

## 2.0 CONTEXT

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This Management Plan for the designated Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is relevant to all individuals, organisations, businesses and establishments who operate in the area. Even though the Plan relates to a fairly small part of Wales, what happens in this area has the potential to influence other areas and the wider environment.

2.1.2 Recently (2014) the Welsh Government, in the Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales has set a great challenge to the designated landscapes:

*“I want to see our designated landscapes become international exemplars of sustainability. They should be living landscapes with vibrant, resilient communities, with extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, thriving ecosystems and rich biodiversity. With the right leadership they have the potential to be areas where new innovative solutions to the challenges of sustainability in fragile rural areas are tried and tested, understood and publicised”.*<sup>1</sup>

2.1.3 The Management Plan has been prepared within a complex framework of global, international, national and local issues. The Plan has to tie in to a wide range of plans, strategies, policies and initiatives from other bodies and associations

2.1.4 It is not possible to go into great detail and quote vast sections of documents. Instead a summary is given of the issues in question with reference made to sources and further information – often on websites. Some of the most relevant information is also included in the Appendix to the Plan. In order to try and provide a fairly clear picture of the situation, the relevant context was divided into the following categories: **Global, European, National and Local.**

## GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### 2.2 Climate Change

2.2.1 Facts and other information show that climate change is actually happening. This is a very serious issue that could potentially have a significant influence on the world in which we live.

2.2.2 Evidence of this change is clear and obvious and a picture of the world-wide situation in 2014 is available from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Minister for Natural Resources, Welsh Government (March 2015) A letter to designated landscapes governing bodies.

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

- 2.2.3 There are two ways of responding positively to climate change. **Mitigation** involves addressing the causes of climate change (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions, maintain levels of stored organic carbon in soil or increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> that is taken from the atmosphere). **Adaptation** involves adjusting to the likely effects of climate change on the environment, communities and economy (e.g. reduce sensitivity to adverse effects of climate change, to respond to potential opportunities, and develop a better understanding of the likely effects of any changes).
- 2.2.4 Responding to climate change requires an integrated approach and an understanding of the interactions between the environment, the economy and the local community. The AONB Management Plan needs to address its response to mitigation and adaptation in relation to climate change by identifying impacts and include appropriate actions.

## 2.3 Ecosystems and Connectivity Services

- 2.3.1 In 1992 under the leadership of the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro, most countries of the world signed the Treaty of Biological Diversity.<sup>3</sup> This is when the term ecosystem as follows:

*"Ecosystem" means a dynamic complex of plants, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit"*

- 2.3.2 Ecosystems provide a wide variety of services relating to the environment, produce and public welfare. Usually, ecosystem services are classed in four categories, namely:

- **Supporting services:** such as nutrient cycling, oxygen production and soil formation.
- **Provision services:** such as food, fuel and water.
- **Regulating services:** such as climate regulation / taking carbon from the atmosphere, air quality management, regulation of erosion, water purification, pollination and regulation of natural hazards.
- **Cultural services:** health benefits, spiritual experience, recreational activities and enjoyment.

- 2.3.3 The **ecosystem approach** describes a strategy for integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and fair sustainable use of these resources. It is based on 12 principles (see Section 3 for more information on this).

- 2.3.4 The Welsh Government has committed the country to adopt an ecosystems approach to maintaining and enhancing its natural resources (see below).

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<sup>3</sup> Treaty of Biological Diversity (1992) [www.cbd.int/ecosystem](http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem)

## 2.4 Protecting Nature and Natural Resources

2.4.1 AONB's, along with National Parks, belongs to a network of so-called protected landscapes. An AONB is part of Category V landscapes defined as:

*"A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values."*<sup>4</sup>

2.4.2 It is **essential** that Category V landscapes have the following characteristics:

- Landscape and / or coastal and island seascape of high scenic quality and / with habitat, flora and fauna and cultural characteristics;
- A balancing interaction between people and nature continued over time that has credibility or a reasonable desire to restore that credibility.
- Unique or traditional land use patterns.

