CEO's Update for Board: 3rd November 2026

Team and Board Members Update

- Following the successful recruitment process for a **Farming Engagement Officer** post (a vacancy that's been carried since Scott Brown's April 2025 departure) I am delighted to confirm Tatiana (Tati) Chapman started her new role with us in mid-June.
- The recruitment process for the **Head of Strategic Planning** (the role previously held by John Mills) has, unfortunately been unsuccessful. Following interviews in September none of the candidates were deemed suitable. The next step will be to reframe the job specification and deploy the use of recruitment consultants to boost the reach.
- I would like to thank Jon Grantham and Graham Hopkins for being part of the interview panel and Sarah Whalley Hoggins for her support in developing the questions.
- The Defra Public Appointments team have now provided Ministerial confirmation of the three selected candidates. The onboarding process can now begin.
- There is one SoS vacancy on the Executive Committee that requires filling.

Communications and Engagement

- The event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the designation of the Cotswolds was a resounding success. Much positive feedback was received on the day and in the weeks that followed and the attendance was as high as could be hoped for.
- I continue to be an active member of the Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnerships.
- Maria and I are involved in revising the Destination Management Plan for the Cotswolds Plus area and work is now commencing to reframe the structure of the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) alongside consultants appointed by Cotswold Tourism team; I continue to chair the LVEP Management Board meetings.

Management Plan Endorsement

The following table outlines progress with one of the four outstanding local authorities (Worcestershire) now having provided their endorsement in July 2026.

Local Authority	Endorsed	Notes
Bath & North East Somerset	No	Paul Crossley has chased and stated the council is uncomfortable providing endorsement before publication of the BANES local plan. Previous correspondence had stated the relevant (planning) officers do not have the capacity to review the Plan.
Warwickshire	No	Email from David Lowe on 25/08/2026 stating that the Plan is scheduled for Committee. Jo Barker will chase.
Wychavon	No	Isabel Roberts, Planning Policy Manager will discuss endorsement with director. Update required.

Corporate Services

- GDPR – we are in the process of appointing a Data Protection Officer as well as undertaking the recommendations following CNL's review of GDPR compliance.
- Health and safety – the Health and Safety team continues to meet and embed the necessary principles across the organisation – including the voluntary wardens.
- Audit and review of all policies – much progress has been made to comprehensively log and review the existing policies, determine gaps and make necessary updates.
- Business planning approach and review of KPIs – this work is ongoing with preparations underway to present at the next Executive and Board.

Defra's 30by30 Funding (Mosaic Habitat Demonstration)

- This will be covered in papers from Simon Smith and I during the Board meeting, alongside an opportunity for discussion, during which input from Board members is much encouraged.