



Title of Report:	Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 October 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Elected Members that the Sperrins AONB consultation report, findings and next steps are due for publication on 14 November 2024.

2.0 Background

The Sperrins Partnership Project (previously Sperrins Future Search) is a collaboration between 4 councils; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, who back in 2018 committed to equal financial contribution towards its delivery and have also funded the Sperrins Future Search initiative. The 4 Councils have agreed to equal financial contribution towards the project until 2027.

3.0 Sperrin AONB Consultation - Report Findings and Next Steps

Sperrins Partnership secured 5-year funding through the DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023 - 2028 to enable the Partnership to develop a Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan. This is a long-standing matter which the Sperrins Partnership Board has supported as a key issue facing the region.

S3 Solutions were appointed to deliver an extensive public consultation process and to collate relevant feedback to inform content to be included in the development of the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan. The report (**EMBARGOED UNTIL 14 NOVEMBER 2024**) sets out the findings of the independent and objective consultation and engagement process. This report will be shared with Elected Members after the embargoed date of 14 November 2024.

The Sperrins Partnership team worked closely with S3 Solutions to ensure consultation engagement was far reaching allowing everyone the opportunity to provide input into this important part of the management plan development. The research to inform this report included a literature review, a situation analysis of plans/strategies and existing maps, proposed industrial activity and an extensive consultation process involving the public sector (Sperrins Partnership, Elected Members and Council Officials, Government Departments, Cross-Border Agencies and Landscape Partnerships), the community and voluntary sector, and the general public across the AONB.

The research process and construction of the report have been informed by both the Sperrins Partnership and the Project Steering Group which consists of Council representatives from the 4 councils involved in the project, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council.

The content of the report has been finalised in liaison with the Project Steering Group.

Members will be kept updated on the next steps and progressing the development of the Sperrin AONB Management Plan.

Members are asked to note the content of this report. The AONB Consultation Report will be forwarded to all Elected Members for information after the 14 November 2024.