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# North York Moors National Park Authority

22 March 2021

## Item 13, Business Plan January 2021 – March 2022

### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide Members with the final version of the Authority's Business Plan for 2021 – March 2022 for information.

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Authority's Business Plan is set within the framework of the National Park Management Plan. This is the key document for the National Park. It sets out a long term vision and aims for the National Park, and there is a statutory requirement to review the Management Plan every five years. A new National Park Management Plan is due to be published in April 2022.
- 2.2 A four year Business Plan was approved by the National Park Authority at their NPA meeting in December 2016. The comprehensive plan set out the Authority's strategic priorities, Medium Term Financial Strategy and external funding priorities alongside objectives and targets for delivery. It detailed how the NPA contributed to the delivery of the National Park Management Plan. The Plan expired in December 2020. A draft 15 month 'interim' Business Plan was presented to the NPA in December 2020 and approved subject to some minor changes to the 'targets' column. A new, more comprehensive Business Plan will be developed in line with the National Park Management Plan during 2021. Both of these key documents can then be published in April 2022.
- 2.3 Members have received regular updates on progress towards the objectives in the current Business Plan, and a huge amount has been achieved. The Plan proposed for the next 15 months sees some consolidation of this but also delivers priorities which have emerged since 2016/17, some of these driven notably by the c-19 pandemic.
- 2.4 The Business Plan set out here provides an 'interim' set of key objectives that the NPA will aim to deliver from January 2021 to March 2022.

### 3. For consideration

- 3.1 The Business Plan in appendix 1 details the key objectives and targets for delivery under five headings: Environment, Understanding and Enjoyment, Business and Land Management, Communities and Corporate Services.

### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the appendix and adopt the Authority's Business Plan for January 2021 to March 2022.

**5. Financial and staffing implications**

5.1 All have been accommodated in the contents of the draft Business Plan.

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

6.1 The Business Plan sets out what the Authority will do over the next 15 months to contribute towards the ambitions in the National Park Management Plan.

**7. Legal and sustainability implications**

7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**8. Recommendation**

8.1 That Members note the final version of the Authority's Business Plan and adopt it for 2021 -22.

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## Appendix 1

### Purpose of this Business Plan

Our Business Plan sets out the specific objectives that the National Park Authority will work towards over the next 15 months. Its objectives are drawn from our current Management Plan, supported by additional objectives that aim to ensure an excellent level of customer service and an effective organisation. It will keep us focused through a year when we'll also be looking ahead with the development of a new Authority strategy and Management Plan for the National Park.

### Our Work and Covid-19

As this Plan is produced, we are adapting to the impacts that Covid-19 is having on both the National Park and the work of the National Park Authority. It's likely that further adjustments may need to be made throughout the period of the Plan and we'll be monitoring developments closely.

## Objectives and Targets for January 2021 to March 2022

### A new National Park Management Plan

We have one organisation wide objective that will be a priority for the months ahead – set out below.

Objective	Target – by March 2022
Prepare a new National Park Plan with input from all stakeholders to provide a long term Vision and aims for the North York Moors National Park	National Park Plan published for adoption on April 1 2022

### 1. Environment – key objectives and targets

Objective	Target for March 2022
E1. Establish and strengthen effective wildlife corridors in the National Park with support from externally funded projects	Ryevitalise and River Esk projects (including WEG, CaBa and Blue Corridors) projects delivered on time and to budget
E2. Deliver the objectives and key projects for s106 Landscape and Ecology contributions associated with the Woodsmith Mine (see detail at the end of this section)	Specific targets all met
E3. Play a lead role in the development, delivery and coordination of Local Nature Recovery Strategies in and around the National Park	Landscape scale project delivery and learning contributing to ‘proof of concept’ for Nature Recovery Strategies (see also E1)
E4. Support one collaboratively developed pilot scheme for landscape scale management	1 collaboratively developed pilot scheme scoped in preparation for delivery
E5. Implement the Levisham Estate Management Plan and apply for Countryside Stewardship on NPA registered land	Countryside stewardship scheme agreed
E6. Restore 62 ha of PAWs and complete a review of current PAWs status	62 ha of PAWs restoration initiated by March 2022
E7. Complete the Exploited Land of Iron (TEL) project evaluation and implement the project legacy plan	Evaluation completed. Legacy plan in place.
E8. Improve water quality and river habitats on the River Rye and River Esk supported by Ryevitalise and the Water Environment grant	See E1
E9. Improve the conservation and awareness of the historic environment and cultural heritage of the	Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments on

