sought. The Terms of Reference must in due course be formally adopted by the local authorities themselves, including the unitary Shropshire Council. However we do need to submit governance arrangements as part of the LEADER Local Development Strategy before the end of the year. A draft will be adequate for this purpose and it will be helpful that the Partnership has seen this. Any significant areas of concern members may have will be noted and the item will be brought back on the agenda of a future meeting for fuller discussion.
3. At Appendix 2 is a draft of Terms of Reference for the Shropshire Hills LEADER Panel, which will be a sub-group of the Partnership. It is proposed that an application process be developed over the coming months, with the Management Board meeting of 2 December making decisions on the applications. This will enable the Panel to start meeting, elect its Chair, and assist in the establishment of LEADER procedures. Formal approval of the Terms of Reference is not sought, as they may need to be further refined, but the Partnership's approval to run the application process is sought.

### Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to

- a) note the new draft Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership.

- b) approve an application process for the LEADER Panel and appointment by the Management Board.

<b>List of Background Papers</b> None
<b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b> The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.
<b>Environmental Appraisal</b> The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.
<b>Risk Management Appraisal</b> Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.
<b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b> The content of this paper has been informed by discussion and previous work among members of the AONB Team and Partnership.
<b>Appendices</b> <b>Appendix 1 Draft new Terms of Reference for the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership</b> <b>Appendix 2 Draft new Terms of Reference for the Shropshire Hills LEADER Panel</b>