2.4.3 It is also **desirable** to have the following characteristics:

- Opportunities for recreation and tourism that matches the lifestyle and economic activities
- A socially unique or traditional organisation as seen in practice, local approach or beliefs;
- Recognition by artists of all kinds and cultural traditions (now and in the past);
- Potential for ecological restoration and / or landscape.

## EUROPEAN MATTERS

### 2.5 The European Landscape Convention

2.5.1 Although not directly part of the legal framework of the European Union, the individual states have supported the European Landscape Convention (Treaty). This contains important implications in terms of areas of outstanding natural beauty:

- Article 1 contains definitions of what is meant by "landscape", "landscape policy" and "landscape policy objective". It also defines "protected landscape" "landscape management" and "landscape design";
- Article 2 contains the definition of the scope of the term landscape that includes urban areas as well as rural and natural landscapes throughout Europe;
- Article 5 requires all stakeholders to recognize in their legislations that landscape is an essential component of people's habitat, is an expression of their heritage and the foundation of their identity. It requires them to ensure that the public is involved in developing and implementing policies to protect and enhance the landscape. Policies are also required to complement the landscape with other policy areas including urban and regional planning.

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<sup>4</sup> www.iucn.org

- 2.5.2 As defined in the Treaty, landscape means: "area, as it is perceived by people, whose character derives from the action and interaction of natural factors and / or factors relating to people." The ' The Landscape Convention therefore aims to promote the protection and management of all types of landscapes including natural, rural, urban as well as on land, on water and on the sea.
- 2.5.3 The United Kingdom confirmed adherence to this Agreement in November 2006.

## **2.6 The Gothenburg Declaration (Protocol) 2001<sup>5</sup>**

- 2.6.1 The European Union defined a clear target in the 2001 Gothenburg Summit, which was "*that biodiversity decline should be halted by 2010*". This was put into action through a document entitled *Communication on Halting Biodiversity by 2010 and Beyond* (Brussels, May 2006). The document outlined the scale of the problem and took a general overview of the adequacy of the EU's response.
- 2.6.2 The document noted four policy areas for action together with ten key aims in order to achieve the target by 2010. A number of these are relevant to Welsh AONBs (See CCW's Guidelines for more details). Therefore AONB management plans have an important role with regard to contributing towards realising the objectives of halting the decline of biodiversity, promoting conservation work and helping biodiversity to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 2.6.3 In May 2012, the cohorts who supported the statement agreed to make a number of reforms, including a commitment to further reduce emissions until 2020.

## **2.7 The Water Framework Directive<sup>6</sup>**

- 2.7.1 The Water Framework Directive is the most important piece of legislation from the European Commission in relation to water, and its intention is to improve and integrate the way water companies are regulated across Europe. In Wales, much of the implementation work will be done by the Environment Agency, through River Basin Management Plans and Catchments Flood Management Plans.
- 2.7.2 The Framework came into force in December 2000 and the aim is for member states to try and "*achieve good chemical and ecological status in inshore and coastal waters by 2015*". A second management circle is to be achieved by 2012 and the third by 2027.
- 2.7.3 The specific aim of the Framework is to:

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<sup>5</sup> [www.unece.org/env/lrtap/multi\\_h1.html](http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/multi_h1.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

- improve the status of water ecosystems and the status of associated wetlands that are dependent on water ecosystems, and prevent their decline;
- promote the sustainable use of water;
- reduce water pollution;
- ensure that groundwater pollution is gradually reduced.

2.7.4 The consultation on the second River Basin Management Plan in Wales ended in April 2015 and it is expected that new requirements will be in place by October.

