

North York Moors National Park Authority

14 December 2020

Progressing the Management Plan

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out comments made at the seminar that took place on 13 October.
- 1.2 To update Members on working arrangements following a meeting of Management Plan Working Group (30 November).
- 1.3 To update Members on the provisional timetable for progressing the Management Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority's current Management Plan was published in 2012 and was subject to a 'light touch' review in December 2016. Under the provisions of the 1995 Environment Act the Authority is required to review this plan every five years. A full review is also considered necessary to respond to the significant issues and challenges that have emerged since 2016, with a new strategy now needed to set out a clear path of action for the Authority and its partners in the coming years. The outbreak of COVID-19 halted progress on the Plan, with an online seminar then held on 13 October to restart work. The notes of this seminar are at **Appendix 1**.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The Authority has a constituted Member Working Group to take forward the Management Plan. The Membership is set out at **Appendix 2**. At the NPA's Annual General Meeting on 27 July a proposal was put to Members that in light of the COVID-19 outbreak current elected posts should be extended under 2020 legislation¹.
- 3.2 This group met on 30 November, and Patrick James was confirmed as chair. The Group considered working arrangements for progressing the Plan and agreed that it should act as the main 'Steering Group' with oversight of the Plan, with partner organisations represented on (provisionally) three separate thematic working groups. These Working Groups are expected to be made up of no more than 6 or 7 individuals or organisations and up to two NPA officers.
- 3.3 An initial suggestion for the structure of the Working Groups was put to Members. As proposed they would be structured broadly around the National Park's statutory purposes and duty:
 - 1. Leading Nature Recovery Working Group – focussing on biodiversity networks, climate change, land use, and landscape.

¹ The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 392/2020) which came into force on 4 April 2020.

2. The Landscapes for All Working Group – covering access in the widest sense and focussing on transport, tourism and widening the visitor profile, education, physical and mental health and wellbeing
 3. The Living and Working Landscapes Group – focussing on economic development, the future of farming, community resilience, adequate affordable housing.
- 3.4 The MPWG will be responsible for driving the vision, providing accountability and acting as a sounding board for the thematic working groups. It would also have an ongoing role in providing a monitoring role to check the pace of delivery of the Plan's objectives over time. The Thematic Working Groups will advise the MPWG on the possible contents of the Management Plan. The exact composition and membership of these groups will be decided by MPWG. An officer secretariat (meeting monthly) comprising the Chief Executive, Directors and the Head of Strategic Policy has also been formed to drive progress. A diagram (Appendix 3) sets out this structure.

4. **Timetable**

- 4.1 A provisional timetable is set out below with more detail included at **Appendix 4**. Officers consider that a key aspiration is to complete the Plan in time for the 2022/23 business cycle as this will allow translation of the Plan's agreed objectives into both its own and other's Business Plans. This would indicate it needs to be complete by April 2022.
- 4.2 This is a challenging timetable. If it is to be achieved, it will mean that work on the Management Plan will need to be prioritised by the Authority, and that there must be no impediment to its progress over the coming fourteen months. The Senior Leadership Team has agreed that work on the Plan will become the primary objective for officers over this time.

5. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 None at present. Main activity will be funded from current staff budgets. A budget of £10,000 has been identified for this financial year to cover any initial research requirements. Work will be driven by the Policy Team. It is likely that this amount will be rolled forward into the 2021/22 financial year, where it is anticipated that an additional £20,000, which is presently not in the budget is likely to be needed to provide further evidence around landscape and climate change. Money is already allocated for a Recreation and Access Strategy. One of the four 'kick start' posts that the Authority is looking to recruit at graduate level would be fully engaged to help with collecting evidence and the administration of Management Plan work.

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

- 6.1 This report details Member's views of past achievements stemming from the current Management Plan and potential arrangements for drafting the next version. The process set out in the report is directly concerned with contributing to the next version of the Management Plan.

7. **Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. There is a legal requirement for the Authority to produce a Management Plan every five years.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Members note the comments from the seminar that took place on 13 October.
- 8.2 That Members agree the working arrangements in relation to the MPWG and Thematic Working Groups as discussed by the MPWG meeting on 30 November.
- 8.3. That Members note the provisional timetable set out in this paper and provide any comments.

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Notes of the Members' seminar held 13 October

Appendix 2 – Membership of the Management Plan Working Group. . . .

Appendix 3 – Indicative timetable

Appendix 4 – Diagram showing working arrangements

Contact Officer:

Paul Fellows

Head of Strategic Planning

Tel No 01439 772700

Appendix 1 – Notes from the Members Seminar 13 October 2020

Notes of Management Plan Seminar 13 OCTOBER 2020

Members were asked:

1. In terms of what we achieved what are you most proud of?
2. Which do you see as the most significant challenges and opportunities for our National Park?
3. Imagine 2030 – what do you want us to have achieved?

