

## **7. ADOPTION OF PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-23**

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

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to adopt the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23. This final version of the plan has been revised following the second public consultation.

#### **Key Issues**

- Section 66 of 1995 Environment Act requires National Park Authorities to produce and update a National Park Management Plan every 5 years.
- The National Park Management Plan Advisory Group has played a lead role in overseeing this up-date of the Plan.
- Members agreed at the October 2016 Authority meeting (minute reference 39/16), that the National Park Management Plan 2018-23 would use the existing vision framework and identify a small number of areas of focus to effect positive change for the Peak District National Park. This led to the areas of impact identified, and the follow on delivery plan, have been those that can only be achieved by partners working together.
- Members gave approval to undertake a public consultation on the updated NPMP at the May 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 24/17). This consultation focussed on the areas of impact and special qualities.
- 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 with partners and communities at Thornbridge Hall in October 2017 and follow up work done by officers and working groups, in particular the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group.
- A revised draft management plan and delivery plan was shared with Members at the December 2017 Members Forum for members input.
- Members approved a second public consultation on the draft management plan, including the delivery plan, at the February 2018 Authority meeting (minute reference 5/18). This consultation focussed on the delivery plan, as this wasn't present in the first consultation.
- The consultation took place in a six week period between March and April 2018. We received 93 responses, and have taken account of appropriate responses in the attached version of the management plan.
- The version at appendix 1 represents the final stage of development of the Management Plan and takes account of the results of public consultations, 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 adopt the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 provided at appendix 1.**
2. **That any changes needed in the final 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 agreed at the October 2016 Authority meeting (minute reference 39/16), that the National Park Management Plan 2018-23 would use the existing vision framework and identify a small number of areas of focus to effect positive change for the Peak District National Park. This led to the areas of impact identified, and the follow on delivery plan, have been those that can only be achieved by partners working together. The same report recognised the need to ensure we got buy in to the future development of the management plan based more clearly on our ambitions for the special qualities. This led to the special qualities being part of the management plan, and included in both public consultations.
5. Members gave approval to undertake a public consultation on the eight areas of impact and eight 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).
6. Initial changes to the document as a consequence of this consultation were reported to Members at the October 2017 Authority meeting (minute reference 46/17). The key changes were that the vision was updated to three main areas to better reflect our two

statutory purposes and the duty to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park, two new intentions were created, and some intentions were broadened out.

7. The delivery plan element was developed through a discussion workshop with partners held at Thornbridge Hall in 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.

### **Proposals**

8. Members approved a second public consultation on the draft management plan, including the delivery plan, at the February 2018 Authority meeting (minute reference 5/18). The consultation took place in a six week period between March and April 2018. The consultation was focussed on gaining feedback on the delivery plan, as this wasn't consulted on in the first consultation. We received 93 responses, which is about half the number received in the first consultation period, and in line with our expectations given the iterative nature of the process. The high level break down of the responses received by issue is as follows.
  - 45% The negative impacts of driven grouse moors and associated activities of gamekeepers.
  - 18% A lack of leadership, poor targets and sense of direction.
  - 13.5% Access improvements across a wide range of specific topics.
  - 9% Housing, the economy or broad band infrastructure
  - 7.5% Wildlife should take precedence over other concerns.
  - 7% Moorland restoration for carbon sequestration.
9. The comments received on the special qualities were supportive of them. The largest body of comments referred to the negative effect of driven grouse moors upon the special qualities of the National Park, closely followed by comments on their condition. A smaller number suggested that more emphasis should be given to wildlife as an aspect of the National Park and the benefits of ecosystem services. Therefore, no amendments have been made to the special qualities, as management of moorlands is covered as an intention in area of impact 2, the condition of the special qualities is an element of our further work on these, and it is felt that wildlife is sufficiently covered within the special qualities.
10. The comments received on the areas of impact were dominated by ones referring to birds of prey. This was followed by the observation that the plan lacks leadership or ambition in the delivery of the purposes of a National Park. A theme which also came through in the first public consultation is encouragement to focus on the 'National' status of the National Park rather than giving priority to local considerations. The need for greater collaboration and engagement between partners is also stated. Therefore, the section on birds of prey has been strengthened, and there is a more developed section linking the intentions to the delivery plan, so that leadership in the plan is more explicit. There is no change as a result of the 'National' comments, as the management plan is for the place, and it is felt that it has been developed at the right level and in partnership with all the necessary partners.
11. There were many specific individual comments, many of which focussed on the delivery plan, as this wasn't consulted on in the first public consultation. We have taken account of many of these, which has sharpened the delivery plan. Appendix 1 to this report contains the updated version of the management plan.

12. The attached version at appendix 1 represents the final stage of development of the management plan and takes account of the results of public consultations, the suggestions of Members, the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group, delivery partners and technical expertise from both within and beyond the Authority. This report therefore seeks approval to adopt the plan, as set out in appendix 1 to this report, so that it becomes the partnership plan for the place, and implementing the delivery plan can begin.

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

**Financial:**

13. In terms of the update of the NPMP, this has a budget associated with it. The delivery plan elements that the Authority is responsible for will be incorporated into the development of the Corporate Strategy for 2019-2024.

**Risk Management:**

14. 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:**

15. 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). The SA and HRA have been undertaken as part of the update.

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

None

17. **Appendices**

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

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

Matt Mardling, Senior Strategy Officer, 17 May 2018