

## Report: 5 Management Plan Review Update

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Management Plan review and request approval of the draft plan for public consultation.

### 2. Recommendations

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Note the continued progress with the Management Plan review; and
- b. Agree to approve the draft Management Plan (Appendix 1) for public consultation.

### 3. Implications

- a. **Financial:** The Management Plan is funded from within the current Medium Term Budget Plan.
- b. **Equalities:** A key aim for the Management Plan review will be to embed ambition and objectives to deliver a National Park for All, building on the Authority's existing ambition to engage new audiences, particularly from currently under-represented sections of society.
- c. **Link to Business Plan:** As the 'top-level' strategic plan for the Park, the Management Plan will set the ambition and framework for future iterations of the Authority's Business Plan.
- d. **Climate Change:** One of the main themes for the Management Plan Review is Climate Action which will be embedded throughout the plan itself. The plan will set the ambition for the Authority's approach to climate change.

### 4. Background

- a. At the December 2020 Authority meeting Members agreed the background, need and requirements of a new National Park Management Plan.
- b. Updates have been provided regularly to Members in March 2021, July 2021, September 2021 and December 2021 outlining the progress made with the review.
- c. The Management Plan Partnership Group (MPPG) met in July, September, late November 2021 and February 2022. The Partners come from a variety of backgrounds and have proved to be an enthusiastic and inspiring group.
- d. Theme workshops have been progressing in autumn 2021 continuing into early 2022. These workshops have explored the five themes of the management plan review in more detail with over 50 key stakeholders and partners taking part across the five theme groups. Lead members have been invited to participate in their relevant workshops, as have Management Plan Partnership Group members, and have attended some sessions. During this process, the theme titles have been refined as follows:
  - Nature recovery

- Climate action
- Valuing Culture and Heritage
- A Park for All
- Thriving Communities

## 5. Progress

- a. In February 2022, the Management Plan Partnership Group received a presentation and endorsed the draft outline, agreeing that all key issues had been taken into account.

Feedback from the Group was very constructive and positive, one member congratulated the National Park on carrying out a genuine consultative and participative process to date, acknowledging that many stakeholders and partners had already had an opportunity to shape the plan.

The Group asked officers to ensure that:

- Bold, clear, consistent language is used throughout the Plan, with any tensions between themes and priorities minimised, and that outcomes are succinct;
  - The format of the plan should demonstrate overlaps and cross-cutting themes by, for example, using visual aids and graphics.
  - Role of the National Park Authority is clearly stated.
  - The vision is reviewed at an appropriate stage in the process.
- b. The Park's 'special qualities' are set out clearly at the beginning of each Management Plan, as these are key to shaping the future vision for the Park. The special qualities do not change, or at least not quickly, over time and definitions set out in the previous plan have been updated within the draft Management Plan.
- c. A Members' workshop to discuss the draft plan was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. There was a lively and engaging debate and discussion about the project themes. Feedback was received regarding use of clear language and the need to be more specific in stating the intended outcomes of the plan. There were no gaps identified and it was apparent that Members supported the direction of travel. A draft management Plan for consultation has now been drafted to incorporate member's feedback and is attached at Appendix 1.

## 6. Consultation

- a. The draft Management Plan contains the main strategic priorities for the National Park based on the five main themes identified by members at the start of the process and refined by partners and stakeholders. As a strategic plan it does not include detailed actions, but rather intended outcomes. It is proposed that detailed actions will be drafted and agreed on an annual basis or other agreed timeframe with the MPPG. These first draft aims to gather feedback from the public, which will be considered and incorporated into the final Plan.
- b. Upon agreement of the draft Management Plan it is proposed that public consultation will commence at the end of March and will last for six weeks. The aims of the

consultation are to engage and inform residents, landowners and other stakeholders and to gauge opinion from the wider public.

- c. Communications and engagement activities will involve both traditional and more innovative techniques, including using digital and social media, film, online surveys, tradition local press, web page updates, and social media posts. (An outline programme is set out for information at Appendix 2 – please note detailed activities will vary across the six-week consultation period).
- d. Members will be asked to become actively involved in the public consultation, through your local networks. Our management plan Review team and communications team are available to provide support and information to assist.

## **7. Conclusions**

- a. The Plan is progressing well, and while it is running slightly behind the original schedule, genuine stakeholder engagement, is being achieved.
- b. The Management Plan Partnership Group have endorsed the approach taken to date and support the draft plan going out for wider public consultation.
- c. Members are asked to approve the draft Management Plan in Appendix 1 for public consultation and support the engagement process.

**Contact Officer:** For further information contact: Susannah Buylla, Head of Planning & Policy on, Telephone: 01434 611577 or Email: [Susannah.Buylla@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:Susannah.Buylla@nnpa.org.uk)

## **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: Draft Management Plan for public consultation

Appendix 2: Outline public consultation programme