1. In terms of what we achieved what are you most proud of?

Examples of achievements cited were:

- Further development and success of the apprentice programme.
- High volunteer engagement, including youth engagement.
- Managing ancient woodland, and new PAWS (Planted Ancient Woodland) connections.
- The expansion of tourism in the National Park and increased marketing and support for local businesses including initiatives such as the Dark Skies festival.
- Improvements and increased usage of the Sutton Bank Centre.
- Commissioning of the 'Social Return on Investment' work.
- Success of development management in improving or preventing unsuitable development.
- Dealing effectively with the Woodsmith Mine planning application and the mitigation of impacts.
- The outward facing and efficient way that the Authority works with a wide array of people.
- The way the Authority has worked nationally with others to promote and manage National Parks.
- The way the Authority has managed activity in the Park – particularly through its rangers.
- Development and delivery of projects including Turtle Doves, Land of Iron and Ryevitalise.

2. Which do you see as the most significant challenges and opportunities for our National Park?

1. The theme of access in its widest sense came through – access by a wide range of people and groups, access to knowledge and understanding of the National Park itself and physical access – including for those without a car or mobility issues.
2. As part of this, traffic management – helping people to find a way in to the National Park and dealing with them when they are here. Whitby is a major destination and there are two major corridors on the coast and within the Esk Valley. The North York Moors has a railway line which goes into the heart of the Park – most National Parks don't have this level of rail access. There is a train line from Bedale into the Yorkshire Dales which starts at Northallerton would it be possible to link in some way?
3. Lack of public transport, Moorsbus no longer runs except as a volunteer service.
4. Climate change – and what we do about it.
5. Post Brexit land management including the development of ELMs and its focus and our work with farmers to get the most from it.
6. The general reduction in services across villages
7. Lack of broadband
8. Raptor persecution

9. “What is nature recovery”? Is this the right term? What is right approach for the Park? How do we make it evidence based? Should we set our own targets for Biodiversity net gain?
10. We have a widening set of people with more varied social and economic backgrounds coming into the National Park as a result of COVID-19 i.e. ‘getting out of the house’ or not going abroad on holiday. How can we continue to encourage this and manage this?
11. How do we approach tourism and what is a desirable balance between first and second purposes. Are we looking for quantity and quality (or both)? Addressing the balance between tranquillity and quality of the landscape with numbers of visitors.

3. Imagine 2030 – What Do You Want Us To Have Achieved?

1. Equality of access
2. Access for our communities – for all types for all people
3. Excellent health and well-being
4. Combating digital poverty
5. Employability, new skills, apprenticeships
6. Retraining people
7. Local government changes – is this an opportunity?
8. The National Park being the primary communicator for tourism in the North York Moors
9. Sustainable tourism – a clear view of what this is and how do we deliver it?
10. More people on buses
11. Strong and vibrant communities
12. People being integral to the landscape
13. Quality farm produce
14. Clarity over what ELMS can deliver
15. More trees
16. Young people – further understanding and awareness of the role and future of the National Park. A future for young people
17. Supporting village shops
18. Decent, affordable housing
19. More green energy

Other General Comments

1. There were numerous comments around communication and education – it is really important in terms of articulating what is special about the Park and what it is we want to do. How do we communicate with our constituencies of interest? How do we encourage more people to understand the National Park? We need to develop advocacy and a commitment by local people. This is an opportunity to use the management plan process to involve people and promote the National Park.
2. We need to make the plan flexible. It should be emblematic of what we want to achieve.
3. How do we set targets and use them for engagement?
4. We can present the plan in different ways. i.e. not set in tablets of stone – simple and accessible. “*The plan should be a database of decisions, thoughts and purposes*”.
5. The plan needs to represent the ethos of the organisation.
6. It’s about measuring and delivering quality, not quantity.

Appendix 2 – Current Membership of the Members’ Management Planning Working Group. . . .

