

# Public Document Pack

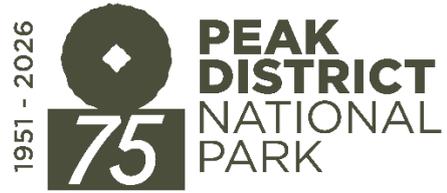
**Peak District National Park Authority**

**Tel: 01629 816200**

E-mail: [customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

Web: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)

Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AE



**Our Values: Care – Enjoy – Pioneer**

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Our Ref: A.1142/5168

Date: 19 February 2026



## NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: **Friday 27 February 2026**

Time: **10.00 am**

Venue: **Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell**

PHILIP MULLIGAN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 28 November 2025** (*Pages 7 - 16*) 5 mins
3. **Urgent Business**
4. **Public Participation**  
To note any questions or to receive any statements, representations, deputations and petitions which relate to the published reports on Part A of the Agenda.
5. **Members Declarations of Interest**  
Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting.

## FOR INFORMATION

6. **Chair's Briefing** 5 mins
7. **Chief Executive Report** (*Pages 17 - 22*) 5 mins

## FOR DECISION

8. **Authority Plan 2023 - 28: Year 4 Look Forward 2026/27 (Decile 7 & 8)** 10 mins  
(*Pages 23 - 30*)  
Appendix 1
9. **Communities Aim update for National Park Management Plan** (*Pages 31 - 38*) 30 mins  
Appendix 1  
Appendix 2

## FOR INFORMATION

10. **Report from Chair of Planning Committee** 5 mins
11. **Report from Chair of Resources Committee** 5 mins
12. **Reports from Outside Bodies** 10 mins
  - 12.1 Local Access Forum - Martin Beer
  - 12.2 Foundation Report - Ruth Swetnam & Janet Dugdale
13. **Exempt Information S100(A) Local Government Act 1972**  
The Committee is asked to consider, in respect of the exempt items whether the public should be excluded from the meeting to avoid the

## disclosure of Exempt Information.

### Draft motion:

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 15, 16, 17, 18 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

14. **PART B** (Pages 43 - 44)  
The following items are exempt, confidential items.
- Please go to the Part B agenda items.
15. **Renewal of the partnership between Tarmac Trading Ltd/ Buxton Lime Ltd and the PDNPA supporting the Volunteering Conservation Ranger post with Peak Park Conservation Volunteers ('PPCV') for a further 5 years from 2026 to 2031** (Pages 45 - 52) 15 mins  
Appendix 1
16. **Revenue Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Forecast 2026/27 to 2029/30** (Pages 53 - 64) 15 mins  
Appendix 1  
Appendix 2
17. **Annual Capital Strategy, Capital Budget and Treasury Management Strategy Statement** (Pages 65 - 148) 15 mins  
Appendix 1  
Appendix 2  
Appendix 3  
Appendix 4  
Appendix 5
18. **Restricted Minutes from 28 November 2025** (Pages 149 - 152) 2 mins

### Duration of Meeting

In the event of not completing its business within 3 hours of the start of the meeting, in accordance with the Authority's Standing Orders, the Authority will decide whether or not to continue the meeting. If the Authority decides not to continue the meeting it will be adjourned and the remaining business considered at the next scheduled meeting.

If the Authority has not completed its business by 1.00pm and decides to continue the meeting the Chair will exercise discretion to adjourn the meeting at a suitable point for a 30 minute lunch break after which the committee will re-convene.

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (as amended)

#### Agendas and reports

Copies of the Agenda and Part A reports are available for members of the public before and during the meeting. These are also available on the website <http://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk>

#### Background Papers

The Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Authority shall list any unpublished Background

Papers necessarily used in the preparation of the Reports. The Background Papers referred to in each report, PART A, excluding those papers that contain Exempt or Confidential Information, PART B, can be inspected on the Authority's website.

### **Public Participation and Other Representations from third parties**

Please note that meetings of the Authority and its Committees may take place at venues other than its offices at Aldern House, Bakewell when necessary. Public participation is still available and anyone wishing to participate at the meeting under the Authority's Public Participation Scheme is required to give notice to the Customer and Democratic Support Team to be received not later than 12.00 noon on the Wednesday preceding the Friday meeting. The Scheme is available on the website <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/about-us/have-your-say> or on request from the Customer and Democratic Support Team 01629 816362, email address: [democraticandlegalsupport@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:democraticandlegalsupport@peakdistrict.gov.uk).

### **Written Representations**

Other written representations on items on the agenda, except those from formal consultees, will not be reported to the meeting if received after 12noon on the Wednesday preceding the Friday meeting.

### **Recording of Meetings**

In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 members of the public may record and report on our open meetings using sound, video, film, photograph or any other means this includes blogging or tweeting, posts on social media sites or publishing on video sharing sites. If you intend to record or report on one of our meetings you are asked to contact the Customer and Democratic Support Team in advance of the meeting so we can make sure it will not disrupt the meeting and is carried out in accordance with any published protocols and guidance.

The Authority uses an audio sound system to make it easier to hear public speakers and discussions during the meeting and makes an audio visual broadcast and recording available after the meeting. These recordings will be retained for three years after the date of the meeting.

### **General Information for Members of the Public Attending Meetings**

Please note meetings of the Authority and its Committees may take place at venues other than its offices at Aldern House, Bakewell when necessary, the venue for a meeting will be specified on the agenda. There may be limited spaces available for the public at meetings and priority will be given to those who are participating in the meeting. It is intended that the meetings will be visually broadcast via YouTube and the broadcast will be available live on the Authority's website.

This meeting will take place at Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, DE45 1AE.

Aldern House is situated on the A619 Bakewell to Baslow Road. Car parking is available. Local Bus Services from Bakewell centre and from Chesterfield and Sheffield pick up and set down near Aldern House. Further information on Public transport from surrounding areas can be obtained from Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or on the Traveline website at [www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk).

Please note that there is no refreshment provision for members of the public before the meeting or during meeting breaks. However, there are cafes, pubs and shops in Bakewell town centre, approximately 15 minutes walk away.

### **To: Members of National Park Authority:**

Chair: K Smith  
Deputy Chair: J Dugdale

N Adams	M Beer
R Bennett	P Brady
M Buckler	M Chaplin
H Corran	C Farrell
C Greaves	B Hanley

L Hartshorne  
C Kelly  
A Martin  
C O'Leary  
V Priestley  
K Rustidge  
Dr R Swetnam  
J Wharmby

I Huddleston  
S Mabbott  
A Nash  
K Potter  
K Richardson  
M Smith  
S Thompson  
Y Witter

**Other invited Members:** (May speak but not vote)

Constituent Authorities  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Natural England

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Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AE



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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 28 November 2025 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: Prof J Dugdale, N Adams, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Chaplin, H Corran, C Farrell, C Greaves, L Hartshorne, C Kelly, S Mabbott, A Martin, A Nash, C O'Leary, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge, M Smith, Dr R Swetnam and Y Witter

Apologies for absence: M Buckler, B Hanley, A Hart, I Huddleston, K Potter and S Thompson.

### **103/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2025**

The following amendment was made to the minutes:

#### **97/25 Boardroom Apprentice Programme**

Point 5 Should read "That any matched Apprentice would be eligible to claim for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme when attending meetings of the Authority, Resources Committee **and Planning Committee** and any training or other events as necessary is agreed.

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 26 September 2025, with the above amendment, were approved as a correct record.

