

Public Document Pack

Peak District National Park Authority**Tel: 01629 816200**E-mail: customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.ukWeb: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

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

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

Our Ref: A.1142/5172

Date: 17 September 2026

**NOTICE OF MEETING**Meeting: **National Park Authority**Date: **Friday 25 September 2026**Time: **10.00 am**Venue: **Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell**PHILIP MULLIGAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 10 July 2026** (*Pages 5 - 18*)
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

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| 6. | Chair's Briefing | 15 mins |
| 7. | Chief Executive Report (<i>Pages 19 - 26</i>) | 15 mins |

FOR DECISION

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 8. | Biodiversity Net Gain Responsible Body Status (<i>Pages 27 - 50</i>)
Appendix A | 30 mins |
| 9. | National Park Management Plan Aim Climate Change (<i>Pages 51 - 56</i>) | 30 mins |

FOR INFORMATION

10. **Reports from Outside Bodies**

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The Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Authority shall list any unpublished Background Papers necessarily used in the preparation of the Reports.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.

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.

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: Prof J Dugdale
Deputy Chair: V Priestley

N Adams	T Arnold
S Beardmore	M Beer
R Bennett	P Brady
M Buckler	M Chaplin
H Corran	C Farrell
C Greaves	J Garvey
B Hanley	L Hartshorne
I Huddleston	A Martin
A Nash	K Potter
S Redfern	K Rustidge
M Smith	Dr R Swetnam
S Thompson	J Wharmby
F Wilson	Y Witter

Other invited Members: (May speak but not vote)

Constituent Authorities
Secretary of State for the Environment
Natural England

Peak District National Park Authority
Tel: 01629 816200
 E-mail: customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk
 Web: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk
 Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AE



MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 10 July 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Prof J Dugdale

Present: N Adams, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Buckler, M Chaplin, H Corran, C Farrell, C Greaves, B Hanley, L Hartshorne, I Huddleston, A Martin, A Nash, V Priestley, K Rustidge, M Smith, Dr R Swetnam, S Thompson, J Wharmby, Y Witter, T Arnold, S Beardmore, J Garvey and S Redfern

Apologies for absence: K Potter and F Wilson.

56/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

Mr Phil Mulligan CEO, presided over the appointment of the Chair for 2026/27.

One Member, Prof Janet Dugdale had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of the Authority and had provided a written statement, circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. No further expressions were made.

The nomination was proposed and seconded, and as there was only one candidate the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Following the vote, Prof Janet Dugdale was appointed Chair of the Authority and took the Chair.

RESOLVED:

To appoint Prof Janet Dugdale as Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual General Meeting in July 2027.

Prof Janet Dugdale then took the Chair and welcomed the new Members to the Authority.

57/26 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

One Member, Virginia Priestley had expressed an interest in the role of Deputy Chair of the Authority and had provided a written statement, circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. No further expressions were made.

The nomination was proposed and seconded and as there was only one candidate the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

RESOLVED:

To appoint Virginia Priestley as Deputy Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual General Meeting in July 2027.

58/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 22 May 2026 were approved as a correct record.

59/26 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

60/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

61/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

62/26 REPORT OF THE MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS PANEL (AE)

Membership of the two Standing Committees had been prepared in accordance with the previous Authority decision that Committee sizes be fixed to 15 with half of the Authority Membership appointed to each Committee. According to the proportionality requirements in the Environment Act there should be 8 Local Authority Members on each committee and 7 Members appointed by the Secretary of State (this includes Parish Members).

Recommendation 1 as set out in the report was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To set the size of the Authority's Standing Committees to 15, each with 8 Local Authority Members and 7 Secretary of State Members, and to allocate Local Authority places on Planning Committee in the proportions as set out in Section B (i) of Appendix 1, with an additional place on the Resources Committee to accommodate the Chair of the Authority if required.**

The meeting then considered the report of the Member Appointments Process Panel and considered each of the appointments set out in the recommendations of the report. In most cases the appointments were moved, seconded and approved in accordance with the expressions of interest in the report, any changes to the report are identified below.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee

Virginia Priestley withdrew her interest in the role of Chair of Planning Committee, so as there was only one member, Mike Chaplin who had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of Planning Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Virginia Priestley and Mike Chaplin withdrew their interest in the role of Vice Chair of Planning Committee. Patrick Brady and Bill Hanley had expressed an interest in the role of Vice Chair of Planning Committee and a ballot was carried out. Patrick Brady was appointed as Vice Chair of Planning Committee.

Nick Adams joined the meeting at 10:10am

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Resources Committee

As there was only one Member, Charles Greaves who had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of the Resources Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Andy Nash withdrew his interest in the role of Chair of Resources Committee, so as there was only one Member, Amanda Martin who had expressed an interest in the role of Vice Chair of Resources Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Planning Committee

The appointed Member of Cheshire East Council, Fiona Wilson, had decided not to take up their place on Planning Committee. Two spaces were available on Planning Committee. Three Members, Jim Garvey from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Su Beardmore from Staffordshire County Council and Melandra Smith from Derbyshire County Council had expressed an interest in appointment to Planning Committee. A ballot took place to determine which Member would represent Staffordshire. Jim Garvey was appointed to Planning Committee. A further ballot was then required to determine which of the two remaining Members would be appointed to the vacant Cheshire East place, at which point Su Beardmore withdrew her interest in the role and Melandra Smith was appointed to the remaining place on Planning Committee.

As 7 Secretary of State Members (including Parish Members) had expressed interests in the 7 places available on the Planning Committee, these were proposed and seconded and confirmed by a show of hands

Resources Committee

As 6 Secretary of State Members (this included Parish Members), had expressed interest for the 8 places on the Resources Committee, (including the extra place for the Chair of the Authority), these were proposed and seconded and confirmed by a show of hands.

It was agreed that there will be two holding vacancies for the Secretary of State Members pending the completion of the recruitment process by DEFRA for the national Member and a ballot process for the Parish Member. Interviews for the national Secretary of State role were set for August.

As 8 Local Authority Members had expressed interests in the 8 places available on the Resources Committee, these were proposed and seconded and confirmed by a show of hands.

Local Joint Committee

Patrick Brady requested that his name be removed from appointment to Local Joint Committee. No other Members expressed an interest in this appointment, leaving one Secretary of State vacancy on the panel which was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

The Chair proposed the next block of appointments to further committees, groups and outside bodies would carry without a vote unless there were proposed changes to the Membership. This was proposed, seconded and carried by a show of hands.

Appeals Panel

Andy Nash withdrew his expression of interest to sit on the Appeals Panel leaving a Local Authority vacancy on Appeals Panel which was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee

Jim Garvey expressed his interest in appointment to the Local Authority vacancy on the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee.

The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Due Diligence Panel

Andy Nash was appointed as Member Ken Rustidge appointed as Deputy. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Governance Review Working Group

Hannah Corran withdrew her expression of interest in being appointed to the Governance Review Working Group taking the Group down to 2 Local Authority, and 5 Secretary of State Members which was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Local Plan Review Member Steering Group

The membership of this group was based on appointments made earlier in the meeting, together with places for 6 other Members. Therefore, the vacancies were appointed as follows:

Mike Chaplin - Chair of Planning Committee

Patrick Brady – Vice Chair of Planning Committee

Janet Dugdale – Authority Chair

Martin Beer

Bill Hanley

Andy Nash

Kath Potter

Charlotte Farrell

Virginia Priestley

The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Member Appointments Process Panel

No Members expressed an interest in being added to the panel, or being taken off the panel, which carried 1 Local Authority Member vacancy and 1 Local Authority Reserve. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

These were all agreed by a show of hands. Where there was a deputy or reserve, the Members appointed were asked to let Democratic Support know by 17th July which Member was to be the deputy or reserve.

Campaign for National Parks – Andy Nash and Hannah Corran withdrew their expressions of interest to be on the Campaign for National Parks. No Member requested to be added leaving 3 Members Simon Thompson, Amanda Martin and Ken Rustidge.

East Midlands Council – Bill Hanley (Member)
Europarc – Andy Nash (Member)

Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee – Ken Rustidge (Member)

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Bill Hanley (Member)

Peak District National Park Foundation – 3 Members and 2 Reserves: R Swetnam, K Potter, K Rustidge, J Dugdale, H Corran

National Parks England – Chair of the Authority

National Parks Partnerships LLP – Annual Meeting – Chair of the Authority

Derwent Valley Community Rail Partnership – Ken Rustidge

High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership – Martin Beer (Member) and Bill Hanley (Deputy)

Moors for the Future Partnership Group – Martin Beer, Matt Buckler, Virginia Priestley

Peak District Partnership – Ken Rustidge and Andy Nash

Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership – Su Beardmore and Jim Garvey

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Board & Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group – Professor Janet Dugdale – Member. Hannah Corran and Rachel Bennett to share the Deputy role.

