

16. PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR 2021-22 (SLF)

1. Purpose of the report

To approve the programme themes for Programmes and Resources Committee for 2021-2022 and onwards.

Key Issues

- One of the tasks for Programmes and Resources Committee is to have a confirmed set of 3 – 4 programme themes is considers for the year ahead. It was agreed at the Authority meeting on 24 May 2019 that this annual programme would be set by the Authority and would compose of 3 - 4 themes.
- There have been four programmes running for the Committee since it was set up in July 2019. Since then we have had the Landscapes Review Report (published in September 2019) and have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is timely to review what has changed in this period to ensure the programmes are fit for these times and the future.
- It is recommended that the themes for Committee are amended for 2021-22 and that they would be the four areas of the National Parks England's Delivery Plans – climate leadership, wildlife and nature recovery, sustainable farming and land management, and landscapes for everyone.

2. Recommendations

1. Members are asked to approve the proposal that the four programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee from 2021-22 will align to National Parks England four delivery priorities of:
 - climate leadership;
 - wildlife and nature recovery;
 - sustainable farming and land management;
 - landscapes for everyone.
2. Members are asked to note that, once the themes are approved for Programmes and Resources Committee, the Committee will be able to then consider a forward work plan for the themes to enable it to maintain its oversight on work to move them forward.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2019-24 Corporate Strategy, the National Park Management Plan 2018-2023 and National Parks England's response to the publication of the Landscape Review: Final Report, published in September 2019. These programmes will also help develop our thinking as, with partners, we being the review the National Park Management Plan for 2023 onwards.

Background Information

4. The Authority meeting on 5 July 2019 set up the Programmes and Resources Committee and its first meeting was on 4 October 2019. This Committee replaced the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee.
5. It was agreed that the Programmes and Resources Committee will have an oversight of 3-4 major development programmes for the year that help deliver the strategic interventions of the Corporate Strategy.
6. The Authority meeting on 19 July 2019 confirmed the current work programme for the Programmes and Resources Committee (P&R Committee) as the following 4 themes:
 - Climate change
 - Volunteering
 - Landscape programmes monitoring and delivery
 - Visitor management and recreation hubs
7. On 4 October 2019 Members approved both the proposed approach for member and officer engagement on each of the 4 programmes and also the proposed work plan activity for 2 of the 4 programme areas – climate change and landscape programmes monitoring and delivery.
8. On 6 December 2019 Members approved the proposed work plan for the remaining 2 programmes – volunteering and visitor management and recreation hubs.
9. Over the past 2 years good progress has been made on the work plans of these 4 programmes themes. An up-date on progress with each of these programmes is provided in the following paragraphs.
10. Climate change:
 - 15th October 2019 – National Park Management Plan climate change conference held in Buxton.
 - 6 December 2019 - a Member-led steering group established, reporting its meetings and progress to Programme and Resources Committee.
 - 17 July 2020 - Programme and Resources Committee approved the Carbon Management Plan 2.
 - 4 December 2020 – P&R Committee approved and adopted the Peak District climate change vulnerability assessment.
 - 19 March 2021 – Authority received an annual report from the climate change member's task group and approved the group's priorities for 2021-22.
11. Volunteering
 - Up-date report was provided to Programme and Resources Committee on 30 April 2021, with a recommendation that future work on this form part of the Diverse Audience Plan.
12. Landscapes programmes monitoring and delivery:
 - 1 November - Members Forum received up-dates on woodland management plan, Landscape Strategy and landscape monitoring methodology update.
 - On 15 May 2020 and 29 April 2021 – the Moors for the Future Operational Plan was approved by P&R Committee.

13. Visitor Management and Recreation Hubs:
- 6 December 2019 – P&R Committee received a report on the proposed approach of strengthening partnership arrangements, including stakeholder financial support for the future development of the Hope Valley Explorer.
 - 17 July 2020 – P&R Committee approval of the strategic direction of the Diverse Audience Plan.
 - 4 December 2020 – P&R Committee confirm the programme brief, vision and definitions and that the sustainable transport plan is part of the visitor management and recreation hub delivery plan.
14. Since these programmes have been set up a number of external changes have impacted our priorities and focus:
- The 'Landscapes Review: Final report' was reported to Government in September 2019. This set out number of recommendations for national landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the organisation charged with furthering the purposes of these places. These recommendations were summarised under 4 key outcomes: Landscapes alive for nature and beauty; landscapes for everyone, living in landscapes; more special places and new ways of working. A headline priority recommendation was "working together".
 - Since this report, England's nine National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority, working under the auspices of National Parks England (NPE) have come together and agreed four collective priorities that will guide our work as a family of National Parks, and in partnership with many others. Our vision is for National Parks to be national beacons for a sustainable future, where nature and people flourish. To help us get there, we have developed four Delivery Plans covering:
 1. Wildlife and Nature Recovery
 2. Climate Leadership
 3. Sustainable Farming and Land Management
 4. Landscapes for Everyone
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on ways of working, the move to virtual meetings of the Authority and virtual meetings and delivery of these programmes. Of particular note is the impact of the Visitor Management and Recreation Hub programme, where teams have been re-directed to respond to reactive work with the easing of lockdown.
 - In January 2021 the Authority transitioned to a new management structure and refreshed the outcomes in the Corporate Strategy 2019-24, in the light of the impact of the COVID pandemic and funding pressures.

Proposals

15. There has been good progress with the programmes, some progressing further and faster than others.
16. There have also been significant changes in the landscape we are operating in and so it is timely to review the 4 programmes for P&R Committee.
17. Over the next year we are anticipating the Government response to the 'Landscapes Review: Final Report' that was published in September 2021 and we need to, individually as the Peak District National Park Authority and collectively as NPE,

constructively respond. The 4 delivery plan priorities identified by NPE in response to this review have been positively received by Defra ministers and officials.

18. It, therefore, proposed that the 4 programmes for P&R Committee from 2021-22 focus on the NPE 4 delivery plan priorities, which are set out below (with the Head of Service leads identified in brackets):
- Wildlife and Nature Recovery (Head of Landscape)
 - Climate Leadership (Head of Performance and Information Management)
 - Sustainable Farming and Land Management (Head of Landscape)
 - Landscapes for Everyone (Head of Engagement)

19. Once the headline programme themes are confirmed by members at the Authority meeting, Programme and Resources Committee will be able to take these forward into a forward work plan for the Committee.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

20. The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2019-24 Corporate Strategy and the implications on resources will be identified and considered as the programmes are developed.

Risk Management:

21. The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2019-24 Corporate Strategy.

Sustainability:

22. There are no sustainability issues to highlight.

Equality:

23. There are no significant equality issues.

11. Climate Change

Climate leadership is identified as one of the 4 key programme themes for the Programme and Resources Committee and will also run through the other three themes.

24. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

25. Appendices - None

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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