### **104/25 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business

### **105/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present to make representations to the Committee.

### **106/25 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declaration of interest was declared:

## Item 14 – MFFP Report

V Priestley declared a prejudicial interest due to holding the office of Chair of MFFP.

### 107/25 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

The Chair provided the following verbal update to Members regarding his attendance in addition to the weekly briefing meetings with the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, and attendance at the Planning Committees, Planning Committee Site Visits and the Resources Committee. The Chair also attended the Local Plan Steering Group, the Governance Working Group and the Climate Change Training Day: -

- Local Plan Briefing
- Steel Rail Plan Initiative
- 11 October – attended, spoke at and took part in Peak Park Parishes Day at Aldern House and the Chair extended thanks to all members of staff who were involved in planning and organising the day.
- 16 October – the Chair participated in the Tourism Charter meeting with key stake-holders.
- 20 October – the Chair attended the National Park England Board meeting.
- 22 October – the Chair had a short meeting with Gareth Radcliffe who is the next National Parks UK Chair.
- 5 November – the Chair attended the National Parks Partnership AGM who appointed a new Chair – Sue Albion and a new Chief Executive – Kath Hawkins.
- 10 November – the Chair along with the CEO attended a meeting to develop the NPUK agenda for the meeting on 3 December.
- 19 November – the Chair, along with the CEO, attended the Regional Mayor's Peak Partnership Summit at Bakewell Town Hall.
- 27 November – the Chair and the Vice-Chair attended the Peak Cluster webinar regarding a proposed new pipeline with connections from the Hope Valley and other areas heading out through Cheshire and The Wirral to the Irish Sea. Members requested a Member Briefing on this to explore the impact on the National Park and the region. More information is available here: [www.peakcluster.co.uk](http://www.peakcluster.co.uk)
- The Chair noted the email from the Authority Solicitor regarding Members need to remain partial and open-minded when taking part in discussion.

*10:06am N Adams attended the meeting.*

### 108/25 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive delivered the following updates to his report:

- The CEO had been on a visit to Abney Moor which could be a potential site to visit for the next members tour.
- There is still no update from DEFRA regarding the grant for the next 3 years.
- There were no massive impacts from the recent Budget but still analysing what it will mean for the PNDPA.
- There is potential for regional mayors to influence the visitor profile and there is a consultation document to read through.
- The Peak Park Summit raised some good points regarding what is required to manage the visitor pressure on the area.

- There is an exciting year ahead planned with regard to the parks 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a members event is scheduled. The CEO was commended on his engagement with all the different groups. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a good way of communicating the nature of the National Park and hopefully the celebrations shall be cost neutral. 4 national parks have contributed to the funding of the report from Andrew McCloy, and the branding will not cost much apart from the re-branding of the vehicles. The 75<sup>th</sup> calendar is self-funding and selling well already and there is a small budget from existing funds to allow for staff and volunteers to come together in the summer.
- There was discussion regarding imposing a tourist levy for visitors to the national park and how this would be collected for the Peak District. The tourist levy would be a tax on overnight stays which the accommodation provider would collect and forward to the Mayor. It was acknowledged that this would be difficult to impose for any visitor whose accommodation is just outside of the national park and would also not be able to be collected from day trippers. It is hoped that the cost of administering this levy is not more than the income generated from the levy.
- The Buxton Festival is an opportunity to raise awareness about the Peak District National Park and is there potential to work with the Peak District Foundation for the 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations?
- It was questioned as to whether there would be some engagement from Mayor with the local communities who are affected by the visitors to the national park.

## 109/25 CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

The Corporate Property Team Manager presented the report which details the environmental performance data for the 2024/25 financial year and progress towards the Authority's goal of becoming zero carbon by 2050. The additional appendix relating to the Land Based Emissions was written by Faith Johnson from the Environmental Quality Mark Community Interest Company, who attended the meeting to answer questions.

The following areas were discussed: -

- It was clarified that the report follows national guidelines and covers some emissions on our land but does not relate to visitors to our sites as this data is covered elsewhere. This report is about the Authorities own carbon emissions and not about all of the emissions across the National Park which is covered in the Management Plan.
- It was mentioned that the carbon tool was excellent and it appears that much of the emissions in the Peak District National Park relate to animals on the land. Members questioned tenancy agreements and the kind of farming allowed on our land and would this report and its conclusions be factored into future tenancy agreements as part of the bigger picture. Regarding the Warslow Estate the old tenancies are not successional so there is an opportunity to look at this when tenancies are renewed.
- Is this information being benchmarked against other managed estates for example Chatsworth or the National Trust? Benchmarking has been done through FiPL applications and also a study encompassing five National Trust Farmers has taken place. There is potential for benchmarking in the future and it was suggested that the Holkham Hall Estate has done much work in this area and could be a good source of information.

- Members asked how the report accounts for ruminant emissions and caution was advised with using these models as different measures can be applied. The figure in the report is a tool to help management of the land. There was a DEFRA report which showed the difference in the tools and there is work being done to regularise the tools used.
- Hopefully next year will be able to look at these three emissions points:
  1. Goods and services purchased by the Authority
  2. Employee Commuting
  3. Home Working

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That Members take note of the information provided within Appendix 1 and recognize it as a reflection of the carbon emissions of the Authority's operations.**

**110/25 AUTHORITY PLAN MID YEAR REPORT**

The Data Strategy & Performance Officer presented the report for Members to review the digital Progress Report of the Authority Plan. The report also provides Members with an update of the Corporate Risk Register 25/26 for review and approval.

There were no further updates to the report.

Members discussed the report:

- There was clarification that there is prioritisation of which trees and property are high risk and that the risk is managed and is appropriate.
- Context was provided regarding the 120 planning breaches which had been resolved in the past year, more information on this is reported to the Planning Committee.
- Page 63 of the corporate risk register was mentioned and there was a query regarding the comment "Local Plan review developing policy around recreational hubs to support development which increases capacity of visitor infrastructure".
- In section 3.2 of the report there is reference to a delay in the maintenance of footpaths, it was confirmed that the required action should be achieved by the end of the year.

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **The digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 5) 2025/26 is approved.**
2. **The Corporate risk register summary (Decile 5) 2025/26 provided in Appendix 1 is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.**

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## 111/25 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Authority Solicitor presented the report which provides Members with information about complaints, statutory information requests and data handling for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

There were no further updates to this report.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the complaint, information request and data handling statistics detailed within this report and the appendices be noted.**

## 112/25 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Authority Solicitor presented the report which was seeking Members' approval of the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.

There were no further updates to the report.

- It was clarified that the annual governance statement had been audited by external auditors
- The timelines for progress for the new standing orders constitution coming to the Governance Review Working Group (GRWG) were discussed and when Members would be seeing this for approval - draft coming to January 2026 GRWG and then aiming to take it to next Authority meeting in February 2026.

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 appended at Appendix 1 for sign off by the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Authority.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make minor changes to the Code of Corporate Governance following publication of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.**

## 113/25 INTERNAL AUDIT BLOCK 1 REPORT

The Finance Manager presented the report which gives Members the Internal Auditors recommendations for block one of the 2025/26 audit and the agreed actions for consideration.

It was noted that the title of the report was incorrect and should be “**Internal Audit Report Block 1 2025/26**” (instead of Block 2).

