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**Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership**

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Mr Tom Surrey  
Land Use Division, Defra  
Horizon House  
Deanery Road  
Bristol  
BS1 5AH

Dear Mr Surrey

17<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### **Joint request to create a Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB**

I am pleased to enclose letters from Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council, which together with mine from the AONB Partnership comprise our joint formal request to Defra to create a Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB. As you are aware, this results from a detailed process over some months of looking at alternatives and developing a credible proposal, as set out in the Business Case, which has now been formally supported by both our local authorities at Cabinet level, and endorsed by the AONB Partnership on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

We are aware of the pressures on your department and some recent changes of staffing. I would urge however that this is a proposal with long term benefits for the AONB, and hope that the resource implications need not unduly influence Defra's decision whether to proceed. Despite now reaching this formal stage, we would like to continue to work with you to develop the proposal, and as previously stated we would be keen to meet face to face with relevant staff to discuss it at an appropriate point. We would also be very happy to provide further information or consider any other aspects you think may not be adequately covered by the Business Case. In addition, our Ludlow MP Philip Dunne has agreed to approach Lord Gardiner on our behalf to request a meeting about the proposal.

I do look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

James Williamson  
Chair of Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

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Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 9 November 2016

My Ref:

Your Ref

Dear Mr Surrey

**Re: Request for Defra to draft an Establishment Order for a Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

I am writing on behalf of Shropshire Council to formally request that Defra work to draft an Establishment Order for a Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000) and take the Order through the required approval process. A copy of the formal cabinet approval can be found at:

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=3257&Ver=4>

In writing I can confirm that this request is made jointly with Telford & Wrekin Council through the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership. All parties have worked together to develop the proposals described within the supporting business case. We are convinced that the establishment of a Conservation Board will provide the strongest organisation possible for the long term future of the AONB. The new management structure will provide opportunities to tap into the capacity and skills of Board members, to work alongside the new Shropshire Hills AONB Trust charity, for enhanced commercial activity, to hold property and other assets, and above all the prospect of long term financial sustainability.

The Council remains committed to working in partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council and the AONB Partnership to continue to conserve and enhance the natural beauty for which the landscape is designated and which is highly valued by local communities and visitors.

We will be glad to provide any further details which are required in due course.

Yours sincerely

**George Candler**  
Director of Place and Enterprise  
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Katherine Kynaston

Assistant Director:  
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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Mr Surrey

**Re: Request for Defra to draft an Order for the Establishment of a Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

I am writing on behalf of Telford & Wrekin Council to confirm the Council's support for the proposal being made jointly with Shropshire Council and the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership for the creation of an independent Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB. Telford & Wrekin Council's Cabinet has approved the proposal and fully supports the proposed change in structure

Telford & Wrekin Council are formally requesting that Defra work to draft an Order for the establishment of a Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 and take the Order through the required approval process.

The Council has worked jointly with Shropshire Council and the AONB Partnership to develop the proposal and the supporting detailed business case. Telford & Wrekin Council is satisfied that the establishment of a Conservation Board will provide the AONB with a management structure which is financially sustainable in the long term..

The Council remains committed to working in partnership with Shropshire Council and the AONB Partnership to continue to conserve and enhance the natural beauty for which the landscape is designated and for which it is highly valued by local communities and visitors. The Council welcomes the support of Shropshire Council and the AONB Partnership in this respect.

The Council is committed to working with Defra and the other relevant parties towards the establishment of a Conservation Board

Yours sincerely

Katherine Kynaston  
Assistant Director Business, Development & Employment

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