

Report to	Policy & Programme Committee
Date	25 May 2017
By	Director of Countryside & Policy Management
Title of Report	Progress with review of Partnership Management Plan and Development of Five-Year Strategies.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to

1) Receive the report and presentation and endorse the approach taken so far

1. Summary and Background

- 1.1 In 2016 the SDNPA started the process for reviewing its Partnership Management Plan (PMP). Under Section 6 paragraph 4 of the Environment Act 1995 (**Appendix 1**) the National Park Authority is required to “...review its National Park Management Plan within the period of five years of its operational date and, after the first review, at intervals of not more than five years”. The current plan runs from 2014 to 2019. Therefore a review needs to be complete before the end of 2019.
- 1.2 The overall timetable and process for the Partnership Management Plan review has been endorsed by the NPA and the South Downs Partnership: a light touch look at outcomes and policies, use of case studies to celebrate progress, and the main focus on renewing the delivery framework so we have clear priorities for the next five years. The subject areas for the five-year strategies which will set out these priorities were approved at the January budget workshop.
- 1.3 There will be a series of seven themed strategies which set out the SDNPA priorities for the next five years for that part of the PMP. They set out objectives and priorities in each themed area (see list at 2.1 below), for the period 2019-2024. In combination, these five-year strategies will combine to form the SDNPA element of the revised delivery framework for the PMP and will drive a lot of the content of our Corporate Plan (**see Appendix 2**). For some areas of our work, such as tourism, education and volunteering, Members have already approved strategies but these will be brought up to date with action plans.
- 1.4 As part of the process staff have also started to engage with the South Downs Partnership (SDP) and their own network of partners involved with the particular theme, about the review and their contribution to delivering its outcomes and policies and how they envisage supporting the delivery of outcomes for the next PMP period.

2. Development of the strategies

- 2.1 There are 5 strategies in development covering themes in the PMP, and a further 3 already in place (*in italics*) as follows:

Purpose 1: Landscape & Biodiversity, Cultural Heritage;

Purpose 2: Cycling & Walking, *Education, Volunteers*, Health & Wellbeing;

Duty: Rural Economy, *Tourism*

In addition, work is being done around some specific issues which will be folded back into

the PMP: Dark Night Skies and the Green Infrastructure Framework.

- 2.2 Once approved by Members, the strategies will set out for partners, stakeholders and the wider public clear objectives, a list of projects the South Downs National Park (SDNPA) has already identified, and the criteria we will use to prioritise any other projects which may come to us over the five years. They are also a means of starting to engage with partners to encourage them to start the process of considering how their own work may contribute to the PMP outcomes over the next plan period.
- 2.3 Each strategy is going through a development process which generally includes: internal consultation, a Member workshop, a presentation to the South Downs Partnership and external consultation with relevant external partners. External consultation often includes the technical working groups (or their successor groupings), used to develop the Partnership Management Plan.

The National Park Authority

- 2.4 The corporate plan was approved by the National Park Authority Meeting on 22 September 2016. This included the development of a range of strategies to focus delivery for the PMP in the next five year period.

3. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	It is possible that as specific proposals are developed the relevant SDNPA Committee may be required to approve match funding or in kind support for larger projects.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Proposals in strategies will be monitored by development of expressions of interest for each. These set out in broad terms the resource implications and whether match funding or in-kind support is required to deliver each one.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Any projects arising directly from the implementation of the strategy will be subject to usual VfM tests.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None directly from the report and any procurement exercises that are entered into as a result of projects proposed in any strategy will be undertaken when it is required.
Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	An equalities impact assessment has been carried out for each strategy and is attached as an appendix to this report.
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:	Each strategy will assess the sustainability implications of any proposal within it. The strategies themselves are all based on the principles of sustainability.

1. Living within environmental limits	
2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society	
3. Achieving a sustainable economy	
4. Promoting good governance	
5. Using sound science responsibly	

4. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 4.1 The development of strategies are a means of reducing risk that the resources the SDNPA has available to deliver the PMP are used in the most effective way possible.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Strategies are not aligned to PMP delivery	2	4	An extensive consultative process sits behind the development of each strategy. An internal quality control mechanism is in place to make sure strategies are aligned and consistent.
Partner organisations do not support the strategy outcomes	2	3	Consultation with external partners helps to raise awareness of SDNPA priorities and understanding of partner roles in contributing to strategy outcomes.

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Appendices

1. [Outline of legislative requirements](#)
2. [PMP review diagram](#)

SDNPA Consultees

Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services,

External Consultees

As part of the development process strategies are shared with the South Downs Partnership and relevant stakeholders.

Background Documents

[SDNPA Corporate Plan](#)
[Partnership Management Plan](#)