



REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN 2024/25 AGS FOR FEEDING INTO THE 2025/26 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.	We have sought to influence leaders of responsible bodies to the benefit of the National Park by reminding them of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act "Duty to seek to further" the purposes of Protected Landscapes.
(B) Core Principle Making sure of openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	
Issues Identified	Action/progress
2. Risk that in the context of ever reducing budgets, the Authority and partners cannot deliver to the approved NPMP.	Due to a cut in the grant from Defra in 2024/25, we have just completed further organisational change to reduce our costs. This 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. It is anticipated that the largest impact will be on our ability to deliver actions in the Welcoming Place aim. 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
3. Review of local authority governance and establishment of combined authorities, and how their priorities align with the National Park Management Plan.	Our constituent councils have continued their local reviews for unitary local authorities. We have sought to influence the reviews to the benefit of the National Park, and remind them of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act "Duty to seek to further" the purposes of Protected Landscapes.
(D) Core Principle Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.	
Issues Identified	Action/progress

4. DEFRA Targets and Outcomes Framework based performance monitoring.	The July 2025 Authority meeting approved incorporating the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework targets into the 2023 -2028 Peak District National Park Management Plan. The incorporation meets the Defra requirement that National Park Authorities and National Landscape Partnerships and Conservation Boards (Protected Landscape bodies) should incorporate the targets into their statutory Management Plan. We are preparing for closer integration, consideration and monitoring of the Framework targets into the 2028 -2032 National Park Management Plan via the State of the Park Report update.
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(E) Core Principle
Developing the Authority's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Issues Identified	Action/progress
5. The impact of revenue funding cuts from 2025/26	Defra revenue funding has declined in real terms over the last number of years due to non inflationary growth in the settlements received since 2022/23. Additionally, in 2025/26 an 8.2% cut to the Authority's revenue funding has led to a number of organisational restructures, in order to ensure the budget can be balanced in the Medium Term. The revenue grant for 2026/27 is flat year on year (£6.2m), and indicative for years 2027/28 and 2028/29. There has been new capital funding made available to the Authority, which is being invested into projects that will generate income, to offset funding cuts and inflationary rises. The Authority is financially stable for the next two years but will continue to invest in capital projects that help future proof its financial stability. However, as staff numbers have reduced, this will impact areas such as Nature recovery, one of the National Parks Core purposes

(F) Core Principle
Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Issues Identified	Action/progress
6. The Business Continuity Plan needs to be reviewed and all internal audit recommendations implemented.	This work is yet to be progressed. – It has been on hold since 2022 due to organisational change, our ability to fill new Heads of Service posts, and staff capacity. The review didn't progress in 2025/26 as we had two further organisational changes. Once we have stability following these, the Plan will be reviewed and audit recommendations implemented.

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

Issues Identified	Action/progress
7. Defra review of National Park Authority governance.	Defra hasn't progressed the review of National Park Authority governance. We continue to await the review commencing and responding to any consultations or

	engagement that Defra may undertake with the Authority.
8. Outcomes of Governance Review Working Group review of our Constitution (standing orders).	The Governance Review Working Group was unable to meet due to a lack of staff capacity to support the review of our Constitution. Our current standing orders have continuously been updated to ensure they are legally compliant and sound. However, we are aware there are improvements that could be made to achieve efficiencies and improve staff understanding. We have focussed staff on progressing Planning Enforcement cases, as these are a greater risk to the Authority. We are currently recruiting to some vacant posts, and will commence the work on the Constitution when we have sufficient staff capacity.