

6. Moors for the Future Partnership Programme Update: Moor Resilience 2030

1. Purpose

This report provides an introduction to the Moors for the Future Partnership (MFFP) programme/project progress update covering the period April 2025 - April 2026.

2. Context

2.1 In line with the MFFP Business Strategy (Minute ref 16/24), general updates on the progress of the Partnership's work and Business planning are brought to Resources Committee for review each year. 2025/26 has been a transitional year in MFFP programme funding, and this update is brought at the earliest opportunity to share progress following the completion of the first delivery season under the new round of funding secured in the 2025/26 financial year. A high-level update is provided at Appendix 1.

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, reaffirming MFFP/PDNPA as a nationally significant delivery body for climate resilience, water quality improvement, biodiversity recovery and wildfire risk mitigation.

In 2025/26 a strong start was made to the conservation work planned for the new funding period. The approach of the team through this transitional year was to work consistently and with focus on the forward programme, so as to be at readiness to deliver as much restoration work as possible from the point at which new funding was confirmed. This approach was effective in enabling strong progress to be made despite the late securing of funding commitments due to external factors. This first year of delivery has included integrated Conservation, Science, Communications, and Business Development activities, and continues the Partnerships progress towards its vision of a Sustainable and Resilient upland landscape by 2050.

MFFPs preparations to deliver successfully in 2025/26 included:

- Business Development work with partners/stakeholders, project cost model development, contract drafting and negotiation, securing necessary project approvals.
- Significant site survey work and restoration planning
- Planning and hosting a Contractor Day to create visibility of MFFPs ambitions to 2030 and to stimulate contracting sector engagement and growth
- Building an updated understanding of, and settling-in new procurement processes following regulation changes.
- Undertaking procurement for framework contracts to 2030 to cover the external assistance and supply needs of the programme to 2030.
- Recruitment and welcoming/inducting new talented colleagues to the MFFP Team.
- Setting up new roles including a Delivery Manager role within the Conservation team to assist co-ordination of MFFPs forward programme.

- Development of new systems and protocols to underpin effective delivery (sharepoint / project re-charging structures)
- Ongoing and focused Partner co-ordination to find and foster overlap and synergy of outcomes.
- Contributing to, inputting and steering into the work of 3 Landscape Recovery Scheme (LRS) projects covering peatlands, to create strong opportunities for future synergy with the MFFP programme.
- Developing co-funding opportunities with new partners including National Highways (now funding restoration in tandem delivery alongside Water Company AMP funding)
- Developing proposals to secure extensions to grants under the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme.

In the update to be brought to Resources Committee, MFFP will utilise the project/programme dash-board that the team has developed as bespoke to MFFP. This has been intentionally developed within SharePoint functionality to allow multiple users to simultaneously work in the data, and to enable this to be a truly live tool that the team uses to control and track the work of the programme. This represents a significant step forward in terms of continuous improvement within MFFPs systems and processes, and builds upon the highly effective systems we have developed over many years of programme delivery. This approach is already yielding significant efficiency for the MFFP team, and aiding fast and effective decision making within project and programme management. This suite of tools also intentionally provides an effective format for sharing programme updates.

3. Proposals

3.1 Members are asked to note the details of the May 2026 progress update from the MFFP programme.

4. Recommendations

1. The Moors for the Future Partnership progress update (May 2026) 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 May 2026 update and 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 May 2026 progress update and the 2026/27 Business/Delivery Plan support core MFFP activities. 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 the Resources Committee.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

MFFPs Programme delivery activity directly contributes 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 are monitored using the MFFP programme Dashboard. Project updates are also brought to Resources Committee twice annually. The MFFP health & safety log is reviewed weekly.

Project management is 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 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 - 2025/26 Delivery and Programme Status Update

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