Objective	Target for March 2022
National Park	Heritage at Risk register below 5% of total
E10. Create new areas of woodland and wood pasture (see also section 106)	5 Ha's outside of s106 planting
E11. Monitor and protect grasslands under agreement and develop a Legacy Plan for the Turtle Dove project	93 Ha's of grassland under agreement
E12. Support farmers, wildlife and landscape in the National Park to adapt to emerging policy changes including ELMs	Ongoing
E13. Maintain landscape character and quality and conserve the distinctiveness of landscape character areas.	Landscape Character Assessment updated
E14. Ensure that all data and records are well managed and readily available to inform the Authority's and partners work and complete appropriate survey and monitoring	Farmland wader and Habitat baseline survey completed Historic Environment Record structure updated
E15. Deliver the Historic Environment grant scheme	Total grant scheme budget committed
E16. Protect and enhance landscape, archaeology and biodiversity through the planning system and manage statutory protection functions through advice and regulation	Ongoing

We are also committed to delivering a number of Landscape and Ecology contributions under the Woodsmith Mine 106 agreement – these are summarised below.

### Section 106 landscape and ecology categories key projects and objectives for 2021/22

#### Traditional boundary restoration

- Adder Wall (phase 2) with North York Moors Railway
- Dry Stone Walls along A171 corridor with Mulgrave Estate
- Kettlethness Hedgerow restoration scheme with Mulgrave Estate

#### Woodland and forestry enhancement

- NYMNP - Landscape Tree Scheme (confirmed)
- Bumble Wood (confirmed) with Forestry England
- Deliver 73 ha of woodland creation
- NYMNP – Ryevitalise PAWS

## Management, creation and enhancement of natural environment

- NYMNP – Ryevitalise
- NYMNP – Blue Corridors
- Pond Creation with Mulgrave Estate
- Newtondale Conservation Management Plan scoping with Forestry England
- Bransdale Conservation Management Plan delivery with National Trust

## Beaver monitoring with Forestry England

## Restoration of degraded heritage assets

- Support for Rosedale Stone Kilns Project

## Enhancement of Public Rights of Way

- Various additional Rights of Way internal projects including.....
- Whitby to Staithes Cycle Link post feasibility – with Mulgrave Estate/SBC
- Support for North York Moors Cycleway signage Tourism project (with RDC, SBC, HDC)

## Dark skies tranquillity enhancements

- Continued annual contributions for Tranquillity enhancements through the Lighting Improvement Scheme.

## 2. Understanding and enjoyment - key objectives and targets

Objective	Target – by March 2022
U1. Inspire more young people to understand and experience the North York Moors and be actively involved in its future	12000 contacts via the Education Service each year  Customer satisfaction with the Education Service 95% or above,  800 school contacts supported through the targeted transport scheme,  1000 Volunteer days P/A by young people
U2. Manage maintain and improve public rights of way and other priority access routes in the National Park	85% of promoted and priority public rights of way easy to use  70% of all other public rights of way easy to use

Objective	Target – by March 2022
U3. Improve the accessibility to landscapes of the National Park	Cleveland Way is stile free 2 easy access paths upgraded
U4. Provide high quality facilities for people visiting the National Park	Number of public toilets available in the NP maintained and improvement plan implemented
U5. Assist local communities in providing key visitor facilities.	13 village caretakers maintained 7 community managed public toilets maintained
U6. Work to minimise conflicts between different user groups	'Share with care' messages for rights of way users rolled out
U7. Develop and promote opportunities to improve public health and well-being through the National Park, including among target and underserved communities.	1,000 contacts from underserved communities within target areas engaged with the NP  YHA Green generation project delivered  Year 2 of Young Explorer project delivered
U8. Maintain, review and improve website effectiveness as a key communication tool (in line with Communications Strategy)	New website developed by March 2022
U9. Continue to provide, develop and improve excellent National Park Centres.	Medium Term Financial Strategy income targets at National Park Centres met
U10. Deliver Engagement and interpretation elements of Ryevitalise project	All relevant Ryevitalise project targets met