## **2.8 The Common Agricultural Policy<sup>7</sup>**

2.8.1 Following changes to the Common Agriculture Policy introduced in 2005, farm payments were separated from agricultural production levels – through the Single Payment system. The Glastir system was established by the Assembly in 2012, with the intention of putting more emphasis on tackling climate change and helping to provide services and environmental produce.

2.8.2 The 2014 – 2020 period will see far-reaching changes to the CAP once again there is no doubt that this will lead to a reduction of support that Europe gives to agriculture. A transition period of five years began in early 2015 to introduce a system of Direct Payments Basic (BPS). The new procedure is based on the amount of land that a farmer is farming with 30% of the payment will depend on green measures to protect the natural resources that make it possible for food production.

2.8.3 The changes made to the Common Agricultural Policy aim to create an agricultural industry that corresponds better to the market. However, subsidy is still necessary to keep the industry going as most businesses would not be viable on the basis of the income generated from farming only. In relation to agriculture, the issues that need to be monitored are:

- production levels – in order to prevent agricultural production levels from falling lower than the level necessary to maintain the supply chain and the processing industries;
- undertaking agricultural activity that is consistent with the need to meet wider objectives in relation to landscape and biodiversity.

2.8.4 Welsh farmland is divided into one of three regions - Heathland, Greatly Disadvantaged areas and areas of Disadvantage and grassroots areas together. Heathland payments are limited to land higher than 400meters rather than the land shown on the 1992 map. This has limited the proportion of the AONB will be regarded heathland – parts of the Eifl, Gyrn Goch and Gyrn Ddu.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/>

2.8.5 The Wales Rural Development Plan (2014– 2020)<sup>8</sup> includes measures that support agriculture and rural areas, namely Axis 1 – Improving the Competitiveness of the Agricultural and the Forestry Sector; Axis 2 – Improving the Environment and the Countryside; Axis 3 – The Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of the Rural Economy; and Axis 4 – LEADER.

2.8.6 The next Rural Development Plan for Wales will concentrate on the following:

- competitiveness (on the farm and in the supply chain)
- the environment (agri-environment work, woodlands, renewable energy)
- the community (access to services and LEADER ways of working).
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2.8.7 It is expected that the Plan, which is relevant to the AONB, will be approved by 2015.

## **2.9 Strategic Environmental Assessment**

2.9.1 In 2001, an EU Directive was introduced which means that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must be undertaken for relevant plans and programmes. The Directive was made law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations.

2.9.2 The requirement to complete a Habitat Management Assessment was also introduced under European legislation. This became mandatory under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007.

2.9.3 The details of the SEA and HMA requirements are in appendix ().

2.9.4 Although these Assessments have complicated and slowed down the process of reviewing Management Plans, there are a number of advantages to the processes, as they ensure :

- that the plans do not include anything that could damage the special features of the AONB;
- that issues pertaining to sustainability are given adequate attention;
- that management plans are integrated with other relevant plans and strategies;
- that there is a means of ensuring that there is no clash between policies;
- that the interests of internationally important sites for biodiversity are not damaged;
- that policies for protecting and enhancing protected landscapes are improved
- results are integrated in to the Management Plan review process.

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[http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/?s\\_kip=1&lang=cy](http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/?s_kip=1&lang=cy)

## THE UK CONTEXT

### 2.10 Sustainable Development Strategy

2.10.1 The UK's position on sustainable development is set out in the document *Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy* (2005). The document notes that there are two basic principles for achieving sustainable development in the UK, namely:

- ***Living within environmental limits.*** *Respecting the earth's limited environment, resources and biodiversity – in order to improve our environment, ensure that nothing impedes the natural resources necessary for life, and ensuring that they stay the same for generations;*
- ***Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.*** *Satisfying the diverse needs of every individual in communities already in existence and those of the future; promoting personal well-being; promoting social cohesion and inclusion; and creating equality of opportunity for all.*

2.10.2 The UK Commission for Sustainable Development ended in 2011. Even though each Government department is responsible for ensuring that policies and activities contribute to sustainable development the responsibility for leading on developing and implementing the policy on an UK level is now within the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

### 2.11 Major Infrastructure Developments

2.11.1 The 2008 Planning Act introduced a new regime in England and Wales for processing and deciding on major national infrastructure projects. These cover the areas of energy, transport, water, waste water and waste. Since 2011 the responsibility for processing these lies with the Planning Inspectorate.