Land Managers Forum – The Land Managers Forum hasn't met for some time with a review of the best way to bring land managers together. The vacancies are to be carried for now.

Peak District Local Access Forum – Martin Beer – Member, Charlotte Farrell - Deputy

Peak District Local Nature Partnership – The group hasn't met for some time pending the One Plan for Nature being produced. Appointees to be maintained for now. Hannah Corran withdrew her expression of interest to be on the Peak District Local Nature Partnership. Rachel Bennett and Matt Buckler to agree who would be Member and Deputy.

Stanage Forum Steering Group – Andy Nash withdrew his expression of interest to be appointed to the Stanage Forum Steering Group. Bill Hanley and Virginia Priestley to be Member and Deputy.

Recommendations 2 – 6 as set out in the report were proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 2. To appoint Mike Chaplin as Chair and Patrick Brady as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2027 and to appoint Charles Greaves as Chair and Amanda Martin as Vice Chair of the Resources Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2027.**
- 3. To appoint the following Members to the Planning Committee and the Resources Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2027:**

Planning Committee

Chair – Mike Chaplin
Vice Chair – Patrick Brady
Theresa Arnold
Martin Beer
Rachel Bennett
Janet Dugdale
Jim Garvey
Bill Hanley
Lee Hartshorne
Ian Huddleston
Andy Nash
Kath Potter
Virginia Priestley
Melandra Smith
Jean Wharmby

Resources Committee

Chair - Charles Greaves
Vice Chair – Amanda Martin
Nick Adams
Su Beardmore
Matt Buckler
Hannah Corran
Janet Dugdale
Charlotte Farrell
Sam Redfern
Ken Rustidge
Ruth Swetnam
Simon Thompson
Fiona Wilson
Yvonne Witter

- 4. To appoint the following until the annual Authority meeting in July 2027:-**
 - a) 5 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members to the Local Joint Committee (Section B (iii));**

Ken Rustidge - LA
Mike Chaplin - LA

Kath Potter - SoS
Martin Beer - SoS

Ian Huddleston - LA
Jean Wharmby - LA
Andy Nash - LA

Virginia Priestley - SoS
(Vacancy - SoS)

b) 5 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members to the Appeals Panel (Section B (iv));

Mike Chaplin - LA
Ian Huddleston - LA
Jean Wharmby - LA
Charlotte Farrell - LA
(Vacancy - LA)

Ruth Swetnam - SoS
Bill Hanley - SoS
Martin Beer - SoS
Patrick Brady - SoS

c) 3 Local Authority Members and 3 Secretary of State Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee (Section B (v));

Ken Rustidge – LA
Andy Nash – LA
Jim Garvey - LA

Amanda Martin - SoS
Yvonne Witter - SoS
Virginia Priestley – SoS

d) 1 Member and 1 Deputy to the Due Diligence Panel (Section C (i));

Andy Nash

Ken Rustidge

e) 8 Members (4 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members) to the Governance Review Working Group (Section C (ii));

Ken Rustidge – LA
Charles Greaves - LA

Simon Thompson – SoS
Amanda Martin - SoS
Janet Dugdale - SoS
Virginia Priestley - SoS
Patrick Brady – SoS

f) The Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee, the Chair of the Authority and 6 other Members to the Local Plan Review Member Steering Group (Section C (iii));

Mike Chaplin
Janet Dugdale
Charlotte Farrell
Bill Hanley
Virginia Priestley

Patrick Brady
Andy Nash
Kath Potter
Martin Beer

g) 4 Members (2 Local Authority Members, 2 Secretary of State Members) and 2 Reserve Members to the Member Appointments Process Panel (Section C (iv)).

Ken Rustidge – LA

Bill Hanley – SoS
Ruth Swetnam – SoS
Yvonne Witter – SoS

5 . To appoint Members to the 18 Outside Bodies set out below until the annual Authority meeting in July 2027.

Campaign for National Parks – Simon Thompson, Amanda Martin and Ken Rustidge

East Midlands Council – Bill Hanley

Europarc – Andy Nash

Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee – Ken Rustidge

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Bill Hanley

Peak District National Park Foundation – Ruth Swetnam, Kath Potter, Ken Rustidge, Janet Dugdale and Hannah Corran

National Parks England – Chair of Authority

National Parks Partnerships LLP – Annual Meeting – Chair of Authority

Derwent Valley Community Rail Partnership – Ken Rustidge

High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership – Martin Beer as Member and Bill Hanley as Deputy

Moors for the Future Partnership Group – Martin Beer, Matt Buckler and Virginia Priestley

Peak District Partnership – Ken Rustidge and Andy Nash

Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership – Su Beardmore and Jim Garvey

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Board & Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group (inc FiPL) – Janet Dugdale as Member, Hannah Corran and Rachel Bennett as co Deputy

Land Managers Forum (under review) – Vacancies to be carried for now

Peak District Local Access Forum – Martin Beer as Member, Charlotte Farrell as Deputy

Peak District Local Nature Partnership – Rachel Bennett and Matt Buckler

Stanage Forum Steering Group – Bill Hanley and Virginia Priestley

RESOLVED:

6). To confirm that all these appointments are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme

63/26 APPROVAL OF THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2026-2045 FOR REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE (AM/BJT)

The Policy & Communities Team Manager presented the report for Members to approve the Local Plan (comprising the Local Plan document and the Policies Map) for public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State and to note the other Submission documents which would also be published subject to consultation. Sufficient authority to be given to the Head of Planning & Conservation to make non-material and/or minor amendments to these documents prior to publication and submission.

Members had discussed the draft Plan at the Member Forum on 22 May 2026. The only changes made between the near final draft and the current draft being presented were minor changes required as a result of habitat regulation assessment. The Regulation 19 consultation would begin on 27 July 2026 or as soon as possible after that date for 8 weeks. Consultation responses would be processed and summarised and the pre-submission checklist submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and Members were asked that delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning & Conservation to take any actions recommended by the Planning Inspectorate ready for submission and during the public examination process. Submission documents would be submitted to the Secretary of State on or before 31 December 2026.

Members discussed the following points:

- Housing and tourist hotspots had been controversial issues. A form of consensus amongst members of the Local Plan Steering Group had been agreed and the Plan was ready for examination. Members had the opportunity to raise any concerns during the consultation period about to commence.
- The professional approach of the Policy & Communities Manager was acknowledged by Members.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Submission Draft Local Plan and Policies Map be approved and published for consultation pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. To note that the Submission Documents will be published alongside the Submission Draft Local Plan and Policies Map for consultation pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

3. That, following the consultation carried out under resolutions 1 and 2 above, and subject to no opinions being expressed during the consultation regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitats Regulations Assessment, the submission to the Secretary of State of the Submission Draft Local Plan, Policies Map and the Submission Documents be approved.

4. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning and Conservation, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make non-material and/or minor amendments to the Submission Draft Local Plan, Policies Map and the Submission Documents, prior to publication for the consultation and prior to submission to the Secretary of State, as necessary.

5. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning and Conservation to take any actions recommended by the Planning Inspectorate, via the pre examination checklist procedure, required to make the Submission Draft Local Plan, Policies Map and the Submission Documents ready for submission to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

6. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning and Conservation to agree any modifications, and/or request the appointed Local Plan Inspector to recommend any modifications, to the Submission Draft Local Plan, Policies Map and Submission Documents during the public examination process as may be necessary to ensure legal compliance and soundness pursuant to Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am and reconvened at 11:25am

64/26 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)

The Chief Executive presented his report to update Members since the previous Authority Meeting. Since the report was published the Core Grant from DEFRA had still not been agreed. On the issue of wildfires a review of resilience and siting of equipment was underway. The Winster roadshow had taken place with a small group of residents who raised concerns about schools, second homes and planning issues.

The Chief Executive had used delegated powers to appoint the new Head of Assets and Enterprise ahead of bringing this for formal approval at a National Park Authority Meeting.

