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| <u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership | <u>Item</u> 5 | <u>Paper</u> D |
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NATURAL ENGLAND FUNDING AND TEAM WORK PROGRAMME 2008-9

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Summary

This paper informs the Partnership of the current position with regard to Natural England funding, and presents the draft AONB Team Work Programme for 2008-9.

Background

1. Natural England is facing significant budget pressure as part of wider pressure within Defra. The situation for 2008-9 is not confirmed, but Natural England has made recommendations at Board level which strongly value the work of AONBs. The AONB Partnership has just made the normal bid for core, project and Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) grants for 2008-9. It is likely that core funding will be secured as expected, but at this stage project funding is looking very unlikely and SDF is under threat. More detailed budget reports are taken to the Management Board, and these papers are available at <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/partnership/partnership.htm#mgtboardmtgs>.
2. The AONB Team Work Programme forms part of the core funding bid to Natural England. Improvements to the format of this have been made so that it also includes activity of project staff, and the same format is used for progress reporting for Natural England and for Shropshire County Council. The Team Work Programme has not been put before the Partnership for some time, but it is felt that this may be helpful to enable members to gain a clearer understanding of roles within the Team. The draft Work Programme for 2008-9 is included as Appendix 1.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the funding position and comment on the draft work programme.

List of Background Papers

None

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

Risk Management Appraisal

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

The content of this paper has been informed by discussion among members of the AONB Team.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Draft Shropshire Hills AONB Team Work Programme for 2008-9