

# National Park Management Plan Consultation June – July 2017 Responses Report

## 1. Introduction

This report summarises the responses to the Peak District National Park National Park Management Plan (NPMP) consultation that ran for 6 weeks between 19th June and 31st July 2017. The consultation set out the big issues all partners will seek to tackle in the next five years, and sought feedback on these. The results of this consultation will form the basis of the next NPMP.

More specifically we consulted on the following

- **8 special qualities** which aim to capture what is distinctive and significant about the Peak District National Park compared with other parts of the country. Understanding these qualities helps us to plan effectively and manage the Peak District National park in order to protect them.
- **8 areas of impact** where our actions can make the greatest difference. They will become the focus of the next National Park Management Plan, with deliverable actions for each area of impact.

A second public consultation on the draft NPMP, including the delivery plan, will be undertaken in winter/spring 2018. This will provide another opportunity for organisations and members of the public to comment on the detail of the final document.

## How we conducted the consultation

The consultation was undertaken using an online survey and comprised of both open and closed questions. The consultation was promoted in the followings ways.

- An email was sent to 629 key partners and stakeholders of the National Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to launch the consultation.
- A follow up email was sent on 18<sup>th</sup> July to contacts on this distribution list who had not already completed the survey.
- Several internal and external presentations/workshops were conducted by the Strategy and Performance Team and the PDNPA Chief Executive to raise the profile of the consultation.
- A press release led to over 5 articles in the local press promoting the consultation.
- The consultation was advertised on our website and via social media.

## Who responded to the 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 received 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 alongside 77 from organisations.

## 2. Headline messages from consultation

From analysis of the consultation responses several headline messages emerged. The following are the overall levels of support for the special qualities and areas of impact.

Special Qualities:

1. As a collective 68%, of respondents believed the special qualities captured what makes the Peak District National Park special for them.
2. Respondents agreed the most with special quality 1, beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology, with 61% strongly agreeing (90% including agree and strongly agree) that it is a special quality of the Peak District National Park.
3. Respondents agreed the least with special quality 4, characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions, with 29% strongly agreeing (66% including agree and strongly agree) that it is a special quality of the Peak District National Park.

Areas of Impact:

1. There is a high level of support for all 8 areas of impact
2. When combining both strongly disagree and disagree answers the average level of disagreement across all eight areas of impact was 7%.
3. There was least support for area of impact 6, securing the most for the Peak District National Park, being a focus of the National Park Management Plan for the next 5 years, with 9% strongly disagreeing that this should be a focus of the National Park Management Plan for the next 5 years.

The main open text points made in response to the areas of impact are as follows.

1. **Negative impacts of grouse moor management:** 86 respondents or 40% of all respondents made comments about the negative impacts of grouse moor management. These included the intensity of heather burning and the alleged persecution of birds of prey.
2. **Focus on statutory purposes:** 60 respondents or 28% of all respondents made comments about focusing on statutory purposes. These comments generally made reference to the first statutory purpose to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. The emphasis was towards landscapes and wildlife with reference to this taking precedence over other initiatives where there was conflict between them.
3. **Promote a more natural landscape:** 33 respondents or 15% of all respondents mentioned things like high nature value farming, rewilding, species re-introduction, enabling natural succession and native woodland afforestation. These comments generally aspired to a less intensively management landscape with greater emphasis on nature conservation.
4. **Wildlife crime:** 29 respondents or 13% of all respondents made comments about greater focus on tackling wildlife crime.
5. **Transport provision:** 24 respondents or 11% of all respondents mentioned that transport improvements needed to be addressed. These mostly focused on the need for better public transport provision but some also identified the negative impacts of vehicle traffic such as public safety and inconsiderate parking.
6. **Greater focus on the rural economy:** 23 respondents or 11% of all respondents made comments on the need for a greater focus on the rural economy. These tended to be focused on either the benefits that the visitor economy brought and how this could be enhanced or the role of businesses in supporting sustainable communities particularly the retention of young people in the area.
7. **Approach to affordable housing:** 15 respondents or 7% of respondents mentioned affordable housing as an issue to be addressed. These mostly focused on the need for affordable housing to provide for young people from the local area.

These headline messages and others are discussed in more detail in the following section.

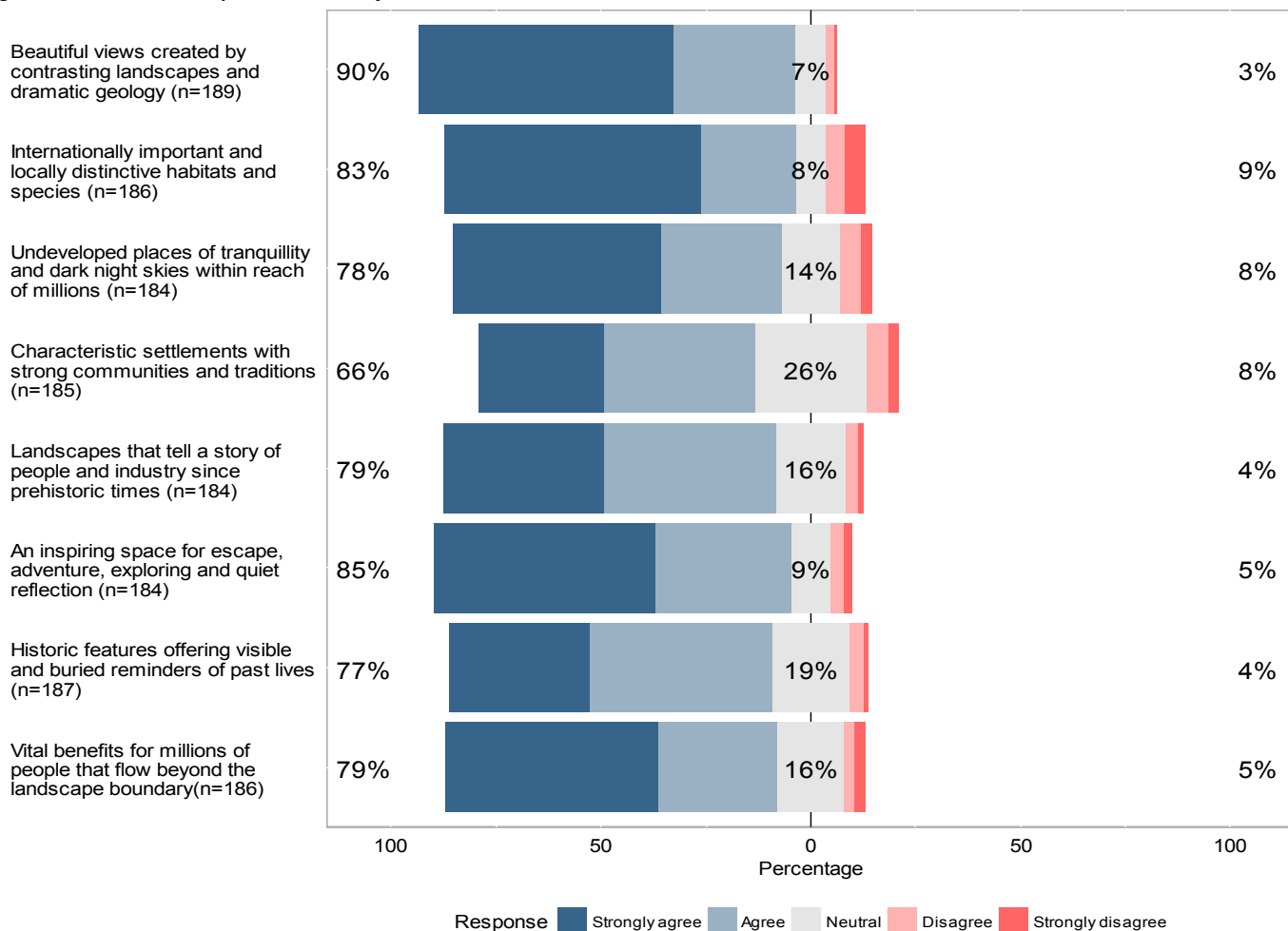
### 3. Consultation Analysis

#### Special Qualities

##### Overview

93% of respondents answered this section of the survey. The level of overall agreement with the individual special qualities was strong although it varied between 90% for special quality (SQ)1, beautiful views created by contrasting landscape and dramatic geology, and 66% for SQ4, characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions. This special quality also had the highest level of neutrality associated with it at 26% of respondents. As a collective 68%, of respondents believed the special qualities captured what makes the Peak District National Park special for them.

Figure 1: This is a Special Quality of the Peak District National Park



##### Key themes emerging from this section

- Poor condition of the special qualities:** It was noted that the condition of some of the special qualities does not match the description. As one respondent succinctly pointed out;

*“There is a marked disparity between what the special qualities could and should be and what in fact what they are.”*

A number of others made similar comments and in particular questioned whether the Peak District National Park really provided places of tranquillity, dark night skies and a space for escape and adventure.

