

Peak District National Park Authority Performance and Business Plan 2009/10

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Member of The UK Association of National Park Authorities (UK ANPA) and the English
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Holder of the Council of Europe Diploma

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Foreword by the Chair of the Authority

Narendra Bajaria
Chair of the Authority

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Introduction

Background

The Peak District National Park was the first national park to be designated in Britain and is a very special place for the people who visit and those who live and work here. The Peak District Moorlands and Dales are of international significance for wildlife and the quality of the landscape and environment is outstanding. Millions of people visit to take part in a very wide range of activities while 38,000 people live in the Peak District National Park, many of whom work locally. See Annex 1 for further information about the National Park.

The Peak District National Park Authority is the guardian of the National Park with clearly defined purposes to:

- Conserve and enhance the Peak District National Park's special qualities
- Provide opportunities for their enjoyment and understanding

In doing this we are also required to seek to foster the economic and social well being of the local communities within the National Park. We take this duty as seriously as we do our purposes.

The Peak District National Park Authority is the statutory Local Planning Authority for the Park and took decisions on 1,036 planning applications last year, including on mineral working sites, and we also have responsibility for setting the policy framework for these. The Authority is an 'Access Authority' for the purposes of managing public access to 37% of the National Park which is open country under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The work of the Authority is guided by 30 members, (their photographs are shown inside the back cover) with a committee structure shown in Annex 2 and the supporting organisational structure shown in Annex 3. 453 staff (251 full time equivalents), comprising full time, job share, part time, seasonal, temporary and casual posts are employed (Annex 4).

The National Park Management Plan

Our approach to fulfilling our purposes and duty, in partnership with others, is through the National Park Management Plan. This plan sets out the vision and desired outcomes for the Park to 2011. It guides the activities within the Park of everyone who has influence over or an interest in the National Park and can be viewed at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/npmp.htm

A Shared Vision for the National Park

The Peak District National Park is a special place whose future depends on all of us working together for its environment, people and economy. Our vision is for:

- A conserved and enhanced Peak District where the natural beauty and quality of the landscape, its biodiversity, tranquillity, cultural heritage and the settlements within it continue to be valued for their diversity and richness
- A welcoming Peak District where people from all parts of our diverse society have the opportunity to visit, appreciate, understand and enjoy the National Park's special qualities
- A living, modern, innovative Peak District that contributes positively to vibrant communities for both residents and people in neighbouring urban areas, and demonstrates a high quality of life whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park
- A viable and thriving Peak District economy that capitalises on its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of identity

Introduction

Partnership working is vital to achieving the outcomes of the National Park Management Plan through the wide range of administrative bodies (the National Park incorporates 4 Regions, 11 Metropolitan, District and County Councils, 125 Parishes, 7 Highway Authorities) and thousands of community groups (see Annex 5).

The Authority's contribution to the National Park Management Plan is through our Corporate Outcomes and Key Corporate Actions, each of which is considered in detail in subsequent sections and illustrates the focus on developing and sustaining partnerships to achieve the desired outcomes for the National Park.