

Report to	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
Date	<b>20 July 2017</b>
By	<b>Director of Countryside &amp; Policy Management</b>
Title of Report	<b>Cycling and Walking Strategy</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is asked to**

**1) Recommend the Cycling and Walking Strategy to the NPA for approval**

**1. Summary and Background**

- 1.1 As part of its approach to the review of the Partnership Management Plan (PMP), the SDNPA agreed to produce a series of eight themed strategies. They set out objectives and priorities in each themed area, for the period up to and including the five year period of the next management plan (2019-2024), and will eventually be “rolled up” to form the new Delivery Framework.
- 1.2 The strategies show partners, stakeholders and the wider public what objectives have been set, what projects the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) intends to bring forward over that period, and the criteria we will use to prioritise future proposals which are developed. They are also a means to engage partners in the process of considering how they will contribute to the PMP outcomes over the same period.

**2. Development of the strategies**

- 2.1 There are 5 strategies in development with a further 3 already in place (*in italics*) and for which action plans are being developed. The strategies are as follows: Landscape & Biodiversity; Cultural Heritage; Cycling and Walking; *Education, Volunteering, Health & Wellbeing, Tourism* and Rural Economy.
- 2.2 Each strategy goes 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. In the case of the Cycling and Walking Strategy, the development process has included staff workshop sessions, a Member workshop in February 2017, consultation with the Local Access Forum and informal discussions with key officers in partner Local Highway Authorities.
- 2.3 The Cycling and Walking Strategy is attached at **Appendix I**. The Strategy sets out the Authority’s ambitions for cycling and walking across the National Park. It identifies how the Authority will prioritise projects for delivery and proposes an action plan for the next five years. Objectives and actions fall into three main areas: Policy and Development, Access Network and Economic and Social activities. Together these actions are designed to deliver two main outcomes: a network of high quality access routes and a welcoming environment for cycling and walking experiences. The importance of partnership working is also highlighted in the strategy which identifies both Local Authority partners and community stakeholders.

### 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**

<b>Implication</b>	<b>Yes*/No</b>
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes. Approval of the strategy by the Authority. As specific proposals arising from the strategy 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 <a href="#">equalities impact assessment</a> has been carried out for each strategy and approved by the Director of Countryside Policy and Management.
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: 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	The Strategy will assess the sustainability implications of any proposal within it. The strategy itself are all based on the principles of sustainability.

#### 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 the 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 I. Cycling and Walking Strategy

SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; 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](#)

Equality Impact Assessment

