

9. **PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR 2022-23 (SLF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

For Members to review and approve the programme themes for Programmes and Resources Committee for 2022-2023 and onwards.

**Key Issues**

- One of the tasks for Programmes and Resources Committee is to have a confirmed set of 3 – 4 programme themes it considers for the year ahead. It was agreed at the Authority meeting on 24 May 2019 that this annual programme would be set by the Authority and would compose of 3 - 4 themes.
- There have been four programmes running for the Programmes and Resources Committee since it was set up in July 2019. Since then we have had the Landscapes Review Report (published in September 2019); we have replied to the consultation on the Governments response to the review (published in January 2022); we have continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; we have considered a Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26 on the basis of a flat cash settlement from Defra to 2024/25; and we have progressed the review of the National Park Management Plan. It is again timely to review what has changed in this period to ensure the programmes are fit for these times and the future.
- It is recommended that the four themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee based on the four National Parks England's Delivery Plans are transitioned into the four emerging National Park Management Plan aims – climate change, landscape and nature recovery, a welcoming place and thriving communities.

2. **Recommendations**

1. **Members are asked to approve the proposal that the four programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee from 2022-23 will be the emerging National Park Management Plan aims:**
  - Climate change;
  - Landscape and nature recovery;
  - A welcoming place;
  - Thriving communities.
2. **If recommendation 1 above is approved Members are also asked to approve the Programmes and Resources Committee forward work plan of: Climate change 30 September 2022, Landscape and nature recovery 2 December 2022, A welcoming place 23 January 2023 (tbc) and Thriving communities 28 April 2023 (tbc) to enable to maintain its oversight of the work to move them forward.**

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

3. The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2019-24 Corporate Strategy, the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) 2018-2023, the emerging priorities for the 2023-2028 NPMP, the four National Parks England's (NPE's) Delivery Plans and both NPE's and the Authority's responses to the recent Landscapes Review consultation

## Background Information

4. The Authority meeting on 5 July 2019 set up the Programmes and Resources Committee (P & R Committee) and its first meeting was on 4 October 2019. This Committee replaced the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee. It was agreed that the P&R Committee will have an oversight of 3-4 major development programmes for the year that help deliver the strategic interventions of the Corporate Strategy.
5. Members at the Authority meeting on the 19 July 2019 approved the 2019-20 work programme for the P&R Committee as the following 4 themes: Climate Change, Volunteering, Landscape programmes monitoring and delivery and Visitor Management and Recreation Hubs. At further meetings in 2019 Members approved both the approach for Member and Officer engagement and the work programmes for the 4 themes.
6. On the 21 May 2021 Members at the Authority meeting reviewed progress and updated the 4 programmes for P&R Committee for 2021-22 so that they aligned with the 4 NPE delivery plan priorities: Climate Leadership, Wildlife and Nature Recovery, Landscapes for Everyone and Sustainable Farming and Land Management (Minute reference 41/21).
7. Over the past year good progress has been made on the work plans of these 4 programme themes. An up-date on progress with each of these programmes is provided in the following paragraphs.
8. Climate Leadership:
  - The Member-led steering group has continued to meet regularly and has reported its meetings and progress to P&R Committee (Minute references 20/21, 31/21, 41/21).
  - On the 1 October 2021 P&R Committee Members received the annual report on Climate Leadership (Minute reference 27/21); noted the work currently being undertaken by Small World Consulting to develop a consumption based carbon footprint for the Peak District National Park (PDNP) (Minute reference 28/21); considered the Carbon Management Progress Report and adopted the detail provided to support the position on the Authority's operational environmental performance over the 2020/21 reporting period (Minute reference 29/21); supported the Moors for the Future Partnership applications to the Nature for Climate Fund Peatland Capital Grant scheme Discovery grant (Minute reference 30/21).
9. Wildlife and Nature Recovery:
  - On 3 December 2021 P&R Committee Members received an update on progress to date on delivering the NPE's Delivery Plan (Minute reference 38/21), the PDNP Nature Recovery Prospectus (Minute reference 39/21) and approved the draft Wooded Landscapes Plan (Minute reference 40/21).
  - Members considered and approved proposals for a Collaborative Nature for Climate Woodland Creation project in partnership with the Woodland Trust (Minute reference 8/22) on the 21 January 2022.
  - On 30 April 2021 P&R Committee Members approved the Moors for the Future Partnership Operational Plan for 2021-2022 (Minute reference 16/21).
  - On the 29 April 2022 P&R Committee Members considered and approved proposals for the Moors for the Future Partnership Environment Agency Natural Flood Management Capital Delivery 2022-30 proposals (Minute reference 17/22) and the Great North Bog Support Project 2022-2030 (Minute reference 18/22).
  - Members at Authority on the 3 September 2021 supported arrangements for Moors for the Future Partnership AMP7 2020-2024 works (Minute reference 65/21).
10. Landscapes for Everyone:
  - An up-date report was provided to P&R Committee on 21 January 2022 (Minute reference 5/22); At the same meeting Members were also updated on the Generation Green project and proposals to develop the project further (Minute reference 6/22); considered the Peak District Sustainable Transport project proposals (Minute reference 7/22).
11. Sustainable Farming and Land Management
  - The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Programme was launched in June 2021 for which Members approved delivery arrangements for this National Park at the

Authority meeting on the 2 July 2021 (Minute reference 57/21).

