

8. **NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN – REPORT FROM ADVISORY GROUP**
[AN]

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to present findings from the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Advisory Group based on performance from Spring 2014 to Autumn 2015. Also presented are Advisory Group's delivery recommendations for the NPMP until the end of the current plan period.

The report also presents outline plans for the NPMP review year, which will take place in 2016.

Key issues

- **Good progress has continued during the third year of the NPMP, and further activity has been planned to take us up to 2017.**
- **Special emphasis during 2015 has been on sustainable transport into and around the National Park, and raising awareness and understanding of the National Park cultural heritage asset.**
- **Early work to prepare for the review of the NPMP in 2016 is already underway in the form of intelligence gathering.**
- **Engagement with a broad range of stakeholders will take place in 2016, with wider public consultation on a new NPMP in early 2017.**
- **The launch of a new NPMP is scheduled for Q1 2017.**

1.

Recommendations

1. **Receive the summary report of performance made on the NPMP from Spring 2014 to Autumn 2015 (as set out in Appendix a) and note the progress and actions to address under-performance.**
2. **Agree the recommended NPMP delivery plans to March 2017 (as set out in Appendix b).**
3. **Receive proposed outline schedule for the review of the NPMP in 2016 (as set out in Appendix c).**

2.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

The NPMP - Partnership for Progress - is the over-arching strategic plan for the national park and central to the future of the park. It sets the long term vision for the national park (up to 20 years) and aims to guide policy over this time, indicating how purposes and duty will be delivered through sustainable development. The Authority has a statutory requirement to produce a NPMP and review it every five years.

Background

3. In order to ensure that the NPMP is a live plan that is in touch with new drivers of change and responds to them, as well as delivering in-year performance, the following annual cycle has been developed. *In February* the NPA Policy Service collects performance data on all projects in the NPMP delivery plan directly from delivery partners. *In July* an exceptions report is made available for the NPMP Advisory Group to consider and identify any issues and opportunities, in preparation for sharing with all delivery partners in Autumn. (The Authority's own performance is considered as part of the annual Performance and Business report, which includes our performance against NPMP actions) A qualitative report on how the five signatures are performing is also prepared. *In October* all delivery partners meet at the annual conference event, to consider delivery activity for the coming year. It is also an opportunity to get a shared response to performance and an update any new drivers of change. The Advisory Group makes recommendations based on conference outputs in its report to the Authority and other partners in December.
4. In March 2015 Advisory Group held a summit meeting on sustainable transport to and within the National Park, with attendance from transport providers, tourism business and local government partners, as well as the Secretary of State for Transport. The summit provided an opportunity for direct conversations between the different sectors. It identified short, medium and long term options to develop sustainable visitor travel options to and around the Peak District, leading to the commissioning of Green Traveller to explore the feasibility of a new visitor travel product. In September 2015, the National Park Authority received the final report and we are now in the very early stages of taking forward one of the report recommendations, which would provide a new travel experience for visitors.
5. In July an annual progress report identifying successes, and any issues and opportunities, was considered by the NPMP Advisory Group, and circulated to all partners for consultation before the annual conference.
In summary by March 2015:
 - 108 activities were complete, or on track for completion.
 - 34 activities were delayed in starting, had changed priority or were behind schedule.
 - 1 action has been cancelled.

The Deputy Chair of Advisory Group will outline some of the key achievements and outstanding issues when presenting this report to Authority. A full report can be found in Appendix a.

6. The theme of the annual NPMP conference in October this year was cultural heritage. Delegates were taken on a tour of some key heritage features within the National Park, and had opportunity to discuss issues facing the mosaic of key features that is at the heart of what is special about cultural heritage. The consensus was that cultural heritage features would have greater impact if packaged, protected and valued collectively, and that there is a need to improve understanding of the wealth of cultural heritage in the National Park, and the important role it can play in economic growth and the sustainability of the landscape. The work commenced at the conference will be used to drive the cultural heritage aspect of the next NPMP, with a view to getting people involved in enjoying, understanding and supporting cultural heritage in appropriate ways.

7. Section 66 of the 1995 environment Act requires national park authorities to produce an NPMP which 'formulates policy for the management of the relevant Park, and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to that Park'. The NPMP is due for review in 2016, with a new plan required to cover 2017-2022. Our current plan complies with all requirements so we have a good basis on which to carry out a review, but it must be complete by 2017 to meet the legal expectations. The timescale for the review runs parallel to the Authority's financial planning activities, and will need to reflect wider organisational changes. It is proposed that the 2016 review should be proportionate, whilst delivering national park requirements. An overview of planned activity can be found in Appendix d.

It is proposed that member involvement in the review will be via Strategic Advisory Group and Authority at key formal decision points.

Proposals

The NPMP Advisory Group recommends:

- Adoption of detailed delivery plans for the period ahead up to March 2017, that partners have agreed to work on together, as outlined in Appendix b.
- Proposals for a proportionate review of the NPMP in 2016 as outlined in Appendix c.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

8. **Financial:**
None

9. **Risk Management:**
The NPMP performance management framework escalates any risks to Advisory Group and to Authority on an annual basis.

10. **Sustainability:**
The NPMP plays a central role in indicating how achieving national park purposes and duties will be delivered through sustainable development, and in doing so provides an overarching framework for all National Park Authority policy

11. **Consultation :** Chair & Deputy of NPMP Advisory Group, Chief Executive, Directors of Assistant Directors, Lead Officers

12. **Background papers** (not previously published) – None

Appendices –

Appendix a Peak District National Park Management Plan Report on Performance to April 2015

Appendix b NPMP Delivery Plans for 2015-17

Appendix c Proposals for 2016 NPMP review

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Amanda Nevett, Policy Programme Manager, 26 November 2015