

## 7. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

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

To up-date members of key issues since the previous Authority meeting

### 2. **Recommendation**

#### 1. **To note the report**

### 3. **Key Items**

**Long service awards** – I had the opportunity to give out a number of long service awards over the summer, to two staff who have given 40 years' service to the Authority and one member of staff who has given 20 years' service.

**First changing places toilet in the Peak District National Park officially opened at Torside** - Many people require specialist toilets and now they are available in the Peak District. Changing Places launched its campaign back in 2006 and a number of them are now available on or near to the Trans Pennine Trail. These toilets are for people with multiple learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis who often need more equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. PDNPA working with the Friends of Pennine trail alongside Accessible Derbyshire and United Utilities, opened this pioneering facility on 19 July. Other associated trail improvements e.g. new viewpoints, and surfacing were carried out at the same time to enhance the visitor experience, especially for people who have been unable to enjoy the Peak District to the same extent as others..

**Hope Valley Explorer a growing success – In July the Authority launched** a new seasonal bus tour service in the Hope Valley with Stagecoach. The Hope Valley Explorer will operate from 21 July to 31 August. The service aims to reduce the number of car journeys within the National Park during its busiest season and the school summer holidays. The service will call at rail stations at Edale, Hope and Bamford, at times convenient for getting the most from a day out in the area for people arriving by rail. As well as a flexible hop-on, hop-off service, the Explorer features an audio commentary of the rich natural and cultural history of the area. The route includes key stops at Edale (for the Pennine Way), Castleton, Hope and Fairholmes in the Derwent Valley, as well as National Park visitor centres and bike hire centre at Fairholmes. The initial three-year, seasonal pilot scheme is partly funded by the National Park Authority and aims to assess the viability of running similar services long-term, to help ease pressure from private vehicles in the National Park and support linked sustainable transport by the use of rail services.

**Grants** - Natural England are prepared to offer the Authority a capital grant of up to £350,000 as an essential part of our current application for a new Countryside Stewardship Scheme for Swallow Moss, a 260ha area of moorland on the Warslow estate. This would be in addition to the annual revenue payment of around £15,000.

The application was submitted to replace the existing 10 year Higher Level Stewardship Scheme for the site that expired in 2018. A pre-requisite of the application was a hydrological survey to inform future management. The survey was undertaken by external consultants (100% funded by NE) and the results and recommendations have just been agreed by Natural England.

The 100% grant would be to carry out an extensive ditch and natural watercourses 'blocking' to achieve the well- known benefits of:

- Reduce erosion pathways developing

- Help slow the flow of water off and across the site (particularly during high rainfall events)
- Help retain water on site
- Reduce fire risk
- Improve habitat resilience and encourage the spread of sphagnum moss

The work would be carried out between mid Aug and the end of Feb over the next two years (2020 and 2021).

This is obviously a great opportunity to build on the last 10 years of management of these moors under the previous HL Scheme which has already resulted in the SSSI status improving.

A sum of £3500 has been received from National Parks Partnership – Senior Leadership Team agreed that this should be allocated to the small community grants scheme operated by the Policy and Communities Service as the current budget for this is relatively small but is seen as good value for money by those communities which have taken it up. The enhanced budget will help in delivering our work with communities.

**Climate Change Summit 15 October 2019** - Working Towards a Zero Carbon National Park Climate Change Summit will be held on Tuesday 15 October at the Pavilion Arts Centre, Buxton.

This summit will bring organisations together in a collective effort to ensure the National Park plays its part in tackling climate change. The focus of the day will be mitigating emissions from land management and transport. Land management will include productive agriculture and transport will be considered from the perspective of communities, visitors and businesses to ensure we cover the full picture.

The objective is to reflect on and reinforce the need to work towards net zero carbon by 2050, better understand the current emissions sources produced by the Peak District National Park, hear expert insights around the topics of land management and sustainable transport, identify the actions we can take and hear from local leaders on their commitment to move from words to action. Attendance is by invitation to ensure as fully representative an audience as possible. An action plan will be produced as part of the summit and monitored as part of the National Park's Management Plan.

### 3. **Appendices**

None

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

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