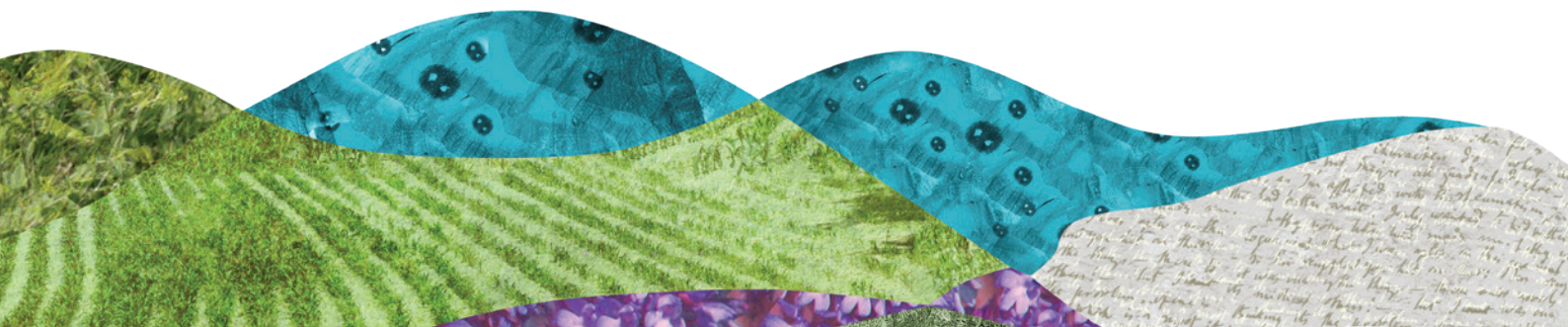




SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK CORPORATE PLAN 2018–19



FOREWORD

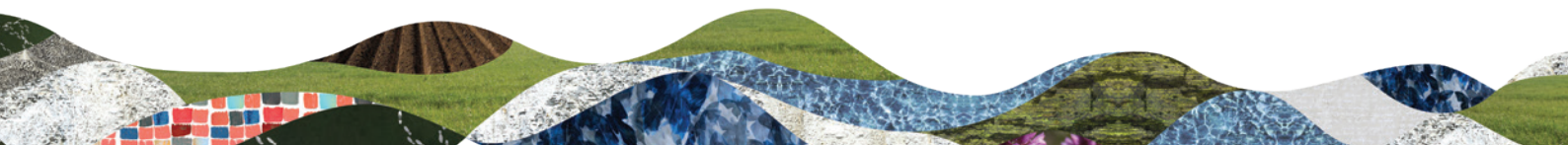
This is the South Downs National Park Authority's (SDNPA's) third Corporate Plan. As in previous years the focus is on the outcomes and objectives established in our first Partnership Management Plan. This makes it easy to track the progress of the Authority against the ambitions we set at our first creation. This document makes clear that we have outperformed these expectations.

The Authority is only one of many partners delivering the Partnership Management Plan which was created as a vision for the entire National Park and all those responsible for it. That vision remains as relevant as ever and we are in the midst of a major exercise with our partners to refresh it for 2020 to 2025. This Corporate Plan is a bridge to the new joint action plan for 2020/25. It provides a quantified statement of the continuity and consistency of approach that underlies everything we do.

Continuity is more important than ever in the current uncertain political and economic climate. I am pleased to report that National Parks are at the centre of the national debate on the future of farming, on the shape of Brexit, the new National Planning Policy Framework and the delivery of the 25 year plan for the environment. We are a key delivery mechanism for the Government's pledge that this will be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it. SDNPA already possesses the bottom-up partnership plans necessary to make this a reality through our extensive network of farm clusters, our strong partnership programme, our promotion of neighbourhood planning and our encouragement of Whole Estate Plans, to name but a few of the examples that follow.

It is timely that the Glover Review of National Parks has just been launched. Its terms of reference make clear that it will not reduce existing protections but it is certain to increase the pressure for the National Park family to become more inclusive, accessible and proactive. SDNPA relishes this challenge and is well prepared to rise to it. In our short lifetime we have developed a strong reputation for innovation and this Corporate Plan covers many examples within its tight structure.