The Members discussed the report and the following points were made:

- On page 115 of the report relating to Runbooks and Training the risk is significant. The concerns have been recognised by the IT Team and are already being addressed.
- The Service Risk Register was discussed and the new structure pulls through risk action into service level planning and is embedded into the system for the next service planning stage.
- A “run group” are written down and tested procedures to cover different types of incidents and will document and test the procedures and will ensure that training is in place and details the resourcing and the time spent. It includes the Standard Operation Procedures for recovery.
- This is a public document and much progress has been made in mitigating the risk. Members requested that they receive training in the Risk Register so that informed decisions can be taken.

The recommendation as set out in the report was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the Internal Audit reports for the two areas covered under Block 1 for 2025/26 Risk Management and IT Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (in appendices 1 and 2 respectively) be received and the proposed actions agreed.**

**114/25 EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS' REPORTS**

The Finance Manager and Jennifer Norman, Audit Manager at Forviz Mazars, presented the report which is to seek approval for audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 and for Members to consider the External Auditors' Audit Completion Report 2024/25 and External Audit Annual Report for 2024/25.

At the publication of the report the pension update had not been received, this update has now been received and no changes are necessary to the figures. It was noted that this is the earliest that this audit completion report has been brought to the Authority the deadline being February 2026. No significant control regulations have been raised.

The following points from Members were discussed:

- Congratulations to the Finance Team and the external Auditors for the early completion of the reports.
- Page 127 of the report shows the net position in the pension fund as at 31/03/2025 which is invested on behalf of the Authority by Derbyshire County Council and details a significant increase in the value on the previous year.
- There was concern that recommendation 3 was rather passive and should there be a follow-up report from officers to show that work has

been completed? – this process is already in place as part of the External Audit.

- There is a requirement of officers to implement the requirements of the external report – the responsibility lies with the Auditors and the controls they have in place over the 12 months.
- The Finance Manager will provide a mid-year report back to Authority.

The recommendations as set out in the report with an additional recommendation (number 6) were proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 at Appendix 1.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority to update the Statement of Accounts with the pension valuation figures when received, prior to publication of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.**
- 3. To consider and note the External Auditor’s Audit Completion Report (ACR) 2024/25 at Appendix 2.**
- 4. To consider and note the External Audit Annual report (AAR) 2024/25 at Appendix 3.**
- 5. To note that the Statement of Accounts & associated Letter of Representation, will be signed by the Chair of the Authority and by the Chief Financial Officer, once the external audit has been completed, provided that the overall opinion in the audit report remains unqualified.**
- 6. That the Chief Financial Officer will bring back a mid-year report to Full Authority to report on progress with the actions required in the Audit Completion Report (ACR).**

*11:31am The meeting adjourned for a 10 minute break and reconvened at 11:41am*

**115/25 MFFP REPORT AMP 8**

The Business Development Manager, Moors for the Future Project (MFFP), presented the report which was requesting approval to enter into agreements with the water companies Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water and accept funding to carry out peatland restoration activities through Asset Management Period 8 (AMP8), 2025-30.

This report would normally go to the Resources Committee however due to the timescale it has been brought to the Authority meeting.

*11:44am N Adams re-joined the meeting.*

Members raised the following points:

- The recommendations were queried as originally the Audit, Budget and Risk Monitoring Group were responsible for monitoring this project, the monitoring will now be done by the Resources Committee.
- MFFP report annually to the Resources Committee. Over and above this annual monitoring general reports shall be required and monitored by the Resources Committee.
- Sphagnum moss was mentioned and there is an accessible sphagnum laboratory. The planting of the moss was discussed, over 8 million plugs have been planted incorporating 11 species and monitoring shows the success rate over 2 years has been over 90%. Planting is completed following good practice planting specification and areas are targeted where research shows it shall be successful.
- More funding has been received than expected and is for a 5 year period.

The revised recommendations as set out below were proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Authority supports the development and establishment of partnering agreements and associated contracts between PDNPA and Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water (Water Company partners) for the delivery of AMP 8 habitat restoration aspirations (capital works) and associated research and communications outcomes up to a maximum value of £25 million between 2025-2030. Approval of the terms of the funding from the Water Company partners is delegated to the Head of Assets and Enterprise in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Finance Manager / Chief Finance Officer (or such other person appointed under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972).**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Authority Solicitor to enter into and determine the terms and conditions of all legal documentation arising from the implementation of recommendation 1, subject to compliance with the Authority's Standing Orders and in the best interest of the Authority.**
- 3. That the Projects be monitored by the Resources Committee or such other group as may be appointed with this same remit.**

**116/25 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Resources Committee gave an update on the business of the last Resources Committee held on 14 November 2025. The following topics had been discussed at this meeting:

- Introducing charging at 4 toilet sites at 50p per use, payment by card only.
- Reserves – the Finance Manager was given the authority to re-organise the reserves
- Part B Item – United Utilities Contract
- Part B Item – IT Contract

- Part B Item – Finance Report

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

**117/25 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave an update on the business of the last two planning Committees held on 10 October 2025 and 7 November 2025.

- One theme coming out of these planning committees has been the building and barn conversion in the interest of conservation and the conflict with policy in making these into housing.
- There was a major application for a development of 42 affordable houses on the edge of Bakewell which provides an important asset for those needing affordable housing despite there being some concern from the committee on the nature and details of the development.
- It was suggested that there is a difference of emphasis between how some Members view the barns and what is recommended by Officers, each application is dealt with on their individual merit.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the report**

**118/25 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

**1) Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Authority added to point 1 of the report regarding S.245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 which is just one element of the amendments. Representation have been made to government regarding the nuclear report.

**2) Peak District Local Access Forum**

Members were encouraged to look at the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report – Outdoors for All. the link is provided in the report.

**3) Hope Valley Partnership**

No further update to the report.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note these three reports.**

**119/25 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 19 and 20 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

**120/25 CONFIDENTIAL - PROPERTY LEASE**

**121/25 CONFIDENTIAL – CAPITAL SPEND APPROVAL**

The meeting ended at 12.48 pm

## **7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)**

### **1. Purpose**

To up-date Members of key items since the previous Authority meeting.

### **2. Context**

#### *2.1 National issues*

##### *2.1.1 Government news*

The Office of Environmental Protection has announced that it will undertake a review of the government's environmental targets as set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan. We will input into this as required when details are announced.

There is ongoing work within Defra to look at governance reform for protected landscapes. The Countryside and Communities Research Institute at the University of Gloucester has been appointed to undertake a study of potential improvements to the governance of protected landscapes. Their focus is on what can be achieved by 'soft' means (culture, values, behaviors) to create more dynamic, ambitious and inclusive organisations although they will also be making recommendations as to any 'hard' changes (requiring new legislation, regulation or guidance) which may be required. A series of interviews and workshops are currently taking place (the Chair, Deputy Chair and myself have input into these) with recommendations expected in the spring.

We are currently preparing for our annual review meeting with Defra (this will have taken place by the time the Authority meets). This review period covers April 2024 to March 2025. A standard template is provided to each national park which we have to report against. I will share our slide deck with Members when it has been finalised.

