

North York Moors National Park Authority Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2017

Progress towards Targets and Desired Direction of Change in the National Park Management Plan

Purpose of the Report

- | |
|--|
| 1.1 To provide a progress update on the targets and direction of change in the National Park Management Plan |
|--|

2. Introduction

- 2.1 In December 2016, a consultation was completed by the National Park Authority on the 2012 National Park Management Plan.
- 2.2 Following this consultation a small number of minor changes were made to the text of the Plan and in December 2016 the National Park Authority signed off the 'refreshed' Plan with its many policies and 40 measureable targets being carried forward for 2017 onwards.
- 2.3 This report summarises progress against the 40 targets set out in the Plan. The Plan does of course contain a much wider range of policies many of which do not have specific targets. Members may wish to quiz officers on progress against these policies, though (in view of their number) advance warning would be helpful.

3. For Consideration

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** sets out an overview of progress against all 40 targets in the National Park Management Plan. Significant achievements include:
- The level of risk on 101 scheduled monuments has been reduced - including removal of 69 monuments from the 'at risk register'.
 - 57 buildings at risk were removed from the at risk register between 2012 and 2017.
 - 686ha of Plantation on Ancient Woodland sites (PAWs) were brought into restoration between 2012 and 2017.
 - The value of tourism to the National Park's economy has increased significantly in the past five years.
 - The annual number of visitor days has increased from 9 million in 2006 to 11.74 million in 2015.
 - The % of rights of way deemed 'easy to use' was 85 % in 2016 compared with 69% in 2006.

Targets that have not been met include:

- The % of land managed in line with conservation objectives, which fell by at least 10% between 2011 and 2016 due to reductions in Countryside Stewardship coverage.

- The % of households and businesses with opportunity of access to high speed broadband – this was 74% in 2015 figure against a target of 100%.
- 164 ha of new native woodlands and wood pasture had been planted by the end of March 2017 – against a target of 300ha.

In addition, there are a number of targets, almost all environmental, where recent data isn't available:

- The status of the landscape
- Tranquillity
- Levels of agricultural output.
- Number of vehicles passing traffic counters.(Saltergate traffic counter is still not working)
- Carbon Dioxide emissions from the National Park.

Overall the balance of change/progress is positive, particularly in the indicators relating to second purpose and economic attributes.

4. **Conclusion**

- 4.1 Members are asked to review the contents of the Appendices. The outcome of this discussion will feed into reviews of bilateral agreements/protocols/SLAs with a number of partner organisations.

5. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 None directly.

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**

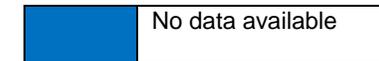
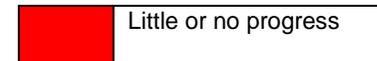
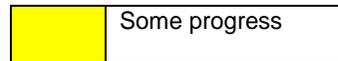
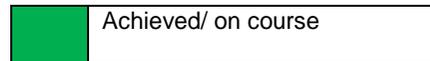
- 8.1 That Members review and comment on the attached document which provides information on progress against 40 targets in the National Park Management Plan, and an overview of performance of a number of organisations.

Contact Officers:

Jo Swiers, Performance Officer
 Clair Shields, Planning Policy Officer
 Andy Wilson, Chief Executive

Tel No. 01439 772700

Management Plan monitoring



Indicator	Baseline	Target	Progress	Status
The status of the landscape	n/a	The landscape is identified as 'changing/enhancing'	No data. Indicator – as previously compiled by Natural England is no longer available.	No data available
% of land managed in line with conservation objectives	79% (2011/12)	% maintained or increased	68% (2015/16 figure) – figure for 2016/17 not currently available.	Little or no progress
Number of Scheduled Monuments on the MMS list at risk	328 judged as being at medium or high risk, as at May 2012	By 2017, the number at risk has been reduced by 65 from the number presented on the initial list	Level of risk reduced on 101 Scheduled Monuments, including 69 removed from the list because risk now low.	Achieved/ on course
Number of Listed Buildings on the Buildings at Risk register	95 (as reported in the Annual Performance Report 2010/11)	35 Buildings at Risk have been removed from the register	57 in total removed between 2012 and 2017.	Achieved/ on course
% of SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition	99% (2011/12) 11.3%	At least 90% of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition by 2020	99% (2016/17) 11.5%	Some progress
No. of missing key ecological connections that have been made		A high proportion have been made	23% of key ecological connections have been successfully completed, and work has started on an additional 57% of connections; therefore work has been progressed on 80% of all the key connections.	Some progress
Area of species rich grassland created or restored	1,150ha (2012)	Area increased by 150ha by 2017	No species rich grassland newly created or completely restored since 2012. However, through national agri-environment schemes nearly 500ha is 'in restoration' or 'in creation' and in addition at March '17 NPA has contributed to 106ha in restoration, 6ha in creation, and 61ha subject to management intervention to maintain quality.	Some progress
Population of wading birds breeding on moorland	3,353 pairs (2008)	Populations have been maintained	3,568 pairs (2014 figure)	Achieved/ on course
Population of merlin		Population not declined	Comprehensive information not collected. However based on surveys of selected moors, the population appears to be declining. This is in line with a national trend. Officers are investigating whether this apparent local decline is real and whether due to local factors, or to wider ones which we might not be able to influence	Little or no progress
% of the area of the National Park classed as tranquil	90% (2006)	No decline in the level	Work being undertaken	No data available