2.11.2 A relatively few number of projects have been processed so far; eight have been registered and processed in Wales but none in the Gwynedd area. The nature of the projects in question makes it unlikely that similar applications are received within the AONB but applications for such developments occur in some areas (e.g. Wylfa).

## **THE WELSH CONTEXT**

### **2.12 Sustainable Development**

2.12.1 The Welsh Government is committed to sustainable development through Section 121 of the Welsh Government Act 1998. Sustainable Development is defined by the Welsh Government in the document One Wales: One Planet (2009) as development that enhances the economy, the social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, and achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations:

- In ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- In ways which enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect it's limits - using only our fair share of the earth's resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

2.12.2 Because of this emphasis on sustainable development the Welsh Government will:

- insist that the national bodies it sponsors (such as Natural Resources Wales) show how sustainable development is integrated in their work
- aim towards sustainable development work in its own policies, many of which will affect the AONB (e.g. in agriculture, forestry and planning).

### **2.13 Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales**

2.13.1 25% of the area of Wales is designated landscapes. They include three National Parks and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2.13.2 As part of the review of designated landscapes, the Welsh Government commissioned a panel chaired by Professor Terry Marsden to advise on two issues:

- The purposes of the landscapes and the benefits of having a single designation
- The governance and managing arrangements of the two designations

2.13.3 A report on Phase One - and the Government's response to it – was published in March 2015. The report makes six recommendations which include expanding the AONB purposes and statutory duties and changing the name to "National Landscapes of Wales".

2.13.4 The Panel's Final Report was published in autumn 2015. The report includes the findings of Phase 1, and also Phase 2 which considers the management and governance of the designated areas. A total of 69 recommendations have been made in the Final Report.



2.13.5 There are significant and far-reaching implications to the recommendations of the Review Panel and the Minister Carl Sargeant established a Working Group to consider how to implement them.

## **2.14 Well-being of Future Generations Act**

2.14.1 This Bill became law in April 2015. Its purpose is to:

*strengthen existing governance arrangements for improving the well-being of Wales to ensure that current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

2.14.2 The act:

- identifies objectives to improve the wellbeing of Wales;
- introduces national indicators that will measure the difference that is made to the well-being of Wales;
- appointed a Commissioner of Future Generations for Wales to be an advocate for future generations;
- make Local Services Boards and well-being plans statutory requirements for integrated community planning.

2.14.3 AONBs and National Parks are considered good places to test practical new approaches to sustainable development. In the future, it is expected that designated landscapes will manage natural resources and try to reach the six goals of well-being set out the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) as indicated in the table below:-

Aim	Description
Prosperous Wales	An innovative and productive economy, with low carbon emissions, using resources more efficiently and proportionate; which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities for a skilled and educated population.
Resilient Wales	A natural bio diverse environment with healthy and operational ecosystems that helps social and ecological resilience and can adapt to change.
Healthier Wales	A society where people's physical and mental well-being is as well as possible and where the best choices and behaviors are understood for future health benefits.
A more equal Wales	A society which enables people to fulfill their potential regardless of their background or circumstances.
Cohesive communities.	Attractive communities that are viable, safe with good connections.
Vibrant culture where the Welsh language flourishes	A society that promotes and protects the culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and leisure activities.

2.14.4 The designated landscapes, including Llŷn AONB are expected to play their part, and contributed to a range of other policy areas - including the economy, health and welfare and tackling poverty - as well as environmental issues.