There is currently a government consultation on powers that will be given to Mayoral Authorities that will allow them to introduce visitor levies on accommodation in their area in order to raise money from the tourism sector. The consultation is about how such a levy should operate. National Parks England has submitted a response on behalf of the ten English national parks collectively. We have also submitted our own response and we have input into the EMCCA Mayor's response. The key points from our response are:

- Raising revenue from tourism through taxation presents an opportunity to invest money back into protected landscapes and mitigate negative externalities that arise from the tourism industry.
- We oppose the current "pro-growth" framing of revenue use, funds should be ring-fenced for the visitor economy and destination management, especially within protected landscapes.
- We argue for mandatory or clearly defined revenue sharing with protected landscapes, ensuring funds are transparently reinvested into core assets such as footpaths, ranger services, wildlife regeneration, and delivery of national park and national landscape management plans.
- We would prefer allocation of revenue mechanisms that reflect total visitor impact not just overnight stays. In national parks as a whole and the Peak District especially, day visitors present a much larger proportion of visitors and this should be recognised.
- We would support a broad application of the levy to commercially let accommodation with some exemptions and we would favour a simple flat-rate model over a percentage-based approach due to the administrative burden percentage-based models place on businesses and Local Authorities.
- We would support local flexibility (including seasonal variation and different rates by area or accommodation type) but there is a concern of fragmentation across multiple

authorities within a single national park, therefore a coordinated approach through mandatory consultation with NPAs is ideal.

A government Green Paper on access is now at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that this will be published before the end of the year. Health and wellbeing has been flagged as a key priority.

The government is proposing to create new national river walks, one per region. We are supporting an application for the River Derwent in Derbyshire as the East Midland's National River Walk. This walk follows our strategic active travel network, via the Thornhill Trail and Chatsworth. A section outside the National Park (Rowsley to Cromford) forms part of the White Peak Loop. There may be the possibility of extending it northwards to Fairholmes. It is not yet clear when decisions will be made and what level of funding will be available for implementation.

There is currently a consultation on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework which could have significant implications for national parks. The NPE Heads of Planning group are meeting next week to review this and finalise our submission to the consultation.

There is some concern that government commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain may be weakened, potentially with smaller sites being ruled out of inclusion from such a requirement. Given the vast majority of development within the national park is on smaller sites, this could have a significant impact and potentially remove an important way of gaining nature enhancements.

#### *2.1.2 Protected Landscape Partnership (PLP) news*

The PLP brings together national parks, national landscapes, national trails and Natural England. Mary-Ann Ochota has been appointed as the new independent chair. This is a welcome appointment as Mary-Ann has a high profile and strong following as a broadcaster and Chair of Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). As an independent Chair, Mary-Ann should be able to make the case for support and investment across government. The PLP is currently awaiting news of its funding settlement but it is committed to providing ongoing support to projects such as the Landscape Observatory, which is being led by us in the Peak District.

#### *2.1.3 National Parks England (NPE) news*

NPE has appointed a new Executive Director. Debbie Stockwell will join the organisation in March from the Renewable Energy Association (REA). She has a Civil Service and campaigning background. She has extensive environment and climate policy experience, most recently at the Department of Transport as Deputy Director for Low Carbon Fuels and previously at Defra. At Defra, Debbie led the delivery of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, Environment Act targets programme and Green Recovery from COVID-19. Debbie also headed up policy development to establish the Office for Environmental Protection.

New CEOs have now been appointed at Northumberland NPA (David Renwick, from Natural England), Dartmoor NPA (Tom Surrey, from Defra), and The Broad Authority (Sarah Cowley, from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office), with recruitment still live for a new CEO of the Yorkshire Dales NPA.

#### *2.1.4 National Parks Partnership (NPP) news*

NPP has appointed Natalie Harvey as the new Director of Communications and Brand. Natalie comes from working at the Lake District NPA on sensitive and complex communications issues around pollution on Lake Windermere. Natalie will take forward the UK brand proposition work on behalf of all UK national parks.

NPP is still actively working to try and secure a new national clothing provider to replace the Columbia clothing deal that has now expired.

### *3. Regional issues*

#### *3.1 Local Government Reform*

Proposals have been submitted to central government on local government reform that may have an impact on the Peak District National Park Authority. In Derbyshire there are two submissions, one for a single combined authority for the whole county and one for two combined authorities with a north/south split. In both proposals the parts of the national park in Derbyshire would be within one combined authority. The situation is more complex in Staffordshire with a wider variety of proposals submitted but again, the parts of the national park within Staffordshire should end up being entirely within a single combined authority. In Cheshire there is a single proposal supported by all local authorities for a single combined authority. The government are currently consulting on these proposals. The consultation will inform an assessment of the merits of the proposals. Proposals will be considered by government alongside consultation responses, further representations, and any other relevant information, before Ministers reach a judgement on which proposals, if any, to implement.

#### *3.2 MP engagement*

Nothing significant to note in this report.

#### *3.3 EMCCA engagement*

We have submitted a response to the Mayor's consultation on the Local Transport Plan.

We have taken part in various engagement events on proposals for a visitor levy.

We have met with the new CEO of EMCCA and senior officers to build relations and explain the priorities, workings and purposes of the National Park Authority. The importance of working together on the visitor economy and managing visitor pressure was emphasised. It is important to create the right level of engagement with EMCCA, particularly in relation to the National Park Management Plan (NPMP). When our NPMP was created EMCCA did not exist yet they are now clearly important partners in the delivery of the NPMP objectives.

#### *3.4 Community engagement*

The next CEO Roadshow will be in Peak Forest on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

#### *3.5 Moorland engagement*

Our work continues to bring together different perspectives on moorland management. There was a very successful gathering this month on the Roaches, hosted by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT). A range of partners from environmental organisations, water companies, Natural England, and shooting estates gathered to see how SWT is managing an area of moorland that is highly accessible and heavily visited. Re-wetting and vegetation management was discussed and we saw first-hand the impact of and recovery from a major wildfire that took place in 2018. Discussions not only covered techniques for restoration work itself but also the importance of visitor engagement and the opportunities to use drone technology and remote sensors to try and limit the impacts of wildfires.

#### *3.6 Internal issues*

##### *3.6.1 Funding news*

News of our potential settlement for next year has been included in the Part B budget items for this meeting as it has not yet been confirmed officially by Defra. We do know that we can expect a one year confirmed settlement for 2026-27 and a further two years given indicatively at this stage. It is understood there is likely to be some additional capital funding for the year ahead as well as a revenue grant. The context for government funding is challenging, as we all know. It is because of the ongoing challenge and long-term trend of declining real term funding that we made difficult decisions at the end of last year to reduce the Authority's cost base (staffing levels). We are currently working through the final stages of that restructure which we hope will put the Authority in a stable position. Such stability, while positive, has

been achieved through the loss of important and impactful work in certain areas, which is highly regretted by all involved. I would like to recognise how difficult this has been for everyone and pay tribute to the professionalism and commitment of all our colleagues that have been affected.

Aside from the core grant settlement we have also been given indicative news that there will be further funding for access work and for active travel work.

If it is confirmed that we have additional funding for access and active travel, the following areas will be our priority:

- Potential extension of the Monsal Trail west and east
- Connectivity to Sheffield
- Connectivity for Bakewell
- Further development of Quiet Lanes
- The creation and enhancement of more Miles without Stiles accessible routes
- The development of accessible facilities at key locations to allow greater access to nature and improvements in online information
- Increasing the number of people participating in health and wellbeing or volunteering activities, including more inclusive cycles and fast charging for e-bikes

It has also been confirmed that there will be a three-year extension to the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme. It is expected that the Peak District will have a similar allocation to previous years but there is an additional £10m to be allocated across all protected landscapes for the creation or enhancements of nature rich habitats. We will be looking at how we can access some of this additional funding.

Moors for the Future Partnership continues to explore new ways of funding moorland restoration as the Partnership is set to deliver its largest annual programme of work for the year ahead.