- Poor condition of special quality 2, internationally important and locally distinctive habitats and species:** The description of this special quality in particular was identified as being aspirational

rather than accurate. The descriptive prose regarding the potential to see a hen harrier was challenged as these birds have only bred twice in the Peak District National Park since 2006. Respondents who commented on this theme also alleged wildlife crime was rife within the National Park with birds of prey and mountain hares in particular sighted as falling victim to management activities undertaken on grouse moors. Going further one respondent suggested;

*“One of the problems with designated upland landscapes.....is that hills and mountains are “pretty” because of their shape alone, but their beauty is at best skin deep.....Impoverished wildlife and damaged soils are the most striking characteristic of tens of thousands of hectares of the PDNP landscape.”*

Other comments questioned the ecological integrity of the National Park and suggested that there is an opportunity, when discussing the special qualities, to stress the connectedness between beautiful views, biodiversity, tranquillity and wildness. As one respondent noted:

*“Landscape is not just about the view but the habitats and species that make it up. A superficially attractive view of green fields can be a relative desert for wildlife”.*

- *Combine special qualities 5 and 7:* These special qualities, “Landscapes that tell a story of people and industry since prehistoric times” and “historic features offering visible and buried reminders of past lives” were considered by to be very similar. It was suggested that they could be combined into a single special quality highlighting the wealth of cultural heritage within the National Park that can be actively engaged with and celebrated.

# Area of impact 1: A National Park for Everyone

## Overview

89% of respondents answered this section of the survey. The results show strong support for this area of impact with three quarters (75%) of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus of the NPMP over the next 5 years, as opposed to 14% who indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this area of impact. In terms of creating a national park for everyone there was strong collective agreement that focusing on removing the physical and perceived barriers to access is an appropriate way to make a difference.

Figure 2: Area of impact 1: A National Park for Everyone

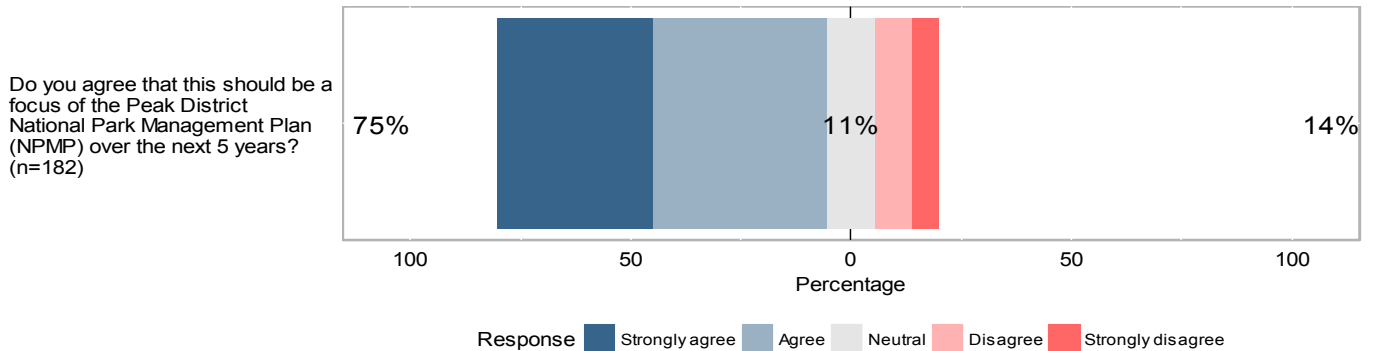
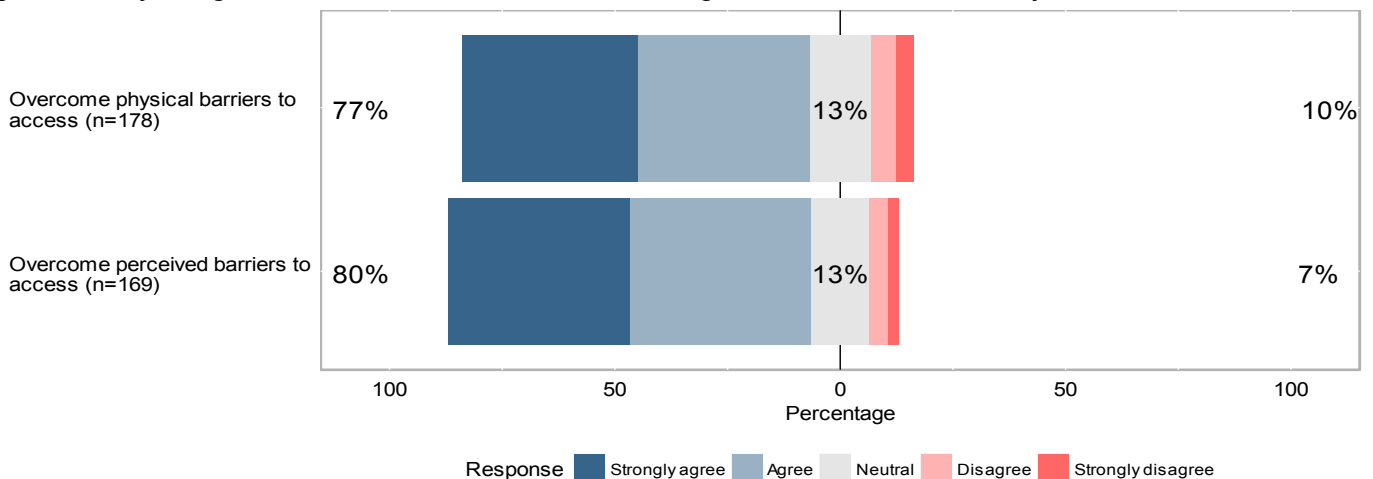


Figure 3: Do you agree with 'what we want to do' creating a National Park for everyone?



## Key themes emerging from this section

The following key themes have emerged from the open ended questions within this section of the consultation:

- Focus on implementing the statutory purposes of National Parks:** Both those who agreed and disagreed with this area of impact stressed that it should be viewed through the context of the Environment Act 1995 which clearly states that if there is any conflict between the two statutory purposes of national parks then greater weight shall be given to preserving their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.
- Excessive access:** There was concern raised by some that promoting and enabling greater access to the National Park would erode the condition of the special qualities. These respondents believed that the Peak District National Park is already at saturation point with “honey pot” sites attracting excessive visitor numbers which contributes to a diluted visitor experience and brings with it problems such as traffic congestion and littering.

- *Provide appropriate access rather than access for all everywhere:* An emerging theme centred on the need to provide appropriate access for the many different types of visitor to the National Park. For example one comment supported providing access for users with limited mobility but suggested this should not be used as a reason to undertake insensitive track work across the whole National Park. This also recognises that different users have different needs and there is a need to have in place an appropriate recreation strategy which provides something for everyone whilst not compromising the special qualities.
- *Anti-grouse moor management:* Of concern to many were the alleged activities that take place on moors managed for driven grouse shooting. These included alleged persecution of raptors and mountain hares, the use of medicated grit and the use of snares to control predators. It was stated that knowledge of these activities taking place within the Peak District National Park created a mental barrier which prevented people from visiting. Some responses commented that grouse moor management is not compatible with achieving a national park for everyone as it is focussed on providing sporting opportunities for an elite few. It was also suggested that this type of land management was not sustainable as it contributed to downstream flooding, poor biodiversity and prevented access during the shooting season. It was suggested that abandoning this type of land management in favour of enabling more natural processes to take place would do more to create a national park for everyone and be more consistent with working towards the National Park's statutory purposes. It should be noted that pro-grouse moor comments were put forward but not within this area of impact.
- *Current work:* A number of organisations indicated that they are currently undertaking projects aimed at removing the barriers that prevent people from coming to enjoy all that the Peak District National Park has to offer. Many of these projects provide structured volunteer days to encourage people to actively take part in conservation activities. For example the Peak District Mosaic group has champions who work within their communities who arrange visits to the National Park. These visits enable people from underrepresented groups to experience all that the National Park has to offer. Other examples of existing work included providing access on private land and improving access around visitor hubs such as Longshaw.
- *Public transport:* It was noted that multi organisational partnerships must work together to provide the public with a suite of recreational opportunities and that a more integrated public transport system needs to be developed to help people access those opportunities.
- *Stronger brand awareness:* Ideas put forward that could further help to remove those physical and perceived barriers included having a stronger "brand" presence in the surrounding cities and conurbations.
- *Identification of barriers:* It was suggested that the consultation document did not articulate very well what physical and mental barriers actually exist and as a consequence it was recommended that more work be undertaken to help identify and understand what they are so any action taken is based on a clear evidence base.
- *Access to water:* It was suggested more could be done to investigate ways of gaining better access to water for recreational purposes.

## Area of impact 2: Securing the most for the Peak District National Park

### Overview

86% of respondents answered this section of the survey. The results show strong support for this area of impact with 75% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus of the NPMP over the next 5 years, as opposed to 12% who indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this area of impact. There was strong agreement that collectively influencing land management policy and funding opportunities as we exit the European Union, alongside engaging in new ways of working are appropriate ways to make a difference.

