

8. NPMP - UPDATE ON CONSULTATION FEEDBACK, PROJECT TIMESCALES AND EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT PLAN (MM)

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is three fold, as follows. Firstly, to provide a summary of the consultation responses received on the areas of impact and special qualities during the public consultation on the updated Peak District National Park Management Plan (NPMP). It then goes on to outline the headline changes that have been made as a result of the consultation responses. Secondly, for Members to agree the timetable for the completion of the update. Finally, to extend the current NPMP until the updated plan can be adopted.

Key Issues

- Section 66 of 1995 Environment Act requires National Park Authorities to produce and update a National Park Management Plan every 5 years.
- Members gave approval to undertake a public consultation on the updated NPMP at the May 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 24/17).
- Members are asked to note the summary of consultation responses provided at appendix 1 of this report.
- The public consultation demonstrated that in general there is overall support for the areas of impact and special qualities.
- We have revised the vision as a result of the consultation responses, as outlined at paragraph 6 of the report.
- We do not intend to change the areas of impact as a result of the public consultation, so the eight areas will remain broadly the same.
- We have added two new intentions under the areas of impact, and broadened three existing intentions, as detailed at paragraph 6 of the report.
- Members are asked to note the timescales for completion of the update to the NPMP, including Member involvement, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- Members as requested to extend the existing NPMP until the updated NPMP can be adopted, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.

2. Recommendations(s)

- 1. That the results of the public consultation undertaken as part of the update of the National Park Management Plan and changes made as a result of it be noted.**
- 2. That the timescales for completion of the updated National Park Management Plan be noted.**
- 3. That Members approve extending the current National Park Management Plan; A Partnership for Progress the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2012-2017 until adoption of the updated plan on 25 May 2018.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. Requirement to review the National Park Management Plan

Section 66 of 1995 Environment Act requires National Park Authorities to produce a National Park Management Plan which '*formulates policy for the management of the relevant Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park*' and should reflect national park purposes. This should be updated at least every 5 years.

The UK Government vision and circular 2010 for the English National Parks and the Broad states that 'Park Management Plans are the over-arching strategic document for

the Parks and set the vision and objectives which will guide the future of the Park over the next 10 to 20 years. The Park Management Plans are for the Parks and not just the Authorities. They should be supported by clear strategies with evidence of significant ‘buy-in’ from key partners and stakeholders, including communities, land owners and land managers. The Government expects public agencies and authorities active within or bordering a Park to cooperate in the development of the Park Management Plan and the achievement of the Management Plan objectives.’

This means the National Park Management Plan is not a plan for the work of the National Park Authority, or of any one organisation, but about what can be achieved by everyone with an interest in the Park and its future. We must involve all the relevant local authorities, partners and other stakeholders in its development and review. The plan is therefore a partnership plan reflecting ambitions across the whole National Park.

The Authority’s Corporate Strategy 2016-2019 Cornerstone 2: Our Services is relevant to this report.

2. Ensure clear policies are in place through facilitated and effective engagement and communication

- Review and update the National Park Management Plan

Updating the NPMP directly relates to this key activity within the corporate strategy.

Background Information

4. Members gave approval to undertake a public consultation on the areas of impact and special qualities, which will both be part of the updated NPMP at the May 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 24/17). The consultation ran for 6 weeks between 19 June and 31 July 2017. Paragraph 5 of this report summarises the public consultation results.

Proposals

5. Summary of Consultation Responses

During the 6 weeks of public consultation, we received a total of 206 responses through the online survey, along with an additional 13 responses by letter or email. Some of the latter responses did not follow the structure of the online survey but were brought together in our analysis.

The responses came from a wide range of partners and stakeholders including local authorities, parish and town councils, environmental bodies and groups, representatives of interest groups and members of the public. In total 142 responses came from individuals and 77 from organisations.

Attached at appendix 1 to this report is a consultation summary report, which summarises all the responses received. This will be a public document, and will sit alongside the consultation document on our website.

6. Changes After the Consultation

The report at appendix 1 shows that in general there is overall support for the areas of impact and special qualities. We do not intend to change the areas of impact as a result of the public consultation, so the eight areas will remain broadly the same.

The most frequently made general point about the direction of the work within the National Park was that we should focus almost exclusively on the statutory purposes of

the National Park. As Members are aware, these are as follows.

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public

In making these comments consultees often stated that the first purpose should be given more weight in decision making. This fits with the direction given in the Environment Act. This states that where there is a conflict between those purposes, all public bodies shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

A number of respondents suggested that retaining the existing vision was no longer satisfactory as the link to the Areas of Impact identified in the management plan was not sufficiently clear.

Therefore, we will be revising the vision framework to combine 'Thriving and vibrant communities' and 'An enterprising and sustainable economy'. The reduction to three main areas will better reflect our two statutory purposes and the duty to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park. It also aligns better with the eight areas of impact. The revised vision framework will therefore be as follows.

- A diverse working and cherished landscape
- A welcoming and inspiring place
- Thriving communities and a sustainable economy.