The Authority is seeking to increase income generation from earned activities, primarily to try and offset the long-term decline in core government funding, and much of the additional capital funding this year has been focused on that. There are a number of positive developments in this regard including new camping pods at one of the campsites we own and the enhancement of a number of carparking sites. The Visitor Centre and Cycle Hire transformation programme is also progressing well with initiatives that have been designed to reduce costs and bring in greater income from our National Park Centres (formally referred to as our Visitor and Cycle Hire Centres).

### *3.6.2 Governance*

#### *3.6.2.1 Member changes*

Andrew Hart's replacement as the Member for Staffordshire Moorlands is to be confirmed.

#### *3.6.2.2 Boardroom Apprentice*

The Authority has expressed interest in having another Boardroom Apprentice – we are waiting to hear whether central government will be progressing with the scheme again.

#### *3.6.2.3 Key staff changes*

Members will be aware that at the end of March we will be losing Sue Fletcher and Hannah Turner as Heads of Service. Recruitment is currently underway for a new Head of Assets and Enterprise to replace Hannah. With the loss of Hannah it is also important we now fill a long-term vacancy in Rural Surveying.

### *3.6.3 Corporate Risk update Quarter 3 movements*

We give a full report at the beginning, middle and end of each year as part of our performance reporting cycle. This report presents any movements to our risk environment in the interim. Details of movements are as follows:

**Reduced risk: National scale new infrastructure Impact - CO2 Pipeline**

High Likelihood – Medium Impact (**Amber risk rating**)

The Impact rating for this risk has been reduced from High to Medium, resulting in the overall Risk Rating reducing from Red to Amber. This is due to changes in the planned Peak Cluster project. Initially, the project proposed two pipelines which would be established within the Peak District, however the changes have resulted in this being reduced to one pipeline. While the installation of this infrastructure still poses a significant risk to the place of the Peak District National Park, and will require significant mitigating actions to reduce overall impact, the impact of the risk before mitigating action has been significantly reduced due to the reduction in the scale of the project within the National Park area. This risk will continue to be monitored, led by the Head of Planning, and will be reviewed in more detail the turn of year (end Q4).

*3.6.4 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary preparations*

Work continues at multiple levels to recognise and celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since my last update to Members we have now installed our 75<sup>th</sup> logo on all our vehicles. We are also promoting an idea for bellringing on the day of the anniversary across churches in the national park. BBC Country File are due to film content celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> with a view to broadcasting on the Sunday following our actual birthday in April. The new visitor 'tube map' is nearing completion, ready for launching in this year's Welcome Guide. The special report we are commissioning along with the three other national parks celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> this year is also progressing well. Launch of the report remains on track for 15<sup>th</sup> July, subject to Ministerial availability. Mary-Ann Ochota, the new Chair of the PLP, will host the launch event and debate for us in Bakewell. We have also secured Radio 4 Any Questions to come from Bakewell in August as part of recognising our anniversary. The launch of our Achieve Unlocked exhibition is on track for the opening of the Buxton International Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The Aldern House garden party for staff, Members and volunteers remains on track for 22<sup>nd</sup> July, which our Staff Committee will be delivering for us and it is hoped that we can turn the whole of the front lawn at Aldern House into a restored habitat rich meadow as a lasting reminder of the anniversary.

**4. Proposals**

**3.1 None**

**5. Recommendations**

**1. For Members to note the report**

**5. Corporate Implications**

- a. Legal - none
- b. Financial – the report notes potential funding and grant settlement, which is still subject to confirmation. The report notes ongoing work to generate additional income.
- c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan – the report covers some of the work that is helping deliver the NPMP.
- d. Risk Management – a number of financial risks are noted in the report.

- e. Net Zero – no major net zero implications from the report.

**6. Background papers (not previously published)**

None

**7. Appendices**

None

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

Phil Mulligan, CEO, Publication Date

**Responsible Officer, Job Title**

Phil Mulligan, CEO

**8. Authority Plan 2023 – 28: Year 4 Look Forward 2026/27 (Decile 7 & 8)****1. Purpose**

1.1 For Members to review the Year 4 look forward actions for 2026-27.

**2. Context**

2.1 Our Authority Plan sets out how we will deliver to the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park and is structured around our enabling delivery aim to be an inspiring and pioneering organisation.

2.2 The Authority Plan has been reviewed in light of the recent organisational change process and an initial assessment due to the 2026/27 budget reduction. There are no changes to the Enabling delivery aim or the 8 strategic objectives. The delivery actions have been updated to ensure they are fit for purpose and that performance can be clearly monitored via the critical success factors.

**3. Proposals****Look Forward 26-27 (Decile 7 & 8)**

3.1 Authority Plan Programme:

- Of 29 actions in the FY25/26 Authority Plan Programme, 28 actions will continue unchanged, while 1 action has been updated:
  - Action F4 FY25/26: *Support the governance working group to review the governance and decision making arrangements and implement changes;*
  - Updated action F4 FY26/27: *Review of Standing Orders to create a new Authority Constitution.*
- Critical success factors for the ongoing 29 actions have been reviewed and refreshed as required to ensure performance can be monitored via the Authority Plan progress reporting process at end Decile 7 and 8. These updates are outlined in Appendix 1.

**4. Recommendations**

- 1. The Authority Plan Programme for Year 4 2026/27 (Decile 7 & 8) is approved (see Appendix 1).**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Authority to make any necessary amendments to the actions or critical success factors detailed in the Authority Plan Programme Year 4: 2026-27 in Appendix 1 due to arising changes in circumstance.**

**5. Corporate Implications****a. Legal**

Pursuant to sections 5 and 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Authority must deliver to the statutory purposes and statutory duty, respectively, when carrying out its work. Monitoring the Authority's progress against the aims and objectives set out in the Authority Plan will enable appropriate scrutiny and safeguard legal compliance.

The Authority Plan is compliant with the Authority's duties in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion. Specific projects undertaken in pursuance of delivery of the aims and objectives will individually identify and address any adverse equality impacts on a case by case basis for consideration prior to approval.

b. Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report. All expenditure associated with the Authority Plan is allocated through setting the 2026-27 budget and specific approvals outside of this report.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

This outlines Year 4 actions which will deliver to the Authority Plan.

d. Risk Management

Horizon scanning and monitoring of corporate risks enables the Authority to take appropriate action to negate or minimise that risk.

e. Net Zero

This report doesn't directly contribute to meeting net zero. However, actions under Objective H (Climate Change), aim to reduce the Authority's greenhouse gas emissions, so it provides Members with further information on what is being delivered to help achieve net zero for the National Park.

**6. Background papers (not previously published)**

None.

