

Committee: High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee
Date: 11 March 2011
Title of Report: West Sussex Environment and Climate Change Board
By: High Weald AONB Director

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Advisory Committee is recommended to note the report.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 West Sussex County Council and partner organizations have recently established an Environment and Climate Change Board chaired by Professor Bob Allison of the University of Sussex “to bring together a range of some of the significant organizations in the County. “ The Board is keen to ensure that it is innovative in its approaches to tackling some of the biggest challenges West Sussex is facing, including the links between the environment and climate change and how the environment can help people to adapt to climate change, among other things

1.2 To achieve this four working groups – low carbon and energy, green economy and skills, environmental quality, and sustainable transport and infrastructure have been established. Each working group is chaired by a member of the Board and aim to foster a wider engagement with partners across West Sussex and support the Board in its efforts to develop an action plan for the County.

2.0 Environment and Climate Change Board – Environmental Quality Group

2.1 The High Weald AONB JAC was invited to contribute to the work of the Board by attending the meetings of the Environmental Quality Group, the first meeting of which was in February 2011. This group will identify the vulnerability of West Sussex communities, businesses, and the built and natural environment to future climate change and suggest ways to harness the potential of the area to adapt to climate change to ensure a resilient West Sussex.

2.2 Members will recognize that the High Weald AONB Management Plan has a significant role to play supporting the West Sussex Environment and Climate Change Board given its understanding of and emphasis on a multi-functional landscape. The Management Plan can help the Board achieve its principal aim outlined above (paragraph 1.1) by demonstrating how landscapes and responsible land use can: a) ensure the transition to secure, affordable, low carbon forms of energy; b) address the significant threats to the environment and the economy caused by climate change; and c) encourage and support the rural economy.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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