We received consultation comments regarding the intentions - the green boxes that sit beneath each area of impact – which we have taken into account as we will be using the revised intentions at the delivery planning workshop in October. As a result of the public consultation, we have created two new intentions, as follows.

In Area of Impact 6: Ensuring a future for farming and land management, we have added the following intention.

Ensure the sustainable management of upland moors to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits

We want management of upland moors to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

In Area of Impact 7: Managing Landscape Conservation on a big scale, we have added the following intention.

Ensure the South West Peak Landscape Partnership has a sustainable legacy

We want to continue to build on the work delivered by the South West Peak Landscape Partnership to ensure it has a sustainable legacy beyond its current funded lifetime.

We have also revised some of the existing intentions to broaden them, with the new text in *italics* as follows.

Area of Impact 5: Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

Engage with businesses on the benefits of the Peak District National Park

We want to support a dynamic network of businesses committed to conserving and enhancing the special qualities on which so many livelihoods rely on.

We want to increase business's knowledge of the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides and encourage them to promote this to others.

We want an environment where businesses can modernise and evolve while conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park and enriching the communities that live within it.

Area of Impact 8: Supporting sustainable communities

Improve access to services

We want to ensure adequate access to services across the Peak District National Park by supporting new models for service delivery.

We want to maintain a range of settlements as the focus for key services. We want to support people to shape their own community and support service providers to explore new and alternative models of service delivery. We want to support the local economy.

We want a Peak District National Park-wide enhanced broadband service to support employment and allow communities to access services.

Support the provision of locally needed housing

We want to ensure a proactive approach to addressing the local need for appropriate housing in the Peak District National Park.

We will explore opportunities for proactive delivery for locally needed housing in a way that supports and delivers conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. We will work together to grow our understanding of different housing products.

We will work together in the active delivery of affordable housing appropriate to the needs of local people. We want to support community-led housing initiatives that recognise the importance of delivering affordable homes with the community at the heart of the development process.

We want to attract appropriate levels of inward investment from Government and others that reflects the cost of building affordable homes in the Peak District National Park.

The consultation demonstrated that there was overall support for the special qualities. Therefore, we do not intend to significantly change these as a result of the public consultation, so the eight special qualities will remain broadly the same. However, there were quite a few suggested word changes, the majority of which we have been able to take into account. The most significant word changes have been within special qualities 5 (landscapes that tell a story of people and industry since prehistoric times) and 7 (historic features offering visible and buried reminders of past lives), as many responses stated that these overlapped. We have rewritten these to try and remove this overlap, but the intention behind these two special qualities remains the same.

We received a number of comments regarding the wording of the document, and will take account of appropriate ones as we finalise the draft NPMP prior to the second public consultation in Spring 2018.

7. Timetable to Completion

We have a detailed and robust project plan to take us from where we currently are to a point where the updated NPMP will be adopted. This has the following key milestones, including Member involvement throughout the timeline.

- 3 October 2017 - Partner and internal workshop to form the basis of the delivery plan.

- 6 October 2017 – this report.
- Approximately 23rd October to 15th Dec 2017 - Beyond the workshop effort will be required to achieve commitment to the suggested actions from each partner. This is a critical task to the success of the update and will to a large extent determine the success of the approach being taken. All significant work towards this will need to be completed prior to the Christmas holidays 2017. This includes identifying partners, refining and negotiating actions and dates and securing commitment.
1 December 2017 - Members Forum update on developing actions from the workshop and share emerging draft NPMP text.
- 2 February 2018 - Authority to seek approval to consult on the draft plan, including the delivery plan.
- Approximately 23 February to 6 April 2018 - 6 week consultation period on the draft plan.
23-Feb-18 until 06-Apr-18
- 6 April – 1 May – Revisions to the draft plan to take account of appropriate comments received during the consultation.
- Last week of April – revised NPMP circulated to all Members via email for any final comments before approval for adoption is sought.
- 25 May 2018 - Authority approval to adopt the plan.

8. **Extension to the Current National Park Management Plan**

The current management plan 'National Park Management Plan - Partnership for Progress' (2012 to 2017) was adopted by the National Park Authority Meeting 3 February 2012 (minute reference 7/12). As the NPMP is our most strategic framework, we want to ensure that a valid plan is in place throughout the update period. Therefore, we propose to extend the current plan until the new plan can be adopted.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

9. There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. In terms of the update of the NPMP, this has a budget associated with it.

Risk Management:

10. The greatest risk to the update of the NPMP is ensuring that there is buy in from partners and stakeholders to the NPMP, including the delivery plan. This risk has been mitigated by ensuring the update process has steps within it to work with partners and stakeholders.

Sustainability:

11. National Park Management Plans are subject to the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is delivered via a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), and are also subject to the Habitats Regulation and require a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). It is intended to complete the SA and HRA as part of the update.

12. **Background papers (not previously published)**

None

13. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Consultation report

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Matt Mardling, Senior Strategy Officer, 28 September 2017