

Annex 8 Defra funding expectations

[This document has been produced in consultation with Natural England and the National Park Authorities, to highlight those areas on which Defra particularly expects progress to be made during the years covered by the 2007 Spending Review. It is not a definitive list of activities for each Authority.]

Statutory duties

- Continue to deliver the access provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and contribute to the decadal review of open access. Contribute to the development of access to the coast – perhaps by acting as pilot areas and implement any future legislation;
- In the light of the findings of the Countryside Agency study into the recreational capacity of the Parks, work with Defra and the Agency to promote appropriate recreational opportunities within the Parks ;
- Engage with partners and the wider public in the appreciation and care of the broad cultural heritage of the Parks;

Policy priorities (in line with Public Service Agreements)

- Promote the principles of sustainable development as a means of achieving a more sustainable way of living in the Parks which will enhance and conserve local culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community;
- Promote wildlife conservation and cultural heritage by contributing to delivery of Defra's Public Service Agreement target to bring 95% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest into favourable condition by 2010, both on the Park's own estate and across the Park as a whole;
- Contribute to the delivery of Defra's Public Service Agreement target to reverse the decline in farmland birds, the England Biodiversity Strategy and UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets, and implementing recommendations 9 and 10 (biodiversity monitoring and delivery) of the National Parks Review;
- Put in place climate change adaptation measures (and where appropriate mitigation measures) in line with the Public Service Agreement target
- As described in the action plan [relevant extract attached], contribute to the delivery of the Natural Environment Public Service Agreement,

3.43 England's nine National Park Authorities (NPAs) will continue to develop policies and programmes aimed at retaining local character, landscape features and tranquillity, and promote landscape restoration and encourage sustainable tourism initiatives. They will also support implementation of the Water Framework Directive, help delivery of Agri-Environment scheme outcomes and support the delivery of biodiversity outcomes. NPAs also support initiatives to equip young people with land management skills and provide opportunities for people to get actively involved in conservation.

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Contribution to other policies

- Actively promote understanding and greater use of National Parks by all sections of society, especially people with disabilities, people from ethnic minorities, the inner cities and young people; assist Natural England in delivering the diversity review action plan;
- Support sustainable rural development projects which further National Park purposes, working with Rural Development Agencies, Rural Development Service and sub-regional partners;
- Add value by providing targeted support for individual projects and schemes either separately or in partnership with government departments and agencies;
- Seek corporately and individually to develop and promote other sources of funding, such as Lottery schemes, to support National Park purposes;
- Continue to work with authorities responsible for administering Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Corporately and individually, continue to take forward work on the state of the park indicators as important contributing information to the management of the Parks
- Where applicable, maximise the beneficial impacts of local government restructuring;
- Contribute to the development of relevant Government policies, such as affordable rural housing or climate change (for example by acting as exemplars or running pilots);
- Deliver services with at least the same efficiency as other parts of the public sector, especially local government;
- In particular, secure the same improvements in planning performance as in the rest of local government;
- Contribute to strong rural communities, especially by facilitating an adequate supply of affordable housing
- Contribute appropriately to Public Service Agreements on which other Government departments have the lead.