



Authority Plan

2023-28

Our Vision

We have big ambitions for the Peak District National Park. Our aspirational 20 year vision 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.

Introduction

Our Authority Plan sets out how we will deliver to the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park which are to:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and
- Promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

If there is a conflict between these purposes, the first purpose is given greater weight. In carrying out the purposes, National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local national park communities.

Our Authority Plan is structured around our enabling delivery aim which outlines the Authority's mission and captures key elements of the National Park Authority's own essential business focused across eight objectives:

Enabling delivery Aim: The Authority is inspiring, pioneering and enabling in delivering the National Park vision.

- Objective A (Planning): To achieve national performance standards for planning applications by type dealt with in a timely manner.
- Objective B (Access): To achieve timescales and follow processes for the statutory functions under Countryside and Rights of Way Act and Town and Country Planning Act.
- Objective C (People): To have highly engaged, healthy and inclusive staff and volunteers.
- Objective D (Financial Resilience): To be financially resilient and provide value for money.
- Objective E (Assets): To have best practice arrangements in place for the Authority's assets.
- Objective F (Governance): To have best practice governance arrangements in place.
- Objective G (Information and Performance): To have best practice IT access controls, security arrangements, performance and risk arrangements in place.
- Objective H (Climate Change): To reduce the Authority's greenhouse gas emissions.



Our Purpose

To speak up for and care for the Peak District National Park for all to enjoy forever.

This role is as important today as it was in 1951 when the Peak District was designated a National Park. This work is carried out in collaboration with partners and local communities to conserve and enhance the National Park's special qualities. The Authority is instrumental in both the development and delivery of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP), which is the partnership plan for the place. The NPMP will help us to achieve the vision and details four integrated aims which take account of ongoing pressures between communities, visitors and nature, and key external factors such as climate change and the need for continuing nature recovery. The Authority works in partnership on the delivery of this plan. Please refer to the National Park Management Plan for the actions where the Authority is the responsible partner or one of a number of delivery partners working in collaboration on an action.

Our Values

Our values were developed by Authority staff from every part of our organisation. They define who we are, communicate what is important, shape organisational culture, drive organisational performance and bring us together as one team.

Care

We care for the PDNP, the people we work with and all those we serve

- Give our best.
- Show respect for others.
- Are open and welcoming.
- Never compromise on safety and wellbeing.

Enjoy

We take pride in what we do and feel good about our contribution

- Are proud of the work we do.
- Find solutions to problems.
- Keep things simple.
- Work as one team.

Pioneer

We were born of pioneers. We will continue to explore opportunities to inspire future generations

- Lead by example.
- Never stop learning.
- Always look to improve.
- Embrace change



Enabling Delivery Aim

Enabling delivery Aim: The Authority is inspiring, pioneering and enabling in delivering the National Park vision.		
Objective A (Planning): To achieve national performance standards for planning applications by type dealt with in a timely manner.		
Target: Percentage of applications determined in timescales: a) major applications 13 weeks, b) minor applications 8 weeks and c) other applications 8 weeks. Responsible officer: Head of Planning		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Review, update and implement Local Enforcement Plan	Backlog plan: Review and remove 'time expired' and 'non expedient' cases and use to set 2024/25 targets.	Targets set from plan from decile 2 data
Review and adopt updated Local Plan	Revise local plan and supplementary policies timetable by March 2024	New timetable established
Review, reinstate and provide pre-application advice service	Review and reinstate service and set income targets by March 2024	Meet fee income targets
Objective B (Access): To achieve timescales and follow processes for the statutory functions under Countryside and Rights of Way Act and Town and Country Planning Act.		
Target: Meet 100% of timescales and processes. Responsible officer: Head of Landscape & Engagement		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Maintain PDNP managed footpaths to national standards	% Rights of way easy to use matches or exceeds national average	% Rights of way easy to use matches or exceeds national average

Objective C (People): To have highly engaged, healthy and inclusive staff and volunteers.		
Target: Maximum of 9 days per year sickness level per staff member, targets for inclusiveness and staff engagement score to be set once baseline is established in 2023/24.		
Responsible officer: Head of People Management / Head of Resources		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Promote Equality and Diversity to make our working environment more inclusive	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Meet the requirements of the public sector equality duty. Published in Performance & Business Plan
Promote and implement Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Performance reviewed and annual report (Jan Programmes and Resources committee 2024)	Performance reported Decile 3 and reviewed Decile 4
Update, promote and implement our offer on how we invest in people	Implement recruitment & retention incentives	Investors in People 24 month assessment April 2024 and re – assessment April 2025 Review allowances
Enhance our volunteering offer	Volunteer development plan completed by March 2024	TBA from Volunteer Development Plan E.g. N ^o sessions, N ^o hours, Added value
Objective D (Financial Resilience): To be financially resilient and provide value for money.		
Target: To have a deliverable Medium Term Financial Plan and achieve value for money in all internal and external audit reports.		
Responsible officer: Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer) / Head of Resources		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Review and update the medium term financial plan (MTFP)	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	MTFP projections used to set balanced budgets annually (Expenditure profile monitored quarterly)
Ensure financial processes meet public sector value for money standards/thresholds	Unqualified VFM opinion by the External Auditor	Unqualified VFM opinion by the External Auditor
Set and deliver net income targets	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Targets or monitoring set for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning fees - Visitor Centres - Cycle hire - External funding



