

North York Moors National Park Authority Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

1 February 2021

Corporate Risk Register

1.	Purpose of the Report
1.1	To seek Members' views on the draft Corporate Risk Register (CRR) for 2021/2022.

2. Background

2.1 As Members are aware the Authority maintains a CRR which is updated annually and then considered by this Committee quarterly after approval at the March Authority meeting.

2.2 The CRR has been updated by the Chief Executive and Directors, in a process facilitated by NYCC's Insurance and Risk Management Team on 8 January. A draft is attached as **Appendix 1** which also includes a summary of changes in risk level. The overall assessment of risk has been considered on the basis of no further change to the financial risk thresholds which take into account the Authority's current financial position with regard to earned income, reserves, assumed 2021/22 DEFRA Grant settlement and external funding.

2.3 2020 brought considerable change for the Authority, as a result of both internal and external factors. The annual review detailed below has taken this context into account and the risks are those that are considered by Officers to be the most significant for the Authority (as opposed to the place) in the coming year. The risks are a mixture of long term issues as well as shorter term matters which should be adequately resolved this year.

3. Draft Corporate Risk Register 2021/22

3.1 The main changes to the CRR for 2020/21 are the addition of risks covering the Authority's response to the Landscapes Review, the development of a new National Park Management Plan and the potential implications of devolution for the Authority's planning role.

3.2 The existing risks in relation to Financial Strategy, Wildlife and Biodiversity (was titled Marine and Terrestrial Wildlife in 2020), Capacity and Resilience, Minerals Development Pressure, Health and Safety and Climate Change Arrangements for the Authority have all been retained and updated.

3.3 Detailed below is a brief summary of each of the risks and their proposed category. The full description and list of risk reduction actions are details in **Appendix 1**.

- **Financial Strategy – Category 2.** Officers reported during the course of 2020/21 that consideration would be given to increasing the risk level to Category 1 this year. There is continued uncertainty regarding the DEFRA grant settlement, the effect of the c-19 pandemic on income for the coming year is difficult to quantify and the external funding sources will change considerably following the UK's departure from the EU. The Authority's budgets are well managed and good levels of discretionary budgets remain, but nevertheless this is a significant risk area.

- **Capacity and Resilience** – an in-year change was made in 2020 to increase this to a Category 1 risk on the basis of additional work caused by c-19. Although this work continues, the changed working methods have now become embedded. Careful management of the work programme in the coming year, however, and the understanding that any work ambitions need to be matched to staff resources, mean that this risk level, although remaining significant, can return to **Category 2**.
- **Health and Safety – Category 2**. The risk level was increased in-year during 2020 to reflect the additional levels of work and risk associated with managing health and safety while the c-19 pandemic is on-going. Given the uncertain outlook, Officers believe this should remain a Category 2 risk.
- **Minerals Development Pressure on the Park** – this remains as a **Category 2** risk pending a decision on whether the current moratorium on fracking will become longer term Government policy. A planning application has been received as the current permission for Boulby potash mine moves towards its expiry date. There is a PPA to cover the costs of outside expertise, but there may be some additional future costs for the Authority for potential legal and s106 work.
- **Woodsmith Mine Implementation – Category 3**. The Authority’s work in managing this risk is well organised for the coming year. The risk remains, however, should the Authority fail to meet its obligations.
- **Devolution Implications – Category 3**. There is the potential for any devolution process for the region to have an adverse effect on the Authority’s role in spatial planning. The risk reduction actions mitigate the risk to a large degree, but Officers’ believe that this should be included on the CRR for this year.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity replaces the Marine and Terrestrial Wildlife and Biodiversity – Category 4**. There continues to be considerable national interest in the perceived effectiveness of national parks/ANOBs in protecting wildlife, but work programmes are in place and Officers consider that the risk is properly managed and so the risk category reduces from 2020/21. The appearance of this item in the CRR reflects the importance of this work, given the Authority’s statutory purposes.
- **Climate Change Arrangements for the NPA – Category 5**. While the achievement of net carbon neutrality target by 2030 will require very considerable effort and resources (financial and people) to achieve, Officers consider that this is a low level risk for the coming year with a planned work programme that adequately mitigates the risk.
- **Landscapes Review – Category 5**. The recommendations of the review are being taken forward nationally and inclusion of this in the CRR, albeit at a low level, reflects the importance to the Authority of properly engaging with and being able to influence the implementation of the review.
- **Management Plan – Category 5**. The work on developing a new National Park Management Plan is a once in a decade opportunity to shape the future management of the Park. The work programme will be delivered this year; hence the inclusion in this year’s CRR.

4. **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications resulting directly from this report.

