

9. Authority Plan Progress Report – Mid Year (Decile 5) 25-26

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 place over the last six months of Year Three of the five-year Authority Plan (Decile 5: April 2025 – September 2025) towards the objectives under the Enabling Delivery aim.
- 1.2 As part of the mid-year process, this report will also provide Members with an update of the Corporate Risk Register 25/26 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 5)

3.1 Authority Plan Targets:

- 6 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 these targets for Year 3.
- The target for Objective E (Assets) has been marked amber (some progress/caution needed). This relates to the delays associated with the Asset Management Plan.
- 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 25/26, so the target will not be reported on this year.

3.2 Key Action Progress:

- There are 29 key actions to be progressed during 25/26. At mid-year, 25 of these are on schedule where delivery meets expectations (green).
- 3 actions are experiencing a delay in schedule and/or have a lack or incorrect mix of resource allocated (amber):
 - i. In the Peak District, aligning to national trends, the condition of Rights of Way is deteriorating as a result of lack of funding for maintenance, and climate change resulting in increasing severe weather events and changes in patterns of use.
 - ii. While some of this year's asset enhancement projects have been completed, some have been delayed or reprioritized in connection with other delayed actions.
 - iii. Due to delays associated with the Asset Management Plan and Estate Plans for Warslow Moors and North Lees, targets for disposals and acquisitions have not yet been set.
- 1 action is experiencing a significant delay (red) at this reporting stage:
 - i. The development of the Warslow Moors Whole Estate Plan continues to be delayed due to significant gaps in staff resource.

3.3 Corporate Risk Register status (Appendix 1):

- The overview at mid-year is that one risk has increased in significance from amber to red, one risk's impact rating has decreased but the risk rating has remained amber, one risk's likelihood rating has increased but the risk rating has remained amber, and one risk has been removed completed due to decreased assessment of likelihood.

- One risk escalated to high risk (red):
 - i. **Enabling Delivery Aim: Operational Risks (Ref: 25/26B)**
This is an aggregated risk which recognises any possible risks to operations of the Authority, and therefore carries higher impact and likelihood due to multiple instances of possibility and possible combined impacts.
- One risk likelihood increased:
 - i. **Enabling Delivery Aim: Legislation & Regulatory Risk (Ref: 25/26A)**
This risk's rating has been increased to high likelihood as, due to it aggregating all possible legislative and regulatory risks, it is highly likely to occur due to the known future implementation of some pieces of the identified legislation. However, the timeline for many of these is beyond the scope of this register (FY26/27) therefore impact remains medium due to impact being unlikely within this management period.
- One risk removed completely:
 - i. **Obj C/D: Extended absence of an HoS or senior officer**
On review, this risk was seen to have a low likelihood, having not occurred within memory at the Authority and due to existing mitigation actions being in place to reduce this risk. As such, it is to be removed from the risk register.
- **Suggestions for better management of aggregated risks going forward:**
 - i. To disaggregate *Operational Risks (Ref: 25/26B)* and *Legislation & Regulatory Risk (Ref: 25/26A)* when creating the next Corporate Risk Register for FY26/27 to better plan the management of known individual risks.
 - ii. To create a horizon-scanning timeline for legislative and regulatory risks to understand when they are likely to be realised and better plan for their management within the appropriate period.

4 Recommendations:

1. **The digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 5) 2025/26 is approved.**
2. **The Corporate risk register summary (Decile 5) 2025/26 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 2025/26 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 2025/26 Corporate Risk Register summary.

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