

Foreword

This past year marked the 70th anniversary of the Peak District National Park and our purposes and duty remain as relevant today as they were 70 years ago. There has been a lot of uncertainty and difficulties brought by Covid during this period. We have also seen the Government's response to the Landscapes (Glover) Review as we begin to understand what this means for our landscape and National Parks. However, I believe we have a real opportunity to show how and where we deliver for nature, climate and people; and that in these changing times the 555 square miles of the Peak District National Park has never been more important or valuable, both locally and for the nation.

Despite this challenging year, we can still celebrate many successes. Close working with our National Park England and DEFRA partners saw the new Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme launched and is now in full delivery. Volunteering numbers have recovered well post Covid restrictions, and this year the target of volunteer value has been exceeded by nearly £200k and our income targets have been largely exceeded despite the slow start to the year. The Moors for the Future Partnership also secured £3 million for vital projects, with a further raft of pipeline opportunities on the horizon.

In this Performance and Business Plan, we report on our third year (2021/22) of progress against our 2019-24 Corporate Strategy and set out our targets for the fourth and final year (2022/23). Despite the disruption of the pandemic over the previous two years, the 'Look Back' section shows that we have made some excellent progress across all of our outcomes (landscape enhancement, audience and community engagement, and being an agile and efficient organisation). However, we have not met all of our KPIs this year, despite having revised some of our targets. In particular, due to other priorities, we have been unable to deliver our plans for landscape monitoring and in line with the national picture employment our staff sickness levels are higher than they have been for years.

Entering the final year of this corporate strategy there is an ambitious agenda ahead. We will welcome a new Chief Executive and with partners we will continue to develop our new 5-year Management Plan. This will define national park leadership and how we will work with partners on key areas like climate change, nature recovery, the transition to a more sustainable way of farming in a protected area and fostering the well being of communities. Uncertainty remains around where the resources to achieve it all will come from. Nevertheless, national parks have always punched above their weight and achieved a great deal from a small base.

In the Peak District we have a solid base of 70 successful years as the country's founding national park, so let's treat the year ahead as an opportunity to positively embrace change – a new chapter for us all.



Andrea McCaskie
Chief Executive



Andrew McCloy
Chair

Introduction

National parks

National parks were designated as protected landscapes for their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage – the special qualities that make them so important. We are one in a network of 15 national parks across the UK and part of a global network. The purposes of our designation as a national park are to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- Promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

If there is a conflict between these purposes, conservation takes priority. In carrying out the purposes, national park authorities should seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local national park communities.

The Peak District National Park ('the National Park')

Located at the heart of the country, the Peak District National Park is 555 square miles of accessible, world-class landscapes. It is the first upland reached when travelling from the majority of the South and is the watershed of three of England's major water catchments. It features geological contrasts of white peak limestone plateau and dark peak gritstone outcrops, providing a unique contrast between dramatic upland moors and more gentle lowland grassland, both supporting internationally important habitats and species. This is a landscape shaped by people and industry since prehistoric times, with a wealth of internationally significant historical features and cultural heritage. It is a living park, with 38,000 residents, at least 20,000 jobs and around 13.25 million visitor days that generate over £1.5 billion for the economy each year.

