

## **Appendix 3 - Landscapes**

### **1. Our Policies and Legal Obligations.**

#### **International**

The European Landscape Convention came into force in 2007. It establishes the need to recognise landscape in law, to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes, and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy including cultural, economic and social policies.

Defra has charged Natural England with leading the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in England, working in partnership with Historic England. Natural England provided guidance for assessing landscapes in National Parks and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 2011. This guidance sets out the factors, which contribute to natural beauty as -

- Landscape quality
- Scenic quality
- Relative wildness
- Relative tranquillity
- Natural heritage features
- Cultural heritage

#### **National**

The designation of national parks is because of their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage - the 'special qualities' that make them so important. They also provide a breathing space and opportunities for learning, discovery and enjoyment for millions of people.

The 1995 Environment Act sets out the purposes of designation:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

If there is a conflict between these two purposes, the Act states that conservation takes priority. In carrying out these purposes, the National Park Authority shall seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.

The Act also requires the Peak District National Park Authority to produce a management plan that outlines the vision for the management of the National Park. It must reflect national park purposes and, to ensure it is relevant and forward looking, be updated at least every five years.

Whilst national park purposes and duty do not include the term landscape the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 provides statutory provision for what can be taken into account in terms of natural beauty:

- Wildlife and cultural heritage may be taken into account in assessing natural beauty for National Park designations: and
- Agricultural land, woodland or other areas where the vegetation or landform are partly the product of human intervention are not precluded from being of natural beauty.

A wide range of distinctive landscapes make up the Peak District National Park. These form the basis for its designation as a national park. The term landscape does not simply mean 'the view'. It encompasses the relationship between people, place and nature. There is a need to protect our cherished landscapes whilst accommodating some changes arising from social,

economic and environmental necessity. Our aim is not to preserve a past landscape. It is to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park. By this, we mean we will maintain a distinctive sense of place for future generations to enjoy.

The Peak District Landscape Strategy & Action Plan 2009-2019 demonstrates how the obligations of the European Landscape Convention will be fulfilled within the Peak District National Park. The review of the current Landscape Strategy and Action Plan will take place in 2019/20.

The 8-point Plan for England's National Parks launched in 2016 sets out the ambition to put National Parks at the heart of the way we think about the environment and how we manage it for future generations. The plan focuses on connecting young people to nature, creating thriving natural environments, growth in international tourism, new apprenticeships, promoting the best of British Food, Everyone's National Parks, landscape and heritage and health and wellbeing.

The 25 Year Environment Plan was launched in 2018 following the Health and Harmony consultation. The plan sets out the Government's ambition to leave a healthier environment for future generations and includes a number of targets. A further consultation concerning the indicators which would be required to monitor the targets set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan followed. The resulting Outcome Indicator Framework collectively describes environmental change as it relates to the 10 goals in the 25 Year Environment Plan. This document sets out a framework of outcome indicators for the 25 Year Environment Plan, developed on the concept of natural capital.

The Landscapes Review September 2019 states "*We want our national landscapes to work together with big ambitions so they are happier, healthier, greener, more beautiful and open to everyone*". The review focuses on five areas: -

- Landscapes Alive for Nature and Beauty
- Landscapes for Everyone
- Living in Landscapes
- More Special Places
- New Ways of Working

They are not separate but part of one ambition: to strengthen the natural beauty of England's landscapes in order to serve the country better by improving their biodiversity, and the lives of people who work in them, live in them and enjoy them.

## **Local**

Local Plan policy review. Following the adoption of the Development Management Policies (Part 2 of the Local Plan for the National Park), the Authority has now embarked upon a full strategic review of planning policies. It is intended that this will track the life of the Corporate Plan with early parish engagement and evidence gathering in the early stages, followed by more formal public consultation around:

- Issues and Options - 2021/22
- Preferred Options/Draft Plan - 2022/23
- Submission and examination - 2023/24
- Adoption - 2024

The National Park Management Plan 2018-23 has two key Areas of Impact directly relating to landscape:

- Area of Impact 2: Ensuring a future for farming and land management. The delivery plan actions for this area of impact are: -
  - The Land Managers Forum to work with key private and public sector partners to build on the work of National Parks England "Future of Farming in National

- Parks” and describe a future support system for the Peak District National Park, which will deliver a full range of public goods, using the White Peak as an example.
- That the proposals from the Moorland Working Group are implemented. These will focus on:
    - Visitor engagement
    - Fire risk
    - Resilient sustainable moorland
    - Moorland birds
  - Area of Impact 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale. The delivery plan actions for this area of impact are: -
    - We will have agreed and established a system of monitoring at a landscape scale encompassing landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.
    - We will have a White Peak Partnership that is delivering agreed priority actions.
    - Develop a clear long term vision, plan and have funding in place for the Dark Peak and South Pennines to 2050.
    - Develop a clear future plan and funding to develop and continue landscape scale delivery on the South West Peak.