### 3. Business/land management - key objectives and targets

Objective	Target – by March 2022
B1. Proactively support the agriculture sector to adapt to changing economic circumstances and contribute to new policy development.	Also see E12  ELMs Test and Trial completed and further work developed where appropriate
B2. Coordinate the application for 65 'Kickstart' work placements on behalf of the UK NPAs and adopt the new Level 4 Ranger apprenticeship qualification	New qualification adopted September 2021

Objective	Target – by March 2022
B3. Increase the profile of the North York Moors and provide support to tourism businesses in post-covid recovery via the North York Moors Tourism Network	At least current levels of visitor awareness maintained

#### 4. Communities – key objectives and targets

Objective	Target – by March 2022
C1. Deliver a customer focused Development Management service that supports economic and community development whilst helping to protect and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.	80% of planning applications determined within 8 weeks.  At least 80% of applicants satisfied with the service.  Appeals record recovered to 67% dismissal rate
C2. Undertake briefing and training events for Parish Councils and agents arising from any legislative changes to the planning system to support consistency in our level of service	Training events delivered
C3. Adopt the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan, with a robust planning framework in place to assess minerals development proposals, in or affecting the setting of the National Park.	New Joint Plan adopted by April 2021
C4. Provide a high quality service for monitoring implementation of the Woodsmith Mine planning approval and the processing of proposals for modifications to the permission and approval of operational details, in line with local and national planning policies and agreed service standards	£106 funded work successfully implemented. Construction programme for mine and MTS minimises adverse impacts on the National Park and its communities
C5. Determine the ICL Boulby Major planning application in line with local and national planning policies	Application determined by April 2021
C5. Complete a Volunteer satisfaction survey and use the results as a baseline to inform the future volunteering programme	Completed by July 2021
C6. Develop a new volunteering strategy setting out targets for outputs, volunteering days, methods of engagement and target audiences	Strategy completed by September 2021, for delivery from April 2022
C7. Work jointly through NPE to ensure changes to the Authority's planning role arising from the Planning White Paper and the Glover Review safeguard national protection for National Parks.	Ongoing

Objective	Target – by March 2022
C8. Safeguard the Authority’s strategic planning role in any sub regional changes arising from Devolution and the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority	Ongoing

## 5. Corporate – key objectives and targets

Objective	Target – by March 2022
CR1. Devise a system to measure carbon emissions as a result of the Authority’s operational activities (by 1 April); and develop a timed and costed plan to reduce operational carbon emissions to zero	Plan approved by members at June NPA
CR2. Continue to provide an excellent standard of People Management support through the development of a future working methods strategy –adapted to the behavioural and cultural changes needed for a changed working environment	7% staff turnover, a maximum of 4 days/year sickness absence.
CR3. Develop a new complaints process, using the latest (October 2020) LGO guidance as a basis and review c-19 changes to internal process to ensure no diminution of customer service	Approved by NPA by 31 March 2021
CR4. Complete a review of remote access of the IT network and phone system to ensure that all necessary data is available to facilitate effective home working and ensure data storage and usage by home workers is fully compliant with NPA standards	Key systems available 99% of working time to both remote and office workers.
CR5. Undertake a review of post c-19 working practices, with particular reference to home office arrangements; establish what improvements need to be made and produce a timed/costed action plan to deliver these	Action plan in place by 1 April 2021
CR6. Ensure the Authority has timely access to high quality financial data to facilitate effective decision making at all levels.	Ongoing
CR7. Support the securing of £1.5m of external funding annually across the Authority.	Achievement of £1.5 million target annually
CR8. Complete a review of communications with Members taking into account the changes implemented as a result of C-19	Work completed and implemented by 30 September 2021
CR9. Ensure that the costs of Corporate Services remain at 5% or less of the Authority’s gross costs and determine a new contract for the NPA’s legal services	Costs at 5% or less New contract let by 31st December 2021

Objective	Target – by March 2022
CR10. Undertake a Property Review assessing current portfolio and future needs	By 31 March 2021, terms of reference for review established and timescale for actions.