

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

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

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

### **2. Recommendations**

#### **1. For Members to note the report**

### **3. Key Items**

**Update on completion of First Weeks** – I have set three priorities since joining the organisation which are:

1. To get to know the National Park – the places and the people supporting the Authority.  
During my first week I attended the One Team Celebration which gave me the opportunity to meet with lots of staff and volunteers. I have also been out in the National Park with Rangers, visited cycle hire and visitor centres and spent time with Teams in Aldern House and Edale.
2. Completion of the National Park Management Plan  
Working closely with Officers and Members to ensure we have the correct long-term vision, ambition and objectives to carry the Authority through the next five years.
3. Prepare the budget for the next financial year  
Dealing with the impact of the flat rate budget has not been easy but with the hard work of both Officers and Members looking at increasing income to maximise our return on our assets, increasing our paid for services, supporting the Foundation's fundraising efforts and accessing more grants and project funding. Our role and purpose remain vital to the health and wellbeing of the planet which gives us a compelling offer.

I am also turning some of my attention to external facing meetings to build on our external engagement, partnerships and ensuring our work maintains a high profile and hope to increase these as the focus moves as the priorities below are completed.

**National Parks UK Conference** – I attended my first NPUK Conference at the end of September which was a great introduction to other Chief Executives and Chairs from across the country. Some of the main points of interest were:

- Sustainable Tourism Officers group feedback: government potentially looking at tiered approach to engaging with Destination Management Organisations and NPs potentially in second or third tier so may mean weaker ties with DCMS.
- Small amount of funding being held by NPE that is left over from work on a trial of a centralised booking system for experiences across the national park family, which can now be reallocated.
- Richard Benyon reappointed as Defra Minister (good news for NPs as it is continuity and he largely gets the agenda)
- Received a reply from government following Andrew McCloy letter about need for extra funding due to cost of living. No further support offered.
- NPE collating scale of budget challenges for each Park over next three years. This helps make our collective case to government.
- NPE will be writing to new Defra Sec of State who has previously served as a Defra Minister.
- Nervousness about potential shift in Defra away from nature and climate towards the growth agenda. Proactive engagement planned with opposition.

- Water and food going up the agenda at Defra,
- We need to be making the case to government for how we are relevant to their agenda.
- Defra about to put funding into a new partnership involving NPE, AONBs, Natural England, National Trails (using underspend this year to protect some funding for this work).

A short video produced by the Conference organisers giving a summary of the Conference will be shown at the Authority meeting. For anyone unable to attend the meeting the video can be viewed via this link [UK National Parks Conference Summary Video](#)

### **£1 Million Grant Funding for Peak District Peatlands**

Moors for the Future Partnership has been successful in its latest application to the National Peatland Grant Scheme, with an award of over £1 million. The funding is part of the government commitment to set 35,000 ha of degraded peatland in England on a path to restoration by March 2025.

The Moors Climate Action project will place 429 hectares of modified blanket bog in the north of the Park on a recovering trajectory towards favourable SSSI condition status. This project will also benefit biodiversity, natural flood management and improved raw water quality.

It will make a huge contribution to the future resilience of this landscape, to climate change and create significant greenhouse gas benefits. The loss of 84,273 tonnes of carbon over the next 50 years will be avoided and will yield a greenhouse gas benefit of £12,841,550.00.

Impacts of the restoration will be monitored for the life of the project to evidence the outcomes. Communications and engagement work will communicate the benefits of the project widely to a targeted audience and help to encourage responsible visitor behaviour to prevent wildfires.

### **National Parks England Bulletin**

The latest NPE Bulletin which provides highlights of the work of their work over the past two months is attached as Appendix 1.

### **National Parks Partnership Bulletin**

NPP have provided a bulletin out-lining the work of the Partnership and achievements. This is attached as Appendix 2.

## **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – National Parks England Bulletin August – September 2022

Appendix 2 – National Parks Partnership Bulletin

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

Belinda Wybrow, PA to Chief Executive & Chair, 03 November 2022  
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