

## **9. NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT BRIEFING REPORT**

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

This report provides Members with an update of the National Park Management Plan 'Working Towards a Zero Carbon National Park Climate Change Summit'.

#### **Key Issues**

- The Summit was part of the National Park Authority's and partners response to the threat of climate change
- An account of the purpose, organisation and outcome of the 'Working Towards a Zero Carbon National Park Climate Change Summit' are provided in this report.
- The Summit sought to identify potential partnership actions which could make a significant impact on the emission of greenhouse gases in the Peak District National Park.
- Actions to be developed with and agreed by the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group in January 2020 will be included in the National Park Management Plan delivery plan.
- The actions to be developed will be reported back to Members as part of the National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report presented to the May 2020 Authority Meeting.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 1. That Members note this briefing on the National Park Management Plan Climate Change Summit – working towards zero carbon National Park.**
- 2. That Members will be updated on further outcomes of the summit at appropriate times.**

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

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 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. Therefore, it is a partnership plan reflecting ambitions across the whole National Park.

Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 includes the intention to reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities.

The English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010 states the following expectations:

National Park Authorities 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. 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 management of the Parks can play a key role in the fight against climate change and in leading others by demonstrating best practice.

The Peak District National Park Authority Corporate Strategy 2019-24, has eleven key performance indicators (KPIs) that are relevant to climate change, 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. Appendix 2

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**

The October 2019 Programmes and Resources committee requested that a briefing paper on the October National Park Management Plan Summit on climate change be presented to this meeting (minute reference 5/19). The Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 was adopted by Members at Authority on the 25th May 2018 (ref 21/18).

The plan focuses on six areas of impact:

- 1: Preparing for a future climate
- 2: Ensuring a future for farming and land management
- 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale
- 4: A National Park for everyone
- 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding
- 6: Supporting thriving and sustainable communities and economy

Due to the importance of climate change and its wide spread impacts it was placed as the first area of impact. However relatively little support for new initiatives was generated through the Management Plan consultation and development phase and only one intention was included in the original version of the 2018-23 National Park Management Plan:

Intention 1.1: Reduce the effects of climate change on the special qualities

Undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment on the special qualities of the National Park and produce a mitigation / adaption plan setting out priority actions. Seek resources with partners to implement the priority actions.

Due to the lack of substantial actions to address the threat from climate change it was proposed to use the annual National Park Management Plan event as an opportunity to generate greater engagement with the topic.

## 5. Proposals

The summit took place on October 15th 2019 at the Pavilion Arts Centre, Buxton. It focussed on transport and agriculture / land management, as with the exception of Hope Cement works, these are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the National Park. The cement works were excluded from the summit, as mechanisms to reduce those emissions do not involve a partnership approach. A total of 94 delegates attended from potential partner organisations with the ability to support initiatives to reduce the impacts of climate change. The objectives of the summit were as follows.

1. Reflected on and reinforced the need to work towards Net Zero Carbon by 2050;
2. Better understood the current emissions sources produced by the Peak District National Park;
3. Heard expert insights around the topics of land management and sustainable transport;
4. Identified the actions we can take, under these topics, which will offer the greatest contribution towards our national emission reduction targets;
5. Heard from local leaders on their commitments to move from words to action

The event began with a series of thought provoking presentations from the following speakers.

Mark Daly – Nottingham City Council  
Dan Hird - Head of Corporate Finance Triodos Bank  
Bren Hodkinson – DEFRA Agriculimate, Bioenergy & Anaerobic Digestion  
Ceris Jones – National Farmers Union Climate Change Advisor  
Alistair Kirkbride – Transport Consultant

Attendees then worked in groups in some workshop sessions to identify potential actions we can take in partnership which will offer the greatest contribution towards our national emission reduction targets. These were considered in the context of supporting others' work, influencing beyond the National Park, and taking a lead in the Peak District.

The actions were noted as being either deliverable in the short-term (1-3 years) or medium-term (3+ years). The groups were then tasked with identifying the greatest barriers to progress the actions they had identified.

An analysis of the output from the workshops results in the following potential areas of development.

### Transport

1. A car free project area or pilot
2. Links into surrounding cities
3. Active travel infrastructure (i.e. for walking and cycling)
4. New transport concepts / initiatives in the National Park
5. Improvement to trains and buses
6. Electric vehicle charging points

### **Land Management / Agriculture**

1. Economic and entrepreneurial initiatives to support low carbon businesses
2. On farm productivity and efficiency to reduce emissions
3. Continuing and extending conservation land management delivery (for instance Moors for the Future and South West Peak Partnership)
4. Planning policy and renewable energy
5. Further research to assist reducing emissions

These potential areas for actions will be developed into proposals which will be presented to the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group at their next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. The Advisory Group will further work up actions that will become part of the National Park Management delivery plan.

We will update Members when appropriate, through Authority, Programme and Resources Committee and the Climate Change Members Working Group.

A full report has been produced to document the proceeding and circulated to all the delegates who attended the event. A copy of this report is available to members on request.

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

#### **Financial:**

Expenditure as a result of hosting the Summit was contained within existing budgets.

#### **Risk Management:**

None

#### **Sustainability:**

None

### **7. Background papers (not previously published)**

None

#### **Appendices**

None

#### **Report Author**

Matt Mardling, Senior Strategy Officer, 28 November 2019.