

## **8. CHATSWORTH WHOLE ESTATE PLAN**

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

To inform Members about Chatsworth Whole Estate Plan and to request that Members endorse the plan.

#### **Key Issues**

- Chatsworth Whole Estate Plan (WEP) was published in September 2023. Officers worked closely with the Estate’s consultants to ensure that the WEP is in accordance with national park purposes and that it sets out aims, objectives and actions which if delivered, would bring significant benefits to landscape, nature recovery and cultural heritage.
- Chatsworth Estate has requested that the Authority endorses the WEP. ‘Endorsement’ does not commit the Authority to any course of action. It is however a public declaration of support for the WEP and the Aims and Objectives it contains.
- The local plan review will enable further consideration of the specific issue of planning policy for ‘endorsed’ WEPs.

### **2. Recommendation**

#### **1. To endorse Chatsworth Whole Estate Plan**

#### **How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?**

3. The Authority’s Management Plan commits the Authority to ‘pilot and agree one whole estate plan that addresses socio-economic issues as well as high environmental gains for a specific area to inform future ways of working.’ (Action LNR4)

#### **Background Information**

4. WEPs are documents prepared by landowners, and can combine both spatial and business elements. They outline opportunities and threats and set out a long-term vision alongside the objectives and actions to achieve this. They are:
  - non-statutory
  - most useful for large landholdings that have complex commercial, social and environmental activities
  - potentially a material consideration in planning assessments

They are not:

- a ‘green light’ for planning permission to be granted
- a breakdown of financial accounts
- a formal commitment to deliver the projects identified
- a list of development proposals

5. Local plans can include specific planning policies for WEPs. Usually the policy will state that 'endorsed plans' are given 'positive regard'. Our current local plan does not contain a policy for WEPs but this issue is being considered as part of the local plan review.
6. Chatsworth Estate engaged consultants Rural Solutions to prepare a WEP, and following discussions between the Estate, Rural Solutions and the Authority, a consultation draft was made available in April 2023.
7. The Authority made extensive and comprehensive comments on the draft and these are shown in Appendix 1. In summary, our concern was that although the draft WEP vision and aims *did* adequately reflect national park purposes, special qualities and the PDNPA management plan, the 'objectives' and actions sitting underneath *did not*. This was especially true with regard to nature recovery and improvements to the landscape and the setting of the house.
8. Chatsworth Estate and Rural Solutions responded positively to these comments and all our concerns were addressed. This is shown in Appendix 2.

### **Proposals**

9. Chatsworth Whole Estate Plan contains the following Aims and Objectives and Members are requested to endorse the Plan.

#### **Aim One: Built and cultural heritage**

Chatsworth will remain a place of wonder, where the story of the making of the landscape, cultural heritage and the built environment is shared, told, and cherished

Objective 1: to leave no part of Chatsworth behind, maintaining a programme of repair, maintenance and restoration which ensures the cultural heritage we see today will remain available for those who follow.

Objective 2: to find new ways to share and tell the Chatsworth story through experience and exploration.

#### **Aim Two: Landscape and nature.**

Our natural capital, the biodiversity that it hosts, the cultural heritage it represents, and the ecosystem services it delivers will have been significantly enhanced, contributing to a more resilient living landscape.

Objective 3: to extend and encourage nature-friendly land management across the estate to deliver nature recovery whilst conserving cultural heritage, landscape character, and maintaining appropriate levels of public access

Objective 4: to optimise the ecosystem services that our cultural and natural capital delivers to the communities of the Peak District and beyond.

Objective 5: to seek out and apply knowledge from others, to capture and share learning from our experiences, and respond positively to requests to use the knowledge gained to support others in similar efforts.

Aim Three: Thriving communities. We will support local communities to thrive, significantly enhancing the social, economic, and environmental benefit they enjoy from our organisations between 2020 and 2040.

Objective 6: to support sustainable communities by maintaining amenities, providing access to existing estate housing for rent, opportunities for employment, and by supporting local businesses, groups, and organisations.

**Aim Four: Access, engagement, and learning.**

Chatsworth is for everyone. We want to be relevant to all and out of reach of no one. We want to inspire people with our art and cultural assets, with our learning programmes, and aim to change people's lives for the better. We want to enable those who may never have considered Chatsworth to be for them, to experience and enjoy the natural wonder of the Peak District and the natural and cultural assets of the collections at Chatsworth.

Objective 7: To inspire people through engagement with the art, landscape, and cultural heritage of Chatsworth by using programme and place to deepen an understanding and empathy with the urgent issues of our time.

Objective 8: to make new connections, and remove barriers (physical, intellectual, cultural, socio-economic) preventing access to Chatsworth.

Objective 9: to welcome the world and find new ways for everyone to engage with Chatsworth if not on-site, then online and off-site, through an extensive loans programme and outreach activities.

**Aim Five: Sustainability.**

We will work towards Net Zero, operating with significantly lower emissions of greenhouse gases than during the first two decades of the 21st century. We will protect and enhance our soils and deliver overall net increases in stored carbon. We will generate and share knowledge and contribute to material change and improvements in the operation of a sustainable visitor economy. We will confirm our timeframe for this objective at some point during 2023/24.

Objective 10: to lower greenhouse gas emissions significantly, focusing on the areas that are compatible with our responsibilities to heritage and landscape, working towards Net Zero.

Objective 11: to sequester and store carbon while contributing to nature recovery.

**Aim Six: Business and enterprise.**

We will increase our positive impact on the local economy, to help maintain and enhance economic outcomes and opportunities. We want to double the contribution that we make to the Peak District economy from that achieved in 2022 by 2040.

Objective 12: to implement our 'Days to Stays' strategy, creating added value and richer visitor experiences.

Objective 13: to increase the range of products sold through our hospitality and retail outlets (including online) that are made with ingredients from the estate, or by producers, artisans, and makers in the local area.

Objective 14: to deliver sustainable economic growth in a way that delivers shared value.

**Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

**Financial:**

10. There are no financial implications.

**Risk Management:**

11. There are no risks associated with this decision.

**Sustainability:**

12. Sustainability issues are considered within the WEP but there are no direct corporate implications.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:**

13. Equality issues are considered within the WEP but there are no direct corporate implications.

**14. Climate Change**

1. How does this decision contribute to the Authority's role in climate change set out in the UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks?

This decision will contribute to Headline Delivery under the Landscape and Nature Recovery Aim of the National Park Management Plan.

2. How does this decision contribute to the Authority meeting its carbon net zero target?

There is no effect on this target.

3. How does this decision contribute to the National Park meeting carbon net zero by 2050?

Indirectly, by endorsing the aims and objectives of the WEP, which if implemented, will contribute to the net zero target.

4. Are there any other Climate Change related issues that are relevant to this decision that should be brought to the attention of Members?

No

**15. Background papers (not previously published)**

[Chatsworth Whole Estate Plan](#)

**16. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - PDNPA comments on first draft WEP

Appendix 2 - PDNPA comments on final draft WEP

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

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