No. of days of exceedance of ozone pollution levels at High Muffles (where levels are moderate to high)	17 (2012)	Fewer days where there is an exceedance	16 (2016)	
Area of blanket peat	4,100ha (2011)	Area maintained	Area of peat is not measured. . However area believed to be broadly static since the 2011 approximated figure.	
Area of moorland managed in line with conservation objectives	79% (2012)	Area maintained or increased	47,248ha / 96% of moorland in the NP (2015/16 figure) – figure for 2016/17 not currently available.	
Area of new native woodland and wood pasture planted	n/a	300 ha planted by 2017	164.31ha (end of March 2017)	
Area of PAWS restoration initiated	n/a	At least 600ha initiated by 2017	686 ha initiated (end of March 2017)	
Area of woodland managed in line with conservation objectives	74% (2014)	Area increased	20,720ha / 65% of woodland within the NP (2015/16 figure) – figure for 2016/17 not currently available. Figure part of overall figure on 'land managed in line with conservation objectives' and relates to reduction of area of land in 'Stewardship' agreements	
No. and % of water bodies identified as 'good' under the Water Framework Directive	79 / 81% (2012)	All appropriate water bodies identified as 'good'	35.5% (2015/16 figure) – figure for 2016/17 not currently available. The methodology for data collection changed following the 2012 survey so baseline data not consistent with recent data. 2013 figure under the new methodology showed 12% of water bodies as 'good' and this figure has increased each year since then.	
No. of beaches identified as 'sufficient' under the revised Bathing Water Directive	2 out of 3 (2012)	All beaches identified as 'sufficient'	2 out of 2 (both 'excellent')	
No. of visitor days	9m (2006)	Number has increased	11.82 (Revised 2015 figure) 12.31 (2016)	
% of Public Rights of Way are easy to use	69 % (2006/07)	85%	85% (2016)	
% of Public Rights of Way that are signposted where they leave the road	95% (2012)	Maintain % at 95%	91% (2016)	
% of visitors who enjoyed their visit	95%	To maintain at least 95%	95% rated as very good/good (2016)	

Proportion of under-represented groups visiting the NP	30% of users to the NPA visitor centres, websites and events were from under-represented groups (2012)	Proportion increased	Information centres – no figure Events – 38% Education – 76% Website – 34% (2015)	
Proportion of visitors who are aware of the NYMNP a) Visitor awareness of NYMNP b) Visitor awareness of Special qualities c) Visitor awareness of being in a NP	 a) 34% (2011) b) 18% (2011) c) 73% (2011)	Proportion increased (Target 2016) a) 37% b) 21% c) 83%	2016 Actual a) 92% b) 51% c) 83%	
Proportion of the region's population who are aware of the NYMNP a) Regional awareness of NYMNP b) Regional awareness of special qualities	 a) 34% (2008) b) 43% (2008)	Proportion increased (Target 2013) a) n/a – see explanation b) n/a – see explanation	 a) A joint Regional Awareness Survey with the Yorkshire Dales NPA was not undertaken in 2013. The Business Plan includes an action to undertake an Regional Awareness Survey in 2018, as well as developing a new Communications Strategy. This work will review the Business Plan actions and targets to reflect the agreed strategy, including reviewing the Visitor Awareness Targets. b) As above	
Value of tourism to the National Park's economy	£416m (2010)	Value increased	£621.23m (2015) £646.78 (2016)	
No. of people employed in tourism	7,813 (2010)	Number increased	10,709 FTEs (2015) 10,923 FTEs (2016)	
Average length of stay	1.81 days (2011)	Length of stay increased	1.88 (2015) 1.92 (2016)	
The area of farmland managed in line with conservation objectives		Area maintained or increased	29,167ha / 47% of farmland in the NP (2015/16 figure) – figure for 2016/17 not yet available	
No. of moorland hill flocks	100 (2006)	No decline	100	

No. of people employed in agriculture	2,220 All holdings (2010)	Number maintained or increased	2,164 (Commercial holdings)	
Levels of agricultural output	£56m (2009)	n/a indicator only	No figure.	
% of residents of the National Park 'in work'	70.64% (2001 Census)	n/a	75% (2011 Census)	
% of residents of the Park claiming unemployment benefit	1.9% (2012)	% has reduced	0.5% / 105 claimants (2016)	
Area of allocated employment floor space	0 (2012)	Area increased	+ 14ha (2015) Land allocated through the Whitby Business Park Area Action Plan.	
No. of salmon and sea trout in the Upper Derwent	None recorded	Salmon and sea trout are present	Records not available for Upper Derwent alone. Reported rod catch figure of 1 salmon and 1 trout for Yorkshire Derwent in 2016.	
% of households and businesses opportunity of access to high speed broadband*	No baseline recorded	100% by 2017	74% (62 parishes out of 84) (2015). *Information taken from the 2015 Community Survey and the Superfast North Yorkshire website www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com/home . High speed broadband counted as those communities with high quality wireless or where superfast broadband is available.	
% of villages with key facilities	General Store – 30% Post Office – 32% Village Hall – 62% Village Pub – 64% Play Area – 25% (2006)	% maintained or increased	General Store – 27% Post Office – 23% Village Hall – 72% Village Pub – 69% Play Area – 35% (2015)	
No. of affordable homes built per year	29 (2011/12)	At least 75 built by 2017	58 built (2016/17). 126 with planning permission. There are a further 68 affordable units with Planning Permission yet to be built.	
No. of vehicles passing traffic counters in the NP	1.942m (2006)	n/a	1.74m (2012). No full set of data since 2012. Saltergate counter not currently working	
CO2 emissions attributed to the National Park	396kt per year (2006)	Decrease in emissions	No recent data for the National Park. Central Government data for NP no longer collected.	