

David Hall
Cabinet Member for Business, Inward Investment and Policy
Somerset County Councillor – Bridgwater East and Bawdrip Division
Over and Under
269 Bath Road
Bawdrip
Bridgwater
TA7 8PW

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Tel: 07813 130738
Email: dhall@somerset.gov.uk

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Mike Rigby
Bourne House
High Street
Bishops Lydeard
Taunton
TA4 3AX

Dear Mr Rigby

PROPOSED 95% FUNDING CUT – QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SERVICE

I refer to your letter dated 17th July 2014. The meeting with representatives of the AONBs in Somerset was held last week, this meeting was an important first step to dispel mis-information and rumour currently circulating in social media and elsewhere. I made it clear that no decisions have yet been made about the budget and we discussed how the funding partners and the AONBs might work together to plan for a sustainable future.

We had a constructive debate which focused on the key issues we face. We agreed that all funding partners will be invited to work collaboratively with the AONBs to discuss options for the future that will be reported back to the local authorities for consideration.

I fully appreciate that the AONBs are important assets that contribute towards many environmental, economic and social objectives, and it was heartening that partners are committed to working together constructively to plan for their future so that they continue their good work.

Yours sincerely

David Hall
Deputy Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member for Business, Inward Investment and Policy