

### Foreword

This is perhaps the most challenging time financially, and operationally, in our 71 year history as a national park. At the same time, there has never been a greater need for the crucial role our protected landscapes can play in nature recovery, meeting net-zero ambitions, delivering thriving communities and helping with the nation's wellbeing.

We celebrate many successes from the past year within this Performance and Business Plan, which reports on our fourth year (2022/23) of progress against our 2019-24 Corporate Strategy. This will be the final year of working towards this strategy, as we have moved into a new 5-year Authority Plan that fully aligns with the 2023-28 National Park Management Plan. 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). For instance, our work on Farming in Protected Landscapes and on the One Peak District Nature Recovery Plan are key successes, as is public connection to the Park, which has been steadily increasing during this Corporate Strategy period. However, we have not met all of our KPIs this year. In particular, due to other priorities, we have been unable to deliver our plans for landscape monitoring, woodland creation and community development and, in line with the national employment picture, our staff sickness levels remain higher than they have been for years.

As we move into the first year of delivering against our new 2023-28 Authority Plan and National Park Management Plan, our primary focuses alongside NPMP partners will be our response to climate change, being a resilient landscape where nature is recovering, being a welcoming place and supporting thriving communities. The aspirational long term vision that accompanies this new plan outlines where we collectively want the Peak District to be in 20 years' time: "By 2043 the Peak District National Park is exemplary in its response to climate change and nature recovery. Its special qualities and resilience as a living landscape have been significantly enhanced. It is a welcoming place where all are inspired to care and communities thrive."

As an Authority, we aim to become a more affordable, financially resilient organisation through a programme of future investment. Although funding of this programme is challenging due to a flat-cash grant from Defra, continued inflation and other pressures, we are adept at achieving a great deal from a small base. What we deliver for the nation has undeniable benefit and we are proud of our role in speaking up for and caring for the National Park, so everyone can enjoy it, forever.



Phil Mulligan  
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 of 15 UK national parks within a global network. The purposes of national park designation 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 a living park, with 38,000 residents, at least 18,000 jobs and around 12.22 million visitor days that generate over £730 million 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 work is carried out in collaboration with partners and local communities to conserve and enhance the National Park's special qualities.

Our roles as regulator, influencer and deliverer are critical and interlinked. We will continue to use our 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 and we will continue to make the most efficient and effective use of resources in this area. We will support our influencing and delivery roles through the grant, as well as through generating income from new sources. This will ensure the investment of government funding will lever at least an equal investment from other sources.

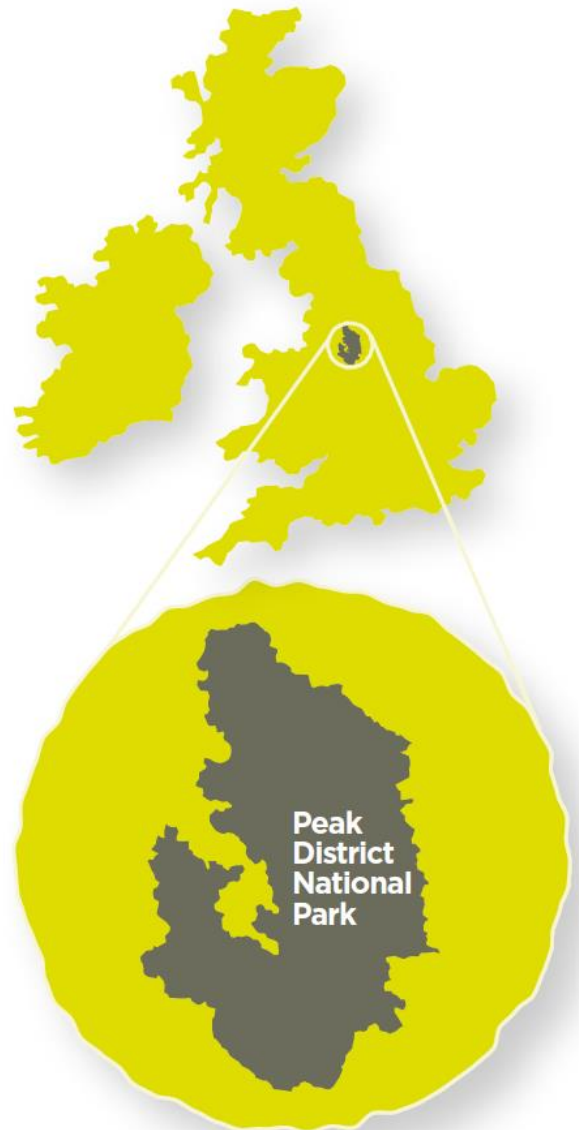
#### The National Park Management Plan ('the NPMP')

The NPMP is the partnership plan for the place – the framework for 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 out how, together, these will be tackled. The 2023-28 NPMP is being implemented from April 2023.

- The 2023-28 NPMP is available at: <https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/npmp2023/>

#### Our Corporate Strategy / Authority Plan

Our Corporate Strategy for 2019-24 provides the framework for us to align our resources to achieve our obligations under the NPMP and as an organisation. It has been replaced from April 2023 with our 2023-28 Authority Plan, which fully aligns with the NPMP in both aims and timescale.



## Appendix 2: Performance and Business Plan 2023/24 draft content

- The 2019-24 Corporate Strategy is available at:  
[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/corporatestrategy](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/corporatestrategy)
- The 2023-28 Authority Plan is available at:  
<https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/authorityplan2023/>