

Questions from councillors

General scrutiny committee, 11 June 2021

Question from Councillor Yolande Watson

Can General Scrutiny examine the process for and efficacy of, ensuring the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (WVAONB) Management Plan is fully considered in decisions made by Herefordshire Council's planning service?

Response

The concern of Councillor Watson is noted and it is understood that there have been related discussions at recent meetings of the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

The scrutiny committee would not usually review the application or attention of a specific policy but it has already identified the intention to undertake scrutiny activity on the planning service as part of its work programme and it will be mindful of the point raised in the question.

In the meantime, the Director for Economy and Place has made the following comment:

'I can confirm that the AONB Management Plan is a material consideration in all planning matters and forms part of the evidence base for both the Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs). As a consequence all applications within the AONB are considered in light of these policies and planning officers are aware of the importance of referencing such matters within reports where appropriate.'