Figure 4: Area of impact 2: Securing the most for the Peak District National Park

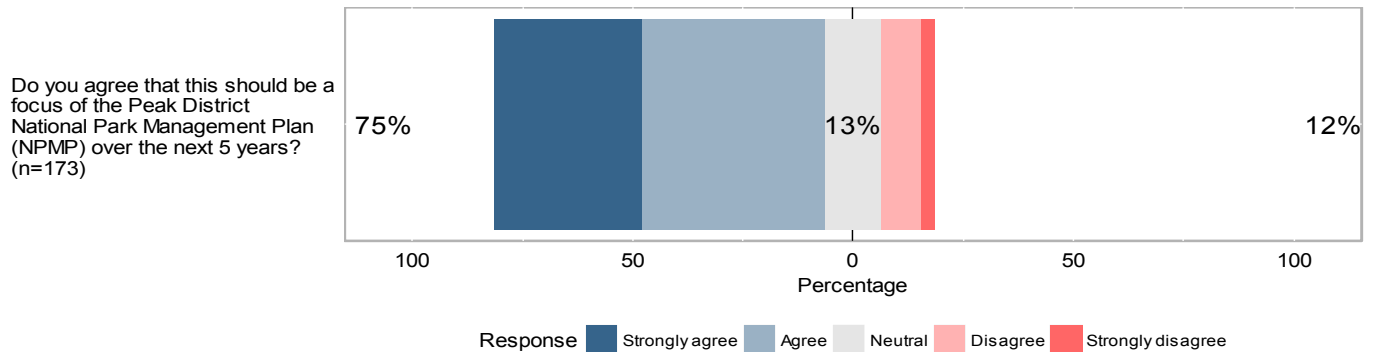
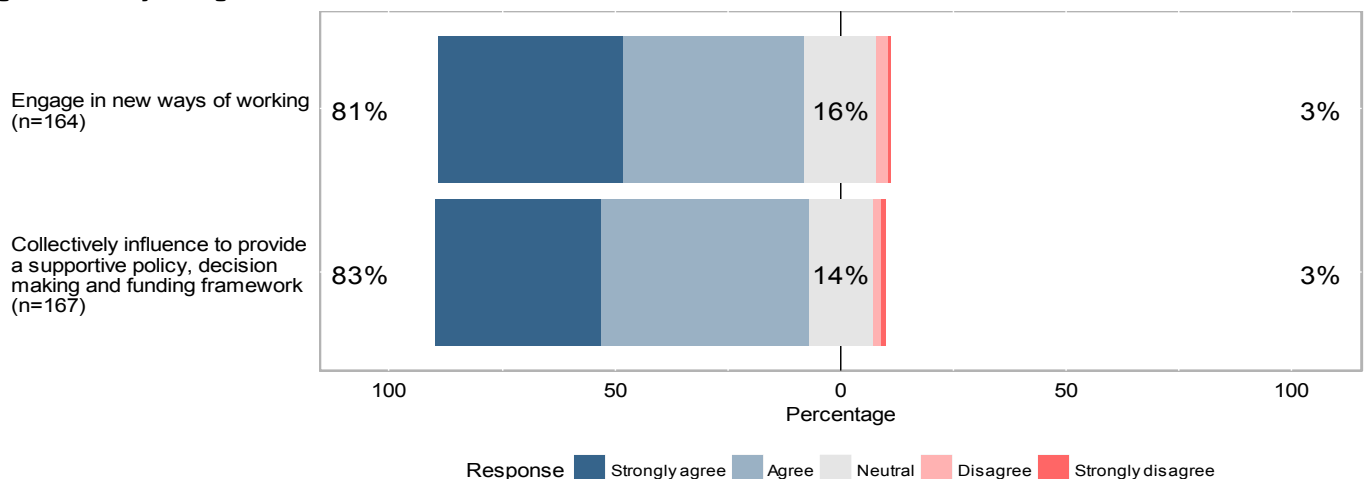


Figure 5: Do you agree with 'what we want to do' to secure the most for the Peak District National Park?



### Key themes emerging from this section

The following key themes have emerged from the open ended questions within this section of the consultation:

- Better articulation of the Area of Impact:** It was suggested that using the word “most” was too competitive as it implied the National Park would be competing with others for valuable financial resources. Instead it was proposed that focus should be on getting the “best” for the National Park as this would immediately broaden the scope to include other resources such as technical expertise. It was further suggested that the best solution may not be the most expensive.
- Collaborative working:** There was support for continued partnership working with references made to all existing landscape partnerships currently delivering work across the Peak District National Park. Working more closely with other National Parks was also suggested as a means of adding value to work streams and projects within this area of impact.

- Effective Lobbying: Numerous comments highlighted both the uncertainties and the opportunities that the UK's departure from the European Union will bring. In order to get the most from this opportunity it was suggested that partners who wanted the same thing could come together to speak with one voice to raise the profile of their ambitions to those in positions of influence. As one respondent stated;

*"It will be a case of who lobbies loudest and hardest will get funding"*

Several topics were identified that people believed should be highlighted to the relevant decision makers. These included funding for access and access infrastructure, enhanced legal protection for wildlife and the need to develop a post exit of the European Union funding model for land management that supports the enhancement of the Peak District National Park's special qualities.

- Combine with Area of Impact 5: Two respondents saw an opportunity to combine the intent of Areas of Impact 2 and 5 together along the theme of "*securing the future of the Peak Districts special qualities*".

Means of delivering other Areas of Impact: One comment suggested that this area of impact was one of the "*mechanisms for achieving all the other areas of impact and therefore should be underpinning these rather than being an area of impact on its own.*"

This highlights that issues raised in the consultation are often relevant to multiple areas of impact and often one action can lead to many benefits.



## Area of impact 3: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

### Overview

89% of respondents answered this section of the survey. The results show strong support for this area of impact with 90% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus of the NPMP over the next 5 years. Only 3% indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this area of impact. In terms of how to encourage enjoyment with understanding there was strong agreement (~90%) that there is a need to balance opportunities for enjoying all the Peak District National Park has to offer whilst ensuring everybody recognises they have a responsibility to share it and care for what makes it special.

Figure 6: Area of impact 3: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding

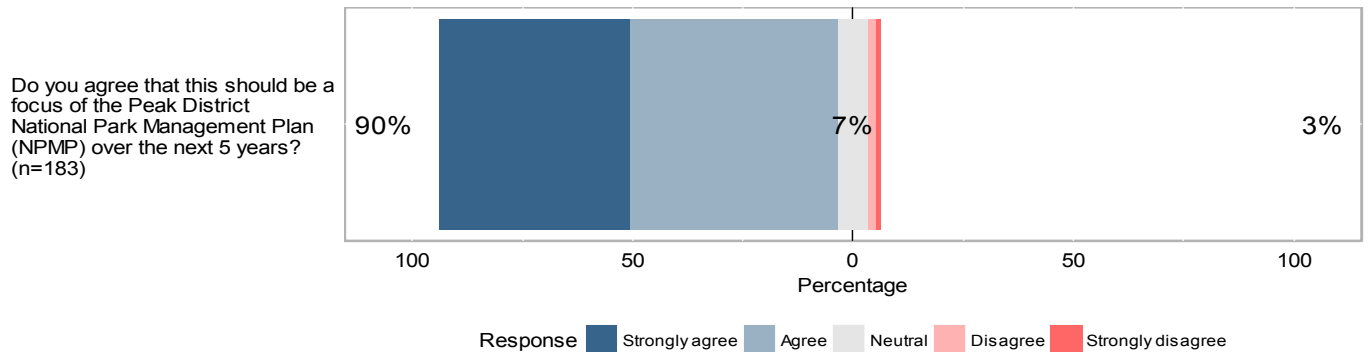
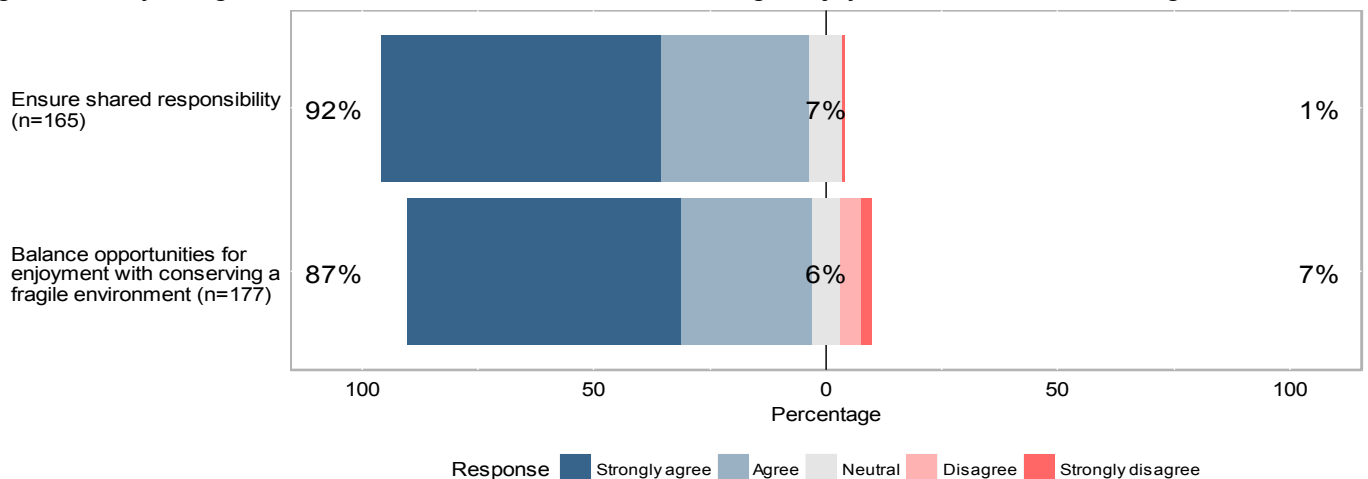


Figure 7: Do you agree with 'what we want to do' to encourage enjoyment with understanding?



