

### Foreword

In this Performance and Business Plan, we report on our first year of progress against our 2019-24 Corporate Strategy and set out our targets for the second year. As the 'Look Back' section shows, we have made good progress across our landscape enhancement, audience and community engagement work and in being an agile and efficient organisation. However, we have not met all of our KPIs this year. It has taken longer than we had anticipated to develop our plans for landscape monitoring and audience engagement – both are new and, in some cases, pioneering pieces of work where we have had to start from scratch with our data and information. In other cases, our KPIs are reliant on working with others across the National Park or in influencing and informing national policy. I remain confident that while these KPIs are red in this first year, the groundwork we are putting in place with our strategic interventions will put us in a good place to make a long term impact that is sustainable in achieving our outcomes.

Looking beyond the Peak District National Park, the ten Chairs of the English national park authorities have written to the new Secretary of State to highlight the exciting opportunity they have to invest in a new deal for national parks for the benefit of the whole nation. Together, the national park chief executives are working to develop delivery plans in four areas so that collectively national parks are:

- leading nature recovery
- shaping the future of farming
- national parks for everyone
- leaders in tackling the climate change emergency.

Looking forward to 2020/21, this year will likely be shaped by the coronavirus pandemic. At the time of writing, while most of our services remain in operation, we have shifted the whole organisation's way of operating to remote working. This means that our National Park Authority offices are closed and we have closed our visitor facilities, including visitor centres, cycle hire centres and car parks. Our staff are working at home, unless undertaking essential safety tasks, which they are doing in line with strict government guidance. We also took the unprecedented move to ask those who do not live in, or work on essential services in, the Peak District to stay away. As well as taking action ourselves, we are working closely with our partners and are connected into Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

The pandemic will impact outcome delivery and income in year two of our Corporate Strategy. At an appropriate time, we will review this impact with our Members and reassess the future assumptions in our Corporate Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan. For now, we are looking to the future so we can be ready for our National Park to remain both a safe home and a welcoming place for others when once again we can enjoy it together. We will be ready to welcome the nation again in a new, compassionate, courageous campaign to protect our environment and respect the communities who care for it so we can all enjoy being connected to nature, beauty and history.



Sarah Fowler  
Chief Executive



Andrew McCloy  
Chair

### Introduction

#### National parks

National parks were designated as protected landscapes for their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage – the special qualities that make them so important. We are one in a network of 15 national parks across the UK and part of a global network. The purposes of our designation as a national park are to:

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

If there is a conflict between these purposes, conservation takes priority. In carrying out the purposes, national park authorities should seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local national park communities.

#### The Peak District National Park ('the National Park')

Located at the heart of the country, the Peak District National Park is 555 square miles of accessible, world-class landscapes. It is the first upland reached when travelling from the majority of the South and is the watershed of three of England's major water catchments. It features geological contrasts of white peak limestone plateau and dark peak gritstone outcrops, providing a unique contrast between dramatic upland moors and more gentle lowland grassland, both supporting internationally important habitats and species. This is a landscape shaped by people and industry since prehistoric times, with a wealth of internationally significant historical features and cultural heritage. It is a living park, with 38,000 residents, at least 20,000 jobs and around 13.25 million visitor days that generate over £1.5 billion for the economy each year.

