

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

From: Head of Contract and Asset Management	Report Number: L147
To: STRATEGY COMMITTEE	Date of meeting: 9th February 2012

MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT FOR:

- **SUFFOLK COAST AND HEATHS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**
- **DEDHAM VALE & AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY/ STOUR VALLEY PARTNERSHIP**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To adopt the new 4-year Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Memorandum of Agreement, and the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) / Stour Valley Partnership Memorandum of Agreement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the new Memorandum of Agreement for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Stour Valley Partnership Memorandum of Agreement, be adopted for the period 1st April 2011 to the 31st March 2015

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for 2011/12. All the funding partners will continue to contribute the previously agreed amounts unless revised through annual financial processes.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No 4 & 5. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood of failure	Impact	Mitigation Measures
The AONB partnership enables the Council to deliver its legal responsibilities under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.	HIGH without the resources of the AONB's	Failure of the Council to deliver its legal responsibilities	Adopt the new Agreements for the two AONB Partnerships.

5. Consultations

5.1 All members of the two AONB's have been consulted on the new Agreements.

6. Equality Analysis

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

7.1 There are no shared services implications as Mid Suffolk District Council is not a member of either AONB.

8. Key Information

8.1 In June 2010 (Paper K32 refers) the Council adopted a revised Memorandum of Agreement for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, and a revised Dedham Vale AONB/Stour Valley Partnership Memorandum of Understanding for the final year of their 3-year life i.e. 2010/11. Both documents provided a framework for the delivery of duties and obligations arising from Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

8.2 Membership of the Suffolk Coasts & Heaths AONB is:

- DEFRA
- Suffolk County Council (Host Authority)
- Essex County Council
- Babergh District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Tendring District Council
- Waveney District Council

8.3 Membership of the Suffolk Coasts & Heaths AONB is:

- DEFRA
- Suffolk County Council (Host Authority)
- Essex County Council
- Babergh District Council
- Colchester Borough Council
- Braintree District Council
- Tendring District Council
- St. Edmundsbury Borough Council

8.4 The intention was to enter into new agreements from the 1st April 2011. However, due to the need to revise the clauses in relation to redundancy costs this date was passed without completion of the new documents. Until now therefore the agreements approved in June 2010 have remained in place.

- 8.5 DEFRA, and the management groups, have now resolved the redundancy issues to the satisfaction of the employing authority (the final terms of which are included in Clause 6 of both Agreements). The Memorandum of Agreement for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and the Dedham Vale AONB/Stour Valley Partnership are now therefore ready for formal approval for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2015.
- 8.6 DEFRA have requested therefore that each signatory to the original documents formally adopt the new Agreements for this 4-year period.
- 8.7 These Agreements maintain the shared vision for, and commitment to, AONB management by all Parties. They also maintain the commitment to deliver the Management Plans for each of the defined areas.

9. Appendices

Title	Location
a) Memorandum of Agreement (2011/15) for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.	Babergh Web Site
b) Memorandum of Agreement (2011/15) for the Dedham Vale AONB/Stour Valley Partnership	Babergh Web Site

10. Background Documents

10.1 None.

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