### Key themes emerging from this section

The following key themes have emerged from the open ended questions within this section of the consultation:

- ***Is the word "balance" appropriate?*** Some respondents questioned the use of the word balance as they believed this suggested that at times there may need to be a compromise taken between delivering the two statutory purposes of National Parks even though legislation dictates that purpose one always takes priority where there is conflict.
- ***Increase educational opportunities:*** Many individuals and organisations commented that education is vital to achieving understanding of the Peak District National Park's special qualities and what is required to enhance them. Education was also seen as an important way of aiding understanding between different user groups. The idea of promoting the countryside code was mentioned several times as one potential way of achieving this.

- Broaden Outreach Activity: It is well known that the Peak District National Park is bordered on all sides by major cities and conurbations. The need to connect with these places through more imaginative ways was highlighted by a number of respondents as was the need to create better links into schools both inside and outside of the National Park. One respondent suggested that the greatest threat to the National Parks special qualities was from people who are not affiliated to specialist interest groups and that more thought should be given in how to engage with them.
- Current work: Many organisations commented that they are already working hard to promote an understanding of the Peak District National Parks special qualities. This work includes the “wild child” project within the South West Peak Landscape Partnership, the information on display at visitor centres and the trips organisations undertake to promote awareness and understanding of the National Park.
- Caring about the Peak District National Park: Whilst agreeing that this area of impact is fundamental to ensuring the continued existence of the Peak District National Park one organisation suggested that we should:

*“want visitors to be inspired, not just understand the park but be thrilled and excited (by it)”*

Once this is achieved then people will begin to care for the National Park and support it in many different ways.

- GIS as a means to encourage understanding: The practise of enabling public participation in decision making through the use of GIS is gaining popularity. One respondent suggested that undertaking a stakeholder workshop designed to facilitate the mapping out of environmental and social problems may:

*“promote a greater sense of harmony and responsibility across potentially conflicting themes (e.g. grouse moor management and wider biodiversity).”*

## Area of impact 4: Preparing for a future climate

### Overview

91% of respondents answered this section of the survey. The results show strong support for this area of impact with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus of the NPMP over the next 5 years. Only 3% indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this area of impact. The proposals for “what we want to do” to prepare for a future climate were strongly supported with at least 80% of respondents supporting each proposal. All four sub areas of impact are equally well supported with only a slight reduction in support for ‘Balance changes in land management practices’.

Figure 8: Area of impact 4: Preparing for a future climate

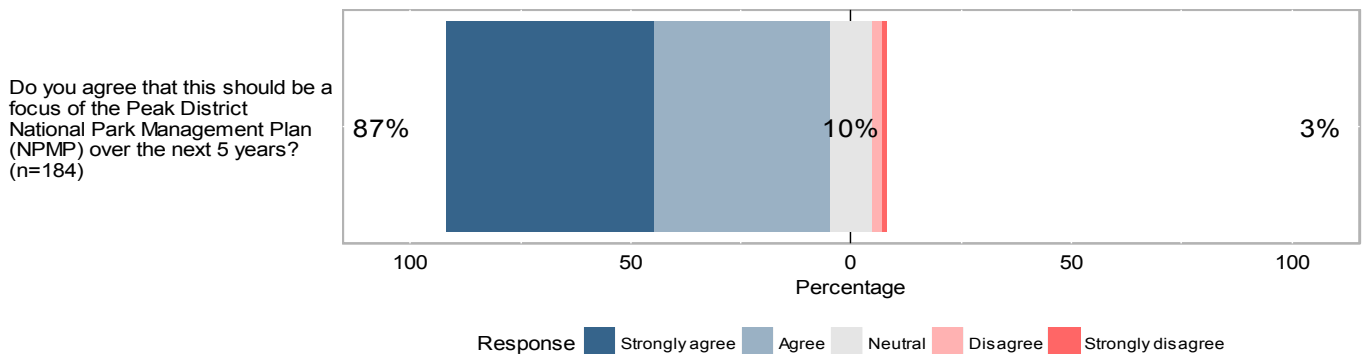
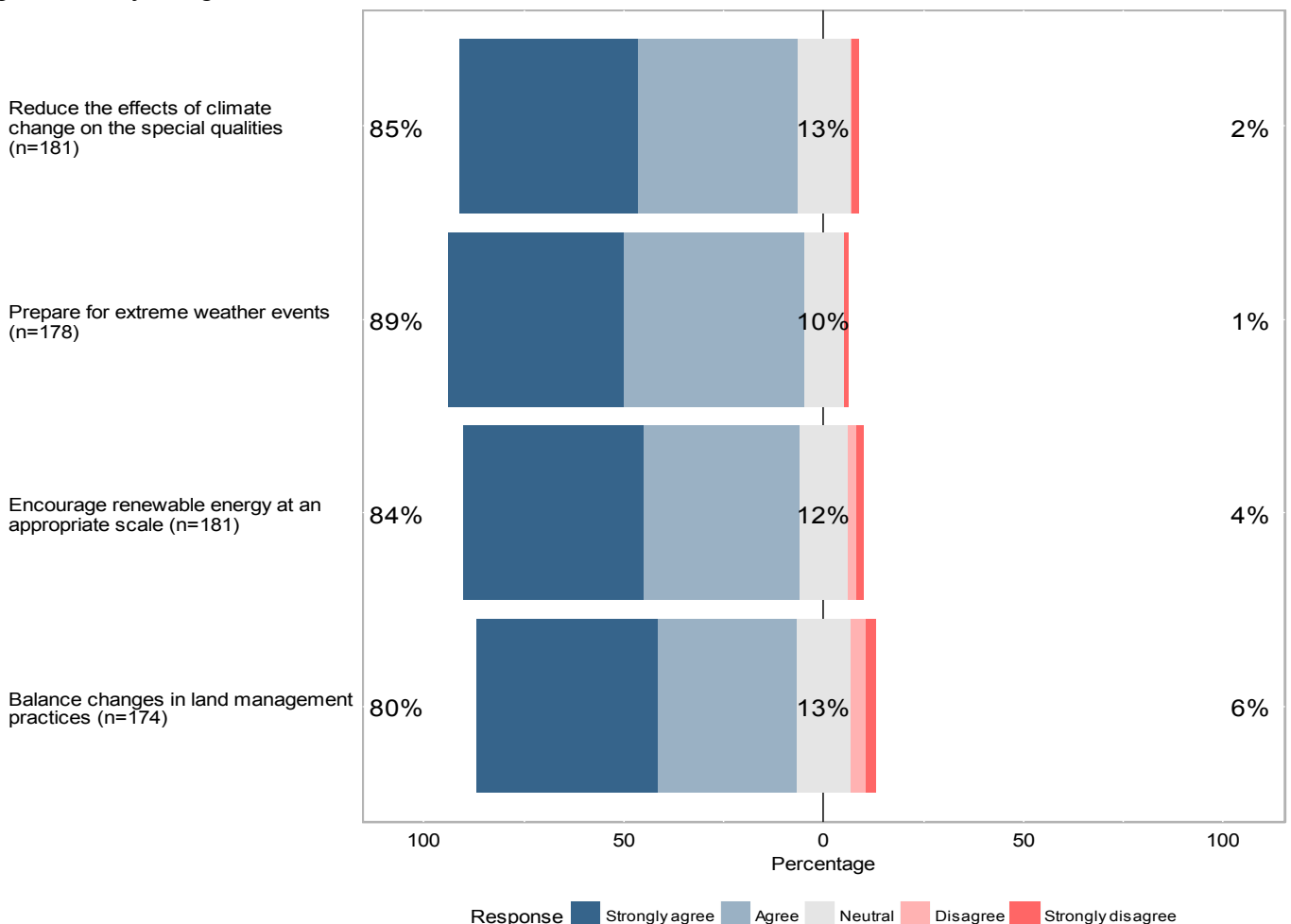


Figure 9: Do you agree with ‘what we want to do’ to secure the most for the Peak District National Park?



