

## **9. CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER TASK GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

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

To provide Members with an annual report on the Climate Change Member Task Group. More specifically, this report outlines what the Climate Change Member Task Group has achieved over the last year, proposes updated terms of reference for the group and shares the priorities for 2021/22.

#### **Key Issues**

- The Programmes and Resources Committee established a Climate Change Member Task Group in 2019, with a commitment for an annual report to be presented to Authority.
- The Climate Change Member Task Group first met in January 2020, and has met several times since.
- The Group has developed a greater collective knowledge and understanding of climate change and its impact on the National Park. Paragraph 12 outlines the Group's achievements to date.
- The Group have reflected on how it has operated and updated their terms of reference. The updated terms of reference are at appendix 1 of this report.
- The group have agreed a set of priorities for 2021/22, which are outlined in paragraph 15 of this report.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 1. That Members note the achievements of the Climate Change Member Task Group to date.**
- 2. That Members approve the updated terms of reference for the Climate Change Member Steering Group at Appendix 1.**
- 3. That Members approve the Climate Change Member Steering Group's priorities for 2021/22.**
- 4. To confirm that attendance at meetings of the Steering Group is an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowances.**

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

3. 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.
4. The UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks (2010) places climate change as central to National Park Authority objectives.
5. The Authority is aiming to undertake the roles described in the Vision and Circular through its policies and actions, both independently and in partnership. The National Park Management Plan 2018-23 includes a focus on 'Preparing for the future climate' and Members have recently agreed additional actions on climate change to be delivered through the delivery plan. In 2020, Members approved our Carbon Management Plan, which aims to be a net zero carbon Authority no later than 2050. In 2020, Members approved the Peak District National Park Climate Change Vulnerability

Assessment that assesses the vulnerability of the National Park's special qualities to climate change and presents a set of strategic recommendations. Our Corporate Strategy 2019-24 has nine key performance indicators (KPIs) that are linked to climate change.

### **Background Information**

6. At the October 2019 meeting of the Authority's Programmes and Resources Committee, Members approved the Climate Change Programme and agreed that there was a need to create a Member led Climate Change Group (minute reference 5/19).
7. The December 2019 Programmes and Resources Committee approved the creation of a Member Task Group on Climate Change (minute reference 12/19). As part of that report, there was a commitment that the Task Group would report to Programmes and Resources Committee, and an annual report would be presented to Authority. This is the first years report.

### **Proposals**

#### **Achievements of the Climate Change Member Task Group**

8. The Climate Change Member Task Group first met in January 2020, has met eight times since and group members are regularly in contact with each other to keep everyone up to date. Through the meetings and regular informal communication, the group has developed a greater collective knowledge and understanding of climate change and its impact on the National Park.
9. More specifically, the Climate Change Member Task Group has achieved the following in 2020.
  - Steering the successful development of the Peak District Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment so it was adopted in October 2020.
  - Steering the Authority's second Carbon Management Plan so it was approved in July 2020.
  - Involvement in the formation of climate change actions that were added into the National Park Management Plan delivery plan.
  - Instigating the additional section on climate change in the Authority's committee template.
  - Initiating annual essential climate change training for Members, the first sessions of which will be delivered as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow.
  - Increasing the Group's knowledge of climate change on:
    - o Greenhouse gas emissions in the National Park
    - o Benchmarking against other national parks
    - o The Great North Bog
    - o Agricultural emissions
    - o Approach to trees in the landscape
    - o The cement works
    - o Road transport and tourism
    - o Carbon in the planning process (home efficiency, retro-fitting and sustainable design).
  - Assisting in greening our fleet including reducing the number of operational vehicles and introducing electric vehicles into our fleet (cars and vans).
  - Helping raise the profile and awareness of climate change issues both within the Authority and externally, with the Chair of the group, Janet Haddock-Fraser, giving a webinar presentation at a jointly sponsored N8/PDNPA net zero North event in

November 2020.

### **Updated Terms of Reference**

10. After its first year of existence, the Climate Change Member Task Group have taken the opportunity to reflect on both these achievements and how the group has operated to date. In January 2021, the group was joined by the Chair of the Authority to discuss how it continues to add value to the Authority. One outcome of the discussion was agreement that the terms of reference for the group should be updated, based on learning over the last year and the future direction of the group.
  
11. As a result, the terms of reference have been updated. The updates are tweaks to the original terms of reference, and as such, have not changed the substance of the Group or how it operates. In summary, the changes are as follows. As climate change is an ongoing issue, it is proposed to change the group to a steering group rather than a task group. How Members are appointed to the group has been made clearer. Finally, the indicative work program has been removed from the terms of reference, as this will need to change over time, so there is now a reference to this being updated annually. Members are asked to approve the set of amended terms of reference that can be found at appendix 1.

### **2021/22 Priorities for the Steering Group**

12. At the January 2021 meeting of the group, there was discussion regarding where the group should focus over the next year. Members are asked to approve the following priorities for the steering group.
  - Ensure our work on climate change aligns to and delivers on the National Park England Delivery Plan on Climate Leadership.
  - Assist with shaping and interpreting the results of the Small World Consultancy National Park carbon emission benchmarking.
  - Gain an understanding of the barriers that need to be overcome to widen the scope of carbon accounted for in our Carbon Management Plan. The wider scope is both emissions associated with the land that the Authority owns and manages directly or through tenancies, and scope 3 external goods and services.
  - Continue to ensure that we effectively and efficiently communicate appropriate climate change matters with visitors, residents, Members and staff.
  - Understand how the National Park's constituent councils are dealing with climate change and establish if there are synergies. Gain an awareness of key climate change community groups in the National Park.

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

#### **Financial:**

13. The priorities set out in paragraph 15 are all resourced. The financial implications of any further work priorities in respect of climate change has not been evaluated. If additional resources are required to deliver some new activities/projects to further address the focuses of the group, sources of funding will be explored at the appropriate time.
  
14. As attendance at meetings of the Steering Group are an approved duty, when we are able to return to face to face meetings, there will continue to be additional costs relating to claims for travel and subsistence.

**Risk Management:**

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

**Sustainability:**

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

**Equality:**

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

**18. Climate Change**

This Member Steering Group has been established to contribute to the Authority's response to climate change and therefore positively contributes to climate change within the Authority and National Park.

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

None

**20. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Climate Change Steering Group Terms of Reference

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

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