

8. **AUTHORITY PROGRESS REPORT - MID YEAR (DECILE 1) 23-24 (EF)**

1. **Purpose of the report**

For Members to review the new digital Progress Report of the Authority Plan. This report, published online at <https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/approgress/> tracks progress over the first six months of the five year Authority Plan (decile 1: April – September 2023).

Key Issues

- This is the Authority progress report at decile 1.
- The Authority Plan has 54 actions, 36 are on target, 12 a delay and 3 really off course – these are explained fully at paragraph 11 of this report.
- There have been a lot of risk movements, these are explained at paragraph 12 of this report.

2. **Recommendation(s)**

1. **That the digital Authority Progress Plan Report (decile 1), which can be viewed here: <https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/approgress/> is reviewed and any actions to address issues agreed.**
2. **That the Corporate risk register (Mid Year) provided in Appendix 1 is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. Performance and risk management contributes to Objective G in our five year Authority Plan; monitoring progress and strategic interventions for 2023/24 is part of our approach to ensuring we are progressing against our Authority Plan and, if needed, mitigating action can be taken to maintain and improve performance or to reprioritise work in consultation with staff and Members.

Background Information

4. The new digital format Progress Report replaces the very long paper based reports Members used to receive on our Corporate Strategy. The new digital format was presented to Members at the September 2023 Members' Forum. The format has taken on board comments from Members to reduce the amount of information so that the information presented to Members facilitates more effective scrutiny of key issues and actions by using more graphics and enabling Members to see the strategic overview easily.
5. This Progress Report site will be updated every 6 months, resulting in 10 decile reports over the 5-year Authority Plan (2023 – 2028). These decile reports will track progress and report on challenges over half year and annual cycles. The half year updates will replace the traditional quarter 2 report whilst the turn of year report will present a summary of progress for the previous year. All the information required as part of the statutory Performance and Business Plan Process is therefore captured in one site, which is paper free, accessible for screen reader technology and will show progress as it builds over the whole of the Authority Plan period. In the next decile (six month period) we will also review and reassess the success criteria we are using for some of our actions to adjust and tighten these up.
6. The Progress Report contains a brief commentary for progress on each objective.

These are bought together into an overall Chief Executive's commentary in the Executive Summary.

7. The Authority's risk management policy and supporting documentation was approved by Authority in May 2021 (minute 39/21) and is reviewed annually as part of the Authority's review of the Code of Corporate Governance. A separate paper to seek approval to update the risk policy due to the impact of organisational change is being presented to the same Authority meeting as this one. In line with these arrangements, Appendix 1 shows the status of the corporate risks.
8. Information is given so that Members of the Authority can review the performance of the Authority and the risks being managed corporately.
9. For completeness, the information Members used to receive on complaints will be reported annually as part of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter. Any complaints that are escalated to the Ombudsman between the annual report will be reported to Members within the Chief Executive's reports that are presented to Authority committee.

Proposals

Mid Year (decile 1)

10. **Authority Plan Targets** at mid year:
 - Members are asked to review and agree the digital Authority Progress Plan Report which can be viewed here: <https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/appprogress/>
 - 7 of the 8 Enabling Delivery Aim Objective (A-H) Targets are green, indicating that if performance is consistent over the remainder of the year, the Authority will achieve these targets.
 - The target set for Objective F (Governance) is marked as 'no action at this stage' (grey). There is no internal or external audit on governance in 2023/24, so the target will not be reported on this year.
11. **Key Actions Progress** at mid year:
 - There are 54 key actions to be progressed in 23-24. At mid year 36 of these are on schedule where quality is meeting expectations.
 - 12 are experiencing a delay in schedule and / or have a lack or incorrect mix of resource allocated. Some of the key actions relate to the following projects:
 - Local Plan
 - Pre-application advice service (Planning)
 - Internal Staff Communication Plan
 - Asset Management Plan - use of disposals toolkit
 - One Peak District Nature Recovery Plan including maximising Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities
 - Landscape Enhancement Initiatives
 - Warslow Moors Estate development
 - A Volunteer programme to extend reach and appeal to underserved communities
 - 3 are experiencing a significant delay:
 - The Planning service has been focused on meeting the national targets which it is successfully doing, however, the review and update of the Local Enforcement Plan is still being affected by capacity issues.
 - Reviewing financial net income targets has been delayed due to the organisational changes taking priority. Existing targets remain in place and will

be reviewed 24/25.

