

**7. LANDSCAPES REVIEW: CALL FOR EVIDENCE  
PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK - CONSULTATION RESPONSE (SLF)**

**1. Purpose of the report**

This report seeks Member approval to submit a response to the Landscapes Review – Call for Evidence.

**Key Issues**

- **The government has initiated an independent review of England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).**
- **The team undertaking the review have provided, through a call for evidence, individuals and organisations with the opportunity to contribute.**
- **Responses to the call for evidence must be submitted by 18 December 2018.**

**2. Recommendations(s)**

- 1. That Members support the consultation response shown in Appendix 1.**
- 2. That any changes needed to the consultation document as a result of the Authority meeting are delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Chair of the Authority.**

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

3. As Members will be aware, the recommendations arising from the review, if accepted and implemented by the government, could fundamentally change the policies and legal obligations of the Peak District National Park Authority.

**Background Information**

4. In January 2018 the government published a [25-Year Plan for the Environment](#). It set out an approach to protect landscapes and habitats in England and committed to undertaking a review National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).
5. The review, led by Julian Glover, was initiated in May 2018. The review aims not to diminish the character or independence of designated landscapes, or to impose new burdens on them and the people who live and work in the areas they cover. Instead, its purpose is to ask what might be done better, what changes could assist them, and whether definitions and systems - which in many cases date back to their original creation are still sufficient.
6. In the context of meeting both local and national priorities and wider environmental governance, the review will examine and make recommendations on:
- the existing statutory purposes for National Parks and AONBs and how effectively they are being met
  - the alignment of these purposes with the goals set out in the 25-Year Plan for the Environment

- the case for extension or creation of new designated areas
  - how to improve individual and collective governance of National Parks and AONBs, and how that governance interacts with other national assets
  - the financing of National Parks and AONBs
  - how to enhance the environment and biodiversity in existing designations
  - how to build on the existing eight-point plan for National Parks and to connect more people with the natural environment from all sections of society and improve health and wellbeing
  - how well National Parks and AONBs support communities
7. Weakening or undermining existing protections or geographic scope will not be part of the review, which will instead focus on how designated areas can boost wildlife, support the recovery of natural habitats and connect more people with nature.
8. The review team have carried out visits and meetings in many parts of England, and visited the Peak District National Park on 18-19 October 2018. It is hoped the team found the visit interesting and stimulating and took away lots of positive messages about the good work the Authority is doing in the Peak District, as well as registering the challenges we face and how there are opportunities to do even better.
9. The team undertaking the review has now provided an opportunity for individuals and organisations to contribute their views in response to a series of questions. The review team have not set a word length on answers, however, they have asked that where possible each individual answer is no more than 500 words. Responses must be submitted by 18 December 2018.
10. Members of the Authority were asked to submit their comments in response to the call for evidence questions by Monday 12 November. The comments received have helped to shape the draft consultation responses shown in Appendix 1.
11. In addition, all partners involved in the development and delivery of the Peak District National Park Management Plan have been encouraged to use the opportunity to submit a response to the call for evidence for their own organisation or network.
12. We have also worked with the 9 other National Park Authorities in England, through National Parks England, to draft a submission to the call for evidence from National Parks England (NPE). A draft of this NPE response is attached at appendix 2. This draft is being considered by Chairs of National Park Authorities at an NPE Board meeting on 29 November 2018.

### **Proposals**

13. Responses to the questions contained in the Landscape review: call for evidence have been drafted and are shown in Appendix 1. The overall consultation response will be subject to a full discussion at the Authority meeting on 7 December 2018.

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

#### **Financial:**

14. None.

**Risk Management:**

15. None.

**Sustainability:**

16. None.

**Equality:**

17. There are no direct equality implications arising from preparing a response to the consultation. However in light of the current Member profile the Authority would like the Review to explore how Membership of National Park Authorities can be made more diverse by removing barriers that may restrict the appointment of more Members from underrepresented groups.

18. Where data is provided the Authority monitors its membership against the 9 protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. The current profile data suggests that younger people, women, people from BME communities and disabled people are underrepresented in the current Authority membership.

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

None.

**20. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Peak District National Park Authority:  
Landscapes review: call for evidence – Draft consultation response  
Appendix 2 – National Parks England (NPE) Draft Response

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

Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive, 29 November 2018