

Agenda Item 13
Report NPA16/18

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	26 April 2018
By	Authority Chair & Chief Executive
Title of Report (Note)	National Parks England (NPE) Response to Defra 25 year Environment Plan

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to note the NPE collective prioritisation of issues arising from the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 22 March 2018 the NPA considered a report setting out a summary and analysis of the Defra 25 year Environment Plan. The paper highlighted the key issues for the South Downs National Park and noted that the 25 year Environment Plan would have a major influence on the Authority's current PMP review and creation of its 2019-24 SDNP Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 In addition to this work NPE (comprising of Chairs and National Park Officers from the English National Parks) has considered what should be the top priorities in terms of engagement with the plan, in order to inform communication with the Department and Ministers.


2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 The Policy context for the 25 year Environment Plan was set out in the March 22nd paper to the NPA. That paper stated that there are plenty of opportunities for National Parks to become involved in the delivery of the Plan and that Members would be kept fully informed of developments.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 The NPE prioritisation is attached at appendix I of this report. This is subject to further discussion by NPE at its meeting on 18 April 2018. Any changes arising from this consideration will be provided to Members at the meeting.
- 3.2 On the basis of the analysis undertaken by NPE and input provided by NPAs, NPE is proposing to adopt the following in relation to the 25 year environment plan:

Highest Priorities

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- (a) Engaging with the 21st Century review of National Parks/ AONBs.
 - (b) Engaging with the design and delivery of a new environmental land management system.
 - (c) Influencing how environmental net gain is embedding into planning.
 - (d) Informing the establishment of landscape indicators and metrics to measure landscape enhancement and beauty.
 - (e) Engaging with the development of new environmental principles and the new independent environment watchdog.
 - (f) Enabling NPAs' to receive funding and be involved in the Government's 3yr health and wellbeing programme.
 - (g) Securing support for landscape enhancement in National Parks through supporting demonstrators and the National Park Management Plans.
 - (h) Ensuring NPA input to the design of the new woodland creation grant scheme.
 - (i) Making sure NPAs' work on heritage is captured by Government's implementation of its Heritage Statement 2017.
 - (j) Ensure NP Management/ Partnership Plans are integrated into the new Natural Capital Plans being developed by Defra's Agencies.

Not so high priorities

3.3 This information is presented for Members' information and will not directly impact any local activity arising from the plan. However it is important, to ensure consistency, that Members are aware of the proposed national response to this plan.

4. Options & cost implications

4.1 None directly, though the plan will have a major influence on the PMP review and the creation of our 2019-24 SDNP Corporate Plan.

5. Next steps

5.1 There are no steps to be taken by the SDNPA in relation to this paper. NPE will use the prioritisation to inform its communication with the Department and Ministers.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	See 4 above
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	N/A
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	N/A
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the	There are no equalities implications arising directly from this paper.

Equality Act 2010?	
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	N/A
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	N/A
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	N/A
Are there any Data Protection implications?	N/A
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	N/A

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 7.1 There are no risks arising directly from the report, however The 21st century Hobhouse Review may present both opportunities and risks for National Parks and AONBs, as it will look at financing and governance.

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Chief Executive

South Downs National Park Authority

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Appendices	I. NPE ANALYSIS OF 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Monitoring Officer;
External Consultees	If none state 'none'
Background Documents	NPA papers 22 March 2018