

8. AUTHORITY PROGRESS REPORT – MID YEAR (DECILE 3) 24-25

1. Purpose

1.1 For Members to review the digital Progress Report of the Authority Plan. This report, published online at <https://reports.peakdistrict.gov.uk/appprogress/> tracks progress over the last six months of year two of the five year Authority Plan (Decile 3: April 2024 – September 2024). As part of the mid-year process, this report will also provide Members with an update of the Corporate risk register 24/25 for review and approval.

2. Context

2.1 The digital format Authority Progress Report is updated every 6 months, resulting in 10 decile reports over the 5-year Authority Plan (2023 - 2028). The presentation of progress information in this format to Members, facilitates more effective scrutiny of key issues and actions, enabling Members to see the strategic overview easily. Corporate risk information is provided so that Members can review the mid-year position and see how risks are being managed corporately.

3. Proposals Mid Year (Decile 3)

3.1 Authority Plan Targets:

- 7 of the 8 Enabling Delivery Aim Objectives (A-H) Targets are green, indicating that if performance is consistent over the remainder of the year, the Authority will achieve its targets for Year 2.
- 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 24/25, so the target will not be reported on this year.

3.2 Key Action Progress:

- There are 28 key actions to be progressed during 24-25. At mid year 25 of these are on schedule where quality meets expectations (green).
- 3 actions are experiencing a delay in schedule and / or have a lack or incorrect mix of resource allocated (amber):
 - Delivery of net income targets is tracking slightly below budget.
 - The external funding bids programme is delayed after two unsuccessful attempts to recruit to the Grant Development and Bid Writing Officer.
 - Warslow Moors Whole Estate Plan will now be prepared in 2025.
- No actions at this reporting point are experiencing significant delay (red).

3.3 Corporate Risk Register status (Appendix 1):

- The overview at mid year is that two risks have increased in significance from amber to red, seven risks have reduced and will be monitored at service level, therefore have been removed from the corporate risk register and one risk has been removed completed.
- Two risks escalated to high risk:
 - **Obj D: DEFRA grant agreement and funding (Ref: 24/25 C)**
Uncertainty around the new government ‘direction of travel’ and expected changes to funding for departments. If a flat cash settlement or decrease in core grant is announced, it could have a significant impact on the Authority.

- **Aim 3: Negative impact of users in the National Park (Ref: 24/25M)**
This risk escalation, previously labeled ‘people management’, now reflects the increasing scrutiny around ‘user management /pressure’ and the Authority’s focus to collect evidence which will attempt to evaluate the impact of users on the landscape and special qualities.
- Seven risks moved off corporate risk register:
 - **Obj A: DLUHC Revision of planning performance standards (Ref: 24/25A)**
Current performance is on track and the planning service expects to be able to meet any future changes in performance standards.
 - **Obj G: Core IT systems maintenance and development (Ref: 23/24K)**
Mitigation is working in other key areas and sufficient cover in database and business systems is now in place.
 - **Aim 2: Expansion of permitted development rights (Ref: 24/25Q)**
Development of this nature are not currently significant in the park, evidence gathering will continue.
 - **Obj E/H: Asset Management capacity (Ref: 23/24E)**
Ongoing prioritisation of work being managed and recruitment is being prioritised, risk will remain until vacancy is filled.
 - **Aim 3: Active Travel England Project delivery & development risk (Ref: 24/25J)**
A cross-department service team has been created with Planning HofS oversight. The ATE project is progressing within expected delivery parameters.
 - **Obj A: Planning enforcement backlogs (Ref: 23/24J)**
Overall number of outstanding cases reduced from 640 (end March 23) to 528 (end March 24). Enforcement backlog work continues.
 - **Aim 4: Local Plan review delay (Ref: 23/24G)**
Still waiting for new local plan regulations to be produced and the overall process to be clarified, however the current workflow is continuing and overall project delivery will be adjusted to suit.
- One risk removed completely:
 - **Obj G: NPMP and Authority Action Plan delivery risks (Ref: 23/24B)**
The Information Manager post has been disestablished and the Strategy and Performance Team restructured to ensure capacity at the required levels of responsibilities.

4 Recommendations

1. The digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 3) 2024/25 is approved.
2. The Corporate risk register summary (Decile 3) 2024/25 provided in Appendix 1 is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.

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 Authority Plan will enable appropriate scrutiny and safeguard legal compliance.

The Authority 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 arising from this report. All expenditure associated with the Authority 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 a mid-year progress report to monitor delivery against the Authority Plan. The digital report presented to the National Park Authority provides Members with further information on delivery to each of the Objectives (A-H) under the Enabling Delivery Aim.

d. Risk Management

Horizon scanning and monitoring of corporate risks enables the Authority to take appropriate action to negate or minimise that risk.

e. Net Zero

This report doesn’t directly contribute to meeting net zero. However, actions under Objective H (Climate Change), aim to reduce the Authority’s greenhouse gas emissions, so it provides Members with further information on what is being delivered to help achieve net zero for the National Park.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Mid Year 2024/25 Corporate Risk Register summary.

Responsible Officer, Job Title and Publication Date

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Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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