

2. NATURAL ENGLAND/PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY LOCAL JOINT ACTION PLAN (A9454/JC)

Purpose of the report

1. This report advises members of a local Joint Action Plan for the Authority and Natural England which demonstrates the close working relationship and common interests of both organisations and sets out joint headline actions reflecting the major areas of collaborative working. The Joint Action Plan is shown at Appendix 1.

Maddy Jago, Regional Director of Natural England, East Midlands and Lynn Crowe, Natural England Board Member with responsibility for the Peak District National Park, will give a presentation to the Authority as part of this item.

Recommendations

2.
 1. **The Authority approves, signs and supports the implementation of the 3 year Local Joint Action Plan between Natural England and the Authority shown at Appendix 1.**
 2. **The Authority agrees to delegate powers to the Chief Executive to approve any future changes and delegates review of progress to senior officers of both organisations on an annual basis to integrate with the business planning cycles of both organisations.**
 3. **A full review of the Local Joint Action Plan takes place in autumn 2011 with a view to continuing or modifying the agreement by July 2012.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The guidance for this shared approach is provided by the National Park Management Plan and Natural England's Strategic Direction and Manifesto for the Natural Environment. The proposed priority actions are intended to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of landscape and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change issues, deliver high quality land management, provide a better evidence base for decision making, promote successful demonstration projects safeguarding natural resources and provide sustainable choices for access and recreation for all who wish to enjoy the national park.

Background

4. The Peak District National Park Authority has worked closely for many years with Natural England and its predecessor bodies, locally, regionally and nationally. There is a strong recognition of shared working through joint projects and delivery. More recently this relationship has been guided by a more formal internal Partnership Management Plan, developed through workshops by staff from both organisations. The proposed Joint Action Plan builds on these relationships with a set of headline actions and the Partnership Management Plan forms the detailed background for the actions set out in the Plan at Appendix 1. These headline actions cover 4 key areas identified as local priorities and they are presented as the broad framework for joint work.
5. In May 2009 Natural England and the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) approved a Shared Outcomes Agreement as an agreed set of priorities, setting out what the organisations wish to achieve through working together at a

national level. The local Joint Action Plan for the Peak District National Park, with this report, has been guided by the format of that national agreement and will contribute locally to the aims and current priorities of the Shared Outcomes Agreement. A number of other National Park Authorities share joint action plans with Natural England, some pre-dating the Shared Outcomes Agreement.

Proposals

6. It is proposed that the Local Joint Action Plan between Natural England and the Authority provides a focus for future joint activity between our two organisations, reflecting our shared purposes and goals and leading to practical joint action in key areas.
7. Natural England and the National Park Authority will publish a joint press release and circulate the action plan through their partner networks so that there is greater awareness amongst decision makers and the public of improved joint working.
8. Both organisations will review progress against the actions on a regular basis. Any amendments will be agreed by both parties and will represent an area which demands a new proactive approach.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

9. **Financial:** The Local Joint Action Plan reflects the desire of both organisations to jointly maximise the efficient use of available resources to achieve agreed priorities and to work jointly with other partners and stakeholders.
10. **Risk Management:** Both organisations will keep under review progress against the stated aims in the Local Joint Action Plan and senior officers will be responsible for co-ordinating strategic activity associated with the plan.
11. **Sustainability:** The Local Joint Action Plan reflects the desire of both organisations to develop a sustainable future for the Peak District National Park.
12. **Background papers** (not previously published)
None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Joint Action Plan

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Jane Chapman, Head of Environment, Heritage & Recreation Strategy, Thursday
23 July 2009.