

The Landscapes Review Final Report (The Glover Review)

In January 2018 the Government published a 25-Year Plan for the Environment. It set out an approach to “conserve and protect the natural beauty of our landscapes by reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) for the 21st century”. The review also committed to assess whether there is scope for the current network of 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks to be expanded.

The Landscapes Review (informally known as the “Glover Review”) was launched on 27 May 2018 with a public call for evidence. Officers working with Planning Review Panel (PRP) submitted the Council’s response attached [here](#).

The Landscapes Review Final Report [here](#) was published on 21 September 2019. The full report is 168 pages. The attached 10 page summary [here](#) illustrate the key 27 proposals. Briefly the report recommendations include:

- The Cotswolds as a potential future National Park.
- Bringing the National Parks and AONBs together into a National Landscapes Service, improving the scope for greater collaboration.
- Proposes that AONB Boards become a statutory consultee within the planning process.
- Proposes working towards a local plan for AONB areas, prepared in conjunction with local authorities. That plan should have statutory status.
- Candidates for new National Parks include the Cotswolds AONB. Although National Park status is not a decision for Stroud District Council, it is our duty to ensure that any changes deliver against our agreed priorities within the Council’s Corporate Plan and Stroud District’s Adopted Local Plan (2015) for example.
- Reforming National Park governance by appointing Boards that are smaller, more expert and more representative of wider society. Further details awaited.
- Designated landscapes are expected to do more to encourage new visitors. Whilst identifying increased public funding, there will be a need for innovative ranges of supplementary funding as well..

Government and DEFRA are yet to respond to the Review’s recommendations. Officers will await the response of Government and report the outcome to Planning Review Panel and Environment Committee as appropriate.

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