- Joint working to enforce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). The FOG group worked across Derbyshire to bring skills and expertise together on wildfire incidents. A new Fire Engagement group alongside that was being considered. The authorities putting the PSPOs forward didn't have the resources to enforce them. Other organisations across the National Park didn't have enforcement powers. Wildfire seasonal Rangers had been appointed to work on Engagement with the public. Education was important in preventing wildfires, alongside the information signs that were in use.
- Continuation of work on the Action Plan for Nature since a key member of staff left the Authority. The work would be completed.
- DEFRA were looking to increased performance monitoring from National Parks. More standard terms and conditions were being considered across government departments for a more commercial approach, which might be applied to National Parks in relation to their grant spend. This was still being discussed.
- Members could spend time with staff and volunteers out on the moorland areas to better understand the wildfire engagement work which could form part of the next Annual Authority Tour.
- Secretary of State Member Hannah Corran was thanked for attending the Governance meeting in London representing the Peak District National Park and young people.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. For Members to note the report**
- 2. That Members note the appointment of Rob Roddy to the role of Head of Assets and Enterprise pursuant to delegation 7.A-5 (a) and (b) of Standing Orders.**

65/26 MEMBERS ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 2025/2026 (LW)

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the annual return of the Members' attendance for 2025/26 at meetings of the Authority, Standing Committees and Essential Member Training as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

66/26 ANNUAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/2027 (EF/LW)

The Head of Resources presented the report to approve a calendar of meetings up to December 2027. There was a minor amendment to the 2nd October 2026 where the Member Forum date should be 25th September 2026 after the Authority Meeting. The Business Planning Briefing date of 2nd October 2026 was correct.

Member discussed the following points –

- That meeting dates up to the end of 2027 were useful for planning ahead if they didn't get changed. There were times when it was necessary to have extraordinary Authority meetings or additional essential Member training.
- Meeting dates to be added to calendars if possible. This maybe a system issue.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the remainder of 2026 and 2027 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report subject to the amendment of the Members' Forum date from 2nd October 2026 to 25th September 2026.**

67/26 INTERNAL AUDIT-BLOCK 3 2025/26 (LB)

The Finance Manager presented the report of the Internal Auditors recommendations for Block 3 of the 2025/26 audit to agree the actions for consideration. The header on the report should read Internal Audit Report Block 3 2025/26 rather than Block 2.

Members discussed the following points:

- Rent review was raised on last years internal audit and was a concern that it hadn't been completed. This work was nearing completion.
- Maintenance monitoring of Authority owned buildings. Dispersal of some assets had been affected by team capacity, but are being progressed. The Rural Estates Manager was now in post.

- Controls were not being followed. This was a capacity issue which affected priorities. The recommendations in the internal audit report would be implemented and compliance with follow up actions would be achieved.

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

4.1 That the Internal Audit reports for the two areas covered under Block 3 for 2025/26 Rent Reviews, Leases and Concessions and Car Parking Income (in appendices 1 and 2 respectively) be received and the proposed actions agreed.

68/26 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26 (SB)

The Internal Audit manager from Veritau presented the report for Members to note the Internal Auditor's opinion on the Authority's framework of governance and risk management.

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

RESOLVED:

4.1 To consider and note the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2025/26 from the Internal Auditors at Appendix 1.

69/26 FINANCIAL OUTTURN AND RESERVE APPROPRIATION 2025/26 (SB)

The Finance Manager presented the report to inform Members of the outturn position of the Authority for the 2025/26 financial year and to seek approval for appropriations to and from reserves.

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

RESOLVED:

4.1 Consider and note the draft Revenue and Capital Outturn position and reserve movements (Appendices A, B and C).

70/26 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The former Chair of Planning Committee, now Deputy Chair, gave a verbal update on the recent work of the Planning Committee.

The six Planning Appeal decisions reported at the 12 June 2026 Planning Committee had all been dismissed.

71/26 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Chair of Resources Committee gave a verbal update on the recent work of the Resources Committee.

72/26 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

18.1 Outside Body Report: Local Access Forum

There was nothing to add to the report already circulated.

Sue Smith, Access and Rights of Way Officer, and Derbyshire County Council were thanked for their work on Access rights across the National Park.

Members discussed the following points:

- There was a backlog at DCC of footpath repair work and are having to prioritise other work. The maintenance of footpaths was down to the landowner and the County Council did communicate with landowners on these matters.
- The Peak District Local Access Forum had written to the Derbyshire County Council Rights of Way team who responded that they dealt with footpath issues on a priority basis.

18.2 Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee (DAAC)

A proposal to note both the Local Access Forum Report and the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee Report was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

To note both these reports.

73/26 SERVICES SHOWCASE PRESENTATION (PM)

The Chief Executive gave a presentation to showcase what had been achieved over the year, highlighting the following:

- 75 years of the Peak District National Park
- 2311 Staff and Volunteers
- 1235 Planning Applications received, 91% decided within target
- Enforcement cases down
- Visitor Engagement
- 270 applications for work to protected trees
- Parish Liaison
- Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme with 457 projects funded
- Moor for the Future (MFFP) Nature Recovery work
- 'After the Smoke Clears' short film produced by MFFP
- Archaeology Research Framework
- Landscape Connections
- People of the Peak
- Landscapes Unlocked
- Training Academy, 55 new starters, also some redundancies
- 10 Ranger Areas with volunteers out every day and Welcome volunteer role created
- Public Toilets refurbished and charging introduced
- Income generation from car parks through Pay and Display and parking permits
- Active Travel Capability
- National Park Centres
- Camping pods at Fieldhead campsite

- Education programme
- Cycle Hire Hubs
- Engagement with other organisations
- Castleton Area Management
- Raising the profile of the PD National Park
- 75th merchandising, promotion and logos
- Access to Nature for All
- Communications – website, social media and filming enquiries
- Peak District National Park Foundation
- Landscape Observatory

The Chair thanked the CEO, staff, communities and volunteers for everything that had been delivered over the last 12 months.

12:29 Y Witter left the meeting

74/26 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 21 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).

The draft motion as set out above was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

75/26 PART B - EXEMPT MINUTES FROM 22 MAY 2026

The Exempt minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 22 May 2026 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 12.45 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

Dame Angela Eagle is now the Secretary of State for Defra.

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter is the Defra Minister with responsibility for protected landscapes. Minister Riddell-Carpenter chose the Peak District National Park as the first national park she visited in her new role. We hosted this visit and showed the Minister moorland restoration and science monitoring undertaken on Snake Summit by Moors for the Future Partnership, access improvements and volunteering at Brunt's Barn, nature enhancements and farm diversification funded by Farming in Protected Landscapes at Bubnell Cliff farm and the work of the Landscape Observatory.

Defra has just launched a new funding scheme for Farmer Collaboration, that we are planning to apply for.

Defra has responded to the recent drought with the following measures:

- More flexibility in environmental schemes, so farmers affected by drought can continue to receive payments and take practical steps to protect livestock, crops and land.
- An extra £50 million for the Sustainable Farming Incentive 2026.
- Action to make it easier to build reservoirs, including reducing barriers and updating planning guidance.
- Up to £15 million for on-farm reservoirs.
- Improved access to water during drought conditions, including Environment Agency support and simpler water access arrangements.

A revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been issued. The most relevant points for national parks include:

- Changes to fast-track quality homes in well-connected areas (close to stations), making better use of underdeveloped land around stations - there will be a default 'yes' for homes within reasonable walking distance of well-connected stations, alongside new minimum expectations for how much housing should be built in these areas.
- Making it easier for farmers and rural businesses to deliver reservoirs, greenhouses, polytunnels and farm shops.
- Providing clearer national policies for both plan-making and decision-making, reducing reliance on subjective judgement and limiting duplication between local and national policy. It means that conflicting local policies will carry less weight where they are inconsistent with national decision-making policies.
- Stronger in-principle support for development, meaning a more explicit presumption in favour of development in sustainable locations, including development within settlements.
- Streamlining decision-making by aiming to make planning decisions faster and more proportionate.
- Stronger support for growth and infrastructure.

There is a new initiative from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) putting young people's voices at the heart of climate and nature policy. They are looking to establish a panel of passionate young people from across the UK who want to help shape the future of climate and nature policy, share their views, and inspire wider action. The panel will bring together young people aged 16 to 25 from across the UK, representing a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives to:

- provide insight and advice to government on climate and nature policies
- support better engagement with young people
- strengthen collaboration between different generations on climate and nature issues
- help amplify youth voices and action across the UK

2.1.2 Protected Landscape Partnership (PLP) news

No update

2.1.3 National Parks England (NPE) news

No update

2.1.4 National Parks Partnership (NPP) news

NPP will be holding its annual Big Ideas Forum (9-10 Nov). Key areas of focus will be brand (with a proposed MOU on brand and reputation), Big Bounce Back (proposed fundraising campaign), corporate volunteering (how to have a consistent offer across NPAs) and NPUK's three-year comms plan.

NPP is still in the process of appointing a new development manager to lead on income generation with a view to growing beyond corporate partnerships and green finance into philanthropy.

A proposed new clothing deal is still being developed. PDNPA is supportive of the proposed sponsorship deal subject to necessary approvals.

2.2 Natural England news

Neil Hornby is starting as CEO on 1 October, he will be replacing Marion Spain.

Our local nature team joined together with regional NE staff to hold a strategic meeting covering local issues. This was important as there have been staff changes on both sides. These meetings will now take place every six months.

