

## North York Moors National Park Authority

17 December 2018

### Proposed Performance and Learning Review for 2019

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider and determine what should be the focus of the performance review to present to Members at the July scrutiny committee meeting in 2019.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Each year, in line with the Authority's performance framework, officers have committed to completing a 'Performance and Learning review' as part of the review of progress on the Authority's Business Plan. The annual Scrutiny meeting in July is the obvious opportunity to look at specific areas of work in depth and discuss the key findings of these reviews. The first of these reviews was presented in July 2018 on Rights of Way and promoted a useful discussion and set of future actions for the programme.
- 2.2 Performance and Learning Reviews focus on effectiveness and value for money. As well as making an assessment of whether an area of work is achieving its objectives set by the Authority, they make comparisons with similar services in other Authorities, look at the value for money that they provide and consider key lessons for improvement in the future. In the interests of managing resources, one review is being completed each year.

#### 3. Consideration

- 3.1 For 2019, officers have put forward four suggestions for areas of work that it would be useful to look at through a Performance and Learning review. These are: improving wildlife, education/youth Engagement, cultural heritage and landscape.

##### **Improving Wildlife in the National Park**

- 3.2 The Authority's Business Plan contains a number of objectives and targets related to improving wildlife and identifies work on wildlife corridors as a strategic priority. In recent months National Parks have been 'under the spotlight' in relation to their contributions towards wildlife conservation, and the future is uncertain about support for farmers and land managers for conservation / stewardship schemes. At the same time, the broader pressing issue of the impacts of climate change on wildlife and habitats is already taking effect and this would be a useful time to take stock and consider the NPA's achievements to date and its future response to the issues.

##### **Education/Youth Engagement**

- 3.3 Working with Young People was also identified as a strategic priority in the Authority's 2017 -20 Business Plan, and ambitious targets have been set - for example for engagement through the Authority's education service (18,000 contacts per year). The Authority is achieving and in some cases exceeding its targets in this

area of work and making a substantial contribution to the Government's eight point plan for National Parks. A review in this area would take some time to scrutinise the work behind these achievements and identify lessons that could be applied to other areas of work as well as help to plan future initiatives.

### **Cultural Heritage**

- 3.4 The conservation of cultural heritage is one of the key elements of the first purpose of National Parks and an integral element of the North York Moors landscape. Work on conservation of cultural heritage is delivered through a range of targets and initiatives – from practical support to remove monuments and buildings from the Heritage at Risk register to grant schemes, appropriate planning policies (and their application), work on conservation area appraisals, and in recent years the delivery of landscape scale programmes such as Land of Iron. A review to draw together all of these elements and evaluate their impact would provide an opportunity to learn lessons for future delivery.

### **Landscape**

- 3.5 One could argue that everything the National Park Authority works on can be linked back to Landscape, (so this could be a very wide ranging review!) but the intention under this heading would be to take a more focused approach. The National Park Management Plan sets out a number of policies focused on the Landscape Character and distinctiveness of the Park including,

*E1. The landscape character of the National Park will be maintained and enhanced*  
*E2. Traditional farmed landscape features will be conserved, enhanced and reinstated where possible*

On a practical level current work on the Traditional Boundary Scheme and Landscape Character Assessment are contributing to progress on these policies, and the delivery of the Authority's Development Management service plays a pivotal role. A review could take an overarching look at this work to inform future initiatives.

## **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Performance reviews are a fundamental part of the framework by which Members are able to engage in scrutiny of the effectiveness of the Authority's work. Four suggestions for the focus of performance reviews in 2019 are set out here. Members are also encouraged to put forward any alternative topics of interest that they would like to see reviewed in 2019

## **5. Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 The work for the review will be additional to current workloads and will displace other activity.

## **6. Contribution to the National Park Management Plan**

- 6.1 Performance reporting sets out what the Authority is achieving to contribute towards the ambitions in the National Park Management Plan.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 That Members agree on the area of work to be scrutinised for a performance review in 2019.

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