However, as landscape is fundamental to the special qualities of the Peak District National Park it is cross cutting and contributes to other Areas of Impact and their delivery plan actions.

Our Corporate Strategy 2019-24 has fifteen key performance indicators (KPIs) that are relevant to landscape, and these are across all strategy outcomes. The relevant indicators are as follows: -

KPI 1: Influence the development of a support system that properly rewards farmers and land managers for delivering a full range of public benefits.

KPI 2: Natural beauty conserved and enhanced.

KPI 3: Increase the amount of carbon captured and stored as part of routine land use and management.

KPI 4: Area of moorland blanket bog moving towards favourable condition.

KPI 5: Sustain the area of non-protected, species-rich grassland through retention, enhancement and creation.

KPI 6: Area of new native woodland created.

KPI7: Maintain and enhance populations of protected and distinctive species.

KPI8: Increased knowledge, understanding and active engagement with archaeology, historic structures and landscapes.

KPI9: Percentage of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings conserved and/or enhanced.

KPI10: Percentage of Conservation Areas conserved and/or enhanced.

KPI15: Value of Peak District National Park Authority volunteer support.

KPI 18: Number of Peak District National Park Authority interventions facilitating community development.

KPI 20: Number of residents involved in community life as a result of Peak District National Park Authority grants.

KPI 26: To have a corporate Asset Management Plan.

The KPIs and targets for 2024 and 2040 are shown in appendix 3B.

## 2. Background

### **Ensuring a future for farming and land management.**

The impact of farming and land management on our landscapes is significant. Around 84% of the total area of the Peak District National Park is farmed land and the majority is privately

owned. Farmers and land managers are essential for conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. Farms must be viable and resilient businesses to survive. Decision-making is mostly driven by economic pressures. Some land management support payments do not focus enough on enhancing the special qualities or on providing long term benefits. Current agri-environment schemes have become less attractive to farmers due to complexity, increased recording requirements and inadequate payments. Farming and land management that produces more at the expense of the environment is not sustainable. It will leave the landscape less resilient to the uncertain effects of climate change and could lead to further biodiversity loss.

If farmers and land managers are to be encouraged to deliver more for the natural and cultural environment then they will need to be properly rewarded for delivering a full range of public goods. Current proposals for the new Environmental Land Management Scheme aim to support this approach however the design of the new scheme is still evolving. The polluter pays principle is likely to be increasingly applied with greater regulation and more effective enforcement on the horizon. The Land Managers Forum has worked with key private and public sector partners to build on the work of National Parks England “Future of Farming in National Parks” and has developed pilot ideas for a new support scheme for the White Peak. Some elements of which have been selected as part of Defra’s phase one tests and trials for the new Environmental Land Management Scheme. Farming and land management businesses will need help and support in the transition period from now until the new Environmental Land Management Scheme and regulations take effect.

#### **Moorland management that conserves and enhances the special qualities.**

The Peak District National Park is renowned for its upland landscapes. Its blanket bogs, upland heaths, clough woodlands and rocky outcrops provide habitats for many species. They provide the setting for recreational activities. They support the economy by providing jobs for the tourist and land management sectors. They also provide benefits to society such as flood alleviation, carbon sequestration and storage. This is relevant to the Peak District National Park because 37% of its 555 square miles is upland moor. In order to conserve and enhance these areas we need to focus on ensuring responsible enjoyment, managing fire risk and increasing the variety and abundance of moorland birds, including under-represented birds of prey. Partnerships such as the Local Access Forum, Fire Operations Group and Moors for the Future have made progress over past years but there is further work to be done.

#### **Managing landscape conservation on a big scale.**

The Peak District National Park’s contrasting landscapes are one of its special qualities. They each require management. The 2010 Making Space for Nature report called for more, bigger, better and joined up ecological networks to enable nature to thrive. The most effective way to do this is to focus on restoring, conserving and enhancing the locally, nationally and internationally important habitats that make up the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park. This means working in a wide enough geographical area and in a strategic way so the change is bigger. It means bringing together organisations and specialists to work together for the landscape as a whole underpinned by the National Character Areas. We need specialists like ecologists, cultural heritage experts, tourism bodies, outreach workers and businesses, to work as teams. To do this, we need to build on, and expand, our existing ways of working and partnerships. For example, Natural England is leading on the development of nature recovery networks but this is also being developed locally with other partners and specialists. There are established or emerging landscape partnerships that work within the National Character Areas of the National Park – these are the Moors for the Future Partnership, the South West Peak Partnership and the White Peak Partnership.