2.3 Local Government Reorganisation

A decision had been taken to progress with local government reorganisation in Derbyshire with the creation of two unitary Authorities covering north and south of the county. This would involve the disestablishment of borough and district councils. Plans had been underway for setting out the orders for such a change and laying them before Parliament, however it has just been announced that the government are putting this reorganisation of local government on hold, pending a review.

2.4 MP engagement

Nothing significant to note in this report.

2.5 EMCCA engagement

Our regional mayor Clare Ward has just been appointed as the Chair of the national umbrella group of mayors.

The government has confirmed some details for the proposed Overnight Visitor Levy. The levy will be a percentage of the cost of the accommodation rather than a flat fee. It is yet to be confirmed whether the regional mayor will exempt any types of accommodation. We also don't know the percentage to be charged but all Labour mayors have committed to capping any charge at 5%. We are now seeking engagement with the mayor over how funds should be distributed and what initiatives they could support that help deliver the national park management plan.

2.6 Engagement

By the time of the Authority meeting there will have been a CEO Roadshow for parishes. This is an innovation, to hold an online CEO Roadshow aimed not at a particular village but for all parishes to attend. There is also a Bakewell CEO Roadshow coming up on 22 October at the Town Hall

I have been attending a number of engagement events including a new initiative out of our Castleton National Park Centre. We are working with Moors for the Future Partnership to hold an engagement event for the public based on moorland restoration which will involve talks and presentations followed by a Ranger lead walk to discuss management issues on site. This is part of our programme of animating the new space at the National Park Centre before a new retail tenant is secured. We also used the space to hold a public screening of the Peoples Emergency Briefing film which was well attended and prompted an inspiring discussion about action that people could take to help address the climate crisis.

By the time of the Authority meeting, I will have attended our annual volunteer engagement day, which we are holding at Chatsworth House this year. I was also at Chatsworth for the Country Fair where we were given a stall in the Chatsworth Village to engage the public around volunteering opportunities in the national park.

Other recent engagement activities included participating in the Hope Valley Climate Action Mini Switzerland launch event in Edale and attending the 90th birthday celebration for Hathersage Lido.

By the time of the Authority meeting I will have attended, along with the Chair and Deputy, the biannual National Parks UK conference, which is being held in the Cairngorms National Park.

2.7 NGO engagement

This summer we hosted the annual retreat of English NPA CEOs and CEOs/leaders from major landholding environmental NGOs. This year the retreat included National Parks England, the Campaign for National Parks and Natural England. The purpose of the retreat is to build understanding and better working relationships and identify issues that would benefit from a joint response. The intention is to now produce a joint vision between English national parks and major environmental NGOs. As part of the retreat, we visited Haddon Hall to hear about estate-wide rewilding and how a significant landowner in the national park is taking initiative and delivering nature enhancements.

To compliment the gathering of national NGO leaders, I organised a retreat for local environmental NGOs and Natural England, following a similar event two years ago. There have been significant personnel changes at the Authority in the area of nature recovery and with a number of partner organisations. The retreat was an excellent opportunity to build relationships and identify joint priorities.

I recently attended the Wild Summit in Bristol, which is an annual event organised by Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) as a way of bringing practitioners, activists, academics and policy makers together. The event was attended by Minister Riddell-Carpenter and included a key note address by Zack Polanski.

The Campaign for National Parks has launched its annual National Parks Protectors Awards, for which there will be a parliamentary reception in the autumn.

2.8 Wildfires

We have experienced one of the worst summers on record for wildfires in the national park. Our staff were exceptionally busy in fighting fires, undertaking closers of Access Land and ongoing engagement work. We have had a very effective Wildfire Engagement Ranger post this year, funded in part by the British Mountaineering Council, and both Wildfire Engagement casuals working on weekend evenings and a team of wildfire volunteers. Our staff have put in an exceptional effort, working for days on end on the frontline of helping fight fires. This has put both a strain on them and on our equipment. We now need to urgently review our equipment provision and undertake repairs and new procurement. We also need more people trained to use and move some of our specialist kit as this proved vital in assisting the Fire and Rescue Service.

We are undertaking a number of 'end of season' reviews and participating in the reviews being carried out by other organisations. We are also calling on partners (local authority and police) to undertake an enforcement 'blitz' around the existing Public Space Protection Orders that ban fires, BBQs, naked flames etc. There is support for this approach as a way of highlighting the existence of PSPOs and publicising a number of prosecution cases to act as a deterrent. Given where we are in the year, this is something we will plan to deliver at the start of next wildfire season.

We are also 'rebooting' of the Fire Operations Group (FOG) with a clear focus on operational responses to fire. In recent years the remit and membership of the group had expanded to include a wider range of issues. We will take these other issues forward with the creation of a Prevention of Wildfire Group (POW) to focus on communications and engagement, and by using our existing moorland managers group to focus on land management for wildfire prevention.

We saw a positive response from government over wildfires this summer with a package of measures that included:

- A temporary ban on disposable BBQs
- Emergency funding for fire and rescue services facing the greatest operational pressures
- A national wildfire summit to strengthen future preparedness and consider additional capabilities

At a national level there is an emerging National Parks UK position statement on wildfires and there will be a workshop on wildfires at the National Parks UK conference in the Cairngorms. NPE is also working with the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for national parks on trying to make the ban on disposable BBQs permanent.

I have also just been informed that representatives from our Ranger Service and our Wildfire Engagement Officer have been invited to a 'thank you' reception with the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, in recognition of all the work undertaken this year on wildfires.

2.9 Internal issues

2.9.1 Funding news

Our Defra grant agreement has now been signed and funds transferred.

We are working through our capital programme to take advantage of additional one-off capital grants from Defra. We still have a number of potential capital acquisitions to explore with the aim of trying to increase future revenue streams.

The Landscape Observatory (LO) team is now fully complete and working from Aldern House. Discussions are ongoing to try and secure longer-term funding for the LO as currently funding is only being made available on an annual basis.

Our Morridge Hill Country Landscape Recovery bid has been submitted and we are undertaking validation work with Defra. It is not yet clear when we will know the outcome of the bid but it is not expected until towards the end of 2027. It is hoped that Defra will maintain funding for core project staff during this time.

We have now submitted our funding proposal to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for our North Lees Estate. The funding is for an initial project development phase. We expect to hear in the next few months.

Our NLHF funded Landscape Connections project pre-development phase continues with progress reporting to NLHF being received positively.

The National Lottery Community Fund has launched a call for evidence which we will be contributing to via an NPE response.

The Peak District National Park Foundation is undergoing some staffing changes and plans are in place to ensure continuity of delivery and the opportunity for further development. The Foundation continues to deliver excellent projects and continues to grow in turnover.

We delivered our partnership with Skoda over the summer which provided funding for us to provide a week of free cycle hire to families at the start of the holidays. The week of cycle hire at Parsley Hay was fully booked out with over 700 people experiencing cycling on the Tissington and High Peak Trails for free. The partnership provoked significant media coverage and allowed us to promote our cycle hire services and make the case for more sustainable government funding for national parks. There was a small vocal opposition to the partnership, some of which was based on the misunderstanding that we had officially changed the name of the national park and that we had erected permanent new signage when there were in fact only six signs installed for a total of seven days. Social media posts also revealed significant support for this short creative campaign to raise awareness and generate unrestricted funds.

Carpark income remains positive thanks to carparking enhancements and better enforcement. We are still actively talking to partners about the potential to create further carparking capacity in hotspots or the potential transfer of car park ownership to help deliver the national park's management plan objectives. Income from charging for toilets is lower than expected in some locations but still represents an important new unrestricted income stream that has not provoked much adverse reaction.

I recently visited Tarmac and Buxton Lime to showcase the work we are achieving through their funding of our Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV). Not only does the partnership help fund our PPCV staff, it also provides PPCV with significant corporate volunteering opportunities, which all the staff at Tarmac and Buxton Lime greatly value.

2.9.2 Governance

We are awaiting the findings of the report by the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) at the University of Gloucestershire (CCRI), which Defra commissioned into soft governance (culture, behaviour and values). There is likely to be an overlap between this set of recommendations and those in the Campaign for National Parks recent report into governance. We expect NPE to lead on identifying priorities and clusters of actions across both reports.

Opportunities for changes to 'hard governance' (size and composition of boards) may be possible if there are going to have to be legislative changes associated with Local Government Reorganisation, should the current pause on this process be lifted. The Chair will be working with Members on a position the Authority takes on this, however, at the time of writing, it has just been announced that the government are putting LGR on hold, subject to a review.

There has been no change in our Members since the last Authority meeting. At the time of writing we do not yet know the outcome of the recent recruitment process for a new Secretary of State Member.

2.9.3 Staffing

Significant staff appointments since the last Authority meeting include:

- Katie Thomas as Strategy and Performance Manager. Katie will be leading the development of our next National Park Management Plan.
- Hayden Bridgeman as Ranger Team Manager.

