

## **7. NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN - APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

### **1. Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to undertake a public consultation on the draft Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23, including the Delivery Plan. This version of the plan has been revised following the previous public consultation and includes the Delivery Plan, which outlines the actions that will achieve the ambitions of the Management Plan.

#### **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).
- The draft management plan was amended following consultation and this was reported to Members at the October 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 46/17) along with a report outlining the results of the public consultation exercise.
- The delivery plan is the product of the delivery planning workshop held at Thornbridge Hall on 3 October 2017 and follow up work done by officers to progress those delivery actions which support the focus we agreed for this plan, which is where by working together we can make an impact.
- A revised draft management plan and delivery plan was shared with Members at the December 2017 Members Forum for members input. The principle change following feedback from the Members Forum was that the number of Areas of Impact has been reduced further from 7 to 6 and the intentions relating to business development have been transferred to Area of Impact 6 Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy and Area of Impact 5 Encouraging enjoyment with understanding.
- The attached document represents the penultimate stage of development of the Management Plan and takes account of the results of public consultation, the suggestions of Members, the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group, Delivery Partners and technical expertise from both within and beyond the Authority.

### **2. Recommendations(s)**

1. **That Members approve undertaking a final public consultation on the draft Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 provided at appendix 1.**
2. **That any changes needed in the draft management plan as a result of the Authority meeting are delegated to the Chief Executive.**

#### **How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?**

### **3. Requirement to update 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 National Park and its future. We must involve all the relevant local authorities, partners and other stakeholders in its development and update. 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 are both part of the updated NPMP at the May 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 24/17). The consultation ran for 6 weeks and the results of this initial consultation were reported to Members at the October 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 46/17).

Initial changes to the document were reported to Members at the October 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 46/17). Further changes were made to the document following a discussion workshop which was held at Thornbridge Hall on 3 October 2017 and subsequent consultation with delivery partners. These changes and the developing delivery plan were shared with Members for feedback at the December 2017 Members Forum Meeting. Further changes were made to the plan following feedback from members at this Members Forum.

The developing Delivery Plan and Management Plan have been considered by the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group on 30 October 2017 and 11 January 2018, and their comments have been taken on board in this draft.

### **Proposals**

5. The proposal of this report is that the attached draft National Park Management Plan 2018-23 is used to undertake a six week public consultation exercise to help determine whether the document as it stands is acceptable for adoption. It is hoped that at this stage the adjustments made to date will reduce the volume of comments, but an analysis of all feedback will be presented to Members along with any final changes at the Authority meeting on 25 May 2018 for the plan’s anticipated adoption.

### **Timetable to Completion**

The remaining actions required to complete the update of the Management Plan are as follows:

- Approximately 23 February to 6 April 2018 - 6 week consultation period on the draft plan.
- 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.

**Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

**Financial:**

6. 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:**

7. The greatest risk to the update of the NPMP is ensuring that there is buy in from partners and stakeholders to the NPMP, especially the elements of the delivery plan where their contributions are needed. This risk has been mitigated by liaison with partners and stakeholders throughout the development of the updated plan and a flexible approach to the content and focus.

**Sustainability:**

8. 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.

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

None

10. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

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