2.14.5 The Assembly is also committed to the Green Dragon Standard - an environmental management system based on sustainability. An International and European Environmental Management recognition (ISO 14001 and EMAS) can be achieved if the requirements are met. Since sustainable development is core to the Management Plan the Plan also contributes to Gwynedd Council's aim of achieving the Green Dragon Environmental Management Standard.

## **2.15 Regulation at Sea**

2.15.1 The purpose of the 2009 Marine Act was to streamline marine regulations and legislation and improve procedures in order to have more collaboration and understanding. The Act includes sections on creating a Marine Management Organisation; planning; licensing activities; protecting nature; controlling fisheries; modernising and simplifying enforcement powers and access to coastal land. It is hoped that the Act will ensure that the marine and coastal environment are managed more effectively and in a more sustainable manner.

2.15.2 It is the UK Government's responsibility to achieve some duties in relation to the sea, whilst other duties are devolved to the Welsh Government.

2.15.3 In coastal areas such as the Llŷn peninsula, it is imperative that we consider the relationship between the land and the sea. Indeed, the close relationship with the marine environment was a reason for the area's designation and is one of the area's special qualities. The links between land and sea are numerous and varied, with social and economic dimensions as well as environmental ones. A number of documents are available that provide further guidance on the consideration that needs to be given to the features and the relationship between the land and the sea.

## **2.16 Planning in Wales**

2.16.1 The Planning Act (Wales) received Royal assent on 6th July 2015.

2.16.2 There are five main aims to the Act:

- a more modern framework for providing a planning service - under the new Act, it will be possible to make planning applications directly to Welsh Ministers under certain circumstances
- reinforcing the plan based approach - the Act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of the National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans
- improve resilience - the Act allows Ministers to order for local planning authorities to work together and that local planning authorities are merged
- placing greater emphasis on the initial process of development management system and improve it - the Act introduces a statutory pre-application procedure for certain categories of planning applications
- enable effective enforcement procedures and appeals - the Act makes changes to enforcement procedures to ensure direct and meaningful steps are taken when planning regulations are broken and to make the appeal system more transparent and efficient.

2.16.3 Along with proposed changes to secondary legislation, policies and guidelines, the Act will:

- help to provide homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by Wales
- offer opportunities to protect and enhance our most important built

- and natural environments
- supporting the use of the Welsh language.

2.16.4 The strategic framework for guiding development in Wales has been set at this stage in the Wales Spatial Plan – People, Places, Futures 2008 Wales and the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan. However, the above Act introduces a provision to create a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans.

2.16.5 Planning policy guidance is given by the Welsh Assembly Government in the Planning Policy Wales document which was revised in 2015. The document provides guidance for a national policy regarding planning matters including Sustainability, Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Heritage and Coastline, Conserving the Historical Environment, Supporting the Economy, Transport, Housing, Tourism and Pollution. With regard to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it notes:

*“AONBs have equal status with National Parks in terms of beauty, their landscape and scenery and the highest status of protection must be given to both against inappropriate development. This equal status means that National Parks and AONBs must be treated in the same way in development planning policies and development control decisions. In National Parks and AONBs, development planning policies and development control decisions must place great importance on protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of these areas.”*

2.16.6 In addition to the main policy document is a series of documents providing guidance on planning issues relating to specific developments – which is the Technical Advice Note (Wales).

## **2.17 Natural Resource Management Programme**

2.17.1 The Natural Environment Framework (Living Wales) led to the creation of the Natural Resources Management Programme in 2014. The programme includes:

- policy on managing natural resources, including setting national priorities;
- Environment Bill
- making 'ecosystem based management' an integral part of our work. This will include demonstration projects to show the advantages respectively; we can learn through them how and when to implement
- work with Natural Resources Wales and coordinate the performance management arrangements;
- communicate, engage and share information.