#### **Landscape monitoring.**

Good management of our natural and cultural resources is crucial in providing benefits to local communities and the wider public. We need to find new ways to improve the quality of these

resources. We need to be able to measure the changes that are already occurring, as well as the effect of the improvements we make. This requires us to monitor changes at the right scale.

The Peak District National Park mostly lies within three National Character Areas, each with distinctive characteristics. However, there is no standard way of monitoring changes to those characteristics. This makes it difficult to target our efforts. We can use the Landscape Strategy to develop an integrated landscape-monitoring scheme. This will help us to understand how and why the landscape is changing. It will help us determine whether changes are positive or not and how we should address the changes.

### **The White Peak Partnership.**

The Government calls for more, bigger, better and joined up habitats. Currently, the important habitats that make up the White Peak are mostly in the dales. They are much patchier on the plateau, usually within large areas of more intensively farmed land. Their small size makes it difficult for them to adapt to the effects of climate change and to provide viable habitats for good populations of species. Nature needs connected landscapes and habitats to thrive. Natural England has worked with the Authority and other partners to produce opportunity mapping for a White Peak nature recovery network. The White Peak Partnership has developed a vision for the White Peak landscape and a suite of priority projects to benefit wildlife, cultural heritage, natural beauty and people. The White Peak Steering Group identified the development of a new Environmental Land Management Scheme, which would deliver for the White Peak as the top priority to take forward. These ideas have been fed into the White Peak Pilot Ideas submitted to Defra and resulting in the opportunity to test and trial elements for the design of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

### **Moors for the Future.**

There has been much work undertaken in the Dark Peak to restore the quality of its moorlands. They provide a dramatic landscape and a globally rare habitat. The aim of this work is to restore and conserve the ecological integrity of the blanket bog whilst raising awareness of the multitude of benefits that moorlands provide including carbon sequestration, flood alleviation and recreational opportunities. The Moors for the Future Partnership has confronted an exceptional challenge over the past 16 years working to bring this entire landscape into good ecological condition, restoring the benefits it delivers. Following the UK's departure from the European Union, significant funding structures for the partnership are likely to end. New funding sources need to be secured to ensure that these environmental gains can continue. These landscapes will need more work over the next 30 years to ensure their continued recovery.

### **The South West Peak Landscape Partnership.**

The South West Peak is a landscape of contrasts comprising a mosaic of habitats that support internationally and regionally important species such as curlew, lapwing and snipe. Despite the best efforts of many these continue to be vulnerable and therefore at risk. Cultural heritage features such as field barns and boundaries are prominent in the landscape but in need of restoration and protection. This fragile landscape provides benefits to people as it collects and filters water, stores carbon and provides a place to live, work and enjoy. The South West Peak Landscape Partnership has a vision and a comprehensive set of objectives and projects set to deliver the vision over an initial five year period. The programme is approaching the end of its third year and new sources of funding will need to be secured before current programme funding ends in December 2021. This will ensure the further development of objectives and projects to continue the delivery of the agreed vision without losing momentum.

### **3. Proposal**

In line with national policy, the Authority's ambition for landscape is 'A sustainable landscape that is conserved and enhanced'. The Authority is already undertaking many activities, both on our own and in partnership, that assist in meeting the ambition. These are summarised in appendix 3B to this report. This illustrates our ambition and scope of activities that are currently assisting in achieving this.