## Key themes emerging from this section

The following key themes have emerged from the open ended questions within this section of the consultation:

- Develop resilient landscapes: Several respondents suggested that in order to help species adapt to climate change more work needs to be done to create resilient landscapes. Currently many of our most important sites for wildlife are fragmented, isolated and support communities that may find it difficult to migrate as the climate changes. In order to begin to create these resilient landscapes one respondent suggested;

*“We need to identify which species, species assemblages and habitats are going to be most at risk and assess what measures are going to be open to us to try and mitigate the effects of climate change.”*

Respondents who commented on this theme also referenced the 2010 Lawton Report *“Making Space for Nature”* which called for the landscape to have wildlife sites that are *“bigger, better, more and joined up”*.

- Grouse moor management contributions to climate change: Contradictory submissions were received in relation to the contribution grouse moor management makes to climate change. Practises such as burning heather, track cutting and over grazing were all cited as ones that contributed to climate change through releasing of carbon and increasing run-off. On the other hand it was suggested rapidly growing young heather following a prescribed burn sequesters more carbon than that lost during the burning and more than is sequestered by older heather.
- Promote more tree planting: Pro-afforestation comments were common in this section. A number of benefits were cited that could be gained by adopting such a policy. These included; greater biodiversity, contribution to natural flood management, carbon sequestration, increased wildlife corridors and as a positive change to current land management practises that leave the landscape “bare”.
- Current work: Many organisations are already engaged in work to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example utility companies and NGO’s are already working in partnership to enhance degraded blanket bog for a number of benefits that include habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, water retention and alleviating flood risk to downstream communities.
- Clarity of wording: Again the use of the word “balance” was questioned by a number of respondents as they felt this did not push forward an ambitious enough agenda in this area. One proposal suggested the wording be strengthened to note:

*“that a more pro-active approach is taken to enhancing the special qualities and climate change resilience through habitat creation, restoration and management.”*

- Climate change vulnerability assessment: Of those that supported this area of impact a few noted that an essential part of planning for climate change is to understand the threats and opportunities that it presents. One respondent noted:

*“A full assessment of the unavoidable and potential risks of the trends, and risk assessment would help to identify additional actions to prepare for the future; these should be captured in an adaptation plan and implemented.”*

- Climate change effects on cultural heritage values/features: Whilst recognising that climate change will have an effect on the natural world it is important to note that it will also have a profound effect on the cultural landscape and identity of the Peak District National Park. As one respondent noted:

*“changes in vegetation, changes in land management practice, land suddenly becoming more or less productive, will have a huge impact on the management of the historic landscape and our archaeological heritage.”*

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

### Overview

88% of respondents answered this section of the survey. The results show strong support for this area of impact with over 80% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus of the NPMP over the next 5 years. 5% indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed with this area of impact.

There was strong support for 'what we want to do' within this Area of Impact. However, 20% were 'neutral' in response to 'engaging with businesses on the benefits of the Peak District', the reasons for which are unclear from the responses received.

Figure 10: Area of impact 5: Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides

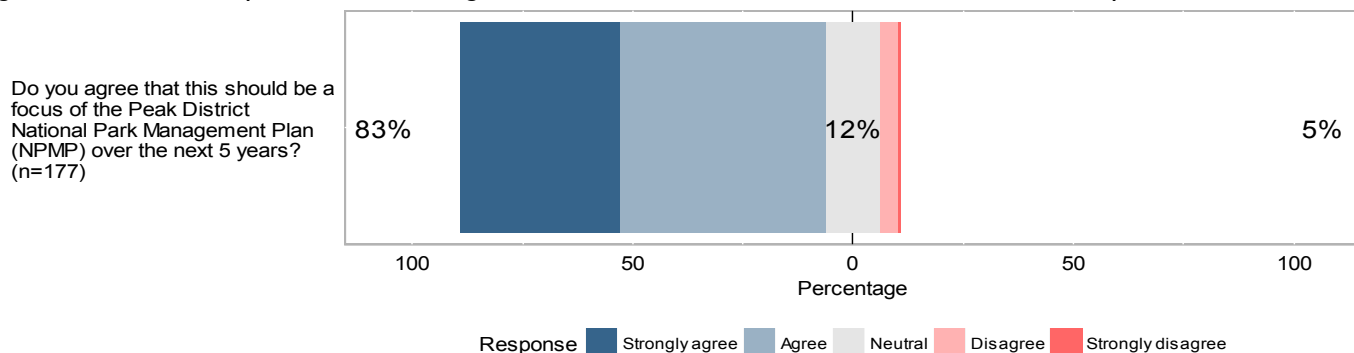
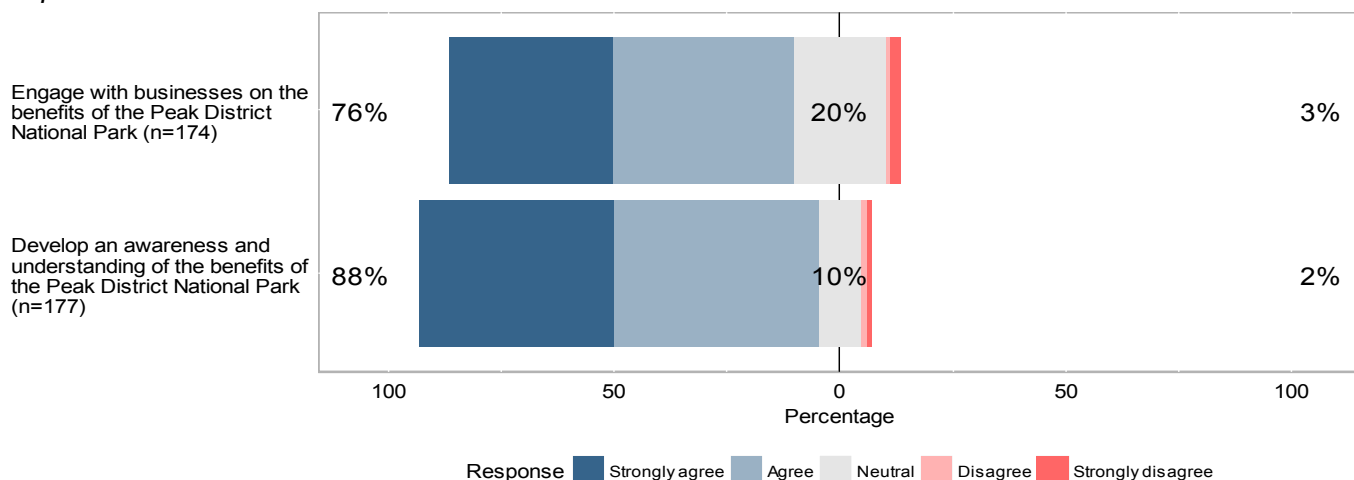


Figure 11: Do you agree with 'what we want to do' to enhance the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides?



### Key themes emerging from this section

The following key themes emerged from the open ended questions within this section of the consultation:

- Communicating the benefits of the Peak District National Park:** There was a great deal of support from partners to work collectively to improve the knowledge of ecosystem services delivered by the Peak District and work collectively to communicate this knowledge back to the general public. This was offered at both a strategic and project based level.
- Enhancing the benefits through alternative land management:** A number of respondents challenged the title phrase 'enhancing the benefits' and stated that the supporting text does not address how this will be done. Instead the text focuses primarily on promoting the benefits already provided by the Park. It was suggested that more should be included about working alongside land managers and farmers to deliver greater public money for public goods. A small number of respondents went

further and suggested that an ecosystem service approach should be used to inform how we manage and monitor the land. Reforming agricultural payments was also included in a number of comments within this section.

- Grouse moor management and delivery of public goods: Closely linked to the above theme was the concern that grouse moor management objectives are not consistent with the ambitions of this Area of Impact. Burning of heather and illegal persecution of wildlife were cited as unsustainable land management practises within this topic. A small number of organisations responded that the delivery of ecosystem services provided by grouse moor management should be better communicated to the public. There was a clear divide within this topic and in some cases contradictory evidence was cited. Many felt that this subject should be addressed within the NPMP and that it was deliberately overlooked to avoid controversy. For example, one respondent wrote:

*“Your suggested options are not really much in your gift. And the elephant stomping around your room is ‘which land management do we want in the PDNP?’ You may have picked up from my comments by now that I would like to see an end to intensive grouse moor management in the PDNP. Your consultation avoids this issue and appears happy with the status quo – I believe this is a big mistake and represents a failure to address properly your major responsibility to ‘to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage’.”*

- Cultural benefits need to be more evident within this section: Suggestions were made that the benefits of cultural heritage/historic features (such as sense of place) should be recognised within this section, not just the benefits provided by the natural environment.
- Greater focus on businesses and economy: Several respondents advocated that supporting economic development and the visitor economy should be included. For example, one respondent mentioned the need for greater collaboration with Local Enterprise Partnerships to develop a clear strategy for the Peak District economy that supports appropriate economic diversification and growth. In comparison, many respondents also opposed this suggesting that the statutory role of the National Park should come first and that engaging with businesses should not be a high priority. Many felt that conservation should be the overriding focus.
- Branding the National Park: Some respondents suggested that more could be done to encourage businesses to protect the special qualities and improve their green credentials. Building on the existing Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) model was referenced by a few stakeholders along with promoting high quality, sustainable and local products.