**7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Authority Plan Programme Year 4 - 26/27

**Responsible Officer, Job Title and Publication Date**

Emily Fox, Head of Resources, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

Emmott Baddeley, Data, Strategy & Performance Officer, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
emmott.baddeley@peakdistrict.gov.uk

## Authority Plan Programme Year 4: 2026-27

Enabling delivery Aim: The Authority is inspiring, pioneering and enabling in delivering the National Park vision		
<b>Objective A (Planning):</b> To achieve national performance standards for planning applications by type dealt with in a timely manner <b>Target:</b> Percentage of applications determined in timescales: a) major applications 13 weeks, b) minor applications 8 weeks, and c) other applications 8 weeks		
Action	Critical Success Factor	Responsible Officer
Implement Local Enforcement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement Cases: 80% of new enquiries investigated within 30 days;</li> <li>120/150 breaches resolved following investigation per year.</li> </ul>	Head of Planning & Conservation
Review and adopt updated Local Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PINS advisory visit by April 2026;</li> <li>Draft accepted at July Authority;</li> <li>Reg 19 consultation by Summer 2026 and submit for examination by December 2026.</li> </ul>	Head of Planning & Conservation
Review, reinstate and provide pre-application advice service	Meet expected fee income targets for 2026/27: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre application fees £90k</li> </ul>	Head of Planning & Conservation
<b>Objective B (Access):</b> To achieve timescales and follow processes for the statutory functions under Countryside and Rights of Way Act and Town and Country Planning Act <b>Target:</b> Meet 100% of timescales and processes		
Action	Critical Success Factor	Responsible Officer
Maintain PDNP managed footpaths to national standards	% Rights of way ease of use equals or exceeds national average annually.	Head of Assets & Enterprise

<b>Objective C (People):</b> To have highly engaged, healthy and inclusive staff and volunteers		
<b>Target:</b> Maximum of 9 days per year sickness level per staff member and staff engagement score to be at least 60% (2023 baseline)		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Critical Success Factor</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
Promote Equality, Diversity to make our working environment more inclusive	Meet the requirements of the public sector equality duty. Publish in Performance & Business Plan (June 2026).	Head of Resources
Promote and implement Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Performance reported annually.	Head of Resources
Update, promote and implement our offer on how we invest in people	Embed an action plan that strengthens practices in line with IIP Gold standards.	Head of Resources
Enhance volunteering to deliver objectives	National Park family indicators reported annually at year end: - Total number of volunteering days - Value to PDNPA (£) - Number of days attended by under-represented groups	Head of Resources
<b>Objective D (Financial Resilience):</b> To be financially resilient and provide value for money		
<b>Target:</b> To have a deliverable Medium Term Financial Forecast and achieve value for money in all internal and external audit reports		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Critical Success Factor</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
Review and update the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF)	MTFF projections used to set balanced budgets annually and expenditure profile monitored quarterly.	Head of Resources
Ensure financial processes meet public sector value for money standards/thresholds	Unqualified VFM opinion by the External Auditor annually.	Head of Resources
Set and deliver net income targets	Quarterly budget monitoring at Resources Committee shows on track to achieve annual income targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning fees (ex. pre application): £320k</li> <li>• Car parks: £896k</li> <li>• Toilet income: £174k</li> <li>• Other income generating assets (ex. visitor centres &amp; cycle hire): £780k</li> </ul>	Head of Resources
Develop external funding bids programme	Full cost recovery for all externally funded projects and on track to corporate overhead where possible.	Head of Resources

<b>Objective E (Assets):</b> To have best practice arrangements in place for the Authority's assets		
<b>Target:</b> To implement and maintain the Authority's Asset Management Plan		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Critical Success Factor</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
Visitor Centre and Cycle Hire Review	By March 2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and deliver new revenue opportunities to support a financially sustainable business model in the medium term and beyond end of Business Change Manager post</li> <li>Successfully letting of retail space</li> <li>Grow cycle hire income and provision (Millers Dale or ancillary sites)</li> </ul>	Head of Assets & Enterprise
Asset enhancement projects in this year/decile	Complete by March 2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drystone walls safety work across trails networks</li> <li>Ongoing trails structures and resurfacing work</li> <li>Agricultural buildings repairs on Warslow Estate</li> </ul>	Head of Assets & Enterprise
Review National Park Authority headquarters needs and aspirations	Aldern House Site Feasibility Assessment completed by December 26.	Head of Assets & Enterprise
Manage disposals and acquisitions to respond to estate plans and new opportunities	Meet targets in Asset Management Plan. Report to Programmes & Resources annually.	Head of Assets & Enterprise
Warslow Moors Whole Estate Plan development	New postholder in role to commence April 2026. Plan complete by December 2026.	Head of Assets & Enterprise
North Lees Estate Plan development	Pre-development fund secured by September 2026. Instruction of feasibility by March 2027.	Head of Assets & Enterprise
Progress opportunities for new car parking provision	Progress reported annually to Resources Committee.	Head of Assets & Enterprise

<b>Objective F (Governance):</b> To have best practice governance arrangements in place <b>Target:</b> All internal and external audits relating to governance are rated as providing substantial assurance or equivalent		
Action	Critical Success Factor	Responsible Officer
Review our Code of Corporate Governance and produce Annual Governance Statement	Report to Authority November 2026.	Head of Resources
Training and support Members to fulfil their role and make informed decisions	Report to Authority July 2026: - Member training attendance (100%) - Induction participation (100%) - Members survey results	Head of Resources
Provide efficient and high-quality legal and governance support and guidance across the Authority including in its statutory functions	Report to Authority November 2026: - No judicial review - No maladministration charges - No Ombudsmen complaints upheld	Head of Resources
Review of Standing Orders to create a new Authority Constitution	Progression in line with the work programme of the Governance Review Working Group. Completion of Part 5 (Rules of Procedure) of the proposed new Constitution.	Head of Resources
<b>Objective G (Information and Performance):</b> To have best practice IT access controls, security arrangements, performance and risk arrangements in place <b>Target:</b> IT access controls, security arrangements, performance and risk to be rated at least reasonable assurance in all Audit reports		
Action	Critical Success Factor	Responsible Officer
Provide high quality customer and business support for the public and across the Authority	Carry out customer survey programme. Performance monitored annually.	Head of Resources
Ensure security services and controls are fit for purpose and that all users are compliant with the measures	100% compliance (training/records/breaches). Reported annually.	Head of Resources
Coordinate performance and risk management of the National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan 2023-28 and develop future plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority Plan performance monitored at half year and year end (Decile 7, 8)</li> <li>NPMP monitored annually (May 2026)</li> </ul>	Head of Resources

Whole Organisation Communications Plan (internal to external)	Communications Plan ways of working developed and implemented.	Head of Resources
Appropriately source, store, process and make information accessible	Continue the file digitisation project within agreed timeline and budget.	Head of Resources
<b>Objective H (Climate Change):</b> To reduce the Authority's greenhouse gas emissions <b>Target:</b> Achieve a further 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2017/18 baseline		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Critical Success Factor</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
Implement and keep up to date the Authority's Carbon Management Plan (CMP2)(Report annually)	New carbon reduction projects identified on an annual basis and plan monitored annually.	Head of Assets & Enterprise

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## 9. Communities Aim update for NPMP

### 1. Purpose

To inform Members about the Authority's progress since January 2025 with respect to the Aims and Objectives of the National Park Management Plan in relation to Thriving Communities, and what this means for the future.

### 2. Context

**2.1** The 26 July 2024 Authority meeting agreed the Programmes and Resources themes would continue to align with the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) 2023-28 aims (minute reference 65/22). This paper continues this programme of reporting against the NPMP aims with a focus on Thriving Communities. The NPMP objectives relevant to this Aim are as follows:

**2.2** OBJECTIVE 1: TO LOWER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SIGNIFICANTLY, FOCUSING ON THE LARGEST EMITTERS WITHIN OUR INFLUENCE

**2.3** OBJECTIVE 10: TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BY IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CONNECTION TO SERVICES;

**2.4** OBJECTIVE 11: TO PROMOTE A FLOURISHING ECONOMY IN ACCORD WITH NATURE RECOVERY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION.

**2.5** In pursuing the statutory purposes defined for National Parks in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, (amended by the Environment Act 1995), National Park Authorities have a related duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities in the area.

**2.6** The key tool available to the Authority is the adoption of core policies in its Local Plan which can drive appropriate and sometimes exceptional routes for development based on the local needs and circumstances of the area (accessibility, affordability of housing stock, availability of local employment, and aging demographic profile).

