

## **HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Economy and Growth Select Committee**

**24 November 2022**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Peak District Park Management Plan</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Anthony McKeown - Council Leader HPBC</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Mark James - Principal Planning Officer</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All inside the Peak District National Park</b>

### **Appendices Attached – Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28**

#### **1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To brief Councillors on the new Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28 and any implications for the Borough Council.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Council notes the proposed Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28
- 2.2 That the Council considers the actions identified for District / Borough Councils in the Delivery Plan in more detail when establishing its own corporate priorities and work programmes.

#### **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Peak District National Park Authority will consider the adoption of a new Management Plan for the period 2023 – 2028 at a meeting on the 2nd December 2022.
- 3.2 The plan sets the following overall vision for the National Park up to the year 2043.

*“By 2043 the Peak District National Park is exemplary in its response to climate change and nature recovery. Its special qualities and resilience as a living landscape have been significantly enhanced. It is a welcoming place where all are inspired to care and communities thrive.”*

3.3 A series of subsequent aims, objectives and targets are then specified. An associated delivery plan identifies actions to ensure that the aspirations are met. Partner organisations, including District / Borough Councils, are highlighted when they are likely to lead on or support the delivery of actions.

3.4 The Borough Council should have regard to the plan and actions when it comes to agree its own priorities and work programmes.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 Due to the broad nature of the Peak District National Park Management Plan, it links to all four aims of the Borough Council's Corporate Plan.

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 The Council has a legal duty to consider the purposes of the National Park in its decision making. The merits of alternative options regarding the delivery of actions identified for District /Borough Councils will need to be considered when the Council comes to set its own work programme.

#### 6. **Implications**

##### 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None direct

##### 6.2 Workforce

None direct

##### 6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment accompanies this report.

##### 6.4 Financial Considerations

The financial implications for specific actions identified for District / Borough Council will need to be considered when the Council looks to set its own work programme.

##### 6.5 Legal

High Peak Borough Council has a duty to have regard to the purposes of the National Park as specified in the Environment Act 1995, namely;

(i) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural

heritage of the national parks; and

(ii) to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities [of the parks] by the public.

If there is a conflict between these purposes, the first purpose is given greater weight. In carrying out the purposes, National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local national park communities.

## 6.6 Climate Change

Responding to the challenges of climate change is at the heart of the proposed vision, aims and objectives for the National Park as set out in the Management Plan.

## 6.7 Consultation

The Management Plan has been informed by feedback from stakeholders.

## 6.8 Risk Assessment

The risks associated with specific actions for District / Borough Councils will need to be considered when the Council looks to set its own priorities.

Neil Rodgers  
**Executive Director (Place)**

### **Web Links and Background Papers**

None

### **Contact details**

Mark James  
Principal Planning Officer  
mark.james@highpeak.gov.uk

## **7. Detail**

7.1 The Borough Council has been notified of the proposed adoption and publication of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023 – 2028 at the Peak District National Park Authority meeting on the 2nd December 2022. The plan specifies a vision, aims and objectives for the National Park. A Delivery Plan sets out specific actions, key delivery partners, targets and “critical success factors” to aid monitoring. A copy of the plan is provided as an appendix to this report.

7.2 Whilst the plan covers the period 2023-2028, its vision and aims take a longer term view up to the year 2043. The plan has been informed by input from

stakeholders, including the Borough Council.

- 7.3 The National Park Authority is required to produce a Management Plan that outlines the vision for the management of the National Park. It must reflect National Park purposes and duty and be updated at least every five years to ensure it is relevant and forward looking.
- 7.4 When adopted, the plan will inform major decisions made by the National Park Authority. It will help to shape the new Peak District National Park Local Plan, the Peak District Landscape Strategy as well as the business plans of the National Park Authority and partner organisations.
- 7.5 The vision for the new Management Plan is:

*“By 2043 the Peak District National Park is exemplary in its response to climate change and nature recovery. Its special qualities and resilience as a living landscape have been significantly enhanced. It is a welcoming place where all are inspired to care and communities thrive.”*

- 7.6 The subsequent aims, objectives and targets are as follows:

**Aim One: The Peak District National Park is more resilient and net-zero by 2040 through its exemplary response to climate change.**

Objective 1: To lower greenhouse gas emissions significantly, focussing on the largest emitters within our influence. Target: By 2028 there will be a 25% reduction in total greenhouse emissions in the Peak District National Park.

Objective 2: To sequester and store substantially more carbon while contributing to nature recovery. Target: By 2028 there will be a 2,878 tonnes net decrease in carbon emissions from moorlands.

Objective 3: To reverse damage to nature, biodiversity and cultural heritage and in particular built environments caused by climate change. Target: By 2028 we will secure funding for four measures that increase the resilience of existing habitats and species, cultural heritage and the built environment

**Aim Two: The Peak District National Park is a resilient landscape in which nature, beauty, and cultural heritage are significantly enhanced.**

Objective 4: To be a place where nature recovers and biodiversity flourishes. Target: By 2028 to have implemented the first five years of the One Peak District Nature Recovery Plan.

