

8. **NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
2019/20 (MM)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

This report provides Members with monitoring information for the end of the second year of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23. It also includes the annual updates to the Delivery Plan to be implemented from 2020/21 onwards.

Key Issues

- Section 66 of 1995 Environment Act requires National Park Authorities to produce and update a National Park Management Plan every 5 years.
- At the end of our second year (2019/20) of the National Park Management Plan, an annual monitoring report has been produced, which forms appendix 1 to this report. This provides a more detailed update on all sections of the Management Plan referred to in this committee report.
- Progress has been made against most of the intentions identified in the National Park Management Plan, with 23 delivery actions being shown as 'green', which is on schedule, on the quarterly performance table. Two actions are shown as 'red', as the delivery actions have not been achieved and a further three actions rated amber due to risks arising which may delay their delivery.

The two actions rated as red are both under Intention 3.1 and detailed as follows:

Intention 3.1: Establish monitoring at a landscape scale. We will have agreed and established a system of monitoring at a landscape scale encompassing landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Targets: Establish the objectives of monitoring in 2018. This was delayed due to difficulties agreeing the scope and objectives of the project. The revised timescale for completion of the methodology has now been extended to the end of 20/21.

Target: Produce a robust methodology for monitoring in 2019.

Following delays agreeing the scope and objectives of the project, its time scale has been extended with an expectation that this is now completed in 2020/21.

A further three actions have been recorded as amber. Two of these relate to moorland birds under Intention 2.2: Ensure that the management of upland moors delivers environmental, social & economic benefits. The third amber target relates to Intention 3.3: Maintain existing landscape scale delivery.

The amber ratings refer to concerns about future progress of ongoing programmes and not just an impact to delivery in 2019/20. Further details are given under paragraph 5 progress reporting.

- Following the Climate Change Summit held on 15th October 2019, additional actions and targets have been added to an updated version of the Delivery Plan section of the National Park Management Plan. These can be viewed in appendix 3 of this report and relate to sustainable transport and land management.

2. Recommendations

1. **That Members approve the National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2019/20.**
2. **That Members note the addition of actions relating to climate change as part of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 delivery plan.**
3. **That any necessary changes to the proposed wording of the Annual Monitoring Report or to the additional targets for the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 delivery plan be delegated to the Chief Executive.**

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

Requirement to produce and update the National Park Management Plan

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 UK Government vision and circular 2010 for the English National Parks and the Broads states that 'Park Management Plans are the over-arching strategic document for the Parks and set the vision and objectives which will guide the future of the Park over the next 10 to 20 years. The Park Management Plans are for the Parks and not just the Authorities. They should be supported by clear strategies with evidence of significant 'buy-in' from key partners and stakeholders, including communities, land owners and land managers. The Government expects public agencies and authorities active within or bordering a Park to cooperate in the development of the Park Management Plan and the achievement of the Management Plan objectives.'

This means 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. The plan is therefore a partnership plan reflecting ambitions across the whole National Park and reflects the input of numerous organisations.

Specifically relating to climate change the 2010 circular states; 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.

Through Our Corporate Strategy 2019-24, the National Park Authority delivers its contribution to the National Park Management Plan.

4. Background

The Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 was adopted by the Authority at its meeting on the 25th May 2018 (minute reference 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

The Areas of Impact are further broken down into 15 Intentions. 5 of the 15 Intentions were scheduled to achieve specific actions in year 2 of the plan 2019-20, which are as follows.

Intention 2.1: Secure funding for future land management to benefit all. Action: 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.

Intention 2.2: Ensure that the management of upland moors delivers environmental, social & economic benefits. Action: To review the work of the Bird of Prey initiative and implement effective measures to address bird of prey issues 2019

Intention 3.1: Establish monitoring at a landscape scale. Action: Produce a robust methodology for monitoring in 2019.

Intention 5.3: Develop an awareness and understanding of the benefits of the Peak District National Park. Action: Utilising the valuable work of Inspired by the peak District and the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark, consider a revised approach to the promotion of the Peak District brand so we establish a provenance which is coherent and effective at promoting the link between business development, the special qualities and the unique offer of the Peak District National Park. Milestone: Convene a group to explore potential by the end of 2019.

Intention 6.3: Enable local businesses to thrive in a way that is compatible and wherever possible enhances the special qualities of the Peak District National Park
Action: Assist the development of businesses in conjunction with relevant bodies. Linking business support, grant aid, planning and economic development. Convene a group to explore potential by the end of 2019 and take forward action.

Where the traffic light system for the assessment of performance is used, it indicates the following :

- Green – the delivery action was achieved or is on schedule to be achieved in the future.
- Amber – the delivery action is at risk of not being achieved on schedule.
- Red – the delivery action was not achieved.

