

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB

Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project

iSheet June 2015

<p><u>Budget 2015/16 (£)</u> Core team: Defra: 294,236 Local Authorities: 238,233 Donations/Sales: 6,800 Core Total: £539,269 Externally Funded Project Work: Touching the Tide: c250,000 River Stour Project: c45,000 EU funded Proximity: c25,000 Coastal Community Fund: c150,000 Suffolk Estuaries: c40,000 Sponsorship: c3,000 Section 106: 20,000 Externally Funded Total: £533,000 TOTAL in excess of £1,000,000</p>	<p><u>Budget Commentary</u> Core costs reduced by c30% since 2009/10 Focus on external funded project work in future Following restructure in 2014, structure can accommodate c5% reductions in contributions per annum to 2017/18. National Association for AONBs working with Defra to understand settlement for 2016/17. Defra contribute up to 75% of core costs, with remainder coming from Local Authorities and sponsorship Funding partners agree annual Memorandum of Agreement</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> Core team work across both AONBs Externally funded work on specific projects and are employed on Fixed Term Contracts FTE=Full Time Equivalent Core team=7.8FTE and equates to 8 individuals Externally funded=4.6 FTE and 6 individuals AONB team hosted by Suffolk County Council at Melton</p> <p><u>Governance</u> AONB Manager is line managed by Suffolk County Council but strategic direction is given by Joint Advisory Committee and Partnership</p>
<p><u>Context</u> AONBs cover 15% of England They are designated by the Government to Conserve and Enhance England's finest landscapes The two AONBs in Suffolk and Essex contribute c£240M to the local tourism economy A Partnership in each AONB works to maintain the landscape which brings a wide ranging cross sector benefits: Social, economic and environmental</p>	<p><u>Challenges</u> Sizewell C is the only proposed New Nuclear Build in a protected landscape Other major infrastructure projects may impact upon the reasons for designation Maintaining the Natural Beauty and Special Qualities of the nationally important landscapes supports local economy and conserves environment</p>	<p><u>Opportunities</u> Sizewell C as an environmental exemplar Partnership has excellent track record of securing external funding LEADER funding to secure sustainable economic growth (Wool Towns and Heritage Cost worth over £3.5M in next three years) Promotion of health benefits associated with high quality landscape</p>
<p><u>Achievements</u> Externally funded project work including 2 Heritage Lottery Funded schemes worth over £2,000,000 AONB grants for projects that benefit social, economic and environmental aspects of AONBs Reduction in core costs of 30% while maintaining and increasing activity through external funding Improved relationships with partners from the business sector, especially tourism/visitor Visitor facilities, long distance footpaths, information, cycle routes etc Engagement with local community-volunteering, enhancement of heritage features</p>	<p><u>Contact</u> Simon Amstutz, AONB Manager simon.amstutz@suffolk.gov.uk 01394 445222 07971 909649 www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org @DedhamValeSVP @SuffolkAONB</p>	<p><u>Funding Partners Perspective</u> Contributions from funding partners can be geared up to the 'turnover' of c£1,000,000 worth of work the AONB does annually. Ie for every £10,000 worth of investment from a funding partner the AONB achieves a gearing of 100 Councillor and officer representation at Joint Advisory and Partnership meetings can steer direction of staff team Positive news stories generated by AONB Undertake many statutory functions demanded of local authorities in respect of AONB designation Enhancing local countryside</p>