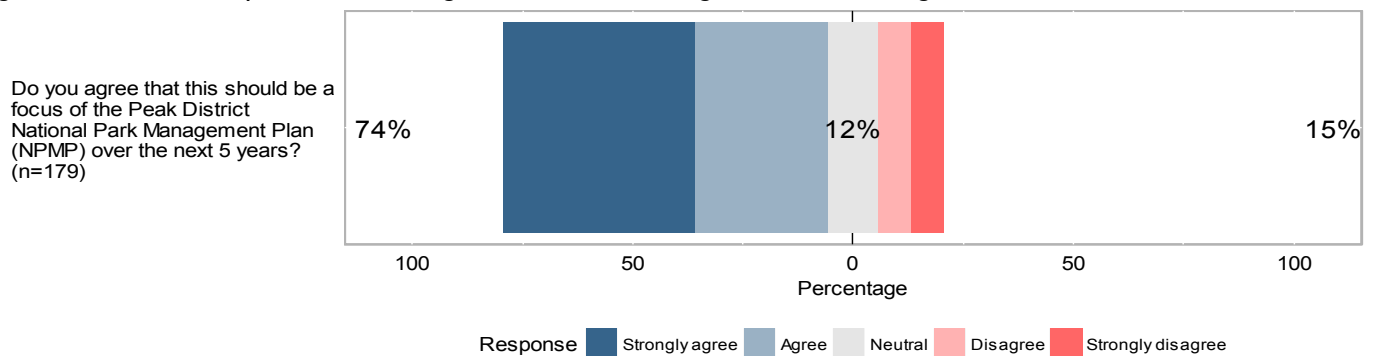
## Area of impact 6: Ensuring a future for farming and land management

### Overview

81% of respondents answered this section of the survey. There was a good level of support for this Area of Impact with over 74% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing that this should be a focus. However, in comparison to other sections within this consultation, there was a noteworthy level of opposition, nearly 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed that this should be a focus.

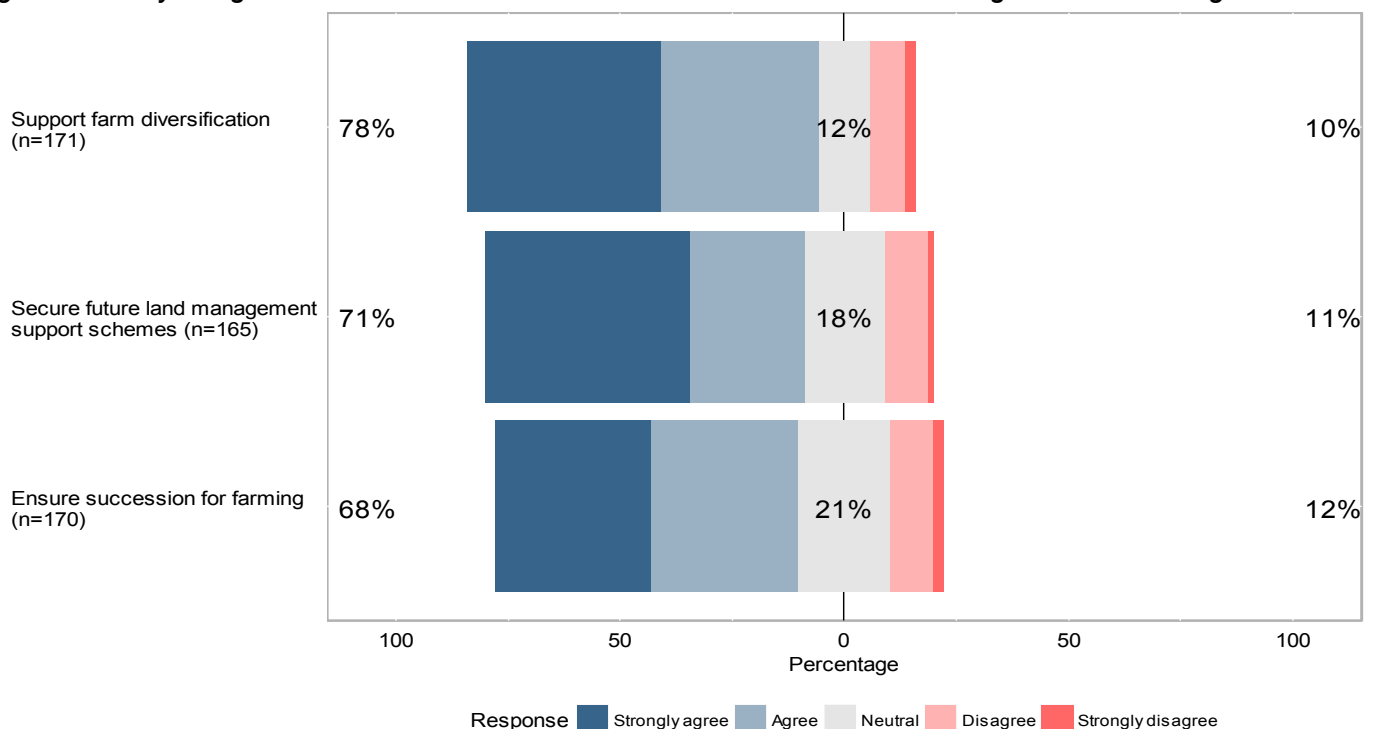
The proposals for “what we want to do” to secure a future for farming and land management were strongly supported with at least two thirds of respondents supporting each proposal. All three sub areas of impact are well supported with only a slight reduction in support for ‘ensure succession to farming’.

Figure 12: Area of impact 6: Ensuring a future for farming and land management



The graph below shows support for ‘what we want to do’ in this section. However, 20% of respondents showed no level of agreement for ‘ensuring succession for farming’ and ‘securing future land management support payments’. As highlighted in the themes below, this was largely due to the feeling that land based subsidies should provide more in terms of public goods or protection for wildlife. Many suggested that to achieve this we need to explore alternative approaches to land management. Regarding diversification, it was felt that that the NPMP needed to be clearer about the type of diversification that is acceptable within the National Park.

Figure 13: Do you agree with ‘what we want to do’ to secure a future for farming and land management?



### Key themes emerging from this section

The following key themes emerged from the open ended questions within this section of the consultation:

- *Collaboration to shape future agri-environment schemes:* There was strong support from a range of organisations regarding collectively working to shape the future of agri-environment schemes. Whilst several organisations mentioned that they were already doing this at different levels, many felt that the Peak District National Park could be a testbed for new models and a collective voice for the Park was needed to achieve this. However, others felt that it was ‘beyond the gift’ of the NPMP to effectively influence policy at this level.
- *Greater focus on suitable landscape management:* Many respondents felt that the importance of sustainable land management and protection of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage should have greater focus within this section. Farming and land management may be seen as a means to achieving this but not the end goal in itself. It was noted that many wanted a clear steer on what acceptable and sustainable modern farming should look like in a National Park. Environmental sustainability was a key theme rather than simply ensuring that farming businesses remain economically viable. As in previous sections, intensive grouse moor management was a repeated theme and this was linked to its significant negative impacts on the upland environment. One respondent went further to suggested rephrasing this section:

*“Ensuring a future for sustainable farming and land management that conserves and enhances the special qualities’ Aol 6- Suggest reword title as “Ensuring a future for sustainable farming and land management which delivers National Park objectives”. Not all land management furthers National Park objectives, and why would we encourage it if it doesn’t?”*

*A bold new vision for land management:* Closely linked to the above theme was the idea that the National Park should be promoting a bold new vision that explores alternative forms of land management (such as High Nature Value Farming) to address issues such as biodiversity loss. Many respondents stressed that current farming practices have resulted in a significant loss of biodiversity across the National Park and this is despite the best efforts of many individuals and organisations. Many felt that the NPMP could provide a clear direction of what this would be like and how it can be achieved.

- *The impact of controlled burning:* There was a concern by a number of respondents that control burning of grouse moors had a negative impact on wildlife and ecosystem services provided by the moorlands. It was felt more needed to be done to address this issue.
- *Greater collective working with farming community:* Many believed there is a greater need to work closer with the farming community and foster farmer collaboration especially to encourage the next generation of farmers and land managers to adopt sustainable farming practises.
- *Modernise farming practises:* A number of respondents mentioned that the NPMP should embrace technological innovation to modernise farming practices in a way that is sensitive to the Peak District National Park landscape. One stakeholder felt there needs to be a focus on bringing more technical, scientific and manufacturing businesses to the National Park. Some stakeholders felt that higher and further education opportunities need to be strengthened. This could be done by improving transport infrastructure to education providers, continuing support for the Skills Development Programme and creation of more modern apprenticeships for farming, fishing, catering and land management. It was suggested the development of a Tourism Academy and greater collaboration with agricultural colleagues was needed to achieve this.
- *Local branding:* Many felt there was a need to go further to promote food of local provenance and open up new markets such as meat from traditional breeds. The Environmental Quality Mark was mentioned as a model that should be built on to encourage appropriate farming practices that protect the special qualities by providing a recognised award.
- *Rewilding:* There was a high level of support for a range of rewilding approaches including High Nature Value Farming, increasing woodland cover, species reintroduction and passive land management, especially of the moorlands. Many questioned the viability of encouraging upland management and suggested that alternative ideas should be explored further.



