

## **7. NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN – REPORT FROM ADVISORY GROUP (AN)**

### **Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to present findings from the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Advisory Group based on performance from Spring 2013 to Autumn 2014, and to seek approval to make amendments to the online NPMP as a result of the conclusions and recommendations of the NPMP Advisory Group. The report also presents Advisory Group's delivery recommendations for the NPMP until March 2016.

### **Key issues**

- **Good progress has continued during the second year of the NPMP, and further activity has been planned to take us up to 2015/16.**
- **Special emphasis during 2014 has been on the Inspiring Generations signature, including screening of 'Project Wild Thing' to Advisory Group members, and the set-up of a cross partnership Inspiring Generations steering group.**
- **The annual NPMP conference was themed around encouraging more children and young people to be independently active in the outdoors. Inspiring Generations was also the topic of the Duke of Devonshire's plenary speech to the conference.**
- **The five signatures programmes are still considered relevant and useful ways of delivering the management plan, but some efforts have been made with community and resident organisations to widen the focus of the Community Led Planning signature.**
- **Peak District transport budget pressures have highlighted the critical state of rural transport. Advisory Group is looking for ways to lead on advocacy, and begin to respond with alternative thinking on sustainable transport.**

1.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. Receive the summary report of performance made on the NPMP from Spring 2013 to Autumn 2014 (as set out in Appendix a) and note the progress and actions to address underperformance.**
- 2. Agree the recommended NPMP delivery plans from April 2015 to March 2016 (as set out in Appendix b).**
- 3. Agree the amendments to the on-line NPMP (as set out in Appendix c) and delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive to oversee the amendments to the on-line NPMP, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Group and in full consultation with the Chair of the NPMP Advisory Group**

2.

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

The NPMP - Partnership for Progress - is the over-arching strategic plan for the national park and central to the future of the park. It sets the long term vision for the national park (up to 20 years) and aims to guide policy over this time, indicating how purposes and duty will be delivered through sustainable development. The Authority has a statutory requirement to produce a NPMP and review it every five years.

### **Background**

3. In March members of the Advisory Group were invited to a screening of Project Wild Thing, and a lively post film discussion resulted in the decision to look at the Inspiring Generations signature more closely in 2014. This coincided with the successful set-up of an Inspiring Generations Steering Group to co-ordinate activities, with membership from Sheffield University, National Trust, Severn Trent Water, Staffordshire, Sheffield and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts, and the RSPB.

4. In response to some members' concerns that the Community Led Planning signature has now delivered many of its objectives, efforts have been made during the summer to consult on how to widen the focus of the signature. A focus-group type workshop was held with community organisations in September, and a similar activity was held at the Parishes Day in October. More in depth consultation with residents and communities to better understand their needs will take place during the review the NPMP which will begin next year, starting with specific questions about the needs of communities in the next Resident Survey, due late in 2015.

5. In July a progress report identifying any issues and opportunities was considered by the NPMP Advisory Group, and circulated to all partners for consultation before the annual conference.

In summary:

- 77 activities were complete, or on track for completion.
- 17 activities were delayed in starting, had changed priority or were behind schedule.
- 2 actions have been cancelled.

The Chair of Advisory Group will outline some of the key achievements and outstanding issues when presenting this report to Authority. A full report can be found in Appendix a.

6. In October the annual NPMP conference was themed around encouraging more children and young people to be independently active in the outdoors. At the event, the Duke of Devonshire gave the plenary talk on the meaning of Inspiring Generations from the perspective of the Chatsworth Estate, explaining how although the house and estate were conceived as architectural extravaganzas to reflect the wealth and power of the Cavendish family, Chatsworth is now all about the place itself, and the people who come to visit it. Customer surveys have revealed that what people who visit most value about Chatsworth is the landscape. The Duke went on to describe the relationship between the national park and the estate, "And thank goodness for the national park...without it, the landscape around Chatsworth would have been spoiled if not wrecked. The influence of the national park, and its Authority is a big part of the success of Chatsworth."

7. Whilst considering the progress of the previous year and the new pressures and drivers of change the Advisory Group considered that one of the more significant issues facing the national park is the potential impacts of increased transport budget pressures. This situation has highlighted the critical state of rural public transport. Advisory Group is looking for ways to lead on advocacy and begin to respond to the implications of budget cuts. The group will meet with wider partners in early 2015 to discuss how it might explore new ways forward, advocate for changes and champion commercially successful opportunities that meet the needs of visitors and communities.

8. **Proposals**

The NPMP Advisory Group recommends:

Adoption of detailed delivery plans for the period ahead up to March 2016, that partners have agreed to work on together, with milestones for delivery, based on conference outputs, as outlined in Appendix b.

Inclusion of 1 new aim and merging of 7 aims into 3 aims, removal of two aims and inclusion of additional new drivers of change in the online NPMP as outlined in Appendix c.

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

9. **Financial:**

None

10. **Risk Management:**

The NPMP performance management framework escalates any risks to Advisory Group and to Authority on an annual basis.

11. **Sustainability:**

The NPMP plays a central role in indicating how achieving national park purposes and duties will be delivered through sustainable development, and in doing so provides an overarching framework for all National Park Authority policy

12.

**Consultation** : Chair of NPMP Advisory Group, Chief Executive, Director of Planning, Assistant Directors, Lead Officers

13. **Background papers** (not previously published) – None

**Appendices –**

Appendix a

Appendix b

Appendix c

Appendix d

**Report Author, Job Title**

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