2.9.4 75th anniversary update

The launch of our joint 75th anniversary report with the Lake District, Dartmoor and Eryri was a great success at Aldern House on 15th July. The event attracted national attendance and coverage, with the now departed Minister for national parks, Mary Creagh, giving a rousing keynote address. The event was an opportunity for National Parks England to set out a short vision document on the future of national parks.

Our talks at the Buxton International Festival were sold out and the small exhibition, Landscapes Unlocked, attracted a significant audience throughout the festival period. A larger version of the exhibition is now installed in our Bakewell National Park Centre and it will be there for the rest of the year.

The staff, volunteers and Member garden party for the anniversary was blessed with good weather and over 200 people attended to connect (and reconnect in the case of some long serving retired members of staff) and celebrate. Our programme of celebrations this year ended with the official launch of Norther Rail's 'Peak District 75' train from Manchester Piccadilly and the live broadcast of BBC Radio 4's Any Questions? which went out from a packed Medway Centre in Bakewell.

3. Proposals

3.1 None

4. Recommendations

1. For Members to note the report
2. That Members note the appointment of Rob Roddy to the role of Head of Assets and Enterprise pursuant to delegation 7.A-5 (a) and (b) of Standing Orders.

5. Corporate Implications

- a. Legal - none
- b. Financial – the report gives updates on recent funding developments.
- c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan – the report covers some of the work that is helping deliver the NPMP.
- d. Risk Management – there is a risk around the delay in getting our Defra grant agreement signed off and some risks stemming from the new terms and conditions we are likely to have to accept.
- 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, 11 September 2026

Responsible Officer, Job Title

Phil Mulligan, CEO

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8. MEASURES TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (GL/AE/BJT)

1. Purpose

To seek approval for the Authority to apply to DEFRA to become a Responsible Body and offer a service to support landowners to register land as Biodiversity Gain Sites (BGS) and sell Biodiversity Units (BU) to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

2. Context

2.1 BNG is an approach to development and/or land management which aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

2.2 Under S.98 of the Environment Act 2021, most development is required to deliver at least 10% mandatory BNG. Delivery of BNG is subject to a hierarchy which sets out an order of priority for where BNG should be delivered. There are three ways in which a developer can achieve BNG. These are not mutually exclusive, and all three approaches can be used simultaneously to deliver the required gain:

a) developers can enhance and/or restore habitat on site;

b) developers can make gains off-site on other land within their control, or they can purchase off-site BUs from third party providers;

c) as a last resort, any remaining gain can be purchased from Central Government in the form of statutory biodiversity credits.

The recommendations in this report would allow the Authority to facilitate the second of these approaches.

2.3 In order to sell BUs, landowners must apply to Natural England to register land as a BGS. BGSs are required to be subject to an enforceable legal agreement that secures the habitat creation and/or enhancement for at least 30 years; this can either be a S106 Agreement with the local planning authority for the area where the site is located, or a Conservation Covenant with a Responsible Body designated by the Secretary of State, to guarantee delivery of the required gain ([Enter a legal agreement for biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK](#)).

2.4 To support landowners to sell BUs, set up BGSs and increase opportunities to deliver BNG within the National Park, it is proposed that the Authority offer a service to secure BGSs, both as the Local Planning Authority, and also as a Responsible Body, by pursuing an application with DEFRA to become a Responsible Body.

2.5 Securing BGSs within the National Park would facilitate nature recovery on private land and across the National Park landscape. It would also facilitate the local BNG marketplace, enabling developers to purchase BUs from BGSs within the National Park that have been created locally, rather than from outside. The BNG metric (used to calculate how much Biodiversity Gain is required) includes a “spatial risk multiplier”, which increases the cost of units purchased outside the local planning authority boundary, designed as an incentive to deliver BNG benefits locally. Where landowners choose to pursue registration of their land within the National Park through a Responsible Body located outside, the Authority may have no opportunity to influence the agreement. There has already been one such example in the Peak District, where measures to deliver biodiversity gain appear to have resulted in damage to features of archaeological importance.

2.6 In the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Tests & Trials report conducted by the Authority on behalf of the English National Park Authorities and Defra, the private finance consultants, Finance Earth, recommended that National Park Authorities should become Responsible Bodies for BNG as they could provide:

- Quality assurance - integration of the special qualities and NPMP priorities
- Conservation covenants
- Nature recovery platform

2.7 There are currently 48 designated Responsible Bodies nationally, including 14 Local Planning Authorities and 2 other National Park Authorities (Lake District and South Downs).

2.8 Operating Requirements for BGS Proposals/Agreements

2.8.1 The proposals would involve the Authority entering into a S106 Agreement/Conservation Covenant with the landowner to secure a Biodiversity Gain Site. The offer of an agreement/covenant would be at the Authority's discretion. Once an agreement/covenant is signed the Authority would be committed to reviewing monitoring reports and ensuring delivery of the promised biodiversity gain by the landowner over a 30-year period, for which the landowner would be charged. It is important to recognize that the Authority would not be carrying out the monitoring itself, but would be reviewing monitoring reports to ensure they are satisfactory, thereby limiting the resource implications.

Entering into a S106 Agreement/Conservation Covenant

2.8.2 To proceed with the recommendations in this report would involve the Authority establishing processes with adequate built-in safeguards to ensure that only proposals likely to be delivered successfully, and aligned with National Park purposes, are progressed.

2.8.3 **Appendix A** sets out the information which is considered to be required from applicants to enable the Authority to make an informed decision on whether to facilitate a BGS. This evaluation process would be undertaken in two stages. Stage one would include the Authority undertaking a due diligence exercise to identify any potential issues or conflicts that may arise. If that does not highlight any concerns, then further information would be requested from the applicant to inform Stage 2 of the evaluation process.

2.8.4 The costs incurred through officer time taken to evaluate a BGS proposal would be charged to the applicant. This fee would be calculated on a "price on application" basis and would depend on the amount of officer time taken to carry out the necessary work. The fee will vary depending on the complexity of the proposal, the nature of the site and the amount of work needed to assess the plans. The hourly rates and fees of the officers involved would need to be kept under review to ensure full cost recovery for the Authority.

Reviewing Monitoring and Enforcement

2.8.5 The costs incurred for undertaking the ongoing monitoring work associated with overseeing BNG delivery on BGSs for 30 years after the habitats have been created and enhanced will be incorporated into the agreement (either S106 Agreement or Conservation Covenant) and paid by the BGS provider. The charges made to cover these costs will be based on officer time required to read monitoring

reports and undertake site visits as required over the 30-year monitoring period. The charges will depend on the size of the site and the technical difficulty of the proposal. Smaller sites and those with habitats that are more easily created and maintained will incur lower fees than larger sites and those with complicated habitats which are difficult to deliver and maintain. An annual inflation rate will be added to the costs to account for cost increases over 30 years and they will be revised each year using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Where landowners have a proven track record of delivery, monitoring requirements and associated charges may be reduced.

To manage potential enforcement risks, acceptance of applications will be on a case by case basis and every case will go through a due diligence process.

2.8.6 A further requirement of the Authority would be to enforce the S106 Agreement/Conservation Covenant in the event of breach by the BGS provider. Enforcement of S106 Agreements would take place via the statutory provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which is an established well-known process. Conservation Covenants would be enforced using contractual law principles. The cost of enforcement would be borne by the Authority and, whilst there is a risk that a full costs award would not be granted upon conclusion of any litigation/mediation process, full cost recovery would be sought. It is, therefore, important that the Authority maintain a long-term relationship with the BGS provider to ensure that any issues are identified and resolved as early as possible. Ensuring proper evaluation at the outset, realistic cost recovery throughout and effective dialogue, monitoring and review with the BGS provider will reduce the risk of enforcement being required.

2.9 In addition to supporting other landowners, the Authority may wish to sell Biodiversity Units on land in its ownership, bringing in income to support biodiversity enhancement. Because the Authority cannot enter into the required agreement with itself, becoming a Responsible Body would allow the Authority to enter into a reciprocal arrangement with other Local Planning Authorities or Responsible Bodies, to enable it to register and sell Biodiversity Units on land in its ownership.

3. Proposals

3.1 For the Authority to apply to become a Responsible Body and to offer a service, entering into and administering Section 106 Agreements and Conservation Covenants with landowners, on a full cost-recovery basis, for the purpose of securing Biodiversity Gain Sites within the National Park.