- On 29 April 2022 P&R Committee Members received a progress up-date on delivering for NPE's Delivery Plan for Environmental Land Management in National Parks including sustainable farming and land management. An update on progress with the FiPL programme was also provided.

12. Since May 2021 when the 4 programmes were aligned with the 4 NPE Delivery Plans further developments have taken place and this provides the opportunity to review our priorities and focus for P&R Committee:

- The Government response to the Landscapes Review: Consultation response (published in January 2022) was considered by Members at Authority on the 28 March 2022. The draft Authority response to this consultation was approved (Minute reference 21/22). A response was also provided by NPE. The Government has received over 1,500 responses which it is still analyzing and considering. Recent stakeholder meetings demonstrate that further consideration is clearly being given to how the recommendations can be implemented for Protected Landscapes for example extending and strengthening the "duty of regard", the future role in the Environmental Land Management schemes and Local Nature Recovery Strategies particularly where the Protected Landscape is covered by a number of different County Councils/Unitary Authorities, the Management Plan model, demonstrating how Protected Landscapes collectively deliver Government targets and their fit with the emerging Environmental Improvement Plan (Review of the 25 Year Environment Plan). However, the Government response to this recent consultation is likely to be January 2023 at the earliest.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact on ways of working, and although Authority Member meetings have returned to face to face many other partner and stakeholder meetings continue as virtual or hybrid meetings. The blended working pilot is continuing with officers recently returning to the workplace for 60% of their time. The number of planning and listed building consent applications has remained high with the 20% increase from pre-covid continuing.
- The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2025/26 was noted by Members at the Authority meeting on 4 February 2022 (Minute reference 10/22). The MTFP assumed of a flat cash settlement from Defra for the next 3 financial years to 2024/25, which has subsequently been confirmed by Defra (although amounts for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are only indicative). Therefore, there will need to be a cost reduction plan implemented from 2023/24. It is planned that options will be developed and shared with Members at the autumn workshops and brought to Members for decision in November 2022. This is in line with the timetable for the NPMP and Authority Plan development.
- The review of the NPMP continues with an emerging draft 20-year vision: "By 2043 the Peak District National Park is exemplary in its response to nature recovery and climate change. Its Special Qualities have been significantly enhanced. It is a cherished and inclusive place where all are inspired to care and communities thrive."

The emerging draft 20-year aims are:

- The Peak District National Park is more resilient and net-zero by 2040 through its exemplary response to climate change.
- The Peak District National Park is a resilient landscape in which nature, beauty, and cultural heritage are significantly enhanced.
- The Peak District National Park is a welcoming place where all are inspired to enjoy, care for and connect to its special qualities.
- The Peak District National Park communities are thriving and sustainable places where all generations can live healthy and fulfilled lives.

Focussed objectives for the next five years are also being drafted with partners and stakeholders together with a suite of actions for delivery. The Authority Plan will set out the actions for the Authority, including its contribution to the delivery of the NPMP.

## Proposals

13. There continues to be good progress with the programmes, some progressing further and faster than others.
14. There have also been significant changes in the landscape we are operating in and so it is timely to once again review the 4 programmes for P&R Committee. Given the developments summarized in paragraph 12 above the proposal is to transition from the current approach of the 4 themes being based on the NPE 4 Delivery Plans to the emerging 4 NPMP aims summarized as:

- Climate change
- Landscape and nature recovery
- A welcoming place
- Thriving communities.

15. Once the headline programme themes are confirmed by Members at this Authority meeting, P&R Committee will be able to oversee and ensure that the delivery under these 4 programme themes moves forward. The proposed work plan based on both existing and anticipated progress is: Climate change 30 September 2022, Landscape and nature recovery 2 December 2022, A welcoming place 23 January 2023 (tbc) and Thriving communities 28 April 2023 (tbc).

Are there any corporate implications Members should be concerned about?

### **Financial:**

16. The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2019-24 Corporate Strategy, the NPMP 2018-2023 and the emerging priorities for the 2023-2028 NPMP and Authority Plan. The implications on resources will be identified and considered as the NPMP 2023-2028 is developed.

### **Risk Management:**

17. The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2019-24 Corporate Strategy, the NPMP 2018-2023 and the emerging priorities for the 2023-2028 NPMP and Authority Plan.

### **Sustainability:**

18. There are no sustainability issues to highlight.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:**

19. There are no significant equality issues.

### **20. Climate Change**

Climate leadership remains as one of the 4 key programme themes for the P&R Committee and will continue to run through the other three themes.

### **21. Background papers (not previously published) - None**

### **22. Appendices - None**

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

Suzanne Fletcher, Head of Landscape, 14 July 2022.