

APPENDIX 2:

SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENT ON THE CRANBORNE CHASE AND WEST WILTSHIRE DOWNS AONB FINAL MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTION TABLES

PRODUCED BY SDC INTERNAL AONB WORKING GROUP [CLLR DENNIS BROWN, CLLR JEREMY HOOPER, VICKY FLETCHER, JOHN MEEKER, GRAHAM WRIGHT, MARY POCOCK, LINDSEY BROWN, AMBER SKYRING, ROBIN TOWNSEND]

An internal Working Group met on 5th April 2004 to discuss the 5- year action plan contained within the Management Plan. Participants were invited to pick out priorities from the plan, as well comment on which actions SDC officers may be able to contribute help with. The Working Group consisted of officers from several relevant departments: Forward Planning & Conservation, Community Initiatives, Salisbury Joint Transportation Team, Tourism, as well as a representative from the South Wiltshire Strategic Alliance, the Portfolio Holder for the Environment [Cllr Brown] and the SDC representative on the AONB Partnership [Cllr Hooper]. The Parks department has also been consulted.

I. General comment from officers on the AONB Management Plan Action Tables

Prioritisation of actions

The action plan contains so many actions that it is difficult to see how the small AONB team can implement them all – although some of the actions [e.g. AC52 and 72] are duplicates. A prioritisation of actions would therefore be welcomed. As 47% of the AONB lies within the Salisbury District, SDC priorities should provide a useful focus for the AONB team, particularly where they are shared by other relevant local authorities.

Duplication of roles and/or work

There is concern that the team is over-stretching itself with the number and range of actions contained in the plan. It is recognised that a wide range of issues may impact on the landscape of the AONB, but some officers felt that actions and topic areas that are not directly relevant to the landscape issues of the AONB [such as the provision of transport], or are already being undertaken by [several] other bodies [e.g. community planning, transport]. It is recognised that some initiatives may not stretch over administrative boundaries to cover the whole AONB area, but the AONB team needs take care that actions listed in the management plan are not being replicated elsewhere. Staff also felt that training needs had sometimes been listed without having been consulted [e.g. AC74].

More thought may be needed as to whether members of the AONB Partnership can undertake some of the actions [particularly attending meetings e.g. AC12] as part of their everyday work instead of the AONB team doing them. There is an essential liaison role needed between SDC officers and the AONB team, particularly this year, to ensure that the AONB team know where duplication is occurring, and other organisations operating in the area on relevant actions.

Many of the actions within the Management Plan for transport relate to decisions that are made at a county level, and the potential role/input of the Salisbury Joint Transportation Team to AONB issues is currently being discussed further at a service unit level.

2. Priorities identified by SDC officers for 2004/2005

1) *Planning / development control*

AC15: Set up a planning topic group to rationalise the policies and procedures for commenting on planning applications, and share existing information.

2) *Environment and landscape*

AC1, AC2, AC11, AC21: set up a Landscape Scale Restoration programme, provided that it is linked to LBAP targets as well as landscape targets. Finding funding sources for farmers and land-managers to implement changes will be a priority if this is to be successful.

3) *Community Planning*

AC102: Link into SDC Community Plans (produced in July 04), focussing on supporting the findings of the Community plans and helping to implement projects without duplicating existing services and work programmes.

4) *Economic development/tourism*

AC 63, AC89: Need to develop a higher, more credible profile - starting with local people. An audit of recreation and tourism information would be useful to find out what is needed to promote the AONB 'product', but developing a well-publicised programme of walks, talks, site visits would gain tangible results quickly.

5) *Access*

AC9: Promote effective communication between authorities on cross-border rights of way issues to ensure they do not impact on the quality of the AONB landscape, and consider access throughout