## **2.18 The Environment Bill**

2.18.1 The Bill was introduced on 11 May 2015. Its purpose is to create legislation that is necessary to plan and manage natural resources in Wales in a more sustainable and coordinated manner.

2.18.2 According to the Welsh Government, the advantages are:

- assisting the work of addressing environmental challenges that we face and to focus on the opportunities that our resources offer
- establish statutory targets to reduce carbon emissions and budgets to support their delivery
- addressing issues relating to the operation the charge on carrier bags
- improve the processes for waste management
- simplify the law on environmental regulatory systems including shellfish
- fisheries management, marine licenses, flood risk management and land
- drainage

2.18.3 The AONB Management Plan will address many issues that are central to the new Framework such as sustainable development, ecosystem services, limits to growth and climate change.

## **2.19 Heritage Bill**

2.19.1 The Heritage Bill was introduced during May 2015. The Welsh Government has stated that the Bill is intended to:

- protect listed buildings and scheduled monuments more effectively;
- manage the historic environment in a more sustainable way;
- ensure greater transparency and accountability in terms of opinions and decisions made about the historic environment.

## **2.20 Shoreline Management Plans**

2.20.1 The Welsh Government is to require local authorities, Environment Agency Wales and other bodies involved in coastal management work to produce together Shoreline Management Plans for the entire Welsh coast.

2.20.2 SMPs are un-statutory high level policy documents, for planning for flood risk management and coastal erosion. SMPs provide large-scale assessment of the risks of coastal erosion and coastal flooding and offer policies to help manage these risks.

2.20.3 SMP management policies are designed in order to create long- term sustainability (for the next 100 years). Management policies for all parts of the coast are suggested and consider various factors such as the location of coastal communities, present defences, tourism areas

and amenities, conservation and heritage sites and the wider natural environment.

2.20.4 The various policies suggested in the Shoreline Management Plans are:

1. Keep the line: meaning that defences are maintained, repaired or upgraded in line with their current alignment.
2. Move the line forward: meaning that new defences are built on the sea side of the original defences.
3. Managed alignment: allow the shoreline to move back in a controlled manner.
4. No active intervention: meaning that the alignment continues to evolve naturally if the defences (if there are any) fail.

2.20.5 The first generation of SMP's were completed in the early 2000's and the next generation in 2011/12. It's likely that another review of SMP's will be held fairly soon, within the next 5 to 10 years.

## **2.21 Other National Strategies and Plans**

2.21.1 The Assembly Government publishes a number of national strategies and plans, on various subjects that are relevant to Llŷn and the AONB. The need to support and protect the environment and sustainable development will be considered in these documents because of the Assembly's commitment to sustainable development on a national level. All these documents are relevant considerations for local plans and strategies produced by authorities such as Gwynedd Council.

## **GWYNEDD**

### **2.22 Corporate Strategies**

2.22.1 The *Singled Integrated Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey* incorporates a vision and an operation plan for the Local Services Board for the 2013-17 period.

2.22.2 The purpose of the Plan is "to work together to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area by 2025." "Promoting and sustaining our environment" is one of eight key issues that has been identified as the "complex and long" issues that will need to be addressed

2.22.3 In May 2013, Gwynedd Council adopted its *Strategic Plan* for 2013-2017. The main aim of the Plan is to set the Council's vision for 2013-2017. It is annually revised and the 2015-17 Strategic Plan was approved by the Council's Cabinet following a public consultation in June 2015.

2.22.4 The Council's vision during this period is to "continue to meet the needs of Gwynedd's residents regardless of the Council's dwindling resources..... by transforming services to be services that we are able to maintain the future."

## **2.23 Natur Gwynedd**

2.23.1 Natur Gwynedd is the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for areas in Gwynedd situated outside the Snowdonia National Park.

2.23.2 It was developed by a wide partnership of establishments and individuals. The Natur Gwynedd Plan states what needs to be done to protect our wildlife and highly important natural habitats.

