

5. ADOPTION OF PEAK DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (EF)

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to adopt the Peak District Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA).

Key Issues

- The Authority made a commitment to undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment on approximately 25% of the National Park's features.
- For this CCVA, it is the degree to which a feature of the special qualities is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.
- Moors for the Future were commissioned to undertake the CCVA for the Authority.
- Members have been engaged throughout the development of the CCVA, most recently through the Member led Climate Change Task Group.
- An internal quality assurance process has been undertaken on the draft CCVA.
- Feedback from an internal and key partner consultation process on the draft CCVA has been taken into account.
- Due to the technical nature of the topic, it is an in-depth analysis, and therefore the CCVA is of considerable length. We have sought to make the structure of the CCVA as simple as possible, and Members should be aware that the final CCVA will be professionally designed.
- The CCVA does not seek to prioritise, make commitments to or provide mechanisms for implementing the recommendations.
- Subject to Members approving the adoption of the CCVA, we will be making a commitment to use the CCVA as part of our evidence base for the Authority's key policies and strategies.
- The next step for the Authority and others will be taking forward the recommendations through a variety of mechanisms.
- The delivery mechanisms available to the Authority are the Local Plan, Corporate Strategy and Landscape Strategy. The key partner delivery mechanism will be via the National Park Management Plan.

2. Recommendations(s)

- 1. That Members adopt the Peak District Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment provided via web link at Appendix 1.**
- 2. That the Peak District Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment becomes part of our evidence base for the National Park Management Plan, Corporate Strategy, Local Plan, Landscape Strategy and all our work programmes.**
- 3. That any changes needed to the Peak District Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, as a result of the Programmes and Resources meeting, are delegated to the Chief Executive.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

- 3.** In 2016, the Authority made a commitment to undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment on approximately 25% of the National Park's features as defined by the special qualities process. This commitment was made in the National Park Climate Change Adaptation Report. The commitment was continued in the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23, as one of the delivery plan actions is around developing a climate change vulnerability assessment on the special qualities of the

National Park. Finally, our Corporate Strategy 2019-24 has a strategic intervention to develop the climate change vulnerability assessment and implement the key outcomes.

Background Information

4. In the case of this CCVA, it is the degree to which a feature of the National Park special qualities is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. The Peak District National Park special qualities are as follows.

- Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology.
- Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats.
- Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions.
- Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry.
- Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions.
- An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflection.
- Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary.

The features are components that make up the special quality, for example, a specific habitat, species or heritage feature such as dry stone walls.

5. Moors for the Future were commissioned to undertake the CCVA for the Authority, working alongside the Strategy and Performance Team. The scope of the work was defined and the special qualities were broken into categories, for instance, cultural experiences with widespread appeal, landscapes of harmony and detail, and characteristic settlements within the landscape. The categories were split further into individual features that are easier to measure, for instance, industrial heritage, stately homes and parkland. This process identified approximately 530 features within the seven special qualities. This stage was undertaken with the support of the cross-Authority special qualities working group so that specialist knowledge was utilised. This group included representatives from planning, cultural heritage, the natural environment, planning policy, communications and visitor experience.
6. The project team then identified if data was available for each of the features, and if so, what the data included. This was mainly through consultation with Authority specialists but partner organisations were involved where appropriate. A series of workshops were run with Authority specialists and partner organisations to begin to identify the priority 25% of features which will be assessed in the vulnerability assessment. The outputs from the data gathering exercise and workshops were used to develop a robust ranking system to provide us with the highest priority 25% of features. The ranking system took into account the data available for the feature and whether specialists thought the feature is a priority in relation to climate change. The priority features were discussed at Strategic Advisory Group in February 2019, and subsequently approved by Authority in March 2019 (Minute Reference 12/19).
7. The vulnerability assessment was then undertaken on the top 25% of features. The assessment looked at the most up-to-date climate projections and reviewed scientific research on the sensitivity, exposure and the adaptive capacity of each feature in the context of predicted climate trends. This approach has used likely trends and processes to assign scores to each variable, and has produced an overall score for the vulnerability of each feature. The information gathered was reviewed by experts in each field, and updated to reflect their comments and predictions, and where possible provide local context to the expected general trends. An update on progress was shared with Members at the September 2019 Members Forum.