Not all the delivery actions have specific targets for delivery in this year of the management plan, however where useful progress has been made it is still included in the quarterly updates for information and to monitor long term progress. A table listing

the progress status of all the actions in the Management Plan is included in appendix 2.

After a series of advisory statements about the need for social distancing and avoiding none essential travel; the Covid19 restrictions came into force on Friday 20th March with further restrictions imposed on Monday 23rd March. At the time of writing this report the lifting of these restrictions is still not complete. Though the impact during 2019/20 was relatively limited the long term impact of these restrictions is still not fully understood. Therefore it is appreciated that the new actions and targets proposed in this report are being brought forward in a context of heightened uncertainty.

5. Proposals

That Members approve the annual monitoring plan 2019/20 and note the addition of actions relating to climate change as part of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23.

Progress reporting

Progress has been made against most of the intentions identified for the second year of the National Park Management Plan with 23 delivery actions being shown as 'green' on the performance table. Two actions are shown as red, as the delivery action was not achieved and a further three actions rated amber due to risks arising which may delay their delivery.

The two actions rated as red are both under Intention 3.1 and detailed as follows:

Intention 3.1: Establish monitoring at a landscape scale. We will have agreed and established a system of monitoring at a landscape scale encompassing landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Targets: Establish the objectives of monitoring in 2018. This was delayed due to difficulties agreeing the scope and objectives of the project. The need for new thinking together with the impact of new considerations has resulted in more time being required than originally anticipated. The availability of staff both internal and from partners is also an issue particularly with the impact of Covid-19. The revise timescale for completion of the methodology have now been extended to the end of 20/21.

Target: Produce a robust methodology for monitoring in 2019. Following delays agreeing the scope and objectives of the project, its time scale has been extended with an expectation that this is now completed in 2020/21.

A further three actions have been recorded as amber. Two of these relate to moorland birds under Intention 2.2: Ensure that the management of upland moors delivers environmental, social & economic benefits.

The results from the 2018 bird survey to confirm population trends have been suspended pending an investigation into potential recording errors.

Regarding the target to review the work of the Bird of Prey initiative and implement effective measures to address bird of prey issues in 2019. Early indications show good goshawk success, a reduction in wildlife crimes & improving relationships between raptor group workers & gamekeepers. However, the target of reaching the 1990 levels of breeding success are not yet being achieved and Covid19 restrictions have impacted on the ability of the raptor volunteers to carry out monitoring during the breeding season.

The third amber target relates to Intention 3.3: Maintain existing landscape scale delivery. Moors for the Future Partnership were forced to end their delivery programme three weeks earlier than anticipated to comply with the restrictions. This has had consequences for completion on some sites. A resource impact is also expected as some spoiling of stored material may take place. However this only prevented a small proportion of expected delivery in 2019/20 which was otherwise a highly productive year for the Partnership.

Additional Actions

In response to Area of Impact 1: Preparing for a future climate, a partners' climate change summit was successfully delivered on the 15th October, with the objective of:

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

The outcome of the summit was reported to the Programmes and Resources Committee on the 6th Dec 2019 (minute reference 19/13) and the Advisory Group on the 23rd January 2020, and subsequently developed in to new targets with the benefit of partner input. These proposed new targets were then subject to a period of internal and partner consultation before being agreed with the Chair of the Advisory Group on the 23rd April 2020. The new targets are included in the updated Delivery Plan which is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

Final wording of the Annual Monitoring Report and additional actions for the delivery plan have been delegated to the Chief Executive to agree to enable any Advisory Group comments to be accommodated.

These actions will be added to the National Park Management Plan – Delivery Plan and monitored through the Advisory Group.

The attached Appendix 1 presents the Peak District National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2019-20. This summarises progress for the year against each of the intentions.

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

Financial:

The delivery plan elements of the NPMP that the Authority is responsible for will be funded through the usual delivery plan mechanisms.

Risk Management:

The greatest risk to the delivery of the NPMP is ensuring that there is support from partners and stakeholders, especially the elements of the delivery plan where their contributions are essential. This risk has been mitigated by liaison with partners and stakeholders throughout the delivery of the NPMP and monitored by the Advisory Group.

Please note that the National Park Authority is the Sponsoring Partner in 18 of the 28 delivery actions. Therefore ten of the delivery actions are led by external bodies and all of the delivery actions require the cooperation of multiple partners to be successful.

Sustainability:

National Park Management Plans are subject to the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is delivered via a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), and are also subject to the Habitats Regulation and require a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). The SA and HRA were undertaken prior to the adoption of the NPMP.

7. Background papers (not previously published)

None

Appendices

1. Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 Annual Monitoring Report 2019/20
2. Peak District National Park Management Plan Actions Table April 2020
3. Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 Updated Delivery Plan 2020/21

Report Author

Matt Mardling, Senior Strategy Officer, 16 July 2020