

## 7. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (SLF)**

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

To up-date members of key items since the previous Authority meeting

### 2. **Recommendation**

#### 1. **For members to note the report**

### 3. **Key Items**

**New Minister for Protected Landscapes:** Lord Benyon has been appointed the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defra, with responsibility for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Our previous Minister, Lord Gardiner, is now Senior Deputy Speaker in the House of Lords. Lord Benyon was previously Parliamentary Under-Secretary from May 2010-October 2013 and National Parks worked closely with him during this period

**Landscapes Review:** Defra officials have indicated that the Government will make an announcement on the Landscapes Review shortly. This is likely to be a high level announcement and we hope will signal a support for Protected Landscapes and our role. It is likely there will be a consultation on proposals later in the year. As the Chair and I hear more we will keep you informed.

**Easing of lockdown up-date.** We continue to put the wellbeing and care of our staff, volunteers and members at the forefront of our approach and are planning for when the government moves the nation to step 4 (when workplace measures are anticipated to change). We've surveyed staff and are identifying how factors such as combined home and office working may impact on our operations across the services. The data from these insights are helping us plan a return to the workplace over the coming weeks and months. Our approach will be undertaken in liaison with Staff Committee and Unison. We continue to take a cross park and partnership approach to messaging, welcoming and managing visitors and supporting the community who live and work in the National Park. The most recent Parishes Bulletin 40 can be seen at appendix 1 and we have asked the Peak Park Parishes Forum to help us share this bulletin widely.

**Public consultation on the National Park Management Plan.** This public consultation will be open for 8 weeks and remains open until 16 July 2021. We have already received hundreds of responses since it went live. I encourage you to continue to spread the word so we have as full a consultation as possible. The consultation can be found at this link here <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/about-us/have-your-say/consultations>

**Member Task and Finish Group for reviewing the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy.** After seeking expressions of interest for the above member task and finish group, the following members will be joining the group: Ms Annabelle Harling; Mr James Berresford; Professor Janet Haddock-Fraser; Councillor Patrick Brady; Councillor Peter Tapping. Unfortunately, I received no expression of interest from a local authority member. The terms of reference for the group, as approved by the Authority, call for the group to be representative of the different category of members and so in consultation with the Chair of the Authority I have kept one space open on the task and finish group for a local authority representative. As the full list of local authority members appointed to the Authority have now been confirmed with us by the appointing local authorities, following the recent local elections, the Task Group is included in the report of the Member Appointments Process Panel to be considered later on the agenda for this meeting. This will enable the local authority member

vacancy on the Task Group to be filled. The first meeting of the group is on 28 June 2021.

**Investors in People assessment.** In May I, along with the Head of People Management and a member of her team met with the Investors in People assessor for our 24 month assessment since we were awarded the Developed level for the IIP Standard and IIP Wellbeing framework. We have now received the report of this assessment and I am delighted to say our assessor has said that “The work and effort that has gone into not only supporting the workforce with dealing with COVID, but also addressing many of the recommendations from the original assessment is extremely commendable.” Highlights include: “Everyone has been involved in helping shape the new values (care; enjoy; pioneer)... they reflect the feedback from the assessment and are clear, simple and memorable. They have real meaning for your people and the organisation....there are lots of examples in how these are lived... and these are now embedded throughout key documents, which include JPARS and recruitment. Development of the staff IIP action group and integration of the H&W with the staff H&S group... ensures people are involved in supporting actions for both plans, they correlate well with the recommendations from the assessment,... this has been an enormous effort from everyone in the organisation.” My thanks to all involved. Our full IIP assessment will be in April 2022

**Sharing a few of the outcomes achieved from around the teams:**

- At Stanage we've had a number of ring ouzel nests that have fledged chicks and some birds are on their second brood. With thanks to our estate ranger, ecologists, contracted surveyor and volunteers liaising with climbers to reduce disturbance.
- At Magpie Mine the overhead low voltage cables have been undergrounded. With thanks to the Natural Environment and Rural Economy team working with the Peak District Mines Historical Society and Western Power Distribution.
- The Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan was approved by Planning Committee (following examination and referendum). It includes policies for redevelopment of Upper Hulme Mill, use of holiday cottages for full time rental, mitigating parking issues such temporary parking at the Roaches. With thanks to the Policy and Communities Team and the Leekfrith community
- Staff in the Moors for the Future science programme have authored 5 academic papers over the year, further 3 being considered alongside many research reports. Topics include natural flood management, microbiology and impact of peat pipes

#### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Parishes Bulletin 40

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

Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive, 24 June 2021