



## REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN 2023/24 AGS FOR FEEDING INTO THE 2024/25 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

### (A) Core Principle

**Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of Law**

Issues Identified	Action/progress
1. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act "Duty to seek to further" is a risk to partnership working and NPMP delivery.	The guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes has been published by Defra. There has been a case in law of where the duty to seek to further has been successfully used to overturn a planning decision. We have continued to meet regularly with the National Park Management Plan Partnership Group and leaders of responsible bodies.

### (B) Core Principle

**Making sure of openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement**

Issues Identified	Action/progress
2. DEFRA Targets and Outcomes Framework based performance monitoring.	Due to data quality and availability issues there are delays to releasing data to the Authority for a number of the targets and revision of both data sets and some targets are due to take place in 2025/26. The Authority is continuing to work with Defra, Natural England and protected landscapes to get the best outcome for the National Park.
3. Risk that in the context of ever reducing budgets, the Authority and partners cannot deliver to the approved NPMP	Due to a non-inflationary grant from Defra since 2022/23 onwards, we are part way through organisational change to reduce our costs, which unfortunately means we will have fewer staff. We will need to assess the impacts the changes will have on our ability to deliver the National Park Management Plan. We are aware that some partners are having to make similar decisions regarding their budget, which may impact on delivery of the NPMP.

### (C) Core Principle

**Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.**

Issues Identified	Action/progress
4. New Rights of Way/Open Access legislation.	Natural England must review by 31 December 2030 the open access maps of mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common that were issued in 2004 and 2005. The review must ensure all land of this type is included and there are no errors. There will be a public consultation once the review gets underway

<b>(D) Core Principle</b> <b>Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.</b>	
Issues Identified	Action/progress
5. The impact of non-inflationary funding settlement from Defra from 2022/23 onwards.	<p>The Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) takes into account the 9% reduction in our Defra grant for 2025/26 only, reverting back to 2024/25 settlement figure thereafter. In the short term, by using some of reserves, we can set a balanced budget for 2025/26, but from the following financial year we would have insufficient reserves to cover the reduced funding settlement. With the reduction in core grant, ongoing inflationary pressures, rise in Employer National Insurance contributions, the funding gap is larger than originally anticipated. As a direct result, we are part way through organisational change to reduce our costs, which unfortunately means a reduction in staffing, as this is our biggest financial burden. We await the Government spending review in June 2025, where a three-year funding settlement is being proposed. This will allow us revise the MTFF and action accordingly.</p>
<b>(E) Core Principle</b> <b>Developing the Authority's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it</b>	
Issues Identified	Action/progress
6. Need to assess management of people in the National Park.	<p>An officer "User Group" has been formed to devise a robust research methodology for users of the National Park. This draws together data from the latest visitor survey along with new sources such as Strava, mobile phone, and partner data.</p> <p>This reveals info about the typical user catchment, trip destinations and reasons for the visit.</p> <p>Officers are now keen to reinvigorate area management working alongside partners and have identified the Mam Tor, Castleton, Edale area as a good focus to pilot. Initial meetings with DCC, NT, Police and local MP are beginning to shape possible solutions and mobilise activity.</p>
<b>(F) Core Principle</b> <b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b>	
Issues Identified	Action/progress
7. The Business Continuity Plan needs to be reviewed and all internal audit recommendations implemented	<p>This work is yet to be progressed. – It was put on hold due to the 2022 organisational change, and then our ability to fill new Heads of Service posts. There was then a period where we had insufficient people resources to take this forward. We are now in a period of organisational change, but once this is complete, the Plan will be reviewed and audit recommendations implemented.</p>

**(G) Core Principle****Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.**

<b>Issues Identified</b>	<b>Action/progress</b>
8. Outcomes of Governance Review Working Group.	<p>The Governance Review Working Group has achieved the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Member Role Description updated</li><li>2. Member Champions replaced by Members skills being utilised more effectively</li><li>3. Audit, Budget and Project Risk Group established</li><li>4. Confirmation of cycle of meetings and what goes to each Committee</li><li>5. Committee template updated</li><li>6. Member learning and Development Framework and program updated</li><li>7. Minutes of Programmes &amp; Resources and Planning to Authority and verbal update provided at Authority</li></ol> <p>The group continues to review our standing orders/ constitution.</p>