

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY AN OFFICER

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| Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision | Factual amendment to the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) |
| Date Decision Taken | 20.01.2026 |
| Decision Taken by | Siôn McGeever, Chief Executive Officer |
| Decision Taken | Approved the amendment to page 16 of the PMP following the Government's announcement of the continuation of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme. |
| Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken | <p>Shortly following the National Park Authority's approval of the PMP, the Government announced the continuation of the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme for a further 3 years.</p> <p>The PMP as approved included, on page 16 under <i>Farming and Land Management</i>, the sentence "There is uncertainty about whether this funding will continue and about what changes to environmental land management schemes will mean for farmers and land managers in the National Park."</p> <p>Following the Government's announcement of the continuation of FiPL, this was now factually inaccurate. Its inclusion could be seen as misleading the public and could have undermined the credibility of the PMP. Therefore, it was proposed to amend the sentence to reflect this recent development.</p> <p>The sentence has been revised to read "We welcomed the announcement in January 2026 that the FiPL programme had been extended for another three years."</p> <p>There was not considered to be sufficient time to call another meeting of the National Park Authority to take this decision as, following the NPA's approval of the PMP, final design work has been taking place with a deadline of Wednesday 21 January 2026. This was to ensure the PMP would be completed and available in printed format for the launch event planned for March 2026. It was considered very undesirable to delay the launch of such a strategically significant document for the National Park.</p> |
| Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected | The sentence could have remained; however, its inclusion could be seen as misleading the public and could have undermined the credibility of the PMP. |

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| Details of any personal interest or conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer involved in or consulted upon this decision. This must include any declarations made by Members) | None |
| Link to background papers and/or supporting information | Approval of the PMP by the National Park Authority on 9 December 2025 |
| Contact for enquiries/further information | info@southdowns.gov.uk |
| A summary of this decision will be reported to the Authority or relevant Committee, made available on the Authority's website at http://www.Southdowns.gov.uk and made available for public inspection (when permissible) at the South Downs Centre together with any background papers relevant to the matter. | |

Signature of Officer: Richard Sandiford

Date: 20.01.2026

Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer