

## **15. NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 For Members to the digital Progress Report for the first year of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28. This report is published online at <https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/nmppprogress/>

### **2. Context**

- 2.1 The Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 was adopted by the Authority at the meeting on the 2nd December 2022 (minute reference 98/22). The Management Plan is structured around four aims:

1. Climate Change
2. Landscape & Nature Recovery
3. Welcoming Place
4. Thriving Communities

Eleven objectives underpin these aims, and 49 cascading actions create a five year partnership work programme, each with specific critical success factors, which as completed, will move the delivery partners closer to achieving the action. This is a digital format report which captures the first year of partnership progress against the National Park Management Plan 23-28 delivery actions. This report will be produced annually and will build to create a central repository for all National Park Management Plan partnership work over the five year plan period.

### **3. Proposals**

#### **3.1 Engagement Process**

The process by which partner organisations are engaged with for this NPMP has been refreshed and for the first time all delivery partners were given an opportunity to provide updates for this report with the aim of increasing partner engagement with the plan and reporting process. All responsible partners and delivery partners were asked for updates on relevant actions and about third of partners responded including: Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Natural England, RSPB, Yorkshire Water and United Utilities.

The process by which partners organisations meet has also been refreshed. Three groups have been identified which will allow for more effective management of projects across the very wide range of stakeholders which are involved in the NPMP:

- Partnership Group - brings together leaders and senior representatives of our most significant strategic partners to provide high level strategic support, focus and guidance on achieving the 5 year aims and the shared 20-year vision for the National Park. This group met in April 24 and have agreed to meet every six months in future going forward.
- Delivery Group – brings together representatives from the delivery partners who are leading or collaborating on delivery of the plan. This group meets quarterly to discuss on the ground delivery and problem solve tactical issues.
- Stakeholder Forum – brings together all partner and stakeholder organisations (circa 70+) that are involved in the NPMP and aims to allow for wider discussions, thought leadership and facilitate opportunities for organisations to collaborate and exchange information/data on projects. This group did not meet in year one however it is expected that this group will come together by the end of the calendar year, most likely in an online capacity.

### 3.2 Delivery Progress

Each action has a RAG status which provides an indication of progress against the five year partnership work programme, as follows:

- **Red** - Little or no progress
- **Amber** – Some progress
- **Light Green** – On course
- **Dark Green** – Achieved
- **Grey** - Information not available

The introduction page of the Progress Report provides a dashboard overview of the actions which sit under each aim. Progress can easily be viewed and links facilitate deep dives into the specific action updates. However, the overview of progress for each aim is as follows:

Aim	Number of Actions under Aim	On Course	Some Progress	Little or no progress
1. Climate Change	15	8/15 (53%)	4/15 (27%)	3/15 (20%)
2. Landscape & Nature Recovery	13	7/13 (54%)	2/13 (15%)	4/13 (31%)
3. Welcoming Place	12	3/12 (25%)	8/12 (67%)	1/12 (8%)
4. Thriving Communities	9	2/9 (22%)	3/9 (33%)	4/9 (45%)

There have been some excellent examples of partnership working in the first year of this plan and there are many successful projects which are starting to gain traction and / or forging ahead. However, this is a partnership plan and there continues to be significant budgetary and capacity issues in many of the governmental departments, agencies and local authorities as well as the Authority which has an impact on overall progress.

## 4. Recommendations

1. **The National Park Management Plan Progress Report 2023/24 is approved.**
2. **The implementation of any required amendments to the Progress Report 2023/24 be delegated to the Head of Resources.**

## 5. Corporate Implications

### a. Legal

Pursuant to sections 5 and 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the Authority must deliver to the statutory purposes and statutory duty, respectively, when carrying out its work. Monitoring the Authority's progress against the aims and objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan will enable appropriate scrutiny and safeguard legal compliance.

The National Park Management Plan is compliant with the Authority's duties in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion. Specific projects undertaken in pursuance of delivery of the aims and objectives will individually identify and address any adverse equality impacts on a case by case basis for consideration prior to approval.

b. Financial

There are no financial implications associated with the proposals outlined in this report. All expenditure associated with the National Park Management Plan is allocated through setting the 2024-25 budget and specific approvals outside of this report.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

This is an annual progress report to monitor partnership delivery against the National Park Management Plan.

d. Risk Management

The greatest risk to the delivery of the NPMP is the engagement and ongoing support from partner organisations, especially the elements of the delivery plan where their contributions are essential. The refreshed engagement process attempts to mitigate this risk. The National Park Authority is the Responsible Partner on 30 out of the 49 Actions and Moors for the Future are responsible for a further four actions. Therefore 15 actions are led by external bodies and all the delivery actions require the cooperation of multiple partners to be successful.

e. Net Zero

This report doesn't directly contribute to meeting net zero. However, Climate Change is one of the four aims of the National Park Management Plan, so it provides Members with further information on what is being delivered to achieve net zero for the National Park.

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

None.

**7. Appendices**

None.

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