

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan should be included in the list of documents which the Core Strategy has regard to.

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states that “in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land” in these areas, (AONBs) relevant authorities “shall have regard” to their purposes. More specifically, section 89 states that the relevant local authority in respect of an area of outstanding natural beauty shall, ‘prepare and publish a plan which formulates their policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it.’ A Management Plan for the Shropshire Hills was published in 2004 by the AONB Partnership and should form part of the background to the Core Strategy.

This objective should make a distinction between the landscape of the Borough and the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB. A suggested re-wording is ‘To protect and enhance the unique attractiveness and diverse landscape character of the Borough, particularly the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.

PPS 7 (paragraph 21) states that ‘Areas of Outstanding Beauty have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should therefore be given great weight in planning policies and development control decisions in these areas.’ The suggested re-wording will differentiate between the un-designated landscape and the special landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Draft Core Policy 8 should encourage the high quality design of new development in the Shropshire Hills AONB. A suggested re-wording is .....with particular regard to the Shropshire Hills AONB where new development will be encouraged to be of high quality design which respects the special qualities of the designated landscape.

PPS 7 (paragraph 21) states that .....’planning policies in LDDs and where appropriate, RSS should also support suitably located and designed development...’ The suggested re-wording will make this intention explicit for the AONB and help to maintain and enhance the area’s special qualities.

