

Report 4 : Business Plan 2023 - 2026

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the Authority's Business Plan 2023-2026 following alterations to presentation and additions requested by members in the March 2023 Full Authority meeting.

2. Recommendations

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Adopt the new Business Plan 2023 - 2026 as detailed in Appendix 1.

3. Implications

- a. Financial: The Business Plan was prepared alongside the Medium-Term Budget Plan and the Business Review. There are therefore no additional financial implications beyond those in the Medium-Term Budget Plan.
- b. Equalities: There are many positive proposals within the Business Plan which aim to contribute positively to forwarding the Authority's equality duty.
- c. Link to Business Plan: This report proposes a new Business Plan for the Authority.

4. Background

- a. The Authority's corporate planning represents a clear link between the Management Plan for the National Park and the individual work programmes of our staff.
- b. The Business Plan is the vehicle through which the Authority sets and communicates its priorities and medium-term work programme. It sets the framework for corporate resource allocation and for annual work planning through the Operational Plan and onwards to individual staff work programmes.
- c. As part of the process of developing a new Business Plan, members held a policy conference and agreed a new set of corporate priorities in November 2022. This followed the adoption of a new National Park Management Plan in October 2022.
- d. The Business Plan has also been prepared against a backdrop of real terms cuts in the Authority's grant in aid from Defra, which are set to continue for at least the first two years of the Plan. It is therefore important to balance the reality of resourcing the Business Plan with maintaining sufficient ambition and opportunity within the Plan.
- e. In March 2023 members were asked to sign off the Business Plan and during the discussion on the papers requested a change in format and some minor alterations and additions to the Plan. It was RESOLVED TO Agree the content of the new Business Plan 2023 - 2026 as detailed in Appendix 1, subject to the comments received. An updated version would be circulated in due course, with members given the opportunity to provide a final comment.

Conclusions

- a. Members are asked to formally adopt the new three-year Business Plan (as set out in Appendix 1) to set the corporate priorities and guide the work programme for the Authority in the medium-term.

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Background papers: [Report 3 Business Plan 2023-2026 northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk](https://northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk)

March 15 2023 Authority meeting