

## **9. UPDATE ON REVIEWING THE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CORPORATE STRATEGY (EF)**

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

This report updates Authority on the review of the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy. It also seeks approval for the key milestones for the review and the Member Task and Finish Group's amended Terms of Reference.

#### **Key Issues**

- Officers would like to keep Authority informed of progress in reviewing the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy.
- A Members Task and Finish Group has been set up to provide Member steer to the review.
- Key deliverables and milestones have been outlined for the review process.

### **2. Recommendations(s)**

- 1. To note the update on the review of the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy since the May 2021 Authority meeting.**
- 2. To approve the final Terms of Reference for the Member Task and Finish Group at Appendix 1.**
- 3. To approve the key milestones for the review of the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy.**

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

- 3.1 Section 66 of 1995 Environment Act requires National Park Authorities to produce a National Park Management Plan (NPMP) 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.
- 3.2 The UK Government vision and circular 2010 for the English National Parks and the Broad 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.'
- 3.3 The Corporate Strategy (CS) sets the high-level direction of the Authority and identifies the outcomes that we wish to achieve over the longer-term, plus our targets for this five-year strategy. It sets out how the Authority will deliver its commitment to the National Park Management Plan and work to the purposes and duty of the National Park.

#### **4. Background Information**

- 4.1 As set out in the May Authority report (minute reference 40/21), Members will be aware that currently we have a NPMP that runs from 2018 to 2023, which is one of the Authority's statutory plans, and the partnership plan for the place. This is coordinated by the Authority and agreed and delivered with partners. Although the Authority coordinates development and performance management of the NPMP, it is a partnership plan that the NPMP Advisory Group have a role to play in both its development and implementation. The NPMP has a vision, things we want to achieve, called the areas of impact, and a set of actions in the delivery plan that assist in achieving the areas of impact. It also introduces the seven National Park special qualities.
- 4.2 We also have our own Corporate Strategy that runs from 2019 to 2024, for the Authority only, with a vision, mission, set of outcomes and set of actions, or strategic interventions, that assist in achieving the outcomes. It sets out how the Authority will deliver its commitment to the National Park Management Plan and work to the purposes and duty of the National Park. The Authority develops, approves and performance manages our Corporate Strategy.
- 4.3 The majority of other National Park Authorities fully align their NPMP and Corporate Strategy, and have one strategy for both the place and the Authority. Furthermore, the Landscapes Review recommends that National Park Authorities should give greater emphasis to their NPMPs. Therefore, to ensure we learn from this best practice, give weight to the Landscapes Review and are as efficient as possible, in the future, we propose to have one strategy for both the Corporate Strategy and NPMP. This will ensure that what the Authority seeks to achieve will be the same as what we are seeking to achieve with partners.

#### **5. Proposals**

##### **Update**

- 5.1 The Member Task and Finish Group that was approved at the May 2021 Authority meeting has been established. The Members on the group are: Mr James Berresford (chair), Cllr Patrick Brady, Professor Janet Haddock-Fraser, Ms Annabelle Harling, Cllr Andrew Hart and Cllr Peter Tapping. The Group has met three times to date and will meet monthly until at least the end of 2021 given the pace of the review.
- 5.2 At meetings to date, the Task and Finish Group have discussed and given a steer on: the Terms of Reference; the initial work programme; the Leaders Visioning event; critical success factors for the review; key deliverables; how to make the next NPMP work for heads of service; the NPMP vision; and the recent public consultation.
- 5.3 We held a successful Leaders Visioning event in July. The session aimed to achieve:
- A common understanding of why the National Park is special, the state of it and challenges it faces.
  - The essence of a vision for the National Park.
  - A set of headline outcomes for the National Park for the next 20 years.
  - Agreement on how we will continue to engage on the next National Park Management Plan.

Leaders, including CEOs and directors, attended from organisations including Natural England, local councils, NFU, YHA, Historic England, National Trust, D2N2, Business

Peak District and Chatsworth House Trust. We are now building on the content that emerged from the event.

5.4 We ran a public consultation on the next NPMP, which ended in July. We had approximately 1,500 responses, which is significantly more than we have had for any consultation on previous NPMPs. We are still undertaking an in depth analysis of the results, but from the closed questions, an initial look at responses suggests that respondents' priorities are around nature recovery and wildlife, climate change, sustainable farming and land management, water and natural beauty. This set of evidence will be used alongside other more technical evidence and professional opinions as we develop the next NPMP.

5.5 We published the State of the Park Report and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment online:

- <https://report-publishing/sotpr/>
- <https://report-publishing/ccva/>

### **Milestones**

5.6 We developed the key milestones by working back from the implementation date of April 2023. This means adoption is needed by September 2022 to ensure that we and partners can plan delivery into business planning timescales for 2023/24. Therefore, due to the number of partners and groups involved in the National Park Management Plan, we will be looking to have a final plan by July 2022. Between now and July 2022, we will be developing the National Park Management Plan, including the vision, outcomes, key performance indicators, delivery plan with partners and operational plan for the Authority, and the strategy text that draws all this together. As requested by Members, we will undertake a further public consultation, and we will take the plan through a sustainability assessment, habits regulations assessment and equalities impact assessment.

5.7 The headline Authority meeting dates are:

- September 2021 Authority: Outline project plan
- November 2021 Authority: Update on the review
- March 2022 Authority: Agree public consultation version
- July 2022 Authority: Agree future performance management
- September 2022 Authority: Adoption.

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

#### **6. Financial:**

The financial implications of any future NPMP and CS work has not yet been evaluated, but will be a core aspect of developing this combined strategy.

As attendance at meetings of the Task Group are an approved duty there will be additional costs relating to claims for travel and subsistence. As the Task Group has been established part way through the 2021/22 financial year, no provision has been made for this. Any additional costs can be minimised by holding meetings on the same day as other meetings or holding them virtually.

**7. Risk Management:**

There is a potential lack of buy in both internally and externally, but we will engage with both stakeholders as much as possible throughout the process to reduce this risk.

The potential implications of the Landscapes Review implementation could pose a risk to the project, as could other emerging national priorities like Farming in Protect Landscapes and Nature Recovery Networks. We may have to adjust and refocus the NPMP during its five-year period to take into account, but we are aware of this and will be agile in our response.

**8. Sustainability:**

We will conduct a sustainability assessment and habitats regulation assessment at appropriate times during development of the NPMP in order to ensure its sustainability.

**9. Equality:**

We will conduct an equality impact assessment during development of the NPMP and build equality considerations into the development of the NPMP in order to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

**10. Human Resources:**

None.

**11. Climate Change**

The National Park Management Plan sets the framework for climate change in the National Park. In the current NPMP climate change is an area of impact, 'preparing for a future climate'. This aims to coordinate the action of partners in a concerted effort to address this challenge. It is likely that this focus will be replicated and enhanced in the development of the next National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy.

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

None

**13. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference for the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy Review Member Task and Finish Group

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

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