2.23.3 Natur Gwynedd objectives are:

- helping to conserve biodiversity of Gwynedd and, therefore, to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Wales, the UK and the world.
- developing effective local partnerships to make sure that what we do will be maintained in the long term.
- increase knowledge of the biodiversity of Gwynedd.
- raising public awareness of biodiversity in Gwynedd.

2.23.4 The *Gwynedd Council Environmental Strategy – Protecting the Environment for Today and Tomorrow* was adopted in 2002 and revised in 2005. The Strategy has been prepared in order to give direction to the Council's work of improving and protecting the local and world-wide environment.

2.23.5 It states in the introduction to the Environmental Strategy that high priority will be given to:

- Reducing private and industrial waste, encourage recycling and reusing and promote ways of saving energy;
- Protecting and enhancing the area's natural environment and wildlife
- Encouraging people to enjoy, respect and become more aware of the richness and contribution of the local environment
- Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the built area in a way that respects and enhances the culture, environment and local character;
- Promoting effective and sustainable transport that will provide more choice for consumers.

## **2.24 The Development Plan**

2.24.1 The Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in 2009. The UDP is currently in the process of being replaced by the Joint Local Development Plan Gwynedd and Anglesey. The Plan's Deposit Draft has been subject to a formal consultation period up to the end of March 2015. The UDP is expected to be adopted in late 2016 / early 2017 having received and considered the Inspector's Report on the comments / objections received.

2.24.2 The UDP contains specific policies about the AONB and other statutory and un-statutory designations as well as specific planning issues such as new housing, traffic, economic developments and tourism. In addition, the Gwynedd Landscape Design Guidance and the Gwynedd Design Guidance are important related documents.

2.24.3 These planning tools play a key part in the protection and development of the AONB. Appropriately implementing the policies of the Planning Designs and Guidance is also highly important. This will form part of the Process made by planning officers and relevant Committees of the Council. The AONB Unit will have the opportunity to comment on planning applications that could affect the designated area.

## 2.25 Other Plans and Strategies

2.25.1 In addition to the above a number of other plans and strategies influence the AONB and are relevant for consideration in the context of the Management Plan. These can be divided into two types, namely, single purpose plans i.e. dealing with forestry or the economy, tourism etc., or Funding Schemes that would include agri-environment schemes, forestry grants etc.

2.25.2 Many of the plans and strategies prepared by Gwynedd Council, on a large number of issues, are single-purpose plans that must comply with the Community Strategy and Environmental Strategy. The most apparent of these with respect to relationship and impact on the AONB are the Gwynedd Economic Development Strategy, Gwynedd Tourism Strategy, Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Gwynedd Local Transport Plan, Gwynedd Cycling Strategy, Waste Disposal and Recycling Plan and the Floods and Coastal Erosion Policy.

2.25.3 A number of plans and strategies prepared by partners are also relevant. The most prominent of these are the Pen Llŷn and Sarnau Special Area of Conservation Action Plan (a partnership with various organisations including Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water) and Natur Gwynedd Biodiversity Action Plan. The Natur Gwynedd Plan is the one which operates locally to comply with the Assembly's responsibility in terms of protecting biodiversity on a national level.

2.25.4 There is also a variety of public and private organisations operating within the AONB and these produce a number of plans, strategies and policy statements or other documents that could be relevant to the area's future. Below is a list of the main organisations which are relevant to the AONB:

Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru (Glas Cymru)
SP/ MANWEB	National Grid
Cadw	National Trust
British Telecom	Telecommunication Operators/ providers
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	

2.25.5 Some of these organisations and agencies are under a specific obligation to consider the well-being of the AONB under the Access and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Section 85). Under the requirements of the Act these organisations and agencies must have "regard for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the area of



outstanding natural beauty”. It is the responsibility of Gwynedd Council to raise awareness of this obligation, engage in a positive dialogue and assess how the various organisations and agencies conform to this responsibility.