

## REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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### **SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES**

On the 29 September 2014 the Minister for Natural Resources commissioned an Independent Panel to conduct a review of designated landscapes in Wales.

The review started at the end of 2014 and was conducted in 2 stages. The review panel was chaired by Professor Terry Marsden of Cardiff University with John Lloyd Jones and Dr Ruth Williams as members.

A copy of the final report has previously been distributed to Members and makes 69 recommendations covering a raft of proposals and observations on purposes, principles, vision, governance models, planning, and funding.

The recommendations include:

- making no change to the name or legal status of national parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)
- strengthening the support and delivery role of other bodies
- the creation of a National Landscape Committee.

The Welsh Government has announced that due to the considerable scale and scope of the recommendations, further work is now needed to understand their potential benefit and their consequences. Lord Dafydd Ellis-Thomas AM has been appointed to lead a Future Landscapes Working Group, involving representatives of the national parks, AONBs, interest groups, business, and local government.

The group will explore these recommendations and report their findings in 2016.

While a number of Members attended the National Parks Wales Seminar in early November, the paper is included on the agenda to enable all Members to provide feedback and to discuss the next steps.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

#### **Members are asked to:**

- **note the Review of Designated Landscapes;**
- **Provide any views of the report;**
- **Indicate any issues the wish to be considered as part of the contribution of the Authority to the Future Landscapes Working Group.**

### **Background Documents**

None

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