4. Recommendations

1. **That approval be granted for the Authority to apply to become a Responsible Body under S.119 of the Environment Act 2021 and, if successful, offer a service to secure Biodiversity Gain Sites by way of Conservation Covenant;**
2. **That approval be granted for the Authority to offer a service to secure Biodiversity Gain Sites within the National Park as Local Planning Authority by way of S106 Agreement;**
3. **That the Operating Requirements set out in paragraph 2.8 of this report are adopted and approved;**

4. That authority is delegated to the Head of Planning and Conservation and the Authority Solicitor to make amendments to the Operating Requirements (including criteria and information in Appendix A) as required from time to time;
5. That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Conservation and the Monitoring Officer to implement the decisions at recommendations 1 and 2 above in their entirety in accordance with the Operating Requirements at recommendation 3 above (including any subsequent amendments);
6. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to amend Standing Orders to include the above powers and delegations in the Scheme of Delegation.

5. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

Pursuant to Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, developments must deliver an enhancement of a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity and, for off site gains and significant on site gains, this must be legally secured for 30 years.

There is no legal requirement for the Authority to facilitate habitat banks, however, in addition to its statutory purposes in section 5(1) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Authority has a statutory duty under Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to consider what action it can properly take in the exercise of its functions to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

Pursuant to section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Authority has power to charge for discretionary services providing any fees charged constitute cost recovery.

b. Financial

BNG legislation requires that significant biodiversity gain is maintained for a minimum period of 30 years. Any S.106 Agreements or Conservation Covenants would therefore need to be for that period, with a requirement that the Authority monitors and enforces compliance with the agreement for that duration.

Agreements would be on a full cost-recovery basis, including on-costs and overheads for setting up and monitoring agreements. Options for covering enforcement could, at the Authority's discretion, include a bond (a financial guarantee to be retained until satisfactory completion of the agreement).

In addition to basic costs that the Authority would require in order to administer agreements, additional full cost-recovery services could be offered to landowners at the Authority's discretion and subject to resource availability, e.g. carrying out Biodiversity Metric surveys and/or the field monitoring. Such additional services could be at cost, or the Authority could set up a simple Separate Legal Entity if it wished to do the work for profit (this would be subject to separate Authority approval).

c. National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and Authority Plan

Where the Authority enters into S.106 Agreements/Conservation Covenants with landowners, setting up agreements will include quality assurance to ensure that the

proposed biodiversity gain is appropriate and that other National Park special qualities and priorities, such as cultural heritage, are safeguarded. This work will help deliver the Nature Recovery Plan and the following National Park Management Plan Objectives:

- Objective 4: To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes
- Objective 11: To promote a flourishing economy in accord with nature recovery and climate change mitigation

d. Risk Management

The risk of not achieving full cost recovery over the 30-year period of agreements will be mitigated by a combination of detailed initial costings including on-costs and overheads; linking to long-term inflation indices; reviewing best practice; utilising BNG software which includes calculation of monitoring costs; and including review clauses.

Current demand is limited and can be managed in-house.

Currently the Authority has limited capacity and skills for this new area of work so there is a risk around the skills and capacity to deliver. This will be mitigated by utilising savings in the current financial year to buy in support for developing procedures around establishing habitat banks; and for future monitoring by seeking full-cost recovery in any S106 Agreements or Conservation Covenants to fund future support.

e. Net Zero

Whilst there may be some carbon emissions associated with initial habitat creation, most biodiversity gain is likely to result in increased carbon storage and climate resilience longer-term.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

7. Appendices

Appendix A attached.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Gemma Longman, Senior Nature Officer

Responsible Officer, Job Title

Brian Taylor, Head of Planning and Conservation

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Habitat Bank Criteria – Peak District National Park Authority – September 2026 Version

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to set out the information required by the Peak District National Park Authority to enable it to consider entering into a s.106 agreement or a Conservation Covenant with a habitat bank provider. Every habitat bank must have a signed legal agreement with an LPA or responsible body before it can apply to be on the biodiversity gain sites register. Habitat banks must be on the register before they can sell biodiversity units.

DEFINITION OF STAGES

Stage 1: Due diligence - prior to initial meeting or after initial meeting but before further information is submitted for review and subsequent detailed site visits / meetings take place

Stage 2: Further information - detailed information required prior to signing the s.106 or Conservation Covenant when the Habitat Bank becomes 'official'.

Potential Stage 3: Post Legal agreement: Procedures / timetable required regarding LPA monitoring including the notification procedure for the Peak District National Park Authority sale of units that have been agreed at stage 2 need to be enacted and timescales between parties agreed (undertaken on a provider by provider basis)

Other definitions in the document

Habitat Bank Broker: The organisation brokering the unit sales etc on behalf of the landowner

LPA – the Peak District National Park Authority

Habitat Bank Broker/Owner	
Name of Proposed Habitat Bank	
Date of Completion	

Criteria	Criteria	Suggested documents required	Relevant Guidance	Provided
STAGE 1 – Due Diligence				
1	The applicant must have legal control over the land. <u>Ownership</u> Information on form of legal control over the land. Including conditional contract. If the latter, what are the conditions, are you in control and able to satisfy them? <u>Tenant / Leasehold Considerations</u> Details of any leasehold agreement or tenancy agreement or any other contract that enables the habitat bank broker to deliver BNG on this land for a minimum of 30 years. <i>The habitat bank broker or landowner needs to be able to place a charge on the land</i>	Land Registry Title deed and plan of the land boundary from owner Charges register of title and plan Copy of Leasehold Agreement	PENDING:	

2	Have you already registered your Habitat Bank on the National BNG Register and sold units to developers? If so, please provide details including Natural England Register number and planning application numbers	Provision of NE Register Numbers and Planning application references if applicable.		
3	No conflicting consents, licences or permissions for the site including extant restoration plans Are there any other legal barriers or consents / licences or permissions that are required to enter the site and undertake habitat management works over the specified 30-year period? Please provide details of any legal constraints on the land. E.g. (not an exhaustive list): • licences • shooting or mineral working rights • planning permissions • extant restoration plans • felling licences • aerodrome safeguarding considerations • rights of way issues • permit from Natural England on works to SSSIs (the latter only if government guidance confirms this is possible – BNG consultation response signposts to further guidance on this is forthcoming)	Statement of no conflicting consents are known and reasonable checks have been undertaken. Documents submitted if required		

	• conservation area status • listed building(s) • Tree Protection Order(s) • Details of any known protected species LINKED TO CRITERIA 19			
4	Contaminated land Is the site considered to be 'contaminated land' and if it is, details of the contamination to be provided as well as detail on what costed remediation measures are provided to ensure habitats proposed are feasible by a suitably competent person If contaminated land exists, a costed remediation plan will need to be provided in stage 2.	Statement and costed remediation plan if required or, statement confirming not required		
5	Is the landowner prepared to enter into a s.106 agreement or a Conservation Covenant with the Peak District National Park Authority? (based on the Peak District National Park Authority's Habitat Bank template S106/Conservation Covenant) to agree the number/ type of biodiversity units available for developers and the management and maintenance schedule of the land for at least 30 years from the date of transfer/lease of each unit?	Statement of intent. Written consent from owner to broker to act on their behalf and decision on who is a signatory of the s.106 agreement		

	Specify who needs to be a party to the s.106.			
6	Additionality Can you prove Legal, Financial & Ecological Additionality for the BNG proposed at the site? Financial additionally includes: other funds for land management e.g. environmental stewardship, nutrient mitigation etc. Do you intend to sell other ecosystem services units from the land? Outline how you intend to stack and bundle any Nature market credits including Biodiversity units in line with Best Practice Guidance	Written confirmation of proof of additionality principles and compliance with stacking and bundling rules in line with guidance		
7	Location Plan Location of the site provided Note: If a GIS layer / shape file is available then helpful but this is not essential	Map to be provided		
8	The Peak District National Park Authority's Interim Strategic Significance Guidance An assessment of how the proposals fit with the Peak District National Park	Justification text in a report and evidence of the Strategic Significance of habitats proposed in the bank.		

