

Report to	Resources & Performance Committee
Date	13 February 2013
By	Director of Corporate Services
Title of Report	Corporate Plan 2013-16
Purpose of Report	To ask the Committee to review the proposed Corporate Plan and recommend any changes before it is approved at the South Downs National Park Authority meeting in March 2013

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to

- 1) note and comment upon the proposed draft of the Corporate Plan for 2013-16; and**
 - 2) agree that final changes to the Corporate Plan to be recommended to the South Downs National Park Authority are agreed between the Committee Chair and the Director of Corporate Services following consultation with Members of Resources & Performance Committee**
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), as a publicly accountable body, is responsible for monitoring its performance. Part of the terms of reference for the Resources and Performance Committee is to “Recommend annually to the Authority the business plan including appropriate objectives and key performance measures and appropriate resources plans”.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to present to Members a draft Corporate Plan for 2013-14 for them to recommend to the SDNPA for adoption at its meeting in March 2013.

2. Background

- 2.1 In advance of the South Downs National Park Management Plan, the Business Plans for the SDNPA, together with the approved Vision and the Guiding Principles, have been used to identify overarching objectives and set priorities.
- 2.2 This year, for the first time, it is proposed that the SDNPA adopt a three year Corporate Plan for 2013-2016. The Corporate Plan sets out strategic outcomes and priorities for the organisation over the next three years along with the success measures we will use. The Corporate Plan will be supplemented by a detailed one year operational plan which will be used to monitor annual delivery.

3. The Corporate Plan 2013-16

- 3.1 The draft Corporate Plan is attached at **Appendix I**. Members will note the revised format of the Plan. This is to accommodate the three year timeframe and to support transparency. Members will also note that for the first time the emerging priorities from the National Park Management Plan are reflected directly in the overarching objectives. This is to show how the SDNPA plans to deliver its contribution to the National Park Management Plan and how it wishes to improve organisational effectiveness. It also provides information on the success measures for each of the overarching objectives.
- 3.2 The Committee should note that the Corporate Plan reflects the latest version of the emerging priorities from the Management Plan (as of the consultation which started on 01

February)). As the consultation on the Management Plan continues it is possible that the high level outcomes may change. The draft will be adjusted to match the version of the Management Plan which will form the basis of the pre-consultation engagement process. There may well, of course, be further changes to the outcomes before the formal consultation begins in the summer but the Corporate Plan will be reviewed annually so any such changes can be incorporated next year, when the new corporate planning round will begin as soon as the Management Plan is finalised.

- 3.3 Changes have also been made to the way resource and budget information is presented. This revised approach and format provides Members with clear information about the resources allocated to deliver each objective and the priorities within them. The pie charts in the plan show direct spending against each objective. The delivery support figures include unallocated resources, such as costs for corporate services which provide support for delivery. An example of this is the cost for the Legal Services contract of which over 90% supports the Planning function of the South Downs National Park Authority. It has not been possible to provide full allocation of indirect costs across each objective in time for the paper circulation deadline but this work is currently underway and the results will be sent to Members before the Meeting.
- 3.4 This approach will assist Members in their consideration of the strategic choices they will need to make about the allocation of resources in future years. The resources shown for years two and three of the plan have more in the corporate section as that represents unallocated expenditure for major partnerships and potential delivery projects.
- 3.5 The Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to make any changes to the Corporate Plan. The Committee is further asked to agree that any changes which cannot be made at the meeting, along with those necessary to maintain the link with the Management Plan and other consequential amendments, should be agreed between the Chair of the Committee and the Director of Corporate Services, with appropriate consultation with Committee Members, in order to meet the deadlines for the National Park Authority meeting on 19 March, when the Plan will be formally adopted by the Authority.

4. Resources

- 4.1 The production of the plan itself requires significant staff time to put together. The Corporate Plan itself does set out the broad distribution of resources to meet priorities over the next three years. The Corporate Plan should be read in conjunction with the proposed budget for 2013-14 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2013 -16.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 The risks arising from the objectives and priorities in the Corporate Plan will be incorporated into the corporate risk register. The main risks associated with the plan are that there are unforeseen changes to the SDNPA budget which have an adverse impact on the ability of the National Park Authority to achieve its objectives.

6. Human Rights, Equalities, Health and Safety

- 6.1 There are no explicit issues related to this report. Where it is required the report will be made available in alternative formats. The Corporate Plan itself does set out what our priorities are and how we will achieve them including a section on Corporate Social Responsibility which sets out our approach to equality and diversity.

7. External Consultees

- 7.1 None.

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Appendices	Appendix I – Draft Corporate Plan for 2013-16
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Planning, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Director of Operations, Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer & Legal Services.