## Area of Impact 7: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

### Overview

82% of respondents answered this section of the survey. There was a significant level of support for this Area of Impact with over 82% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus, 4% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Although there was strong support for “what we want to do” within this Area of Impact there was also higher than average levels of neutrality, perhaps due to the reference to specific initiatives about which there may be little public awareness.

Figure 14: Area of Impact 7: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale

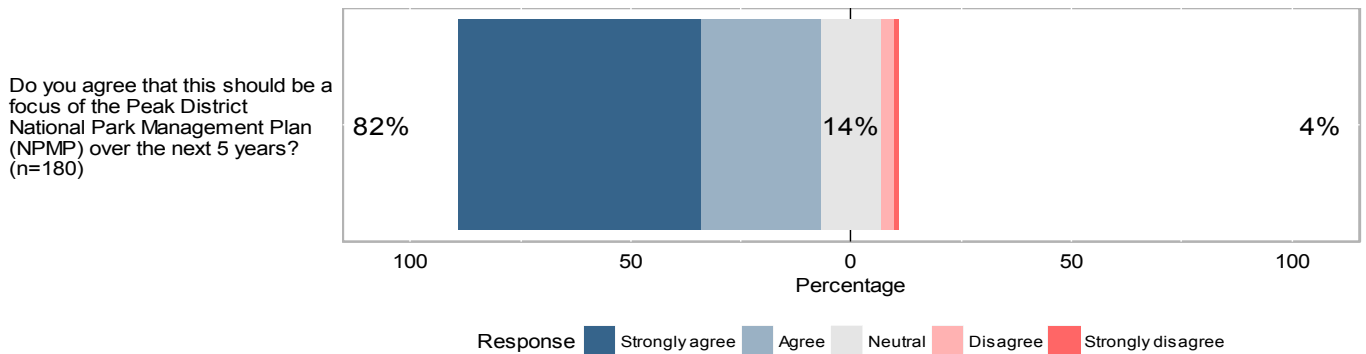
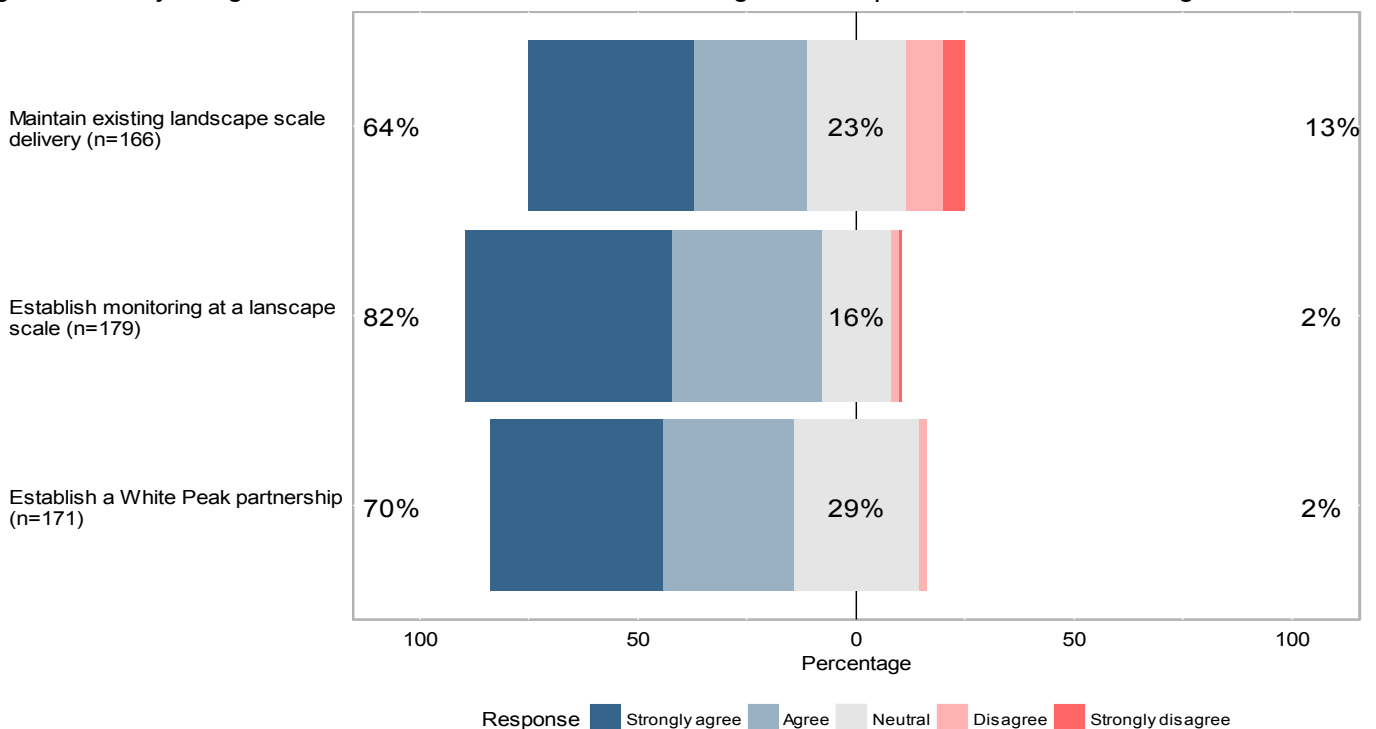


Figure 15: Do you agree with ‘what we want to do’ to manage landscape conservation on a big scale?



**South West Peak actions missing from consultation:** A number of partners suggested that a major oversight of the consultation was not including the South West Peak Landscape Partnership in the ‘what we want to do’ section. It was felt that this character area needed as much attention and priority as the White and Dark Peak yet received very little recognition.

- Greater importance of the wider Peak District setting:** It was felt that the setting of the wider Peak District should be added to the priorities in this section. Reference was made to the severe threat from new infrastructure for fracking, roads and housing. Better joint working with neighbouring authorities was needed not only to understand the importance of the setting but also to value it for the benefits it brings to their areas. Landscapes know no boundaries and Lawton’s ‘bigger, better, more and joined up’ aspiration should continue across the boundary of the Park. Achieving this by

extending the approach out into neighbouring authority areas would extend benefits outside the Park and help communicate the intrinsic value of the designation.

- *The future of other landscape scale partnerships operating within the Peak District:* The future of other landscape partnerships was mentioned by a number of respondents, including the emerging Sheffield Lakelands Partnership and the Eastern Moors Partnership. It was felt that legacy planning for all these landscape scale initiatives should be included within the NPMP to ensure the positive work of these partnerships continues in a time of uncertainty and change.
- *Cultural benefits need to be more evident within this section:* A number of comments were made suggesting that the benefits of cultural heritage/historic features should be recognised within this section, not just the benefits provided by the natural environment.
- *Rewording: Landscape Scale Delivery:* A number of respondents mentioned that there was some confusion of the term landscape scale delivery – and suggested that this should be re-phrased. One partner also suggested that the relationship between the 8 character areas of the Landscape Strategy and the 3 main landscape character areas commonly referenced throughout the consultation document should be clarified.
- *Must adopt the Lawton Principle:* A repeated theme within this section was that any future landscape scale delivery should adopt the Lawton Principle of 'bigger, better, more and joined up'.
- *Working beyond the moorlands in the Dark Peak:* Many felt there was a need to extend the work in the Dark Peak Moors to other landscape types such as the cloughs, valley sides and in by land.
- *Value of small projects:* Linked closely to the theme above was the contribution multiple small scale projects can make to wider landscape scale conservation objectives. It was mentioned that whilst landscape scale projects have a great deal of impact, they also have a great deal of publicity and the accumulation of lots of smaller scale projects should also be promoted.
- *Clear measurement of conservation objectives required:* Many felt that there was a need to create clear monitoring framework that reports honestly on the status of the biodiversity of the Peak District. A number of respondents referred to the need to build on the work carried out on the State of Nature Report in 2016.
- *Targets not met by Birds of Prey Initiative:* Linked to the above point was the fact that the Birds of Prey Initiative did not achieve its targets in restoring raptor populations. Wildlife crime was again a key theme that emerged from comments in this section. It was felt that the NPMP should play an important role in holding this initiative to account for its targets on numbers of birds of prey and more needed to be done to address wildlife crime.
- *White Peak Partnership:* There was a high level of support for establishing a White Peak Partnership (nearly 70% agreed or strongly agreed). However, it was acknowledged that the challenges such as the larger number of small land owners and conflicting interests within this area would make it harder to achieve than a project like Moors for the Future.

## Area of Impact 8: Supporting sustainable communities

### Overview

80% of respondents answered this section of the survey. There was a significant level of support for this Area of Impact with 82% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that this should be a focus. Fewer than 4% disagreed or strongly disagreed that this should be a focus.

