

6. **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**

Action for COP26 – UK National Parks net zero with nature initiatives launched:

With the COP26 Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow, the UK’s National Parks have stepped up our action on net zero with nature with the following actions:

- **Climate leadership** - we published a joint [Climate Emergency Response Statement](#) detailing our collective plans to set ambitious targets to influence the behaviour of visitors, the wider public and partners through our involvement in scientifically robust recognised programs such as Race to Zero and galvanising international efforts by creating a global movement of National Parks and protected spaces dedicated to tackling the climate emergency – sharing and enhancing the lessons from our UK work and identifying good practice wherever it takes place to share across borders.
- **Revere investing in natural capital**– a nature restoration project development facility – with support from major global companies and government agencies. Revere has been developed to enable the restoration of natural habitats at scale with private capital. Revere designs restoration projects with National Parks teams and land managers and raises private capital to fund the restoration. The projects generate revenue through the sale of ecosystem services, creating new income streams for farmers and landowners seeking to improve the quality of landscapes and support biodiversity.
- **Collaborative restoration projects** – that seek to maximise the scale and pace of nature restoration through collaboration. These include work across more than one National Park or National Parks working with other designated landscapes and organisations to restore large areas of land that run across boundaries. For example, the [Great North Bog](#) and the [Nature Recovery Network](#) or projects co-created with funders and landowners specifically for one National Park. For example, [ReNature](#) in South Downs National Park.

Please see [here](#) for more information

Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation: Through National Parks England the English National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority have responded to the Government consultation on its proposals for developing a suite of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) across England. Our full response is at Appendix 1. Our key concern is about making the case for for Designated Landscapes (like National Park Authorities) to take the lead in developing LNRSs in our localities. Protected Landscapes have a more progressive ambition for nature recovery than normal local authorities and present the optimum opportunity and ambition to stay levelled up to meet this Government’s 30x30 commitment.

Festival 2022: National Parks UK is proud to be a project partner for Green Space Dark Skies, a major collaborative project that is part of Festival 2022. Green Space Dark Skies places national parks at the heart of one of the biggest cultural events taking place next year: one that supports our roles in improving the understanding of barriers to access green and blue spaces (so we can remove those barriers) and inspiring *everyone* to explore and embrace their rights, responsibilities and relationship with nature and the landscapes of the UK. For more information please see [here](#).

Return to the workplace – During the summer we have been planning a formal return to the workplace for all staff. For staff who are office based, October marked a return to the office and workplace in a more structured way since March 2020. We took a stepped approach to this return, giving time for line managers to sit down with their team to plan and to make arrangements for returning to the workplace and for all staff to give it a try back in the workplace, before formally applying a one year trail of a blended working. We are now planning our approach to Aldern House to reopen to the public, currently this is operating on a by appointment only basis, ensuring we take a cautious approach to this over the winter months. We will continue to respond to any further government guidance that may appear and we will follow that guidance. The return to the work place does give us an opportunity to see each other in real life more often again and to feel more connected and supported. I look forward to seeing staff and members in the office and out and about over the coming weeks and months. It's important to also recognise that a significant number of our colleagues have been out working with the public throughout the easing of lock down this year and last year and have not had the option of working at home that many staff have had.

4. **Appendices**

Appendix 1: National Parks England response to the Government's consultation on Local Nature recovery Strategies

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Sarah Fowler, Chief Executive, 4 November 2021