

## **Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

### **Summary of Responses to the consultation on the amendment to the Cotswolds and Chilterns Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Conservation Board) (Amendment) Orders 31 March 2009 – 20 April 2009**

**April 2009**

#### **Background**

Defra has invited views on a proposed amendment to the Establishment Orders of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Boards, Statutory Instruments 2004 No.1777 and 2004 No.1778. The proposed amendment is to allow both of the existing AONB Conservation Boards (the Chilterns and the Cotswolds) to reverse the effect of the Financial Reporting Standard 17 (FRS 17) adjustment to the pension fund in the same way as local authorities are permitted to do when compiling the Annual Statement of Accounts, i.e. in the expectation that not all the employees are made redundant at the same time.

#### **Analysis of responses**

Twenty nine local authorities and Natural England were consulted. Of these, twenty five responded – all supporting the proposal. No objections were received.

#### **Consultees who responded:**

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Bath & North East Somerset District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Cherwell District Council
- Chiltern District Council
- Cotswolds District Council
- Dacorum Borough Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Natural England
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Stratford District Council
- Stroud Town Council

- Tewkesbury District Council
- Three Rivers District Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Worcestershire District Council
- Wychavon District Council
- Wycombe District Council

### **Way forward**

As a result of this consultation, Defra now plans to apply regulation 30 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 to the Conservation Boards through an order amending the Establishment Orders of the Boards. This will mean that the Boards only need to maintain a level of pension fund sufficient to finance the occasional redundancy rather than the hypothetical situation of the Boards' entire staff being made redundant.