**2.7** Beyond its planning function the Authority must work closely with partner organisations through the National Park Management Plan to bring about a more sustainable living and working environment for local people and businesses.

**2.8** The National Park is home to around 36,000 people. Population has declined by 5.3% since 2011 with the number of young and working age people down by 17.9% and 12% respectively. Business and employment data is difficult to accurately 'cut' to the National Park boundary but the Peak District Economic Development Assessment (2025) suggests there are around 8,000 businesses operating in the National Park. There are 1,368 farm holdings across 107,487 ha of land and the total agricultural labour force is 3,032 including both full, part-time and casual workers. There is a slightly higher proportion of micro-businesses than elsewhere and whilst mining now only accounts for only 360 jobs in the Peak District (2%) the proportion far outweighs the regional (0.2) and national (0.1) picture. Although overall figures are inflated due to the data issue noted it is clear that tourism remains a vital industry to the National Park with around 25% of all employees, significantly higher than regional (8%) and national (9%) averages

### 3. Progress Since January 2025

#### 3.1 Local Plan Review

**3.1.1** Following consultation into the Issues and Options for the Local Plan in autumn 2024 officers developed the evidence base and, along with our member steering group, began the production of our "Preferred Approaches". This culminated in a

further period of consultation in the autumn and winter of 2025. In total 1230 comments were made from 133 responders to the consultation.

- 3.1.2 In response to this and the completion of some significant additional evidence reports, officers are now in the process of writing our final version of the plan for consultation and submission to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of December 2026.

### **3.1.3 Evidence and Key Issues.**

**3.1.3.1 Strategic housing need** – A key study has sought to establish the housing provision that will underpin the new plan applying an alternative method for calculating housing needs. National Planning Policy Guidance currently allows for alternative approaches to take account of National Park purposes and enable a scale of development that is compatible with the statutory protection intended for National Parks. The work takes into account population changes, housing stock, and the affordable housing needs of the area and considers the different scale of pressure that would arise at varying scales of development, i.e. 48 homes per year, and 95 homes per year (applying delivery assumptions based on previous trends). The Peak District's Housing Need (locally derived methodology) 2025-2045 is calculated as 95 dwellings per annum. The Housing Provision (Requirement) is 79 dwellings per annum over the same period. Housing Provision means the number of homes that local plan policies will enable to be delivered. It is neither a target nor a limit. If the Housing Provision is delivered, and in combination with other policy mechanisms that prioritise new permanent homes rather than holiday homes, population in the National Park will increase slightly

**3.1.3.2 Settlement capacity** – In addition to the above method new work has also been completed to take a detailed assessment of the sensitivity and potential capacity of 23 of the largest settlements in the National Park. This confirms the high sensitivity across the whole National Park which limits the scale and extent of development possible, but also differentiates between places of very high sensitivity and others parts of our settlements that may offer potential for development with carefully integrated and well-designed schemes.

**3.1.3.3 Employment site needs** – A review of business site needs has been undertaken and supports the expansion of our policy of safeguarding the most sustainable sites (including the addition of Aldern House as a business hub within Bakewell)

### **3.2 Affordable Housing Delivery**

3.2.1 Building on our commitments in the National Park Management Plan officers and members of both the National Park Authority and Derbyshire Dales District Council have continued to meet and discuss the scope to improve delivery of affordable homes in the National Park. This has led to detailed dialogue on the scope for a pipeline of sites and a closer alignment between the work of the District Council Housing Team and the Local Planning and Development Management functions of the National Park Authority. Two significant schemes were approved during 2025 in Bakewell and Youlgrave which will bring about 50 new homes. Several more sites are being actively considered and developed through a regular programme of meetings giving early guidance on site acceptability, viability issues and the nature of legal agreements which can give both confidence to lenders and secure affordable home in perpetuity to conform with adopted policy aims.

### **3.3 Second homes**

3.3.1 As noted above significant increases in Air BnB use along with other changes to the demographic of the area has impacted on the local population. Changes to use classes relating to short term holiday lets had been mooted by the previous

government but this has not been implemented thus far by the current Labour Government meaning that there remains no ability for planning to control this issue. However, the issues have been flagged by the Local Plan review and progress is being made on a new policy for “Primary Occupation” meaning that any new housing will have to be occupied as the main, permanent residence, allowing some control for new stock.

### **3.4 Economic Development**

**3.4.1 Business Peak District** – The National Park Authority continues to host this group which has seen an increase in membership by local businesses over the last 12 months and positive activity in terms of networking and promotional work.

**3.4.2 Shared Prosperity Fund (DDD/HP/SM)** – The programmes have continued successfully across the Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands Areas with a range of grants being offered to businesses and communities committed to increasing the resilience and efficiency of the business offer to safeguard and increase jobs in the local area and to respond to climate change issues through cleaner and energy efficient operations. Maps are included in the Appendices to highlight the geographic spread of grants that includes many successful applications within the National Park.

**3.5 Sustainable Travel** – Despite a reduction in resources available to the National Park Authority some good progress has been made in relation to Active Travel and connections to our popular network of trails. Officers collaborated closely with partner organisations and the Local Access Forum to develop our high-level Network Plan for the National Park in support of walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding. At the time of writing, we are working with partners to develop the next stage of capability funding to enable scheme development. Officers are seeking to align this work with other partners and strategic bodies such as the Buxton Town Team and EMCCA to influence investment into the area and realise our aims of sustainable access to the Monsal Trail from key rail hubs in Buxton and Matlock, encouraging higher numbers of journeys without the need for private car use.

## **4. Recommendations**

**1. To note the progress report for the National Park Management Plan Thriving Communities Theme.**

## **5. Corporate Implications**

- a. **Legal** - Pursuant to sections 5 and 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Authority must deliver to the statutory purposes and statutory duty, respectively, when carrying out its work. Monitoring the Authority's progress against the aims and objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan will enable appropriate scrutiny and safeguard legal compliance. With regard to affordable housing delivery, the Authority's Legal Team are closely engaged in these discussions and provide advice e.g. with regard to the construction and scope of legal agreements and pursuing appropriate valuations of affordable homes
- b. **Financial** - Authority support to this aim is supported by core budget. Specifically, within the Policy and Communities Team, Development and Enforcement Teams, Cultural Heritage Team and Minerals and Strategic Planning Teams. Until this year the Policy and Communities Team had run a very popular small grant scheme but this has unfortunately had to be cut owing to the ongoing strain on the Authority

budget. The Local Plan process requires the preparation of new evidence and this is provided by a specific Local Plan reserve. During the 2024/25 period this has also been supplemented by a grant of £227,962.50. The grant funding has significantly enhanced and enabled the completion of the evidence base (more details above). Officers also frequently discuss the potential for shared evidence commissions to be prepared with neighbouring planning authorities.

- c. **National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan** - The actions set out in this report directly contribute to the NPMP Aims and our own Authority Plan
- d. **Risk Management** – Key risks exist in the current consultation into the NPPF which could result in some weakening to policy language and clarity of approach in respect to National Parks, and also from the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 in respect to Strategic Planning. NPAs will not be in control of strategic planning (in the form of Mayoral area Strategic Development Strategies) and therefore matters such as the setting of housing figures. Such figures will be heavily dictated by the Government's growth ambitions. Current methodologies seek a shift away from a brownfield/urban ideology towards rural areas with the relaxation of greenbelt and higher figures emerging in rural areas where affordability is particularly acute. Officers understand the NPA's will only be a 'consultee' in the process.
- e. **Net Zero** - Many of the actions in this report support the Authority commitment to net zero.

