

8. CREATION OF A PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER TASK GROUP (DH)

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks approval to establish a Programmes and Resources Committee - Climate Change Member Task Group, agree the Group's Draft Terms of Reference and adopt arrangements to appoint Members to the Group.

Key Issues

- The Programmes and Resources Committee have identified the need for a Member led climate change group to be created.
- At the first meeting of the Task Group, the draft Terms of Reference (see attached) will be reviewed and the relationships with other groups looking at climate change, particularly those involved with the Peak District National Park Management Plan delivery and oversight, will be clarified.

2. Recommendations

- 1. To establish a Programmes and Resources Committee - Climate Change Member Task Group.**
- 2. To approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the Group (set out in Appendix 1).**
- 3. To implement the appointment arrangements as described in the report. This includes delegating authority to the Director of Corporate Strategy and Development to determine the membership of the Task Group, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Programmes and Resources Committee, should more than six Members of the Committee express an interest in joining the Task Group.**
- 4. To confirm that attendance at meetings of the Task Group is an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowances.**

3. How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3.1 The Authority is required to adhere to the 2008 Climate Change Act. This act set a nationwide target of reducing greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). In 2019, the target was updated to a 100% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050.

3.2 The UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks (2010) places climate change as central to National Park Authority objectives and describes their role in the following ways:

- The Authorities are educators and in the area of climate change they have a vital role to play. They should spread important messages about the impacts of climate change and how individuals, especially visitors, can play their part in tackling it in ways which motivate lifelong behaviour change.
- The Authorities have a role as exemplars of sustainability in enabling the natural environment to adapt to predicted changes (and being resilient to unpredictable

events), in supporting the delivery of ecosystem services and in developing more resilient infrastructure (such as rights of way that are less vulnerable to flood damage).

- The Parks themselves will be threatened by climate change and the Authorities must ensure that they protect the public assets which the Parks represent.
- The Authorities should lead the way in sustainable land management to prevent further carbon loss from soils and to encourage carbon storage in trees and fens.
- The Parks should be exemplars in renewable energy.
- Authorities need to work with local communities to reach a position where renewable energy is the norm in all Parks whilst not compromising their overriding duty under the 1949 Act.
- The Authorities should promote energy efficiency within the Parks, reduce the emissions from their own operations and from those associated with visits, including through sustainable low carbon transport use.

3.3 The Authority is aiming to undertake these roles through its policies and actions, both independently and in partnership. The National Park Management Plan 2018-23 includes an Area of Impact described as 'Preparing for the future climate' and the delivery plan action for this Area of Impact is to undertake a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment on the top 25% of the National Park features.

3.4 We have established a good track record of reducing the Authority's own carbon emissions. In 2010, we developed a Carbon Management Plan which set out a target to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint by 30% (from 2009/10 levels). This programme of work has now been completed and the Authority achieved a 29% reduction at the end of the 2017/18 against the 2009/10 baseline. We are currently developing our next Carbon Management Plan, which is an all-encompassing plan which sets ambitious targets to further reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Corporate Strategy 2019-24 has eleven key performance indicators (KPIs) that are linked to climate change, 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.
- KPI 18: Number of Peak District National Park Authority interventions facilitating community development.
- KPI 19: Number of individuals and groups actively using Peak District National

Park Authority digital channels for 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.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 At the inaugural meeting of the Authority's Programmes and Resources Committee, held on 4th October 2019, Members approved a report relating to two programme areas, namely Climate Change and Landscape Monitoring and Delivery (minute reference 5/19).
- 4.2 In approving the Climate Change Programme, Members agreed that there was a need for a Member led Climate Change Group to be created.
- 4.3 Specifically, Members were concerned that the target date of 2050 for being carbon neutral was too far off and that the Authority needed to increase its efforts to respond to the climate change challenge, particularly as other organisations that had set target dates of 2030. Members agreed that a report relating to the creation of the suggested Climate Change Member Group would be prepared and considered at its next meeting. This is the requested report.