- The Authority's independent action to contribute to the NPMP Objective 4 by bringing together moorland owners and managers to develop and implement resilient and sustainable moorland management requires a fresh approach following learning outputs for the private sector Moorland fire risk assessment pilot.
- 3 key actions are reflected grey, no action at this stage. It is expected that 2 of these actions will commence in the second half of the year, however the Member Climate Change Steering Group successfully embedded climate change into the National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan, so it ceased on 31 March 2023, therefore the associated key action detailed in Objection H (Climate Change) is redundant.

12. **Corporate Risk** status at mid year (appendix 1):

- Members are further asked to review the Corporate Risk Register status in Appendix 1 and agree the proposed changes.
- There is significant positive movement in our risk profile and no new risks have been identified at the mid year assessment.
- We have reduced the significance of four high risks (high likelihood/high impact - red).
 - **Obj A: Not meeting national planning performance standards (ref: 22/23C)**
Our mitigation has worked well and performance now meets the targets due to the focus and hard work of the teams involved. We anticipate this risk will be low by the end of the year.
 - **OC 4: Unexpected loss/sudden absence of staff (23/24D)**
The uncertainty due to the organisation change process has reduced. This risk has been reduced in likelihood and is anticipated to be lower by March 2024.
 - **Aim 2: Derwent Valley reservoir expansion (23/24H) has reduced in likelihood from High to low (red to amber).**
The proposed project driving this risk is no longer a current priority for the water companies. Due to the scale of the proposed scheme it remains a significant risk in terms of high impact/permanent damage to the Special Qualities of the Park.
 - **WP – Engagement service capacity to deliver NPMP (23/24F)**
The uncertainty around the capacity of this service area is now reduced. Service planning for 2024/25 will complete the service capacity review as part of the organisation change process.
- Of the remaining high (red) risks three are direct corporate risks associated with our Authority Enabling Delivery Aim
 - **Obj A: Not clearing enforcement backlogs (ref: 23/24J)**
The plan to address the backlog is now in place. The risk will remain high until vacant posts are filled.
 - **Obj E: Injury/Loss of life & property damage due to unsafe trees(ref: 22/23E updated start of year 23/24).**
A budget 'slippage' allocation was secured and a business case has now been approved for additional resources. The risk will remain high until assessment and removal of dangerous trees is completed.
 - **Obj G: Core IT systems maintenance and development (ref: 23/24K)**
Significant progress been made on individual elements captured in this risk. The residual risk remains very high however as the delay around the ASSURE planning system remains beyond our control. This is critical to planning service process improvement.
One high risk is associated with the Authority Organisational Change process
 - **OC 2: NPMP and Authority Action Plan Delivery risks (23/24B)**
This risk remains in place until service planning for 2024/25 is complete and permanent senior management team members are in post.

- Two high risks are associated with the National Park Management Plan delivery and Special Quality condition.
 - **CC1/CC11: Influencing ELMs/Area of NP land safeguarded (ref. 20/21B updated start of year 23/24)**

National Park Authorities (NPA's) are active in the stakeholder process and PDNPA are running an ELMs test and trial on the role of NPA's as conveners for the programme. The final decision rests with DEFRA/Government on the shape and scale of ELMs.

- **Aim 2: Road network improvements along the A628 corridor (ref. 21/22D updated start of year 23/24)**

PDNPA now regarded as a key consultee. Due to budgetary constraints, the current focus of the scheme within the National Park is on resilience and safety. Despite this the threat of the bypass/rebuild scheme remains.

- There have also been movements of amber risks
- **Obj E/H: Asset Management capacity (23/24E)**
The appointment of a permanent Head of Service, an approved business case for a Rural Estate Manager and work on market incentives for the Building Surveyor vacancy is beginning to mitigate the impact on capacity.
- **OC 1: Reputational risks (23/24 A)**
This risk was added to the register as a result of the organisational change process. With the staff changes now complete and the generous donor support for visitor services the risk from organisational change is now low.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

13. This report gives Members an overview of the achievement of targets in the first half of the year and includes ICT, financial, risk management and sustainability considerations where appropriate. There are no additional implications in, for example, Health and Safety.

Risk Management:

14. As above

Sustainability:

15. As above

Equality:

16. As above

Climate Change:

17. There are no climate change implications of this paper.

Background papers (not previously published)

18. None

Appendices

19. Appendix 1 - Mid Year 2023/24 Corporate Risk Register status

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Emily Fox, Interim Head of Resources, with input from Phil Mulligan (CEO) 2nd November 2023