	Authority's current Interim Spatial Risk Guidance Note: Provision of a brief assessment (e.g. a few short paragraphs at most) to ensure the conservation value in the landscape context of the site is being considered rather than unit delivery alone.			
9	Site should deliver the best outcomes for biodiversity in the Peak District National Park In January 2023, The Environment Act 2021 further strengthened section 40 of the NERC Act duty with additional provisions to strengthen and improve the duty on public bodies to go beyond 'have regard' to 'conserve and enhance biodiversity, including mandating a net gain in biodiversity through the planning system. We therefore only wish to act as an enforcement / defacto Responsible Body in relation to legally securing Habitat Banks where evidence has been provided that the Habitat Bank is delivering the best outcome for biodiversity within the Peak District National Park in line with its statutory purposes under the Environment Act 1995. We therefore require the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed habitat design proposed for the habitat bank	Justification text in a report of how plans aim to deliver best outcomes for biodiversity		

	demonstrates with supporting evidence, it has considered the best outcomes for biodiversity through habitat creation and enhancement appropriate to the site conditions and location? The Peak District National Park Authority's BNG team will assess all BNG proposals to ensure Habitat Banks generate the best outcome for biodiversity in the Peak District National Park Context, a paragraph with evidence to justify this is all that is required			
10	Adequate ecological baseline, habitat survey and condition assessments Provision of full baseline and condition assessment survey information (dates, personnel, methods) undertaken using UK Hab and the appropriate habitat condition assessment from the Defra metric 4.0 / the statutory metric (when approved) This must be undertaken in the correct survey season and by a competent ecologist. Limitations on survey methods and other assumptions made regarding proposed habitat creation and enhancement and their implications must be clearly explained.	BNG Report, baseline habitat survey report, with metric excel spreadsheet and completed condition assessment spreadsheets provided		
11	Provision of achievable uplift in biodiversity value	Excel of 4.0 / statutory metric completed and justification text for why		

	A full Defra metric completed for the site / phase of a habitat bank for which units are to be released. N.B. After January 2024 this MUST be using the statutory Metric Habitat creation and enhancement proposals within the Defra metric should be based on a realistic scenario (i.e. it is better to aim for habitats in worse condition that can later be upgraded, than an unachievable higher condition and face subsequent enforcement action). Have appropriate soil tests been undertaken (as per the Peak District National Park Authority's BNG and soil guidance – pending) LINKED to criteria 19	habitats of specific conditions are proposed		
12	Irreplaceable Habitats Confirmation that proposals will not negatively impact irreplaceable habitats or other features or species of existing conservation interest, including: protected and notable species and/or habitat.	A statement in the text and provision of metric 4.0 which flags these in red.		
13	Competence Can the ecological advisors and others involved in the scheme provide proof of their competence in BNG?	We would expect a statement in the text to highlight the competence of all professional persons involved in the delivery of BNG as per Metric 4.0 definition on competency.	Note: More guidance on this is anticipated from Defra.	

	This should include brief paragraph of experience and skills to undertake relevant BNG surveys and provide appropriate habitat management recommendations as well as membership of an appropriate professional membership body that signs up to a code of professional conduct (e.g. CIEEM). Competence should be in line with definitions provided by CIEEM 2021, the British Standard on Biodiversity Net Gain (8683: 2021) and Natural England / Defra Guidance. Metric 4.0 User Guide defines competency as <i>'someone who can demonstrate they have acquired through training, qualifications or experience, or a combination of these, the knowledge and skills enabling that person to perform specified tasks'</i> River Condition Assessment assessors must be trained and accredited in the River Condition Assessment methodology.	This could include professional memberships, training and experience		
Stage 2 – Further information				
14	Sufficient cash flow / funding for 30 years Who is going to be responsible for the habitat management if different from the owner? What are the contingency plans	Discuss on a site by site basis Check Proof of funds which could include 30 year cash		

	should this / your firm fold or go into liquidation within the 30 years to ensure the habitat proposed will continue to be enhanced and maintained as proposed? Provision of proof of funds: including: third party bond, guarantee, Ring fenced fund etc. These must be sufficient to cover 'up-front capital' creation / enhancement works and the subsequent 30 years of management. Funds must be in held for duration of the agreement and held independently for large schemes. An appropriate payment schedule should be in place. All required prior to s.106 sign-off . Options to consider on case-by-case basis for proof of funds include: • Submission of 30 year cash flow model for running and management of site for council assurance only to sense check creation/management costs (using the Peak District National Park Authority's own benchmark calculator) but also from finance perspective in terms of underlying assumptions. • Assurance that separate code had been set up in your accounts i.e.	flow model, assurance of finance codes, and commitment to financial reporting Agree a payment schedule throughout the 30 year period		
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	ring fencing of funding in relation to habitat bank. • Potential to require the need to report on high level progress in line with cash flow model into the monitoring/reporting requirements in S106. • Remediation clause			
15	Method of unit sale from habitat bank If the habitat bank is going to be selling units in the future but starting the habitat management work now or prior to sale and (thereby increasing the units available for sale) the 'habitat creation in advance' function in the metric should be used and a procedure for calculating and auditing this must be agreed between the LPA and Habitat Bank provider. If the habitat bank is to be split into 'phases' for selling at different dates into the future, the LPA and Habitat Bank provider need to agree: 1) When the baseline is calculated from for each phase and; 2) When the 30 years for habitat creation / enhancement starts for any one 'phase'	Case by case basis Statement on method of sale of units and how these will be calculated and sold in the future. Plans provided		

	The above should be provided on a spatial plan as recommended by Defra. Will the broker / owner provide a certificate and Unique Transaction Number for each sale?			
16	Sale of units outside of the Peak District National Park Authority's LPA remit Are you proposing to sell units outside of the Peak District National Park?	Statement of intent		
17	Pay the LPA a monitoring fee for the habitat creation / enhancement for the duration of the Habitat Bank (at least 30 years) Agree to the provision of a Monitoring fee to be paid to the LPA to monitor the establishment phase and on-going habitat maintenance agreement over a 30 year period	Statement of intent to pay the Peak District National Park Authority's monitoring fee Suitable Monitoring Plan for 30 years		
18	Provision of a detailed and costed Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and consider other legal and environmental constraints This must set out the detailed prescriptions required that will be undertaken in both the 'establishment' phase as well as the monitoring phase to achieve the desired habitats.	Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan, Costed management plan Plans showing all habitats proposed for enhancement and creation Dates for commencement of 'establishment' and	DEFRA Guidance PENDING	

	Dates of commencement of BOTH the establishment phase and the monitoring for 30 year phase to be agreed between parties before s.106 is signed. This shall take into account practical environmental constraints and be supported by evidence. Best Practice should be followed. Do the costs in the management plan look sufficient for the suggested quality and quantity of habitat using the Peak District National Park Authority calculator as a benchmark? – N.B. This is a benchmarking process only – <i>we are not looking to interfere with any unit sale costs but only need to be sure that proposals for habitats and predicted condition are adequately funded.</i> Adequate plans showing all habitats proposed for enhancement and creation Ensure all maps are spatially accurate if using the GIS the same software should be used throughout the scheme. GPS should be used where possible to allow appropriate monitoring	‘monitoring’ phases agreed between parties		
19	Consideration of other environmental constraints Prior to approaching the LPA the provider must have undertaken	A check of information is provided, we expect the applicant to submit all information required and to undertake due diligence,		

	<u>appropriate due diligence, surveys and assessments and considered <u>all other environmental constraints to achieving suggested habitat enhancement / creation prior to approaching the LPA with a proposal.</u></u> e.g. (but not an exhaustive list): • soil analysis data for specific habitat types (to be defined in separate guidance – to follow). This may include details of any specific nutrient/ soil stripping and remediation techniques that may be required and evidence that these methods have been adequately costed into the management plan to ensure feasibility. • Are the hydrological conditions suitable for habitats proposed for creation or enhancement (e.g. risk of flooding)? • Are there historic / archaeological / landscape constraints / arboricultural to proposed habitat works? These must have been adequately considered? Please provide evidence that these considerations have been considered appropriately and any mitigation required is proposed employing professional advice where required.	the Peak District National Park Authority will not be liable for any missing information that prevents the habitat proposals being delivered as specified		
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	• Access available for required on-site machinery, movement of and infrastructure for cattle and sufficient storage on-site for machinery or other habitat management aspects (e.g. storage of logs from coppicing or provision of corals for cattle – provide evidence that machinery and cattle can access the site as required)			
20	A monitoring plan Sets out when habitat surveys will take place as part of the 30 year monitoring plan for the Council for review over the 30 year period . Agree date for commencement.	Monitoring Report for review and how frequently LPA will receive reports	DEFRA GUIDANCE PENDING	
21	Permission for the LPA to enter the land for spot checks Permission for spot inspections by LPA staff or a subcontractor to ensure habitat management is being undertaken as promised	Statement of compliance		
22	Agreement on how to deal with a fundamental breach of management prescriptions The ability to enforce a breach if management prescriptions and targets promised are not delivered	Statement of compliance		

23	How does the site meet BNG Best Practice Principles Outline of how the habitat bank meets the 10 key principles of BNG as per CIEEM 2016 1 directly in relation to the habitat bank. Is the Habitat Bank compliant with best practice as outlined in the British Standard BS 8683: 2021 and other subsequent guidance on habitat banks provided by Natural England / Defra that is available at the time of the agreement / survey and report production? Providers should provide brief written justification text to demonstrate how the proposals fit with best practice on BNG. Extent and detail of information required should be linked to size and complexity of habitats provided by the habitat bank. Evidence will need to include but not be limited to: • All habitat parcels must be individually referenced and systematically measured with the same software throughout the lifetime of the project. • Management plans to have SMART targets. • Proportionate monitoring proposals for all Biodiversity Units, methods,	Justification text in a report / statement of compliance		
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	frequency, timing and reporting procedures with procedures for remedial works if needed • Roles and responsibilities and competencies of all those involved in implementing the BNG MMP (including contractors) • Legal, financial, and other resource requirements for delivery of the detailed management plan including the need for any public or statutory or non-statutory consultation if required			
24	Biological Records All Ecological Records from the Habitat Bank must be submitted to # Environmental Records Centre	A statement to confirm this will be undertaken. and submitted to BMERC		

9. CLIMATE CHANGE AIM OVERVIEW 2026/27

1 Purpose

To inform Members about the Authority's progress in responding to climate change since September 2025.