Proposals

CCVA Development Since September 2019

8. Since the September 2019 Members Forum discussion, the vulnerability assessment has been completed. To ensure that the CCVA is robust and fit for purpose, an internal quality assurance process with a number of specialists has been undertaken on the assessment.
9. We undertook an internal and key partner consultation process on the draft CCVA. The draft CCVA was shared internally with Leadership Team and Heads of Service via the October 2020 Resource Management Meeting. It was also shared with the Member led Climate Change Task Group and discussed at a special meeting of the group in November 2020. The same draft was shared externally with the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group, and separately with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Forestry Commission. We have taken on board feedback from all these groups, which has led to the final CCVA found at the [Moden.gov](#) link.
10. At the meeting to discuss the draft CCVA, the Member led Climate Change Task Group fed back that the CCVA was a well-researched and robust document and therefore endorsed it being presented to the Programmes and Resources Committee for adoption. The group wanted to be clear what happens to the CCVA in terms of ensuring that the recommendations are implemented. In response to this, there is a section on 'Implementation on the CCVA Recommendations' in the 'Proposals' part of this report.
11. Finally, the Member led Climate Change Task Group felt that biodiversity should be prioritised more in the CCVA. Officer's response to this is that the features that have been assessed were taken through a robust process to determine the priority ones and agreed by Authority (see paragraph 6 for further details). The priority features have not been weighted, and the CCVA does not seek to prioritise, make commitments to or provide mechanisms for implementing the recommendations. One of the next steps is to determine the CCVA recommendations that are relevant to the Authority, which will enable us to prioritise these. The Member led Climate Change Task Group will be kept up to date with progress on implementing the CCVA.

Using the CCVA

12. Due to the technical nature of the topic, it is an in-depth analysis, and therefore the CCVA is of considerable length. We have sought to make the structure of the CCVA as simple as possible, and utilised technical appendices so that necessary information is within the main body, but readers are not 'lost' in this. It is advised that all Members read the 'Executive Summary', 'introduction', 'methodology and background assumptions' sections before reading the detail in the remainder of the document. These sections set out useful context that is helpful to be aware of before looking at the outcomes of the assessment.
13. Members should be aware that the final CCVA will be professionally designed. We feel this will assist the reader in navigating their way through this technical document. The design process will take place after we have Member approval.
14. As the CCVA is of considerable length, it is available via our website via the following link: [Library folder - Background documents - Programmes Resources Committee 4 December 2020: Peak District National Park](#)

Implementation of the CCVA Recommendations

15. As Members are aware, the CCVA is an in depth technical report that assesses the vulnerability of the National Park's special qualities to climate change and presents a set of strategic recommendations. It does not seek to prioritise, make commitments to or provide mechanisms for implementing these recommendations. Therefore, once the CCVA is approved, taking forward the recommendations is the next step for the Authority and others. The remainder of this section outlines plans for how we will seek to ensure that the CCVA remains a live document and the recommendations are taken forward via appropriate delivery mechanisms.
16. Due to the broad nature of the CCVA, implementation of the recommendations in the assessment will be via a number of mechanisms. It should be noted that although the Authority has commissioned the CCVA, it is for the National Park. Therefore the recommendations are relevant to all those that have an interest in the National Park, which is greater than just the Authority. At the strategic level, some of the recommendations will be achieved by direct and local delivery, and others will require influencing of things like national policy. Equally, some are within the Authority's gift to implement where it is something within our direct control, but many will require a partnership approach or partners to deliver recommendations without the Authority's involvement.
17. As there are a variety of delivery mechanisms that have different timescales, we do not envisage that all the recommendations will be implemented at the same time. Furthermore, it will be a question of taking opportunities to deliver the recommendations when they present themselves, for example, potential new sources of funding. Some of the CCVA recommendations are contentious. For example, some impact directly on the work of land managers, e.g. recommendations for appropriate grazing levels and regimes and to reduce burning. Therefore, it will take time to change culture and working practices, so these types of recommendations cannot be implemented without a programme of engagement. For these types of recommendations, it will be ensuring we use the CCVA findings as evidence in our influencing role around changing the ways of working.
18. Therefore, a key next step will be to begin a process of assessing the most appropriate delivery mechanism(s) for each recommendation. It is envisaged that a matrix system will be developed and used to determine whether actions are ones that the Authority can deliver on its own, a partnership is required, other partners can deliver or if we and others will be required to influence others to enable delivery of recommendations. Some of the recommendations will fit into more than one category. Once this process has been undertaken it will enable us to translate and interpret the recommendations to others to provide the greatest opportunity of the recommendations being acted upon and delivered.
19. At the more detailed level, if the recommendations of this report are agreed, we will be making a commitment to use the CCVA as part of our evidence base for the development of our key policies and strategies.
20. Our key policies and strategies are the Local Plan, Corporate Strategy and Landscape Strategy. In terms of the Local Plan, work is currently underway to scope out issues and develop the evidence base as the first stage in a comprehensive review. Relevant elements of the CCVA will form part of that evidence base to ensure that the next Local Plan is the mechanism for delivery of appropriate planning policy recommendations in the CCVA. It should be recognised that the CCVA is only one piece of evidence for the Local Plan, and that this will need to go through its own due process to be adopted. Officers are confident that the CCVA will form a distinctive and progressive piece of

