

11. AUTHORITY PLAN 2023 – 28: YEAR 3 LOOK FORWARD 2025/26 (DECILE 5 & 6)

1. Purpose

1.1 For Members to review the Year 3 look forward actions for 2025-26.

2. Context

2.1 Our Authority Plan sets out how we will deliver to the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park and is structured around our enabling delivery aim to be an inspiring and pioneering organisation.

2.2 The Authority Plan has been reviewed in light of the recent organisational change process and an initial assessment due to the 2025/26 budget reduction. There are no changes to the Enabling delivery aim or the 8 strategic objectives. The delivery actions have been updated to ensure they are fit for purpose and that performance can be clearly monitored via the critical success factors.

3. Proposals

Look Forward 25-26 (Decile 5 & 6)

3.1 Authority Plan Actions:

- There are 29 actions in the Authority Plan Programme, 28 are unchanged and 1 new action added (E7) which focuses on North Lees Estate plan development.
- All critical success factors have been reviewed and refreshed as required to ensure performance can be monitored via the Authority Plan Progress Reporting portal.
- There may be further changes to the delivery programme following the recent announcement (Friday 28 February 2025) by Defra that the National Park Authority annual grant will be cut for the year ahead (starting in April). It is requested that any additional changes required as a result of the budget reduction are delegated to the Head of Resources in consultation with the Chair. These would then be communicated to Members at Decile 5 (mid year update).

4. Recommendations

- 1. The Authority Plan Look Forward delivery plan for Year 3 2025/26 (Decile 5 & 6) is approved.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Authority to make any necessary amendments to the actions or critical success factors detailed in the Authority Plan Programme Year 3: 2025-26 in Appendix 1.**

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 2025-26 budget and specific approvals outside of this report.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

This outlines Year 3 actions which will deliver to the Authority Plan.

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 - Authority Plan Programme Year 3 - 25/26

Responsible Officer, Job Title and Publication Date

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Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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