5. Proposals

Member Task Group - Scope of activities

- 5.1 In determining the Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Member Task Group it is envisaged that the areas of interest and key strategic questions will be :-

a) Contextual analysis

- 5.2 Does the Authority fully understand the climate change issues it is facing, including the opportunities and risks in the transition to net zero environment?

b) Target setting

- 5.3 Is the Authority setting sufficiently ambitious climate change related targets for the Authority and the National Park?

c) Implementation

- 5.4 Does the Authority have implementation plans that clearly set out the actions it will take to achieve the targets that have been set?

d) Influencing

- 5.5 Is the Authority leading the way and influencing its key stakeholders, communities, businesses and visitors to address the barriers to achieving further reductions in emissions in order to achieve the targets set?
- 5.6 In line with national policy, the Authority's currently approved ambition for climate change is 'A net zero carbon Peak District National Park by 2050'. The Authority is already undertaking many activities, both on our own and in partnership, that assist in

meeting the ambition. The diagram shown in Appendix 1 of the report presented to the Programmes and Resources Committee on 4th October 2019 sets-out the Authority's current ambition and the range of activities that have been identified and in many cases currently being delivered.

- 5.7 It is suggested that the diagram presents a useful starting point for the Task Group to consider the strategic questions set-out above.

Establishment of the Task Group

- 5.8 It is proposed that there will be a maximum of six Members on the Task Group.
- 5.9 Members of the Task Group will be selected from Programmes and Resources Committee and preference will be given to those Members who are not already on another Member working group (i.e. Local Plan Working Group and/or Governance Working Group).
- 5.10 Subject to this report being approved, Members of the Programmes and Resources Committee will be asked to submit an expression of interest to join the Task Group. Should more than six Members express an interest it is proposed that the Director of Corporate Strategy and Development be delegated the authority to determine the membership of the Task Group, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Programmes and Resources Committee.
- 5.11 The Task Group will determine its Chair at the first meeting.

Member Engagement

- 5.12 Although the Task Group will take the lead on climate change work on behalf of the Programmes and Resources Committee it is important to ensure all Members remain informed and engaged.
- 5.13 It is therefore proposed that the Task Group will support a range of activities including updates to the Programmes and Resources Committee, updates via the Members Forum in addition to the consideration of formal reports, such as the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Environmental Management Annual Report 2018/19 and Carbon Management Plan 2.

Work Plan

- 5.14 It is proposed that the Task Group will plan its work programme at its first meeting, but the timeline and key milestones will include:
- Confirming how the Task Group will operate including the frequency of meetings.
 - Identifying what data/information needs to be collected to inform discussions.
 - Agreeing an appropriate mechanism to engage all Members and the timing of these engagement events.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

6. **Financial:**
The current activities set out in Appendix 1 of the 4th October Programmes and Resources report are funded. The financial implications of any further work in respect of climate change has not yet been evaluated. If additional resources are required to

deliver some new activities/projects to further address the strategic questions outlined above, sources of funding will be explored at the appropriate time.

As attendance at meetings of the Task Group are an approved duty there will be additional costs relating to claims for travel and subsistence. As the Task Group has been established part way through the 2019/20 financial year no provision has been made for this. Any additional costs can be minimised by holding meetings on the same day as other meetings.

7. Risk Management:

There is a potential risk of Members, who are not on the Task Group, becoming disenfranchised. This will be mitigated by regular updates to the Programmes and Resources Committee, Authority and Members Forum.

8. Sustainability:

The Task Group will consider targets and actions to increase the sustainability of the Authority and National Park.

Due to the focus of the Task Group, attempts will be made to reduce the environmental impact of convening meetings by minimising the volume of paperwork produced and, if meetings are held on days when no other events are taking place, encouraging Members to car share or use public transport.

9. Equality:

In appointing Members to the Task Group consideration must be given to making sure the membership is diverse and representative. In developing proposals the Task Group will need to consider how they may impact on the 9 protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

10. Human Resources:

There are no significant Human Resources issues to highlight at this stage as the Task Group's initial activities can be supported by existing officers.

11. Background papers (not previously published)

None

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Member Task Group

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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