evidence which can underpin a progressive approach to policies in areas such as carbon reduction, nature recovery, water security and flood management.

21. In terms of taking forward recommendations that are relevant to our Corporate Strategy, we will need to determine which CCVA recommendations are relevant to our current Corporate Strategy and take these into account where possible. In the future, the CCVA will form part of our evidence base for our next Corporate Strategy, however this may be aligned with the National Park Management Plan.
22. Finally, on internal policies and strategies, the light touch review of the Landscape Strategy is already well progressed and the impacts of, mitigation for and resilience to climate change have already been recognised as key issues of change. In the future, the CCVA will form part of our evidence base for our next review of the Landscape Strategy.
23. Where a partnership is required to deliver recommendations, one existing vehicle for delivery is the National Park Management Plan (NPMP). Similar to the Corporate Strategy, we will need to determine which CCVA recommendations are relevant to the current NPMP delivery plan and take these into account where possible. In the future, it is envisaged that the CCVA will be part of the evidence base when we are developing the next NPMP.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

24. Implementation of the CCVA recommendations that may have financial impacts for the Authority will be via the National Park Management Plan where a partner initiative is required, or through our Local Plan, Corporate Strategy or Landscape Strategy. The costs of implementing CCVA recommendations via the Corporate Strategy will be identified and appropriate approvals will be sought from Members.
25. There may be opportunities for external funding to be sought for implementing some of the recommendations.
26. The timescales for reviewing the delivery mechanisms of implementing recommendations will vary. This will impact on how quickly the relevant recommendations can be taken forward. Until it is decided exactly how each recommendation will be implemented, via the appropriate delivery mechanism, it is not possible to estimate the total costs to implement the recommendations in the CCVA.
27. The Member led Climate Change Task Group will be kept up to date with progress on implementing the CCVA.

Risk Management:

28. The primary risk is that the report recommendations are not taken forward and implemented. This risk has been minimised by being clear that this report is a key piece of evidence for the next Local plan, National Park Management Plan, Landscape Strategy and Corporate Strategy. Furthermore, we have involved partners throughout the project development, and will be seeking to engage with them to ensure that recommendations that are relevant to their organisations are implemented.

Sustainability:

29. The recommendations in the CCVA will assist in increasing the Authority's and the National Parks sustainability by reducing the impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the National Park.

30. **Equality:**
None.

31. **Climate Change**

1. How does this decision contribute to the Authority's role in climate change set out in the UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks?

a. Educators in climate change

The CCVA is a key part of our evidence base for all our work on reducing the impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the National Park. It is a key report that will assist with educating the Authority and others with an interest in the National Park.

b. Exemplars of sustainability, Protecting the National Park, Leading the way in sustainable land management, Exemplars in renewable energy and Working with communities.

The CCVA is a key part of our evidence base for all our work on reducing the impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the National Park.

2. How does this decision contribute to the Authority meeting its carbon net zero target?

The CCVA is a key part of our evidence base for all our work on reducing the impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the National Park. Some of the recommendations are relevant to the Authority's internal business.

3. How does this decision contribute to the National Park meeting carbon net zero by 2050?

The CCVA is a key part of our evidence base for all our work on reducing the impacts of climate change on the special qualities of the National Park. It will assist the Authority and others with an interest in the National Park to manage the National Park most effectively to minimise the impact of climate change on the National Park's special qualities.

4. Are there any other Climate Change related issues that are relevant to this decision that should be brought to the attention of Members?

None.

32. **Background papers (not previously published)**

None.

33. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Peak District Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Available via the following link: [Library folder - Background documents - Programmes Resources Committee 4 December 2020: Peak District National Park](#)

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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