### **4. Member Engagement**

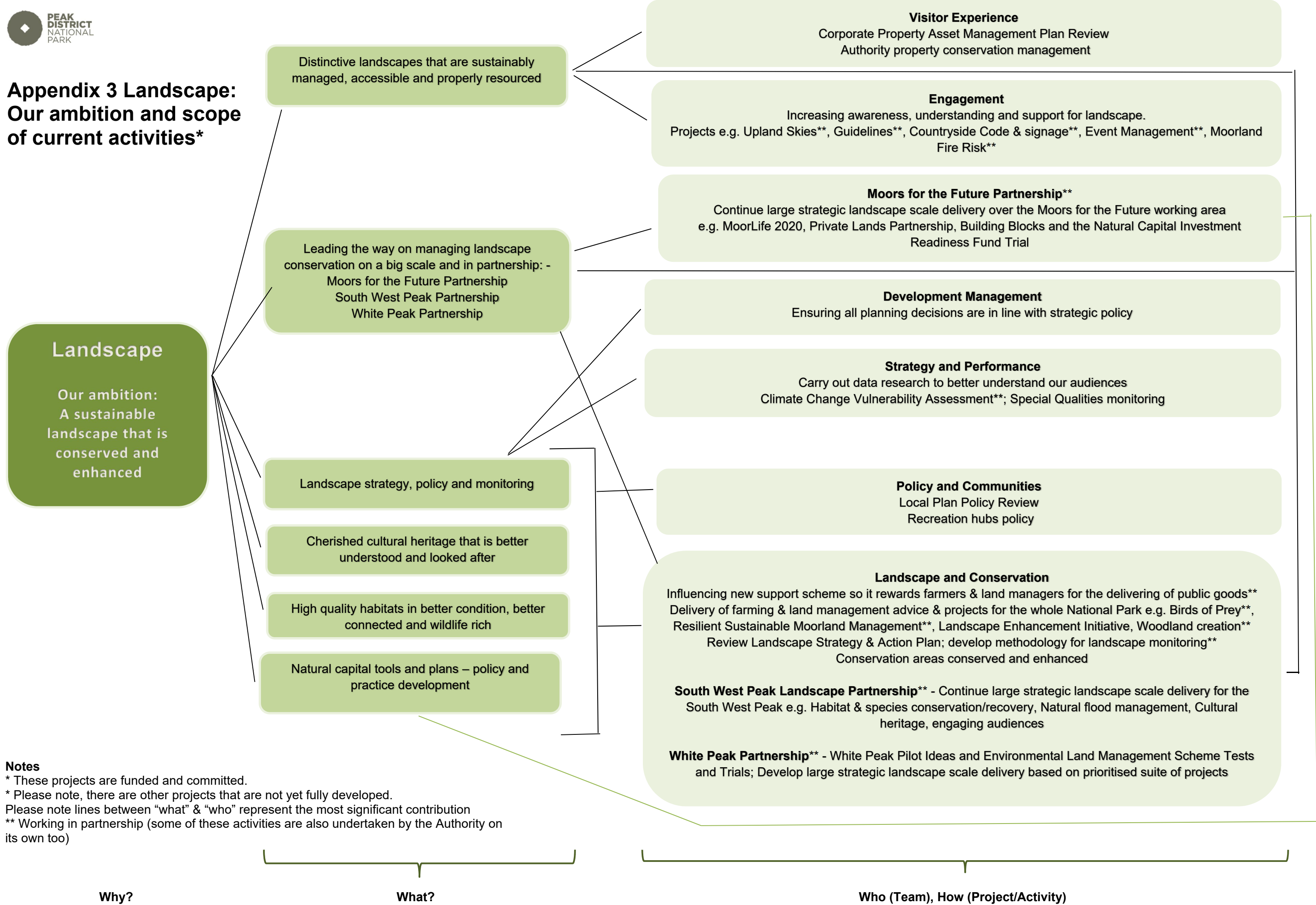
The activities outlined in appendix 3B to this report are all at different stages of development, however, there are opportunities for Members to engage with some key projects at the following meetings: -

- Some Members will be attending the National Park Management Plan Summit on climate change on 15 October 2019.
- At the November 2019 Forum, there will be updates on the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Carbon Management Plan 2, the National Park Management Plan Climate Change Summit, Recreation Hubs Policy, Landscape Strategy and Action Plan, landscape monitoring and a briefing on woodland management and creation.
- At the December 2019 Programmes and Resources Committee, Members will be asked to approve the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Environmental Management Annual Report 2018/19 and Carbon Management Plan 2. There will also be a report on the Hope Valley Explorer first year feedback and thinking for next years' service.
- In Autumn 2019, the Member Steering Group for the Local Plan will consider the scope of review, engagement planning and early thinking on evidence needs for the Local Plan review.
- The January 2020 Programmes and Resources committee will be asked to approve the Moors for the Future 2020/21 Operational Plan.
- The March 2020 Programmes and Resources Committee will consider an update on the South West Peak Partnership, including legacy planning.
- The May 2020 Authority Committee will receive the National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report for 2019/20.
- Finally, in mid 2020, updates will be provided to Members on the South West Peak Partnership, Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and landscape monitoring.

### **5. Funding**

The scope of current activities set out in appendix 3B have funding and resources identified to deliver them. Funding would need to be found for any further projects. Members should be aware that Moors for the Future and the South West Peak Partnership are partnerships that will require further funding to continue after their existing funding ceases. Continuation funding for our landscape scale partnerships and programmes is likely to become a greater issue with the likelihood of a smaller number of highly competitive funding streams for this type of work.

