Summary of Objectives and Policies

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| Landscape and Seascape | Environmental Quality and Climate Change | Sustainable Rural and Visitor Economy | | |
| To conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special landscapes of the AONB | To promote the sustainable management of natural resources and of climate change impacts | To promote sustainable development within the AONB that is consistent with the designation | | |
| A1 Ensure that the landscape character, natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are conserved, enhanced and fully respected in all decisions affecting the Area | D1 Increase understanding, adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts on coastal landscapes and communities | G1 Take account of the value of the natural environment in economic development decisions using the Natural Capital and Ecosystem services approach | | |
| A2 Preserve the dark skies, peace and tranquillity of the AONB | D2 Contribute to marine planning to conserve and enhance seascape quality, coastal species and habitats | G2 Support partners to develop sustainable tourism opportunities that promote the special qualities of the AONB, without damaging protected | | |
| A3 Ensure developments both onshore and offshore, take account of open views, wilderness and maritime connections | D3 Improve inland, coastal and bathing water quality through catchment management, local flood management and litter management | sites and species | | |
| A4 Recommend that no development should be permitted inside or outside the AONB that would harm the natural beauty, character or special qualities of the AONB | (Note: former 'Coast' objective and policies incorporated into this section and others) | | | |
| A5 Ensure developments comply with the North Devon Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments | | | | |
| Biodiversity and Geodiversity | Planning, Development and Infrastructure | Access, Health and Wellbeing | | |
| To conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of the AONB, in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats | To ensure the planning process and infrastructure development protects and enhances the designated AONB and its special qualities | To ensure sustainable access to the AONB for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors, consistent with the designation | | |
| B1 Support and promote approaches to conserve and enhance habitats and species, increase wildlife richness and ensure the resilience of the landscape | I1 Provide planning advice and policy guidance to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the designated AONB | H1 Work with partners and landowners to develop improved access to and interpretation of the natural environment | | |
| B2 Identify and address actual and potential impacts on biodiversity from invasive species, disease and climate change | I2 Promote and maintain the local distinctiveness and historic character of the built environment | H2 Support new opportunities and reduce barriers to improve the health and wellbeing of local people and visitors | | |
| B3 Encourage actions to enhance, maintain and promote the geodiversity of the AONB through appropriate site management and public awareness | I3 Support affordable housing proposals to meet local housing needs, that take full account of the AONB designation | | | |
| (Note: former 'Geodiversity' objective and policies (C1-3) incorporated into this section) | I4 Conserve and enhance the coast and marine environment in relation to onshore and offshore developments | | | |
| | I5 Support appropriate infrastructure, signage and transport networks in the AONB, for the benefit of local and visiting communities | | | |
| | I6 Ensure that new development delivers suitable biodiversity net gain | | | |
| Historic Environment and Culture | Farming and Land Management | Community Action, Learning and Understanding | | |
| To conserve, enhance and understand the historic and cultural features of the AONB | To promote farming, food production and land management practices that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the AONB | To support more people to learn about, understand and take action to conserve the AONB | | |
| E1 Support actions to conserve and enhance the historic and cultural features of the AONB, and their setting | F1 Support partners to deliver sustainable and exemplar land management, forestry, and farming practices in keeping with the AONB designation | J1 Raise awareness and understanding of the AONB, its special qualities, natural and cultural heritage | | |
| E2 Develop approaches to increase understanding of local heritage and culture | F2 Work with landowners and managers to maintain landscape features such as hedge-banks and woodlands | J2 Develop opportunities for people to volunteer and gain appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver AONB policies | | |
| | F3 Support approaches to enhance the Natural Capital within the AONB including carbon storage, clean water, clean air, timber, renewable | J3 Support the provision of community facilities and services to improve the quality of life and sustainability of rural and coastal communities | | |
| | energy and food, consistent with the designation | J4 Support communities and businesses to reduce carbon emissions from the designated AONB so long as they are complementary to the special qualities of the AONB | | |