## 6. Background papers (not previously published)

[Local Plan Review: Peak District National Park](#) (link available to website)

## 7. Appendices

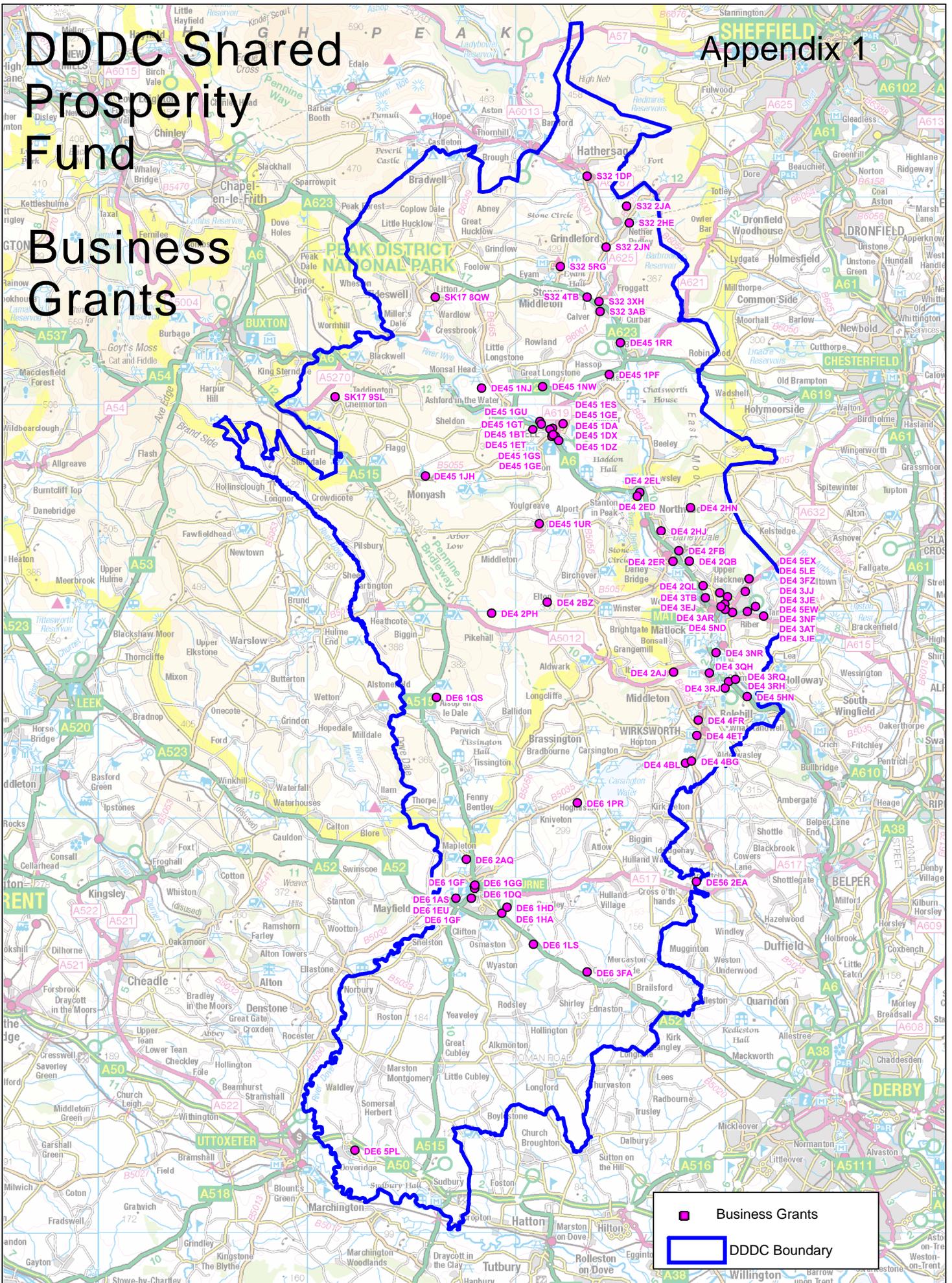
- a. SPF Business Grants
- b. SPF Community Grants

## Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Brian Taylor, Head of Planning, Publication Date

# DDDC Shared Prosperity Fund Business Grants

Appendix 1



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**12.1 OUTSIDE BODY AND CONFERENCE FEEDBACK REPORT**

<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Peak District Local Access Forum</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Member in attendance</b>	<b>Martin Beer</b>
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	<b>Sue Smith</b>
<b>Issues raised at the meeting of significance to the Authority</b>	
1.	Alan Simpson from East Midlands Combined County Authority discussed some of the Mayor's transport plans. You can watch on catch up at <a href="#">Peak District Local Access Forum February 2026</a> , approx. 10 minutes in. In particular he said that the Mayor is interested in any plans that authorities and others might wish to bring forward and encouraged everyone to think 'out of the box'.
2.	The Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling and Horse-riding Infrastructure Plan 2025-2030 has been developed (see link below). This includes the strategic network identified through consultation. The priorities for its delivery have been identified and will be taken forward subject to resources and all necessary consents.  The programme of work has included data monitoring and an economic business case to complement the concept work undertaken to identify and prioritise schemes to deliver and enhance the strategic network. Details were presented to the Active Travel Sub-group in December 2025.
<b>Issues on which the views of Authority Members are sought:</b>	
1.	This is an opportunity for members to put forward ideas for improving transport in the National Park.
2.	To note the work done developing the Active Travel Plan and take it into consideration whenever appropriate.
<b>Relevant documents such as reports and hyperlinks</b>	
1.	<a href="#">Peak District Local Access Forum Wednesday 4 February 2026</a>
2.	<a href="http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/activetravelplan">www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/activetravelplan</a>

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**12.2 OUTSIDE BODY AND CONFERENCE FEEDBACK REPORT**

<b>Name of Body</b>	<b>Peak District National Park Foundation Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2026</b>
<b>Members in attendance</b>	<b>Prof Janet Dugdale and Dr Ruth Swetnam (Foundation trustees)</b>
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	<b>Phil Mulligan</b>
<b>Issues raised at the meeting of significance to the Authority</b>	
1.	The Foundation has received a £100k donation from a private individual to be used for footpath repair in the Dark Peak and litter picking across the Peak District. They are working with the PDNPA and the National Trust to deliver the project
2.	The Foundation will be in receipt of £250,000 for moorland restoration over the next two years from climate action and carbon offsetting platform, Ecologi. This is a new relationship and they are also working with them on funding opportunities for other areas of work.
3.	The Authority will be presenting Landscape Unlocked, an archive exhibition of photographs of the Peak District and its people at the Buxton International Festival in July 2026 as part of the 75th anniversary. This project, and the wider archive project that sits behind it has been funded by The National Archive, the Peak District National Park Foundation and Derby Record Office.
4.	There will be multiple fundraising events throughout the year as part of the 75th anniversary, including Earth Raise on 22-29 April through which the Foundation aims to raise £40,000 to fund a new native tree nursery in the Peak District.
<b>Issues on which the views of Authority Members are sought</b>	
1.	
2.	
<b>Relevant documents such as reports and hyperlinks</b>	
1.	For further information on the Foundation, the link is <a href="https://www.peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk">https://www.peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk</a>
2.	

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**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE EXEMPT, CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.**

**PLEASE GO TO THE PART B AGENDA ITEMS.**

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