

Report 5: Review Meeting – Net Zero National Park Authority: 29 June 2022

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the findings and recommendations of the Authority Review meeting held on 29 June 2022 on the subject of Net Zero National Park Authority, and to seek endorsement for the actions planned to address the recommendations.

2. Recommendations

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Note the findings and recommendations of the Authority Review of Climate Change: Net Zero National Park Authority held on 29 June 2022.
- b. Consider the responses from Leadership Team.
- c. Endorse the actions planned as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Implications

- a. Financial: The Review findings recommend potential further investment by the Authority in Net Zero National Park Authority Action Plan and possible purchase of land to meet net zero ambitions. Any further investment of this kind would be based on individual business cases which would be reported separately to members.
- b. Equalities: There are no direct equalities implications from this report.
- c. Link to Business Plan: Net Zero National Park Authority is a priority action within the current Business Plan. Its inclusion in the new Management Plan will require it to continue to the next Business Plan as it has a target of 2030 for achievement.

4. Background

- a. On 29 June the Review Panel held a review on the Authority's work to become a net zero Authority by 2030 as agreed in the Authority's Climate Change Action Plan that was agreed at the Authority Meeting on the [15th July 2020](#).
- b. In addition to receiving an update on the individual actions in the Authority's plan, members were informed of the joint work with other UK national parks and discussed the newly emerging Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) net-zero Standard which requires organisations to achieve a minimum of a 90% reduction in emissions from their starting baseline and thus the ability to offset up to 10% of their emissions.
- c. The Review Panel also heard of current bids for funding including from the North of Tyne Combined Authority New Green Deal Fund, which if successful would help fund many of the actions to achieve a net-zero Authority by 2030 including voltage optimisation, net zero Sill and vehicle charging point infrastructure.

5. Key findings and Recommendations

- a. The findings and recommendations of the Review Panel are set out at Appendix 1 to this report. Members are asked to consider and endorse the actions identified by Leadership Team to address the recommendations.
- b. Key recommendations relate to the opportunity for enhanced internal and external communications, opportunities to purchase land for climate and nature related actions and the need for the Authority to consider investment in priority actions in the existing plan should external funding not be forthcoming in the short term.
- c. Members noted that net zero is an evolving and developing area of work both nationally and internationally and that as a result the baselines are continually changing. The Authority's plan to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions does however remain a priority.

6. Conclusions

Members are asked to note the findings of the Review of Net Zero National Park Authority, consider the responses from Leadership Team, and endorse the actions as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Contact Officer: For further information contact: Tony Gates, Chief Executive (National Park Officer) on 01434 611154 or tony.gates@nnpa.org.uk

Background papers: Report and background [Authority Review Report CC.pdf](#) June 29 2022.

Appendix 1. Northumberland National Park Authority Review Meeting

The table below details the Leadership Team Recommendations and Proposed Actions from Net Zero National Park Authority Review held on 29 June 2022

No	Review Findings/Recommendations	LT Response and Actions Planned	Lead	Timescale/Date
1.	Review Panel noted the good progress that is being made to date and the enthusiasm and knowledge within the team.	Noted. Thanks to be passed on to the CC team.	T Gates	July 2022
2.	The use of the Net Zero project homepage was noted as good practice. Opportunities should be explored to enhance engagement with the wider staff team and member involvement	Net zero dashboard to be available to all staff and members and regularly updated as part of internal communications.	A Whitfield C O'Doherty	December 2022
3.	Funding is a key constraint on our progress in this area. Existing work on possible funding bids was noted, however, there is a need for contingency with the Authority needing to consider investing its own resources.	To update members on progress with bids at September Authority meeting. To develop business cases for internal investment on key time critical actions.	P Wall A Whitfield R Mayhew A Whitfield	September 2022 by email December 2022
4.	The Authority is recommended to consider purchase of land where the Authority's ownership would secure beneficial management to support climate action or nature recovery (Net Zero with Nature).	The executive will actively consider opportunities which arise for land ownership. Terms of engagement and clear purposes to be defined.	All executive team P Wall	From July 2022 December 2022
5.	Work on Net Zero Authority (and Net Zero Park) to be built into the new Management Plan to support the Authority's public messaging on net zero.	To reflect Net Zero Authority and net Zero Park and related actions in the new Management Plan.	J Shaw S Buylla	September 2022