Figure 16: Area of Impact 8: Supporting sustainable communities

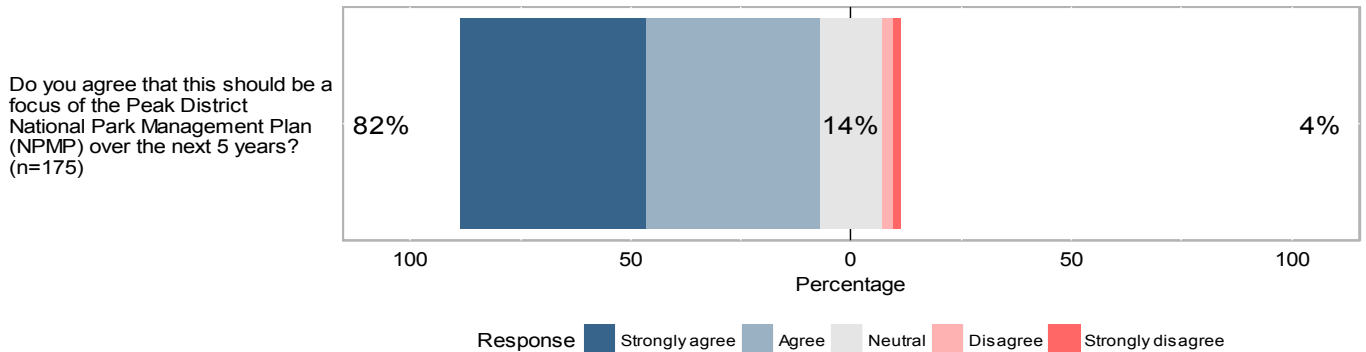
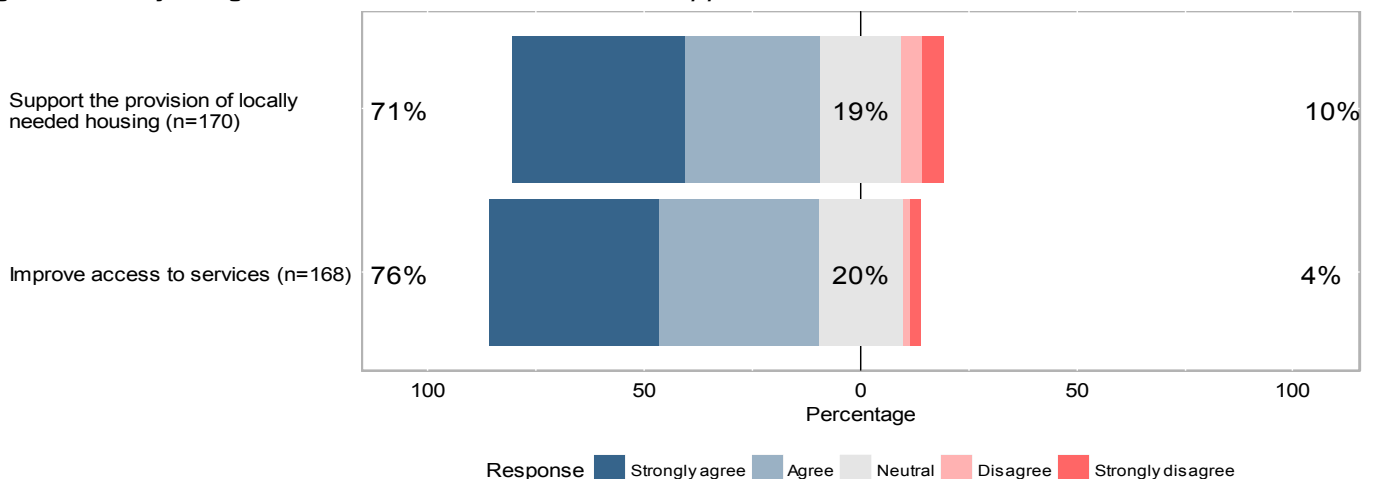


Figure 17: Do you agree with 'what we want to do' to support sustainable communities?



- Thriving and vibrant communities need greater priority:** Several respondents suggested that greater weight should be given to supporting communities within the NPMP and there was a feeling that the needs of communities had not been prioritised within the consultation document. It was felt that whilst it was a prominent theme within the 2012-17 NPMP many issues (such as those outlined below) need to be addressed to deliver 'thriving and vibrant communities'.
- Greater focus on economic growth:** Economic growth and sustainable employment were both repeated themes that emerged throughout the consultation. Many felt that it was the role of the NPMP to create a vision for a high value job economy designed to keep younger people in the National Park. There was a suggestion that planning restrictions should be more flexible to allow suitable industrial growth for local businesses wanting to employ local workers. A small number of respondents from across all stakeholder groups were of the view that there is a shortage of small business and industrial units which is providing a barrier to new businesses and businesses locating within the Peak District National Park. Other respondents highlighted the need for a range of business units from small to large scale that are affordable, particularly for new businesses.
- Affordable housing strategy required:** Many felt that a clear approach to affordable housing was required within the NPMP. There were differing views on the best approach to address this. Some

believed that affordable housing alone would not address this issue and more market housing should be permitted to encourage investment. Others felt that a clear definition and target for affordable housing should be taken.

Some respondents suggested that more needs to be included around partnership work with district and borough council in the active delivery of affordable housing appropriate to the needs of local people. In addition support for community-led housing initiatives that recognise the importance of delivering affordable homes with the community at the heart of the development process is required.

- *Second homes:* Closely linked to the above was the feeling that more should be done to prevent the purchase of second homes and holiday let purchases to ensure housing supply is available and that the market is not inflated.
- *Integrated Public Transport strategy required:* Many respondents encouraged greater recognition of sustainable transport within this section. It was felt that a National Park wide strategy was required to proactively partner constituent authorities and encourage a joined-up approach to transport to reduce the dependence on private vehicle use. Access to services for ageing and vulnerable members of the community was an increasing issue and a high priority by a number of respondents. It was raised that connectivity into the Peak District National Park is very important. A number of community organisations highlighted that greater investment in all public transport (and public transport integration) is needed and should be prioritised. Rail infrastructure was raised by a number of stakeholders as being an area in need of improvement – both the infrastructure and service provided.
- *Broadband and mobile phone coverage* Digital connectivity and broadband provision was another issue raised across a range of stakeholder groups. Many highlighted the logistical remoteness within the Peak District National Park but suggested that improved digital connectivity means that technology and digital industries can exist anywhere and home working is viable option for residents.
- *Closer engagement with communities:* A number of respondents felt that closer work needed to be done to engage with communities inside the Peak District National Park. One respondent stated that the periodic residents' survey should be better designed to improve evidence of the state of communities within the Park, and understand the key issues that are impacting residents as well as get a better feel for grass root community led initiatives that are already being delivered.

# General Comments

## Overview

52% of respondents who used the online survey chose to make some general comments alongside 11 respondents who chose to respond via letter. Again some themes emerged throughout this section, they are presented here.

- *Better enforcement of wildlife protection legislation:* During the consultation period a video and report was released by the Hunt Investigation Team (HIT) which was alleged to show the methods used to control pests on a local estate as part of their grouse moor management practises. The report and footage showed distressing scenes of snared animals and highlighted that of those animals caught within them only 29% were target species. These reported activities were referenced by many respondents who called for better enforcement of existing wildlife and environmental protection legislation. In particular respondents wanted better protection for birds of prey and mountain hares, species that should be synonymous with moorland habitats but are currently heavily under represented. Respondents making these comments firmly believed that management practises on grouse moors are contributing to this under representation. Representative organisations of grouse moor owners in their responses condemned any illegal persecution of protected species, promoted the management of grouse moors in line with best practise guidelines and confirmed their willingness to work towards increasing bird of prey numbers.
- *Benefits of grouse moor management:* One respondent noted that approximately 26% of the Peak District National Park is managed heather moorland for the purpose of driven grouse shooting with 75% of that land being designated as SSSI, SAC or SPA. It was further noted that the park itself was designated in 1951 because of:

*“the historic land management (driven grouse shooting and agriculture) and land managers should be encouraged, recognised and supported by the (Peak District National) Park Authority for maintaining this.”*

Respondents noted that today’s grouse moors make valuable contributions to conservation through habitat management and predator control, to peatland restoration through grip and gully blocking, to local economies through expenditure with local business and creating employment.

- *Areas for improvement:* Some respondents suggested ways in which the proposed areas of impact could be improved. For example areas of impact 4, 6 and 7 could be combined around the theme of habitat/ecosystem restoration and areas 2 and 5 could be focused on securing the future of the Park’s special qualities. It was suggested that:

*“if the plan can be simplified and focussed more (it) could aid commitment and delivery”*

- *Sustainability of the NPMP:* It was suggested that the areas of impact are not sustainable as they focus primarily on environmental aspirations and fail to balance these against social and economic aspirations as detailed in the vision framework.
- *Linking the vision to the special qualities and areas of impact:* Another respondent noted:

*“there seems to be little coherence between the three sections of the draft management plan consultation. The vision framework doesn’t seem to link to the special qualities or the areas of impact.”*