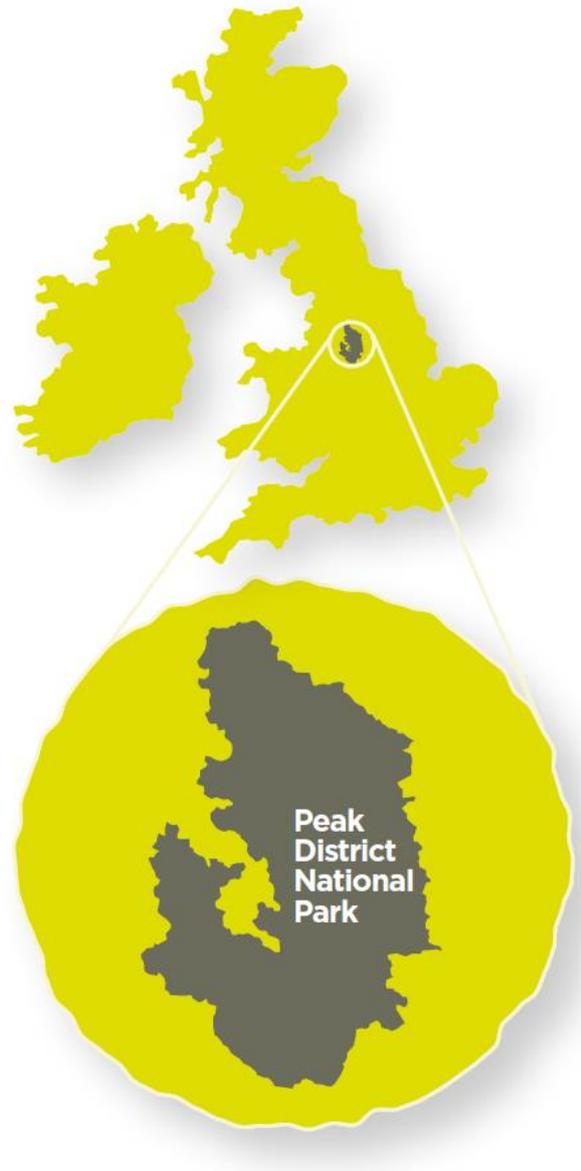
#### The Peak District National Park Authority ('the Authority')

The Authority's mission is to speak up for and care for the Peak District National Park for all to enjoy forever. This role is as important today as in 1951 when the Peak District was designated a national park. Our knowledge and expertise is respected. We are an independent, reasoned voice caring for the whole National Park and the communities who enjoy, live and work in it. This work is not carried out alone, but in collaboration with partners and local communities to conserve and enhance the National Park's special qualities. As the UK's original national park, we are pioneering, always seeking to be one step ahead and looking to the future. This helps build and nurture public support for the National Park and our role in working to care for it.

As a national park authority, we make the biggest impact when our three main roles – as regulator, influencer and deliverer – work together. Throughout this corporate strategy period, we will use our mixture of funding to keep these roles in balance. Our government grant underpins our work as an independent statutory authority with a core planning and regulatory function. The Defra grant also supports our influencing and delivery roles.

#### The National Park Management Plan 2018-23 ('the NPMP')

The NPMP is the partnership plan for the place – providing the framework for all Peak District stakeholders to work together to achieve national park purposes and conserve and enhance the



## **Appendix 2: Performance and Business Plan 2019/20 draft content**

special qualities. It outlines the main issues and priorities for the place and sets out how, together, these will be tackled.

### **Our Corporate Strategy 2019-24**

Our corporate strategy for 2019-24 runs from April 2019 to March 2024. It focuses on enhancement and conservation, actively supporting communities in the National Park to feel part of this special place, and diversifying and re-awakening public support and love of national parks. It sets the outcomes we want to achieve for the Peak District National Park over this five-year period, as well as aspirations to 2040. It provides the framework for us to align our resources to help achieve this.

The strategy is organised around three outcomes. They work together as an integrated set, rather than in isolation. The outcomes are:

- A sustainable landscape that is conserved and enhanced
- A National Park loved and supported by diverse audiences
- Thriving and sustainable communities that are part of this special place.

We also have an additional outcome around our organisational performance:

- The Peak District National Park Authority is an agile and efficient organisation.

The full Corporate Strategy is available at: [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/corporatestrategy](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/corporatestrategy).

### **Our funding**

Our three roles – as regulator, influencer and deliverer – remain critical. We have our biggest impact when they all work together. We will continue to use our mixture of funding to keep these roles in balance. Our government grant of circa £6m per year is crucial to our work as an independent statutory planning authority. We will continue to make the most efficient and effective use of resources in this area. We will also support our influencing and delivery roles through the grant, but in addition we will have a programme to generate income from new sources to support this work. This will ensure the investment of government funding will lever at least an equal investment from other sources.