# Appendix 3 Landscape: Our ambition and scope of current activities\*



**Notes**

\* These projects are funded and committed.  
 \* Please note, there are other projects that are not yet fully developed.  
 Please note lines between “what” & “who” represent the most significant contribution  
 \*\* Working in partnership (some of these activities are also undertaken by the Authority on its own too)

Why?

What?

Who (Team), How (Project/Activity)



## Sustainable Landscape: Targets and Timescales in Corporate Strategy



<b>CS 2024</b>	<b>KPI 1:</b> At least 55% of PDNP in environmental land management schemes
<b>CS 2040</b>	<b>KPI 1:</b> At least 95% of PDNP in environmental land management schemes



<b>KPI 2a:</b> Net enhancement of natural beauty
<b>KPI 2a:</b> Increased net enhancement of natural beauty



<b>KPI 2b:</b> 100% of planning decisions in accordance with strategic policy
<b>KPI 2b:</b> Increased net enhancement of natural beauty



<b>CS 2024</b>	<b>KPI 3:</b> 3,650 tonnes net decrease in carbon emissions from moorland
<b>CS 2040</b>	<b>KPI 3:</b> Focus on a wider range of habitats to further reduce net carbon emissions & increase carbon storage



<b>KPI 4:</b> Restoration activities on 1,500 hectares of degraded blanket bog
<b>KPI 4:</b> Restoration activities on 8,233 hectares of degraded blanket bog



<b>KPI 5:</b> At least 5,000 hectares of non-protected, species-rich grassland sustained
<b>KPI 5:</b> At least 10,000 hectares of non-protected, species-rich grassland sustained



<b>CS 2024</b>	<b>KPI 6:</b> At least 400 hectares of new native woodland created
<b>CS 2040</b>	<b>KPI 6:</b> At least 2000 hectares of new native woodland created



<b>KPI 7:</b> Breeding pairs of birds of prey in the moorlands restored to at least the levels present in the late 1990s
<b>KPI 7:</b> Enhance a number of different priority species in key areas



<b>KPI 8:</b> 5% increase in audiences actively engaging with cultural heritage
<b>KPI 8:</b> 25% increase in audiences actively engaged with cultural heritage



<b>CS 2024</b>	<b>KPI 9:</b> 10% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings conserved and/or enhanced
<b>CS 2040</b>	<b>KPI 9:</b> 25% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings conserved and/or enhanced



<b>KPI 10:</b> 100% of Conservation Areas have adopted appraisals
<b>KPI 10:</b> 15% of appraisals reviewed and conservation areas enhanced



<b>KPI 15:</b> An extra £250,000 in volunteer support
<b>KPI 15:</b> An extra £500,000 in volunteer support



<b>CS 2024</b>	<b>KPI 18:</b> 1,000 PDNPA interventions facilitating community development
<b>CS 2040</b>	<b>KPI 18:</b> 5,000 PDNPA interventions facilitating community development



<b>KPI 20:</b> An extra 500 residents involved in community life due to PDNPA grants
<b>KPI 20:</b> An extra 2000 residents involved in community life due to PDNPA grants



<b>KPI 26:</b> Corporate Asset Management Plan adopted and implemented
<b>KPI 26:</b> Corporate Asset Management Plan adopted and implemented

## Indicative Timescale For Member Engagement

Committee, Forum or Meeting Dates	Project or Activity
4 October 2019	Summary of Programmes for consideration by P&R Committee
15 October 2019	National Park Management Plan Climate Change Summit
1 November 2019 Forum	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Update Carbon Management Plan 2 Update NPMP Climate Change Summit Feedback Recreation Hubs Policy Update Woodland management and creation briefing Landscape Strategy and action plan review update Landscape monitoring methodology update
6 December 2019 Programmes and Resources Committee	Approval of Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Approval of Environmental Management Annual Report 2018/19 Approval of Carbon Management Plan



Autumn 2019 Member Steering Group for Local Plan	Scope of review, engagement planning and early thinking on evidence needs for the Local Plan review
17 January 2020 Programmes and Resources Committee	Approval of Moors for the Future 2020/21 Operational Plan
20 March 2020 Programmes and Resources Committee	South West Peak Landscape Partnership update including legacy planning
22 May 2020 Authority	National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2019/20
Mid 2020	Future sustainable programme delivery for the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Landscape Strategy and action plan review update Landscape monitoring methodology update