

17. Moors For The Future Partnership: Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27

1. Purpose

This report introduces the Moors for the Future Partnership (MFFP) Business and Delivery Plan for 2026/27. Annual plans are brought in line with the MFFP Business Strategy (16/24).

2. Context

2.1 The MFFP Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 sets out firm delivery plans for our commitments in the year ahead to March 2027. These plans are optimized within the MFFP programme delivery approach to contribute to the Partnership vision of a Sustainable and Resilient upland landscape by 2050, through integrated Conservation, Science, Communications, and Business Development activities.

Following Ofwat's (water industry regulator) approval of the Price Review 24 settlement, MFFP has secured up to £25 million of AMP8 investment to 2030 from its three water company partners: Severn Trent, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water. This is the largest 5 year funding commitment in the Partnership's history, positioning MFFP as a nationally significant delivery body for climate resilience, water quality improvement, biodiversity recovery and wildfire risk mitigation.

The 2026/27 Business/Delivery Plan provides PDNPA, other MFFP Partners and the MFFP Team with a high-level strategic document communicating key direction and activity within the MFFP programme over the next 12 months.

All the delivery plans and activity set out within the Business/Delivery Plan relate to live projects within the MFFP programme. With all projects having either been previously approved at Resource Management Meeting by PDNPA Officers and/or the Resources Committee. As such no further decision is required by Authority in respect to the 2026/27 plan (Appendix 1).

This plan is brought to Authority rather than Resources Committee for reasons of timescales being the earliest opportunity to set out firm delivery plans for 2026/27 following securing AMP8 funding. General project updates will continue to be brought to Resources Committee going forward.

3. Proposals

3.1 Members are asked to review and note the details of the MFFP Business/Delivery plan 2026/27 at Appendix 1.

The 2026/27 financial year represents a defining milestone for MFFP. It marks the first full year of delivery under AMP8 and a significant step-change in the scale, pace and ambition of peatland restoration across the Peak District and South Pennines.

During 2026/27, MFFP plans to deliver circa £6 million of capital restoration works, alongside growth in scientific evidence, communications impact and blended finance development. All activity will continue to operate on a full cost-recovery basis, with staffing and capital budgets agreed through PDNPA and established partner governance arrangements.

The MFFP Team is forecast to expand to approximately 35 FTE, once at this level generating up to £350,000 per annum in corporate overhead contribution per to PDNPA and reinforcing the Partnership's role as a sustainable delivery model within protected landscapes.

4. Recommendations

1. **The Moors for the Future Partnership Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 is noted.**

5. 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. The projects and activity set out in the MFFP Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 falls within the Authority's statutory purposes. This power is subject to any express statutory or public law constraints, including compliance with the Procurement Act 2023.

b. Financial

No adverse implications.

All live projects within the MFFP programme have gained the relevant delegated approvals from PDNPA Officers with delegated authority to accept new projects in tandem with MFFP recommendations.

The funding income from those live projects encompassed within the MFFP Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 will support core MFFP activities over the financial year 2026-27. This is in line with the intention set out in the current MFFP Business Strategy previously approved by Committee.

There will be no financial input necessary from the Authority in respect to the planned activity in 2026/27. There will be regular planned income points on the projects which will all be on a full cost recovery basis. All project finances will be managed by MFFP Project Managers working closely with PDNPA Finance team colleagues and overseen by MFFP Programme Managers. All projects will be within the purview of Resources Committee.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

The activity set out within the MFFP Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 will directly contribute to the following NP Aims and Objectives.

Aim 1 (Climate Change)

- Objective 2: To sequester and store substantially more carbon while contributing to nature recovery
- Objective 3: To reverse damage to nature, biodiversity... caused by a changing climate

Aim 2 (Landscape and Nature Recovery)

- Objective 4: To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes

- Objective 6: To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape

d. Risk Management

Programme and Project risks, issues and dependencies in delivering against the MFFP Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 will be monitored weekly and reviewed quarterly. Project updates are also brought to Resources Committee twice annually. Our health & safety log is reviewed weekly.

Project management will be resourced from MFFP's existing Prince 2 qualified Project Managers, all of whom have experience of delivering peatland restoration projects. The core MFFP Programme Team will provide overall programme leadership and support.

e. Net Zero

The revegetation and conservation of peatlands plays a vital role in reducing erosion, enhancing the quality of the landscape and transforming a source of carbon into a carbon sink. MFFPs work, to date, has avoided the loss of circa 62,000 tonnes avoided loss per annum of CO₂.

This project will increase moorland resilience to withstand the shocks and stresses of a changing climate and deliver sustainable, positive benefits (water resilience, natural flood management and recreational) for the local and downstream communities.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Moors for the Future Partnership Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27

Report Author,

Matt Scott-Campbell (MFFP Partnership Manager)

Further drafting and editing by Deborah Shaw, Tony Price.

Publication date: Thursday 14th May 2026

Responsible Officer,

Matt Scott-Campbell (MFFP Partnership Manager)