

8. TOURISM CHARTER

1. Purpose

To adopt a Tourism Charter for the Peak District National Park. Through this Charter, the Authority aims to work in partnership to understand and identify areas where we can influence use of the National Park to achieve better experiences for visitors and positive outcomes for communities, nature and the landscape.

2. Context

2.1 The Peak District enjoys significant economic benefits from those using and visiting the National Park. Each year, there are over 13 million visits to the National Park. There are over 20 million people who live within an hour's travel of the National Park, making the Peak District one of the most accessible and heavily visited National Parks in the UK.

2.2 The National Park was established to help conserve and enhance the area's special qualities whilst also promoting enjoyment and understanding. As well as providing economic benefit for the region, those using and visiting the National Park enjoy the health and wellbeing advantages of being outdoors, connecting with nature and experiencing stunning landscapes.

2.3 There is, however, a growing concern that the volume and pattern of visitation is having a significant impact on the area's communities, its natural environment and many of its cultural heritage assets as well as making the achievement of net-zero targets more challenging.

3. Proposals

3.1 For the Authority to adopt a Tourism Charter, as set out in appendix 1, and then seek to gain partner support and partners signing up to the Charter. When there is sufficient partner support for the Charter, the Authority will convene partners to develop an action plan for working to achieve the aims of the Charter.

3. Recommendations

- 1. That approval be given to adopt the Tourism Charter, as set out in appendix 1.**

4. Corporate Implications

a. Legal

Pursuant to section 65(5) of the Environment Act 1995, the Authority has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the accomplishment of its statutory purposes. This Charter falls within the Authority's statutory purposes. This power is subject to any express statutory or public law constraints which should be considered holistically and as the Charter progresses.

The Tourism Charter is compliant with the Authority's duties in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion. Specific projects undertaken in pursuance of delivery of the Charter 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 from adopting the Charter but future financial support may be necessary to enact the subsequent action plan. It is likely that the action plan associated with the Charter will become part of the National Park Management Plan and/or Authority Plan, so funding will be undertaken in the usual budget setting process.

- c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan
The Charter will help with delivery of the NPMP as it will give us a tool to indicate our position and align support for collective working on a complicated issue that receives much public attention. In future, the ongoing monitoring of the impact of the Charter would be covered through appraisals and updates of the NPMP.
- d. Risk Management
There are perception of risks that if we adopt the Charter there may be an expectation to address the issues of visitor pressure more quickly than the partnership approach and resources might allow. However, there are also perception risks of not being seen to take these issues seriously if we do not adopt the Charter.
- e. Net Zero
There are no significant net zero implications from the report. However, one of the implications of adopting the Charter and then working in partnership to deliver its aspirations is that we might help address carbon emissions from those visiting/using the National Park.

5. Background papers (not previously published)

None

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Peak District National Park Tourism Charter

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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Responsible Officer, Job Title

Phil Mulligan, CEO, 30 April 2025