

Report to	<b>Policy &amp; Programme Committee</b>
Date	<b>26 May 2016</b>
By	<b>Director of Planning</b>
Title of Report	<b>Whole Estate Plans Update</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to note:**

- 1) The progress of Whole Estate Plans**
- 2) The emerging guidance as set out at Appendix I of the report.**

**1. Summary and Background**

- 1.1 The report sets out an update on the work to develop Whole Estate Plans.
- 1.2 Whole Estate Plans (WEPs) are designed to enable collaboration between individual estates and the National Park Authority to achieve the ambitions of the land holding and estate and the purposes of the National Park. Whole Estate Plans identify opportunities and threats to both parties and facilitate mutually acceptable and proactive solutions. In line with the preparation of the Local Plan the NPA is seeking to develop a group of WEPs which will be endorsed by the SDNPA in autumn 2016 to demonstrate at the Examination in Public. The basic format which has been created is both practical for smaller organisations with limited resources and/or aspirations for development, and which can be expanded to accommodate those estates who are seeking to support large scale multi-faceted development programs.
- 1.3 This report includes; the emerging guidance for WEPs, GIS data packages, organisations currently participating, the role of the Policy & Programme committee in endorsing plans and the expected timetable for the first requests for endorsement.

**2. Emerging Guidance**

- 2.1 The emerging guidance, as set out in **Appendix I** to the report, has been well received. Feedback has been provided by individual estates and farmers, the land managers group and other organisations that were involved in the initial workshop to develop the guidance. The guidance is being refined following this feedback and will be ready by the end of June. The revisions will predominately involve clarifying the descriptions in some sections and putting in additional FAQs. The overall response to the document has been very positive. Its second revision will also include information on the GIS data package that is currently being prepared for public use (see section 3).

**3. GIS Data Package**

- 3.1 One of the key issues raised by organisations interested in preparing a WEP is the difficulty, particularly for smaller organisations with limited time and resources, of preparing mapped data for their land holdings. In response to this, the NPA GIS team has developed a package of standard data layers which represent the majority of the geographical data required by the majority of the organisations. Organisations will then be able to purchase this data for a one-off fee, and it will be packaged by our GIS team specifically for the boundaries of their property, and formatted into easy to use PDF format.
- 3.2 This package has been put together by a cross team group, on a cost-recovery basis, thereby making the exercise cost neutral to the Authority.

#### 4. Organisations Currently Participating

- 4.1 At present 18 individual organisations plus the NPA land managers group are being kept informed of the process and provided with information updates. Of those 9 have indicated an interest in preparing a WEP, and 4 are actively preparing a plan.

#### 5. Endorsement Timetable

- 5.1 The team are working towards having a minimum of two plans endorsed prior to the Local Plan Examination; we would therefore anticipate that requests for endorsement are likely to be put before the Committee in the early Autumn.

#### 6. P&P Committee

- 6.1 The opportunity for the NPA to endorse WEPs via the P&P committee was discussed at the full Authority Meeting (2 February 2016). It was resolved that the Authority would allow the P&P committee to consider and, if appropriate, endorse Whole Estate Plans.

#### 7. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	YES – Indicatively by P&P Committee in Autumn 2016
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	YES – Staff across the organisation but particularly in the GIS and design area outlined above will be involved. However full cost recovery is proposed as part of the 'offer' to individuals and Estates.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	See above – Cost recovery and aiding the achievement of Purposes and Duty at less cost than currently involved in lots of pre-application discussions sometimes against a background of limited knowledge
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	Organisations are being encouraged to 'engage' with the local community during the preparation of plans to increase understanding and develop new opportunities.
Has due regard has been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	YES – the concept of WEPs is based around promotion of long term sustainable land management and small scale economic growth

## 8. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Presentation of plans for endorsement which do not accord with the purposes of the National Park	Possible	Minor	Officers will actively discourage the presentation of plans which are felt not to accord with the purposes of the National Park where ever possible.  The wording of the resolution which gives P&P Committee consent to grant endorsement includes the option to refuse it where a plan is deemed not to accord with the purposes of the National Park.

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Appendices I. Draft Whole Estate Plan Guidance Document

SDNPA Consultees Director of Planning;

External Consultees none

Background Documents [Report 4/16 - Authority Meeting 2 February 2016](#)

[Minutes – Authority Meeting 2 February 2016](#)