Objective 5: To understand, appreciate and enhance the cultural heritage and in particular built environments of the National Park as part of an ever-changing landscape. Target: By 2028 there will be a 10% increase in audiences appreciating, understanding and enjoying cultural heritage.

Objective 6: To protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park's contrasting and ever-evolving landscape. Target: By 2028 landscape character, quality and condition will be enhanced or reinforced as it provides for nature recovery, climate change and access for all.

**Aim Three: The Peak District is a welcoming place where all are inspired to enjoy, care for and connect to its special qualities.**

Objective 7: To encourage a sustainable visitor economy that supports local businesses, cares for the National Park's special qualities and respects the well-being of local communities.<sup>1</sup> Target: By 2028 there will have been an increase in people recognising sustainable visitor practices

Objective 8: To create opportunities for young people and those from under-served communities to connect with and enjoy the National Park. Target: By 2028 visitors that connect to and enjoy the National Park are substantially closer to national population demographics

Objective 9: To promote the National Park as a place where there are opportunities for the improvement of physical and mental health and well-being. Target: By 2028 users feel their time in the National Park has contributed to their improved health and wellbeing.

**Aim Four: Peak District National Park communities are thriving and sustainable places where all generations can live healthy and fulfilled lives.**

Objective 10: To support sustainable communities by improving opportunities for affordable housing and connection to services. Target: By 2028 we will have enabled enhanced access to services, jobs and home working increasing premises that can access Superfast (>30Mbps) services from 82% to 84%.

Objective 11: To promote a flourishing economy in accord with nature recovery and climate change mitigation. Target: By 2028 to have delivered the Shared Prosperity Fund programmes.

#### Implications for the Borough Council

- 7.7 The National Park Authority has asked all partners to incorporate actions they are responsible for or supporting into their own delivery from 2023-24 onwards. These are set out in the Delivery Plan that accompanies the Management Plan.
- 7.8 District & Borough Council are identified either as a "responsible partner" or in a more supporting role as a "key delivery partner" for a number of actions in the Delivery Plan. They are listed in full in the section 5 of the Management Plan. They include:

#### *Responsible Partner (with DCC)*

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<sup>1</sup> Objective 7 includes a specific commitment to improve active travel through a range of measures including "Progressing the Buxton to Matlock sections of the 'White Peak Loop'."

- LNR.6 Reducing unnecessary clutter (e.g. signage, overhead wires, eyesores).
- LNR.9 Sympathetically designing and replacing new infrastructure.

*Key Delivery Partner (with others such as DCC, Parish Councils, Historic England, D2N2 as appropriate)*

- CC.3 Encouraging and enabling individuals and communities to make informed choices to reduce energy use, making buildings more efficient and switch to renewable energy.
- CC.14 Encouraging and enabling implementation of the One Peak District Nature Recovery Plan in a way that increases the recovery and resilience of existing habitats and species.
- LNR.3 Implementing the agreed One Peak District Nature Recovery Plan in a way which works with and complements emerging County Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- LNR.13 Developing a robust evidence base to better understand how people appreciate the evolving landscape. Use findings to agree approaches that enable people to more positively embrace landscape change.
- WP.1 Improving and promoting sustainable, inclusive and active ways to travel to and around the National Park.
- WP.3 Supporting sustainable inclusive visitor businesses that support the National Park's special qualities.
- TC.1 Developing and implementing policies and programmes that impact positively on local communities by addressing a range of second and holiday home issues.
- TC.2 Developing and implementing policies and programmes that impact positively on local communities by providing and future proofing affordable housing in areas where it is needed, particularly where there is sustainable access to services and support networks, so that those with local roots can remain or return and family groups can support each other
- TC.3 Developing and implementing policies and programmes that impact positively on local communities by influencing national funding programmes and working with local housing authorities to boost local delivery of affordable housing.

7.9 The Borough Council will need to have regard to these actions when it comes to agree its own priorities within the Corporate Plan and related work programmes and strategies.

7.10 Historically, the Borough Council has sought a more positive approach from the National Park Authority towards housing and economic growth whilst acknowledging the purposes of the National Park and associated need for new development to be managed sensitively.

7.11 The Management Plan broadly appears to offer some opportunity for a slight shift in the approach of the National Park Authority on such matters. However, it is notable that the target for Objective 10 which relates to the provision of affordable housing and connection to services focusses solely on the provision of superfast broadband rather than making any commitment regarding housing

supply.

- 7.12 The detail on matters such as housing policy will follow through the emerging Peak District National Park Local Plan that will define development management policies. Other aims and objectives relating to matters such as nature recovery and climate change broadly align with the Borough Council's current priorities.
- 7.13 Members may wish to give specific consideration to the issues around housing policy and in particular affordable housing at the appropriate point when the Peak District National Park Local Plan is under consideration.
- 7.14 The Borough Council should continue to engage with the National Park Authority on shared actions and on future planning policies as our respective Local Plans are updated in parallel.