

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

1. Purpose of the report

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

2. Recommendation

For Members to note the report.

3. Key Items

National Parks England Case Study

Over the past few months NPE has been working on putting together a compendium of case studies which highlights the great work that has occurred in NPAs since the release of the Glover Review in 2019. The report can be found here:

<https://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/documents/publications2/national-parks-supporting-people.-places,-climate-and-nature>

UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the World Restoration Flagship Awards

Through resolution 73/284, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN Decade) following a proposal for action by over 70 countries from all latitudes.

The UN Decade is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems and restore them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. World Restoration Flagships of the UN Decade are the first, best, or most promising examples of largescale and long-term ecosystem restoration in any country or region, embodying the 10 Restoration Principles of the UN Decade. They enable the UN Decade to make ecosystem restoration tangible for a broad audience and inspire a global movement to scale up efforts to *'prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide'* and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.

The selected geographically focused restoration areas will be featured prominently on the UN Decade's Digital Hub and linked with knowledge products, advocacy and communication tools, and support for convening dialogues with stakeholders to discuss results, lessons learned and coordination.

Defra have recognised that the Great North Bog Coalition meets the requirements for a UN World Flagship Award and have made an application for this to the UN on the behalf of the Coalition.

Farming in Protected Landscapes

The new agricultural transition programme Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) was launched in June 2021 for all forty-four Protected Landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Partners worked closely with the Authority to promote the programme and the opportunities for farmers and land managers in the National Park to access funding for projects that deliver under the four themes of climate, nature, people and place and for Peak District National Park Management Plan priorities.

Projects that are suitable to apply will:

- Support Nature Recovery
- Mitigate the changes to Climate Change
- Provide the opportunity for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage.
- Protect or improve the quality and character of the place.

Following discussions Defra agreed to reprofile the project fund from £1.2 million down to £475,000 for year one 2021/22. The project fund is now £1.1 million for 2022/23 and £1.1 million for 2023/24.

At the end of year one seventy-two projects had been supported which involved sixty-five farmers and land managers, the National Trust, Wildlife Trusts and the Farming Life Centre. One new farm cluster has been created and one existing informal farm cluster has also been supported. Projects have taken place on 158 hectares of land and overall the projects which have been funded support the positive management of a further 1,793 hectares of high-quality moorland and species rich grassland including land within designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

A promotional leaflet highlighting how FiPL is delivering and what participating farmers and land managers like about the programme, has been developed and shows some examples of the projects that have received funding so far. The leaflet will be available shortly.

Authority staff continue to support farmers and land managers to develop projects which deliver for programme and Peak District National Park Management Plan priorities.

The Peak District Environmental Land Management Test

The Peak District Environmental Land Management (ELM) Test has been completed with virtual one to many workshops and one to ones with farmers in the Dark Peak and South West Peak. The final report brings together the findings from the White Peak, Dark Peak and South West Peak and demonstrates that farmers and land managers strongly support: -

- the use of National Character Areas as a building block for the ELM schemes
- a local approach to spatial prioritisation
- local public goods delivery based on National Character Areas
- local decision-making
- local, expert & trusted advice particularly for a collaborative landscape scale approach
- the need for recognition for the public goods they are already delivering and those additional public goods that they will be delivering
- sustainable and realistic income

ELM payment levels are critical if the desired level of uptake and outcomes such as nature recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation are to be delivered. The learnings from the test have been shared with Defra for use in the further development of the ELM schemes.

Defra Funding Settlement 2022/25

The Defra Funding Settlement letter was received at the beginning of April outlining the Peak District National Park Authority Grant for the next three years. The letter confirmed a flat cash settlement over the three-year period with no allowance for inflation which means our core grant is fixed at £6,698,847 with a FiPL grant settlement of £1,301,626.14 for the years 2022/23 & 2023/24. A final copy of the three-year Grant Agreement is anticipated imminently.

Generation Green

Generation Green is the first funded project of coalition Access Unlimited, formed by YHA in Jan 2020. Its aim is simple; to ensure that there are opportunities for every child and young person to access high quality learning and residential experiences in our National Parks and AONBs. It is a pioneering project setting up new ways of working, bringing together the 10 English National Parks, and with coalition partners YHA, Field Studies Council, Scouts, Girl Guides and Outward Bounds. The project officer for National Parks is hosted by the Peak District NPA, whilst South Downs NPA look after the financial reporting and are the NP lead delivery partner. More details can be found in the paper presented to Programmes & Resources Committee on 21st January 2022.

<https://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk/documents/s45981/Generation%20Green%20PR%20V2%20Jan%202022.pdf>

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Andrea McCaskie, Interim Chief Executive, 12 May 2022
andrea.mccaskie@peakdistrict.gov.uk