

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)

1. Purpose of the report

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

2. Recommendation:

1. For Members to note the report

3. Key Items

Since my last report on 19th May I have continued to meet with stakeholders, partners and organisations based in and around the National Park Authority including:

- Sir Richard Fitzherbert at Tissington Hall
- Joe O’Sullivan Exec Director for Corporate Services and Transformation, DCC
- Bakewell Rotary Club
- Peak Cluster Carbon Capture and Storage Project
- Natural England
- National Park England AGM
- Visit Peak District and Derbyshire
- Nick Bruce–White, RSPB
- Stephen Vickers, Chief Executive Chatsworth
- National Parks Partnership Collaboration day
- Sue Albion, National Parks Partnership Board member
- Tom Noel, Chair of Peakland Environmental Farmers group
- Will Morlidge, D2N2 Chief Executive
- Trudi Else Sports England
- Craig Best, National Trust
- Paul Forecast, Regional Director for National Trust
- National Grid
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust collaboration day
- CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire
- Derbyshire Chief Executives
- Environmental NGOs collaboration event
- National Lottery Heritage Fund new strategy workshop
- Bakewell NFU

I have also spent time out in the field with our Tree Officers, on planning site visits, at the North Lees estate and on the Fitzwilliam Wentworth estate.

During the rest of July, I have meetings with:

- Chief Superintendent Dave Kirby Divisional Commander Derbyshire Constabulary
- Natural England
- Kirklees council
- Olivia Blake MP

The last few weeks have seen a number of ambitious communications projects get underway; as reactive public and media attention has dissipated following the announcement of additional support of visitor centres. Among these, has been the installation of the first interpretation boards to feature QR-coded multi-lingual translations of National Park information at Stanage Edge – featuring six commonly spoken additional languages within our surrounding towns and cities, including

Ukrainian. This initial set of three boards has been supported by the FiPL project.

Digital improvement has also seen the kick-starting of both a dedicated ‘asset library’ supporting a consolidation and better management of our photographs and video content, and also the appointing of external support for a ‘social listening’ pilot to understand more about online visitor engagement with the Peak District in line with actions from the National Park Management Plan.

Recent weeks have also seen the installation of the first EV chargers under the BMW-sponsored ‘Recharge in Nature’ programme, at Millers Dale, with additional sites at Parsley Hay and Edale Moorland Centre due to be live later this summer.

The digital sphere has also shown the constant need for adaptability with the launch of a new platform to rival Twitter, Meta’s ‘Threads’ (most parks currently keeping a watching brief on progress) and the first examples of online content related to the Peak District being generated by Ai or ‘ChatGPT’ with clear challenges to the accuracy of such material and contradiction of formal information from organisations like the Authority. We’ll be working closely with other local stakeholders to understand the risks and legal implications of these sites.

We have now started to produce a monthly MP briefing newsletter. The first went out in June and the second is about to go out in July. It is important that our MPs know what is going on in the Park and are informed of some of our more positive developments and news stories as they are often assailed by constituents with negative experiences of the Authority and it is important that this is not the only source of information that MPs have about the Park.

Corporate Risk Register Update

We give a full report at the beginning, middle and end of each year as part of our performance reporting cycle. This report presents changes to our risk environment in the interim. The Authority meeting on the 19th May 2023 resolved that there should be a review of the start of year risk register. A new risk on Enforcement was agreed along with minor amendments to the wording of the existing risk to Engagement Service delivery. Since the May meeting we have added a new risk to the corporate register due to the imminent loss of a key staff member from the Information and Performance Management Service and a landscape risk has reduced. Detailed changes are as follows.

1. New risk: Not clearing Enforcement backlogs (Obj A, ref: 23/24J)

High likelihood – High impact (red)

This reflects the scale of potential reputation damage due to Enforcement backlogs and captures the additional focus and monitoring being applied to Enforcement.

2. Amended risk: Engagement service capacity to deliver NPMP (Aim 3, ref: 23/24F)

High likelihood – High impact (red)

Originally titled *WP General risk to delivery (23/24F)* the new title makes the risk clear to a wide audience.

3. New risk: Core IT systems maintenance and delivery (Obj G, ref: 23/24K)

High likelihood – High impact (red)

Escalated from the Information and Performance Management Service risk register. Our business systems are being upgraded and consolidated. This risk is related to the resignation of a key officer who has a suite of database management skills no longer widely available in the market. Recruitment has been unsuccessful. The potential impact is to general business, timescales for moving to the new planning system and

maintenance of the existing planning system.

Existing mitigation plans have proved effective. We have secured external support and reallocated existing IT team resources but the risk remains high. We continue to recruit to the permanent position.

4. Amended risk: Derwent Valley reservoir expansion (*Aim 2, ref 23/24H*)

Low Likelihood – High Impact (amber)

We have recently learned that the Derwent Valley reservoir expansion exploration has been paused by Severn Trent Water. The potential development represents a critical risk to some of the most important features of the Dark Peak and to the National Park special qualities. Reduced from a High likelihood – High impact (red) risk.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Phil Mulligan, CEO, 19th July 2023