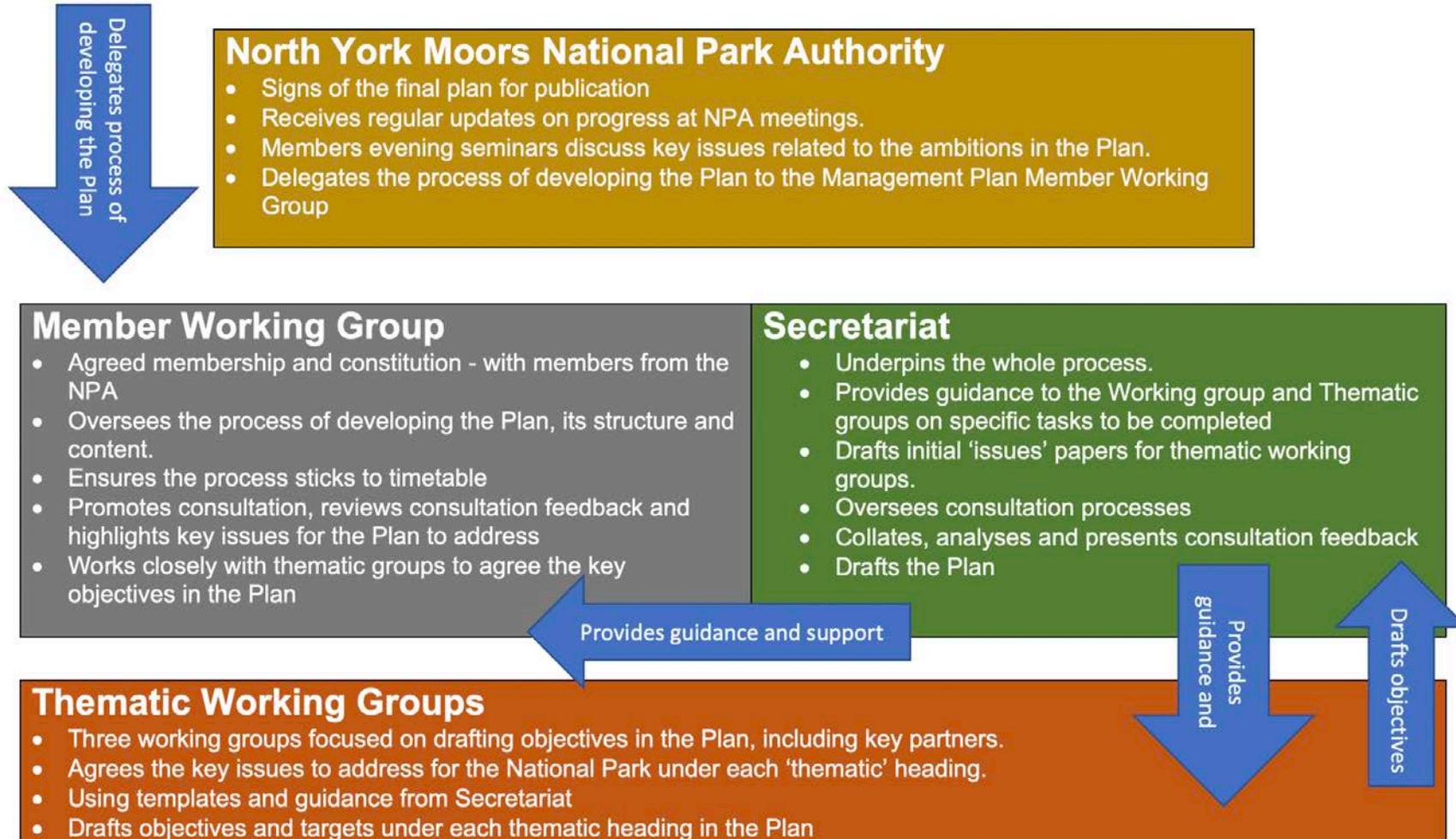
Management Plan Working Group

Membership

	Secretary Of State	Secretary Of State (Parish)	Unitary/District	NYCC
Names	Ms Fisher Mr James Mr Walker	Mr Bowes (Dep Chair)	Mr Bailey (Chair) Mr Pearson	Mrs Patmore
No. of Members	3		4	

Appendix 3 – Proposed working arrangements

A new Management Plan for the North York Moors National Park - Who does what?



Appendix 4 – Indicative Timetable

14 December 2020	Report to NPA on working arrangements and provisional timetable. Start work on Habitats Regulations, SA, SEA and Equality Assessment (Scoping)
January – February 2021	Prepare Issues and Options Papers, initial invitations sent to partners to be represented on steering and working groups Commission evidence base reports MPWG agrees composition of working groups (by email unless discussion is needed)
March 2021	First meetings: Management Plan Working Group – to agree timetable, scope and format of Plan and agree initial views for working groups. Working groups – initial discussions.
March 2021	Initial public engagement and profile raising
April 2021	Second meeting of the three Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial input/advice on vision, special qualities • Scope out Issues Papers and decide on authoring arrangements
June 2021	Publication of evidence base reports. Management Plan Working Group meets – reviews working group outputs and feeds back. Discusses vision and objectives.
July 2021	Third meeting of working groups – drafts for discussion. Seminar for all Members
August 2021	Working groups sign off chapters (and do not meet unless necessary)
September – October 2021.	Management Plan Working Group reviews first draft. Final drafting
End October 2021	Management Plan Working Group sign off draft for consultation Seminar for all Members
November – December 2021	Public consultation on full draft Plan
January 2022 - end February 2022	Publish consultation results Management Plan Working Group make final revisions to Plan Final Habitats Regulations, SA, SEA and Equality Assessment completed Seminar for all Members
April 2022	Final NPMP presented for adoption at Authority meeting
April 2022	Launch of the new Plan