

**3. NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING GROUP (A 61256/IF)**

**Proposal**

1 A sustainable mechanism is established to monitor the delivery of the National Park Management Plan

**2 RECOMMENDATION:**

**That**

1. a group be established to monitor the delivery of the new National Park Management Plan in accordance with the terms of reference in Annex 1 and the membership structure in Annex 2.
2. the proposal in Annex 3 to achieve better linkage between existing forums and the National Park Management Plan be approved
3. the new group should be publicised at the National Park Management Plan launch in March 2007 and through press coverage in agreement with the Head of Communications.

**Policy/Legal Background**

3 The National Park Authority must produce a Management Plan for the National Park. It must review the plan five yearly. The plan must have clear outcomes that are to be achieved by the NPA and stakeholders. The Government has issued new guidance which advises National Park Authorities how they should monitor the delivery of this plan

4 The guidance says that 'Monitoring should be approached as purposefully as plan preparation and should be undertaken in partnership with bodies that have section 62(2) duty. It should be part of the ongoing, essentially cyclical, relationship between the NPA and its partners and between partners themselves.

'monitoring as a whole is a shared task with ideally, allocation of responsibility to those organisations with the greatest interest in the particular indicators concerned.'

(National Park Management Plan Guidance Countryside Agency October 2005)

**Key Issues**

5 The National Park Authority has undertaken a long and thorough consultation exercise and will shortly publish the new National Park Management Plan. The National Park Authority has received help from high level stakeholders during the production of this plan. Some of these have expressed an interest in greater involvement in management of the National Park.

6 The management plan stresses the importance of partnership working and sustainable development. The National Park Authority has an excellent record in establishing partnerships to deliver for the National Park. Sustainable development requires cross cutting work both in the Authority and beyond. It requires us to focus on national park purposes and duty whilst balancing the needs of society, the economy and the environment. We have a good record of establishing partnerships and forums involving stakeholders in national park management across a range of park management issues.

- 7        However, there is currently no mechanism to ensure monitoring and the ongoing recognition of the NPMP amongst key delivery bodies and the ongoing involvement of key delivery bodies in its implementation. In the past, this has created a situation where the National Park Management Plan has low recognition and buy in both in house and beyond during the plans lifetime. This is in contrast to the Local Strategic Partnerships that monitor and champion Community Strategies, and the detailed monitoring by groups that monitor strategies such as the Biodiversity Action Plan.
  
- 8        Officers have considered a number of models used by other organisations including other National Park Authorities. Officers also consulted members by running a workshop in March 2006, and taking the proposal to the Partnerships Scrutiny Panel, Resource Management Team and Management Team. A proposal and two options were put to members at 8 December National Park Authority meeting (item 7.4)
  
- 9        Members were offered two options. The first was to establish a small group of delivery organisations meeting twice a year and focussing on the extent to which stakeholders have delivered the National Park Management Plan outcomes.
  
- 10       The second was for the National Park Authority to review the way in which a number of stakeholder forums worked and re-focus the work of these forums onto the National Park Management Plan. The main forums are the recreation forum, the land managers' forum, the local access forum, the annual Parishes forum, the annual constituent councils' day
  
- 11       Members were supportive of both options but felt that the two options were not mutually exclusive. Members also stressed that the absence of forums for particular subjects in the National Park Management Plan should not mean that those subjects receive less attention in terms of monitoring. Members also sought re-assurance of the role of any new group and asked that a 'terms of reference' be brought back to them for agreement.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Background**

- 1 8 December National Park Authority meeting (item 7.4)

### **Resources**

- 2 The resources required to carry out the proposal are within proposed budgets for 2007/8. Administrative support will be provided by one day per week average from the policy officer within the Policy, Research and Partnerships team of the Chief Executives unit. The support will be available to this group as well as to existing forums periodically throughout the year. Additional support at National Park Management Plan monitoring group meetings will be provided by democratic services.

### **Risk Management**

- 3 There are strategic risks related to the delivery of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and these will be considered in the detailed action plans. However by agreeing to this proposal the Authority decreases the risk of not implementing the NPMP

### **Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety**

- 4 None

### **Consultees**

- 5 Head of policy, research and partnerships  
Chief Executive  
Management team

### **Enclosures**

- 6 Annex 1: Terms of reference for National Park Management Plan monitoring group  
Annex 2: Membership Structure  
Annex 3: Proposal for integrating National Park Management Plan with existing forums

### **List of Background Papers** (not previously published)

- 7 None

### **Report Author**

- 8 Ian Fullilove: Policy Officer

### **Publication date**

- 9 1 February 2007