

AGENDA ITEM No. 8

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING

5 DECEMBER 2008

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

1. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2008-2011 (A.5792/PS/AG)

Proposal

- 1 To approve the Peak District National Park Climate Change Action Plan as a key step towards meeting the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) - Climate Change and Natural Resources Outcome 4 as follows:

By 2011 climate change is being addressed and the natural resources of the NP are being managed sustainably so that we: (a) reduce our adverse impact on climate change, and future generations are better able to manage, mitigate and adjust to the changes that are starting to take place, (b) are better placed to hand on a diverse, healthy and resilient natural environment to future generations, and (c) retain and improve the NP's natural sources as the basis of our survival, well-being and prosperity.

2 RECOMMENDATION:

That

- 1. The Peak District National Park Climate Change Action Plan (Annex 1) is approved by the Authority.**
- 2. The Authority agrees that further comments from partners and stakeholders to the draft document be addressed in a final version with delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make such changes in consultation with the Member representative for NPMP Outcome 4 - Climate Change & Natural Resources.**
- 3. The Authority actively works with lead partners and agencies to influence their contributions to this action plan through the work of the lead officers and Authority Member representatives for NPMP Outcome 4 (Climate Change and Natural Resources) and other relevant NPMP Outcomes.**
- 4. This action plan informs the Authority's Corporate Priorities, with the level of contribution by the Authority to the action plan being annually determined through the Annual Performance and Business Planning process.**

5. The Authority note the process for monitoring the action plan will be through the NPMP Annual Monitoring Reporting to Audit and Performance.

Policy/Legal Background

- 3 There is now consensus on the urgent need to take action on climate change. Growing political pressure is feeding down into policy from the international to the local scale. Commitments made in the Kyoto Protocol have resulted in the current Climate Change Bill 2007-08, due to become an Act by the end of 2008. The Act requires 80% cuts in GHGs by 2050. These legal requirements will put even greater pressure on the regional and sub-regional organisations to respond to targets for reducing Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) under the National Performance Framework Indicator NI 186 as well as responding to other targets such as National Indicators NI188 and NI189 for taking action on climate change.
- 4 The current National Park Management Plan 2006-2011 sets out an Outcome (4) for Climate Change and Natural Resources which recognised the need for a NP specific Action Plan to form a basis for addressing the specific climate change issues in the NP and working towards achieving the outcome. From the outset the Action Plan was intended to complement and not duplicate the key constituent and sub-regional agency and local authority Climate Change strategies and programmes such as those helping to deliver Local Area Agreement climate change targets.
- 5 On 7 December 2007 Members approved the recommendation that “A report be brought to the Authority no later than December 2008 on a wider strategy for addressing impact of and adaption and mitigation to climate change within the National Park” (Authority, December 2007, Minute 111/07).

Key Issues

- 6 Work on the Action Plan commenced in April 2008 supported by an internal Authority Climate Change Steering Group of lead officers to cover different aspects of climate change, led by the Chief Executive and supported by the Member representative for Climate Change. Production of the Action Plan was project managed and delivered by Pete Spriggs on an agreed part-time secondment from Losehill Hall. The first stage of the work involved evidence gathering and interviews with leading stakeholders on climate change for their knowledge of issues and what was being undertaken to address climate change already. Subsequent stages included a stakeholder event and a specific Member workshop to gather further ideas and comments and test the emerging scope and priorities for the action plan.
- 7 The Peak District National Park Climate Change Action Plan aims to do two things:
- 1) Map the existing actions taking place within the National Park that will help to mitigate the causes of or adapt to the consequences of climate change in the NP and which need continued support (see Annex 1 – Appendix 2), and
 - 2) Identify where new ‘Headline Actions’ are required or existing work needs to be intensified and expanded to address NP-specific climate change issues.
- 8 This is an Action Plan for the Peak District National Park - the *National Park area*, not just the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) - the *organisation*. It is an expansion of the current NPMP Outcome 4 actions giving more detail and direction with the need for these to be led or delivered by partners or stakeholders within the National Park as well as the PDNPA.

- 9 Members are asked specifically to approve the set of Headline Actions and possible roles of stakeholders/partnerships and the Authority (see Annex 1, pages 9 to 15).
- 10 After the 5 December 2008 Authority Committee meeting the Peak District National Park Authority Climate Change Steering Group will:
1. Seek (in January 2009) final comments from partners and stakeholders to produce the final version of the Action Plan;
 2. Ensure that the actions to be led by the PDNPA are put forward as part of the organisation's budget and service planning process;
 3. Engage partners and stakeholders within the National Park to assist in their contribution to the delivery of the Headline Actions;
 4. Monitor the actions through the National Park Management Plan annual monitoring report. This will be monitored as a supplement.
- 11 A glossary of all acronyms can be found in Annex 1 - Appendix 4.

APPENDIX
Background

1 See Annex 1

Resources

2 The costs of production of the action plan has been within the allocated £20,000 budget in 2008/09 for this work. A further £20,000 is allocated to enable initial project management of its implementation in 2009/10.

3 The Authority's commitment to further supporting actions within the Peak District National Park Climate Change Action Plan will take place through the Annual Performance and Business Planning process. A Business Case for supporting a number of priority actions from the Action Plan has been put forward as part of the current round of forward financial planning being undertaken by the Authority.

Risk Management

4 Risks will be applied to the finally agreed actions in the Action Plan as part of the NPMP Annual Monitoring Report using the Corporate method to ensure these are consistently assessed alongside other NPMP actions.

Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety

5 None

Consultees

6 Senior Management Team, the Climate Change Steering Group (Jim Dixon, Anne Ashe, Andy Guffogg, Rhodri Thomas, Jane Chapman and Richard Godley). The content of the Action Plan has been informed by a wide range of Authority staff, contributions from Members and external stakeholders at workshops held in August and September 2008.

Enclosures

7 Annex 1 – Peak District National Park Climate Change Action Plan

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

8 None

Report Author

9 Pete Spriggs, Learning and Development Officer / Lead Officer on Climate Change

Publication date

10 27 November 2008