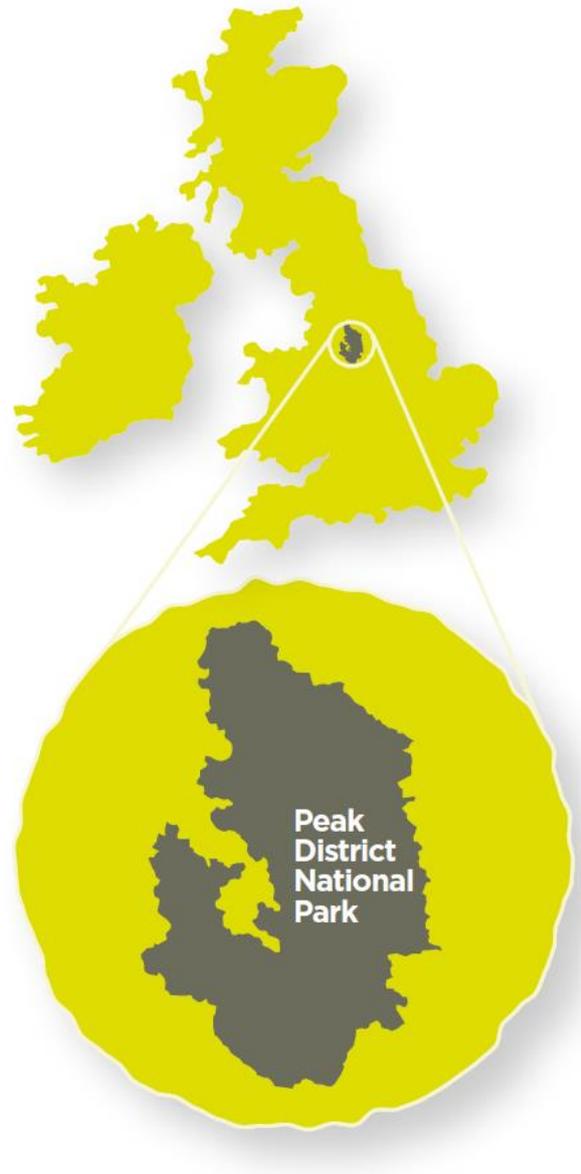
The Peak District National Park Authority ('the Authority')

The Authority's mission is to speak up for and care for the Peak District National Park for all to enjoy forever. This role is as important today as in 1951 when the Peak District was designated a national park. Our knowledge and expertise is respected. We are an independent, reasoned voice caring for the whole National Park and the communities who enjoy, live and work in it. This work is not carried out alone, but in collaboration with partners and local communities to conserve and enhance the National Park's special qualities. As the UK's original national park, we are pioneering, always seeking to be one step ahead and looking to the future. This helps build and nurture public support for the National Park and our role in working to care for it.

As a national park authority, we make the biggest impact when our three main roles – as regulator, influencer and deliverer – work together. Throughout this corporate strategy period, we will use our mixture of funding to keep these roles in balance. Our government grant underpins our work as an independent statutory authority with a core planning and regulatory function. The Defra grant also supports our influencing and delivery roles.

The National Park Management Plan 2018-23 ('the NPMP')

The NPMP is the partnership plan for the place – providing the framework for all Peak District stakeholders to work together to achieve national park purposes and conserve and enhance the special qualities. It outlines the main issues and priorities for the place and sets



Appendix 2a: Performance and Business Plan 2019/20 draft content

out how, together, these will be tackled. Preparation has begun on developing the next NPMP.

Our Corporate Strategy 2019-24

Our corporate strategy for 2019-24 runs from April 2019 to March 2024. It focuses on enhancement and conservation, actively supporting communities in the National Park to feel part of this special place, and diversifying and re-awakening public support and love of national parks. It sets the outcomes we want to achieve for the Peak District National Park over this five-year period, as well as aspirations to 2040. It provides the framework for us to align our resources to help achieve this.

The strategy is organised around three outcomes. They work together as an integrated set, rather than in isolation. The outcomes are:

- A sustainable landscape that is conserved and enhanced
- A National Park loved and supported by diverse audiences
- Thriving and sustainable communities that are part of this special place.

We also have an additional outcome around our organisational performance:

- The Peak District National Park Authority is an agile and efficient organisation.

The full Corporate Strategy is available at: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/corporatestrategy.

Our funding

Our three roles – as regulator, influencer and deliverer – remain critical. We have our biggest impact when they all work together. We will continue to use our mixture of funding to keep these roles in balance. Our government grant of circa £6m per year is crucial to our work as an independent statutory planning authority. We will continue to make the most efficient and effective use of resources in this area. We will also support our influencing and delivery roles through the grant, but in addition we will have a programme to generate income from new sources to support this work. This will ensure the investment of government funding will lever at least an equal investment from other sources.