

8. PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR 2023-24 (EF)

1. Purpose of the report:

For Members to review and approve the programme themes for Programmes and Resources Committee (referred to as P & R Committee hereafter) for 2023-2024.

Key Issues

- The P & R Committee is tasked to consider a confirmed set of themes 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.
- Members approved the proposal at the Authority meeting on 22 July 2022 that the programme themes would be aligned with the four emerging National Park Management Plan aims.
- It is recommended that the themes for the P & R Committee continue to be based on the four 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 four programme themes aligned with the National Park Management Plan aims and the forward work plan for the Programmes and Resources Committee meetings for 2023-24:

- **Climate Change (1st September 2023)**
- **Landscape and Nature Recovery (1st December 2023)**
- **Welcoming Place (19th January 2024)**
- **Thriving communities (26 April 2024)**

3. How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2023-28 Authority Plan and the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) 2023-2028.

4. Background Information:

The P & R Committee was set up on 5 July 2019 where it was agreed that it will have an oversight of 3-4 programmes for the year that help deliver the actions of the Authority (minute reference 30/19). The specific purpose is to monitor the development and implementation of key programmes and projects identified annually by the Authority and to approve any decisions in relation to these programmes and projects in accordance with the financial values set out in Standing Orders. Members have approved the themes and work programme for the P & R Committee on an annual basis since July 2019.

On the 22 July 2022, Members at the Authority meeting approved the four programme themes for the P & R Committee for 22/23 to align with the National Park Management Plan (minute reference 65/22). This would enable Members to build and develop a wider understanding of the work being pursued under the themes and generally facilitate a fuller discussion on the work the Authority is delivering. Performance management or progress made across the whole National Park Management Plan will be reported to the Authority Committee on an annual basis

Good progress has been made across the four themes over the past year, the following paragraphs provide an overview of the updates given to the P & R

Committee.

Climate Change:

- The report for this theme was submitted to the P & R Committee on the 20th January 2023. The report provided details of the NPMP climate change aim, the Authority Plan climate change objective, the Authority's progress in responding to climate change and what this would mean for the future. As a result of the work done by the Steering Group, climate change is now embedded in the Authority's policies and practices. Therefore, the report proposed recommending to the Authority that the Member Climate Steering Group should not be appointed to at the July 2023 Annual General as climate change is now fully embedded in the Authority Plan and National Park Management Plan 2023-2028. The Steering Group continued to meet until the end of March 2023 only. The Chair of the Committee thanked all Officers and Members for their hard work and time (Minute reference 8/23).

Landscape & Nature Recovery:

- The Head of Landscape and the Team Manager for Natural Environment and Rural Economy gave a short presentation to the P & R Committee on 28th April 2023 (Minute reference 17/23). They informed Members that the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL) had delivered 213 projects across the 4 themes with £1.7 million funding support over two years, successful projects included;
 - restoring 7ha of wood pasture on land adjoining North Lees Estate
 - enhancing 92ha of species rich grassland
 - creation of a short circular access route with benches being provided by the farmers at their own cost (off Tissington Trail)
 - restoration of Alsop Moor Limekiln with the help of volunteers.

Other projects included the restoration of 16 field barns (£2.7million) grant aided by Defra's Countryside Stewardship Historic Buildings Restoration Pilot, and the undergrounding of overhead power lines (Longdendale Valley and Dunford Bridge).

Welcoming Place:

- The Head of Engagement presented progress since October 2021 to inform Members at the P & R Committee Meeting on 28th April 2023 (Minute reference 18/23) of the work so far, including:
 - School visits back to full deliver targets since covid
 - Generation Green Project had now been completed
 - Nature Prescriptions Project (working in partnership with RSPB) which helps to improve quality of life and wellbeing for people through nature
 - Health & Wellbeing Test Pilots including accessible walks.
 - Revision of the Diverse Audience Plan
 - New team structure to support delivery (bringing in the access and rights of way team and the peak park countryside volunteers)
- The Access & Rights of Way Officer reported that DEFRA funding (£131k) had been spent on; route improvement and gate installation, resting places, signage, videos, guides, new trampers, inclusive cycles, wheelchairs and 5.6km of

accessible paths being created.

- The Project Development Manager for Championing National Parks presented the work that the Authority in partnership with Mosaic, had collaborated on to support diverse communities to visit and enjoy the Peak District. The Officer reported that Mosaic had successfully applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop and expand the range of Mosaic work and to include two other National Parks; Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors.

Thriving Communities:

- The Head of Planning was present for this item, he introduced the report and gave a presentation to Members on the Peak District National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan thriving communities aims and objectives, including the Authority's progress since 2021 (Minute reference 29/23).
- Since October 2021 significant progress has been made on delivering these objectives and fulfilling the aims, but it was accepted that more needed to be done.

5. Proposals:

A continuation of the current approach, whereby the 4 programme themes presented to P & R Committee over the next year 23/24 are based on the National Park Management Plan aims.

The proposed work plan is as follows:

- The Peak District National Park is more resilient and net-zero by 2040 through its exemplary response to climate change - Climate change 1 September 2023. Due to the timing of this report, the climate change programme has already been presented to the September P&R meeting.
- The Peak District National Park is a resilient landscape in which nature, beauty, and cultural heritage are significantly enhanced - Landscape and Nature Recovery 1 December 2023
- The Peak District is a welcoming place where all are inspired to enjoy, care for and connect to its special qualities - A welcoming place 19 January 2024
- Peak District National Park communities are thriving and sustainable places where all generations can live healthy and fulfilled lives - Thriving communities 26 April 2024.

Are there any corporate implications Members should be concerned about?

6. Financial:

The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2023-2028 NPMP and Authority Plan.

7. Risk Management:

The proposed work programme supports delivery of the 2023-2028 NPMP and Authority Plan.

8. Sustainability:

There are no sustainability issues to highlight.

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

There are no significant equality issues.

10. 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.

11. Background papers (not previously published) - None

12. Appendices – None

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Emily Fox, Interim Head of Resources, 21st September 2023.