

MEETING	Llŷn AONB Joint Advisory Committee
DATE	July 17 th 2018
TITLE	National Matters
PURPOSE	Inform members
AUTHOR	Llŷn AONB Officer
ACTION	None

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides information on the review of designated areas (AONBs and National Parks) in Wales and recent developments.

2.0 NATIONAL LANDSCAPES – REALISING THEIR POTENTIAL

- 2.1 A few years ago Welsh Government commissioned a review of designated landscapes. A Panel, under the chairmanship of Professor Terry Marsden, were appointed to undertake the work. The Panel undertook extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders as part of the process and published their final report in the summer of 2015.
- 2.2 The final report - “National Landscapes – realising their Potential” included a detailed analysis of the existing situation and identified opportunities and constraints. The report also contained a total of 69 recommendations for action relating to principles, purposes, vision, governance, management, relationship with other bodies, planning, participation and resources.

3.0 FUTURE LANDSCAPES WALES

- 3.1 The level of detail number and number of recommendations in the “Marsden Report” was unexpected. Welsh Government’s response was to arrange a meeting for all stakeholders in Cardiff in November 2015 to assess the recommendations and decide on a way forward.
- 3.2 Following this meeting Future Landscapes Wales was established to further consider the matter and Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas was appointed as its chairperson. This was an intensive programme of training, research, discussion and drafting proposals mainly associated with a vision, governance, economic development and resourcing. The work culminated with publishing a report – “Future Landscapes Wales – Delivering for Wales” in May 2017.

3.0 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 Leslie Griffiths AS as Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Matters initially had responsibility for the designated areas and she held a discussion on the topic in the Senedd in June 2017.
- 3.2 Then in November 2017 Hannah Blythyn AS was appointed as Minister for the Environment and she now has responsibility for Wales' designated areas.
- 3.3 The Minister made a statement to the Senedd on March 13th 2018 regarding Future Landscapes Wales. She thanked Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas and all who took part in the Future Landscapes Wales process. She confirmed that she was supportive of the designated landscapes and there would be no change in the reason for their designation – which is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. She also said the areas needed to do more to identify, safeguard and realise the benefits derived from public goods they protect for the people of Wales.
- 3.4 With regard to the AONB's she stated there was parity with National Parks in terms of planning policy but not so in respect of status, profile and resources. She also referred to governance, stating that existing arrangements were flexible but possibly also a weakness.
- 3.5 The Minister also stated that she would publish a Policy Statement before the summer recess. An update on this matter will be provided soon.

4.0 RECOMENDATION

- 4.1 To accept the information.