2 Context

- 2.1 At the 9th May 2025 Authority meeting, Members agreed that progress reporting of delivery of the four National Park Management Plan aims, the 'Projects and Programmes' element of the Programmes and Resources Committee Programme, would transfer to Authority (minute reference 54/25). The first report was received at the 26th September 2025 Authority meeting (minute reference 94/25). This paper is the second of those reports on the NPMP Climate Change Aim.

3 Proposals

Policy Context

- 3.1 The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) is drawn from the goals in the 2023 UK Environment Improvement Plan. There are 3 targets that Defra directly associate with climate change.

Target 6

Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.

Target 7

Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.

Target 8

Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

The other PLTOF targets associated with habitats, SSSIs, and farming will have impacts on carbon mitigation, sequestration and climate change adaptation. Members approved the incorporation of these targets into the NPMP at the July 2025 Authority meeting (Minute reference 81/25).

- 3.2 The UK Government's Third National Adaptation Programme (2023-2028) highlights the need to strengthen resilience to climate change across England and introduces a requirement that all National Parks must have in place a Climate Adaptation Plan by 2028. Reflecting this national policy direction and updated Defra guidance, the Authority intends to embed climate adaptation priorities and interventions in the forthcoming review of the National Park Management Plan. This will build upon the recommendations set out in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and work with Natural England around climate smart adaptive management, and on completion will serve as the Authority's Climate Adaption Plan.

Progress since September 2025

- 3.3 Members will be aware of the Authority Plan progress report for 2025-26 that was approved by Members at the May 2026 Authority meeting (Minute reference 40/26). Therefore, already reported progress on the Authority's climate own change aim can be viewed [here](#).
- 3.4 Members will also be aware of the National Park Management Plan 2025-26 progress report that was approved at the May 2026 Authority meeting (Minute reference 41/26). Where the Authority has undertaken climate change activities in partnership can be viewed [here](#). The summary below updates Members on our partnership-based activities in 2026/27.
- 3.5 At the May 2025 Authority meeting, Members agreed to establish and host the Landscape Observatory (LO) funded by Defra, via National Parks England and delivered through the Protected Landscapes Partnership (Minute reference 59/25). At the January 2026 Resources meeting, Members approved funding for the LO of an expenditure of up to £650,000 for 2026/27. The LO continues to develop the evidence base and methodologies to facilitate landscape adaptation to climate change and its interaction with other landscape factors.
- 3.6 PDNPA have started collaborating with the Landscape Observatory, Natural England and the Protected Landscapes Partnership to develop practical tools and approaches to use climate smart adaptive management within Management Planning. This provides the opportunity to pilot new approaches in the review of the Peak District National Park Management Plan.
- 3.7 PDNPA continue to implement the Authority's Carbon Management Plan 2. A full report of our performance over 2025/26 will be shared at a future Authority meeting.
- 3.8 The Peak District National Park Authority adopted a draft version of the Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling and Horse-riding Infrastructure Plan in May 2025. The Plan was developed using funding from Active Travel England and identifies a strategic high-level network for active travel within the National Park. As of March 2026, Active Travel England have provided a further 18 months of funding to allow the development of proposed schemes for active travel infrastructure through to being delivery ready.
- 3.9 As of April 2026, the Moors for the Future Partnership has implemented a sustainable business model for the programme to 2030, including a confirmed capital programme that will increase the pace and scale of peatland restoration. In addition to its ongoing partnership work, MFFP have also started to work collaboratively with National Highways to fund peatland restoration in the habitat corridors adjacent to the A628 and M62. This has been developed on the basis that restored and healthy peatlands result in enhanced ecosystem service outcomes, which can benefit climate resilience for roads infrastructure (flood/fire reduction). The first peatland restoration within this innovative new collaboration was completed in March 2026 on Crowden. This project was the first of its kind nationally and has since been the subject of national level attention, where peatlands and nature have been demonstrated as being Critical National Infrastructure. The MFFP team is now working with National Highways to build further funding into the MFFP programme in tandem with funding from water

company partners from next year. The past year has also seen the successful completion of one Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme project in the MFFP programme, with one further project continuing in delivery up to March 2027 addressing wildfire damage in the Goyt valley, and which also includes significant public engagement activity around fire risk. In the past review period, MFFP has successfully completed a restoration plan for Stalybridge (an area damaged by fire in 2018) through funding from a Water Restoration Fund grant. The peatland restoration works carried out in 2025-26 (2900 gully blocks / 1.6 million sphagnum plug plants planted) resulted in an estimated additional 429 tonnes of carbon emission reduction on top of the cumulative annual total emissions derived each year through the MFFP programme to date.

- 3.10 Authority Farm Advisers and Defra funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) advisers have continued to provide advice and support for farmers and land managers to secure grants for regenerative farming and conservation through Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant Schemes and the Sustainable Farming Incentive. These grants support lower carbon-input methods, as well as greater carbon sequestration, on upland farms. The FiPL programme has now allocated over £8 million for projects which deliver for climate, nature, people and place with £1.7 million spent on projects in the 2025/26 financial year. In the last financial year, FiPL has funded the planting of 6091 individual trees, 5525m hedgerow and the restoration or creation of 301ha wildlife-rich habitat. The outcome of the latter is enhanced carbon sequestration and storage alongside benefits for nature and landscape. FiPL has also been involved in over 1900ha of land where direct interventions have been implemented to improve soil health including soil carbon
- 3.11 The Peak District National Park continues to experience an increase in wildfire frequency and intensity. In 2025, 1,504 hectares of moorland were affected by wildfires, and the impact is expected to be even greater this year. As such, the Authority is working with partners to consolidate lessons learned from recent wildfires. Following an internal staff workshop in early September, the Authority is working collaboratively with partners to develop a more focused and joined-up approach to wildfire planning, prevention, response and recovery.
- 3.12 The UN's Race to Zero campaign for which Members approved the joining of along with all 15 UK National Parks at the September 2023 Programmes and Resources Committee (minute reference 37/23), has evolved into what is now known as the Net Zero Recognition Framework (NZRF). There is a pilot phase being undertaken by the UN as of February 2026. For National Parks, commitments remain the same under the new framework and the Authority will submit a Carbon Disclosure Project report in September 2026, which will produce a score and will be used to measure both the Authority's own and National Park's collective progress compared to last year's submission.

4 Recommendations

- 1. That this progress report in delivering to the National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan climate change aims and targets be noted.**
- 2. That the development work to assist the Authority in meeting net zero, climate change reporting and developing the approach to climate change adaptation for the Authority and National Park be noted.**

5. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

Section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008 imposes a statutory duty on the UK Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. At the CoP 26 Climate Conference in Glasgow in 2021 the UK Government made further commitments to achieve at least a 68% fall of 1990 levels by 2030.

The UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks (2010) places climate change as central to National Park Authority objectives. The UK Government Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023) sets out the requirement for protected landscapes to produce a Climate Adaptation Management Plan to be embedded in or linked with their management plans by 2028. In addition, the UK Government Policy Paper, Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, requires National Park Authorities to incorporate various targets into their management plans with a view to achieving outcomes from the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.

There are no direct implications for equalities in the activities contained within this report. Indirectly, responding to climate change could have a positive impact for everyone, including those most at risk from climate-related effects, by providing a more resilient environment.

b. Financial

There are no immediate budget implications associated with these proposals. The activities in the early years of the Authority Plan 2023-28 and National Park Management Plan 2023-28 have funding and resources identified to deliver them. The resource needs for additional activities will be identified as moving through the delivery period.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

This report outlines progress towards the National Park Management Plan aim on climate change, which is: 'The Peak District National Park is more resilient and net-zero by 2040 through its exemplary response to climate change'. The Authority Plan objective is: 'To reduce the Authority's greenhouse gas emissions'.

d. Risk Management

The main risk to delivery of the climate change aim and objective is the resource challenge of both our partners and the Authority in terms of a flat cash settlement. This risk is mitigated by the focus of the three priorities that the NPMP objectives outlines.

e. Net Zero

Delivering the National Park Management Plan climate change aim and participating in the Carbon Disclosure Project will support progress towards net zero. It will also help the PDNPA to share and learn from best practice.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

7. Appendices

None

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