Develop and submit external funding bids	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Set targets for: 1. Secured funding 2. Live bids 3. Developing bids 4. MFFP funding secured/bid for etc. Monitor % success rate
Objective E (Assets): To have best practice arrangements in place for the Authority's assets.		
Target: To implement and maintain the Authority's Asset Management Plan. Responsible officer: Head of Assets & Enterprise		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Visitor Centre and Cycle Hire Review	Review undertaken	Review completed and plan put in place by July 2024
Asset enhancement projects in this year/decile	Pump Farm: Farm house restoration completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cruck Barn repair and development (North Lees) - Cressbrook footbridge replaced - Agricultural building developments on Warslow Moors All Completed by March 2025
Review National Park Authority headquarters needs and aspirations	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Plan - Funding Profile - Business case All Completed by March 2025
Manage disposals and acquisitions to respond to estate plans and new opportunities	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Meet targets in Asset Management Plan. Reported to Programmes & Resources by March 2025
Warslow Moors Whole Estate Plan development	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Anticipated to start in Decile 3 2024/25 (subject to recruitment)

Progress opportunities for new car parking provision	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Enforcement brought in house by October 2024 to increase income. Plan developed (presented to Programmes and Resources Committee before October 2024). Expansion of 2 car parks by March 2025 subject to planning approval.
Objective F (Governance): To have best practice governance arrangements in place.		
Target: All internal and external audits relating to governance are rated as providing substantial assurance or equivalent. Responsible officer: Authority Solicitor (Monitoring Officer) / Head of Resources		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Review our Code of Corporate Governance and produce Annual Governance Statement	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Annual report – 31 st May
Training and support Members to fulfil their role and make informed decisions (report annually)	– Member training attendance (100%)	– Member training attendance (100%) – Induction participation (100%) – Members survey completed
Provide efficient and high-quality legal and governance support and guidance across the Authority including in its statutory functions	– No judicial review – No Maladministration charges – No Ombudsmen complaints upheld	– No judicial review – No Maladministration charges – No Ombudsmen complaints upheld
Support the governance working group to review the governance and decision making arrangements and implement changes	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Change projects delivered: – Standing orders reviewed – Public participation, report template & quality of reports reviewed – Review Members sight of on going work – Review role of Member Champions and learning

Objective G (Information and Performance): To have best practice IT access controls, security arrangements, performance and risk arrangements in place.

Target: IT access controls, security arrangements, performance and risk to be rated at least reasonable assurance in all Audit reports.

Responsible officer: Information Manager / Head of Resources

Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Provide high quality customer and business support for the public and across the Authority	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Establish Annual customer survey programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning customer survey, including agents - CDST internal and external customer survey - Cycle Hire customer survey Performance targets to be set
Ensure security services and controls are fit for purpose and that all users are compliant with the measures	100% compliance (training/records/breaches)	100% compliance (training/records/breaches)
Coordinate performance and risk management of the National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan 2023-28 and develop future plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audit report results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NPMP report and format adopted (May 24) - Risk Management approach refresh (Sept 24) - Produce NPMP reporting platform - Year 1 report/Business plan
Whole Organisation Communications Plan (internal to external)	New action added where activity will not commence until 2024/25	Plan completed and programme targets established (March 25)
Appropriately source, store, process and make information accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects underway (time/budget/outcome) - File digitisation progressing to time and budget 	Projects delivered (time/budget/outcome) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - File digitisation progressing to time and budget

Objective H (Climate Change): To reduce the Authority’s greenhouse gas emissions.		
Target: Achieve a further 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2017/18 baseline. Responsible officer: Head of Assets & Enterprise		
Actions	Critical Success Decile 2	Critical Success 2024/25
Implement and keep up to date the Authority’s Carbon Management Plan (CMP2)	Annual report on carbon pollution reduction – identify carbon reduction projects for 2024/25 by March 2024	Projects identified by March 2024