

## **Report 1: Adoption of the new Northumberland National Park Management Plan**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to request that Members adopt the Northumberland National Park Management Plan 2022.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Adopt the management plan in Appendix 1
- b. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree any final editorial changes and agree the final design including visuals and graphics to be published.

### **3. Implications**

- a. Financial: The preparation of the management plan is funded from within the current medium term budget plan.
- b. Equalities: A key aim for the management plan review is to embed ambition and objectives to deliver a National Park for All, building on the Authority's ambition to engage new audiences.
- c. Link to Business Plan: As a top level strategic plan of the National Park the management plan sets the ambition and framework for further iterations of the Authority's business plan.

### **4. Background**

- a. The management plan sets out the strategic aims and objectives for the National Park, not just for the Authority but our partners and stakeholders too. The management plan addresses the main challenges facing the National Park focusing on nature recovery; the need for climate action; recognising the importance of resilient communities; valuing culture and heritage and ensuring a welcoming park for all.
- b. Since December 2020 a project team consisting of NNPA staff have been working on developing the new Management Plan.
- c. Updates have been regularly provided to members each quarter, with two workshops held to allow members discussion of the main aims and objectives.
- d. The Management Plan Partnership Group (MPPG) comprising selected partners have met at frequent intervals to set the strategic direction for the preparation of the management plan.

### **5. Management Plan progress**

- a. Theme workshops involving our partners lead by NNPA staff helped develop a draft plan for consultation. A successful public consultation exercise was held for

six weeks in April and May 2022 with positive support received for the main themes and objectives within the draft plan. The consultation was summarised in [the report](#) to members in June 2022.

- b. Amendments have been made to the plan as a result of comments received from the public consultation and from partners. This included additional objectives suggested by Environment Agency, RSPB and the Woodland Trust.
- c. Taking on board comments from the members workshop in September 2022 and comments received from members of the MPPG, the main aims and objectives have been refined further. Comments resulting from discussions with key partners such as the Forestry Commission have also led to minor changes to some objectives.
- d. The Management Plan Partnership Group has endorsed the management plan.
- e. The supporting text has been reviewed and amended and will also be passed to the NNPA communications team to ensure the wording is accessible to all.

## 6. Next steps

- a. On agreement to adopt the management plan, the plan will be professionally designed, with an emphasis on visual presentation including visuals, infographics and interactive maps. A final printable pdf document will be prepared for the launch event.
- b. The new management plan will be launched in autumn 2022 and this will attract relevant publicity.

## 7. Conclusions

- a. The final Management Plan is a collaborative plan that has come together after nearly two years of partnership working, which has been endorsed through public consultation, members workshops and the Partnership Group.
- b. The Authority will be working with partners to ensure they incorporate the main aims and objectives of the management plan into their future work plans.
- c. Monitoring of the outcomes of the plan will be carried out through an annual meeting with partners and reported in the State of the Park report.

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Background papers:

Appendix 1: Northumberland National Park Management Plan 2022 to 2027