ANNEX 2

Environmental Management Systems

1. ISO 14001 and EMAS

ISO 14001, the international standard for environmental management and EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme the European equivalent of ISO14001). Both of these are written standards against which an organisation can be certified by a third party.

The key requirements of ISO 14001 include:

- Developing an environmental policy
- Identification of an organisation's environmental 'aspects', 'impacts' and setting objectives and targets and developing environmental management programmes to achieve these
- Implementation, including specific requirements for training, awareness and competence, organisational communication, document control, as well as operation control 'in the field' and provisions for emergency and preparedness and response
- Checking and corrective action, including a system of monitoring non-conformance
- Regular Management review

Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, EMAS, was updated in 2000 to bring it more into line with ISO 14001. EMAS, however, has an express requirement for independent verification of compliance to the EMAS standard and also requires a public environmental statement.

Any organisation could run an Environmental Management Scheme in line with the ISO 14001 or EMAS standards. However to achieve ISO 14001 or EMAS 'status', independent third party verification of compliance to the relevant standard, specifically by a UKAS accredited body, is required.

Both ISO 14001 and EMAS are fairly complex and focused on documented management procedures. Developing the procedures would involve significant officer time. The cost of external verification is high, for example £3000 for an initial assessment and an annual fee of £2000.

2. Acorn and Green Dragon

Acorn is a 5-step approach to achieving ISO 14001 or a 6-step approach to achieving EMAS. It is targeted at small companies and designed to help spread the significant workload associated with achieving ISO 14001. The costs of external verification remain similar.

The Green Dragon has a similar stepped structure to Acorn but is more practical, flexible and less documentation-focused. There are additional requirements for sustainability, supply chain, and greenhouse gas objective and targets. All Welsh National Parks have achieved stages 3 or 4. External verification is required, with the associated costs.

3. Sustainability Management Systems

The Natural Step & Project Sigma are two sustainability management systems endorsed by Forum for the Future. Project Sigma involves four systematic phases to allow an organisation to develop, plan, deliver and monitoring and report on its sustainability strategy and performance.

The Natural Step involves a more scientific approach, based on "ecosystem thinking", for example, not using materials faster than they are returned to the Earth's crust. The Natural Step is favoured by blue-chip companies such as BP, Sainsburys, Co-operative Bank and Yorkshire Water. The time and cost implications of adopting sustainability management systems are

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unknown, as they have not been tested in Local Authority or National Park context as far as we are aware.

4. Nottingham Declaration framework/toolkit

At the Authority in February 2007, the Authority signed the Nottingham Declaration, pledging to actively tackle climate change in the Peak District and work with others to reduce emissions country-wide. There is a Nottingham Declaration Action framework/toolkit, which is designed to help structure activity to reduce impact on climate change in three key areas:

- The management of our own estate
- Our activities as a service provider
- Our role as a community leader.

The toolkit is free and no external verification is required to meet its requirements.   However the system is mainly focused on the single issue of climate change, rather than being an all embracing environmental or sustainability management system.

5. The Peak District Environmental Quality Mark (EQM)

EQM is a certification mark awarded by PDNPA to businesses that help conserve and enhance the Peak District National Park. Businesses have to meet a set of Standards relating to compliance with environmental legislation, energy, water, 'greening up' purchasing, and helping to conserve and enhance the Peak District National Park through regularly sourcing from Peak District farmers that manage the land for wildlife.

The Authority would not be able to award itself this certification mark. However, it would be possible to undertake a benchmarking exercise to verify that the Authority meets the environmental standards that we judge local businesses against.

The EQM process is simple, with limited paperwork. However it is comprehensive in ensuring delivery of environmental benefits on the ground in the Peak District. However, the EQM Standards do not address the services we provide as an Authority and our role in the community.

6. The North York Moors 'Action-based approach'

The North York Moors National Park Authority has actively chosen not to adopt any structured management systems. Instead they have chosen to focus their activities on action. They have given themselves the mandate *" to go beyond strategies and declarations and to stretch ourselves in reducing carbon dioxide emissions internally and across the Park as a whole."* They have reflected this commitment in their National Park Management Plan. They have focused actions in four key areas - external actions (supporting public transport, community renewable energy projects), internal actions (energy use, waste management, purchasing), general policies (e.g. employment policy) and planning policy. This approach has lead to measurable reductions in their carbon emissions as an organisation.