**Trevor Beattie,
Chief Executive,
South Downs National Park Authority**



Strategic priorities

A THRIVING LIVING LANDSCAPE

1



Conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage

MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- Local Plan adopted
- Increase in Ha of chalk grassland
- % of chalk grassland in good or improving condition
- Increase in Ha of Heathland
- % of Heathland in good or improving condition
- % woodland in management
- Completion of condition monitoring of known scheduled monuments within the SDNP
- Condition monitoring report to Historic England
- Projects delivered to programme

KEY PRIORITIES	WE WILL:
Future of farming and agri-environment work	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Influence national policy for future agri-environment schemes and if successful, deliver government pilot for lowland farmland2. Promote a consistent approach across farm clusters
Submit and adopt a sound local plan that supports the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes	Successfully defend our approach at examination
Develop a Natural Capital approach for the SDNP	Agree an integrated work programme for ecosystems services, natural capital and green infrastructure delivery
PROJECTS	WE WILL:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop landscape scale projects which restore and manage of chalk landscapes2. Deliver year 2 of Woodland Trust partnership programme helping woodland owners with support to enable sustainable management3. Help the South Downs Forestry Champions group develop an action plan4. Deliver Phase I of Archaeology on the Edge5. Develop arts and cultural projects which focus on the special qualities and promote social inclusion
CORE WORK	WE WILL:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complete the ChaMP project to improve the quality of groundwater in the Brighton Chalk2. Deliver year 3 of Heathlands Reunited creating bigger better, joined up heathland in the South Downs National Park.3. Deliver local environmental improvements via on the ground projects4. Deliver priority actions from the Climate Change Adaptation Plan5. Influence national networks by demonstrating approaches for payments for eco-systems services6. With Historic England undertake condition monitoring of scheduled monuments, prioritise and carry out conservation work

Strategic priorities

PEOPLE CONNECTED TO PLACES

2



Promote understanding and enjoyment through volunteering & learning, high quality access management.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- Relevant planning and other permissions for Centurion Way in place
- Increased awareness of SDNP in YouGOV poll
- Proportion of agreed access sites which were due to be maintained annually which were maintained
- Number of schools within the 10 k buffer that use SD for outdoor learning
- Projects delivered to programme
- Total number of volunteer days delivered by the SDVRS

KEY PRIORITY	WE WILL:
Position National Park as a visitor destination	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase the awareness of the South Downs National Park, particularly in the south east of England2. Develop mutually beneficial promotional opportunities, including use of the shared identity between National Park based tourism businesses and the SDNPA
PROJECTS	WE WILL:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop Centurion Way from West Dean to the South Downs Way as a 'shovel ready project'2. Agree approach to Health and Well-being work, establish relevant partnerships, identify sources of funding and develop projects to promote health and well-being3. Develop new sustainable partnerships with the arts and culture sector leading to development and delivery of projects4. Implement Lewes North Street Quarter Community Heritage project
CORE WORK	WE WILL:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish a maintenance programme for Access Land within the South Downs National Park and carry out agreed proportion of maintenance for 2018-192. Diversify the range and types of activity supported by the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service3. Facilitate our learning approach through the Our South Downs partnership and other targeted learning activities including:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. John Muir Award in the South Downs National Parkb. Geocaching





Build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism – towards a sustainable future.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- At least one hub or gateway delivered during 2018-19
- 10 Tourism sector Businesses undergone intensive Discover England training programme
- Deliver £1 million worth of projects in accordance with the priorities in the SDNPA IDP by 2021
- Projects delivered to programme

PROJECTS

WE WILL:

1. Deliver Discover England's National Park programme to deliver increased SDNP exposure and new South Downs bookable tourism experiences tailored towards international markets.
2. Develop hubs and gateways to the National Park to provide visitor and accommodation information
3. Improve the website to deliver business support for the visitor economy.

CORE WORK

WE WILL:

1. Ensure infrastructure which supports the development of the National Park is delivered in a timely fashion by:
 - a. Managing an effective CIL collection process
 - b. Using the Infrastructure Business Plan to prioritise and identify the location of infrastructure projects
 - c. Managing S106 obligations effectively
2. Provide support for community planning by;
 - a. Facilitating the timely delivery of neighbourhood development plans
 - b. Ensuring that the 5 year housing land supply of the SDNP is not prejudiced by a lack of progress by NDPs
 - c. Providing timely support, advice and guidance to communities pursuing a community led plan
 - d. Endorsing of Parish Plans, Village Design Statements and Local Landscape Character Assessments



Organisational priorities

A CONFIDENT, SECURE AND RESPECTED ORGANISATION



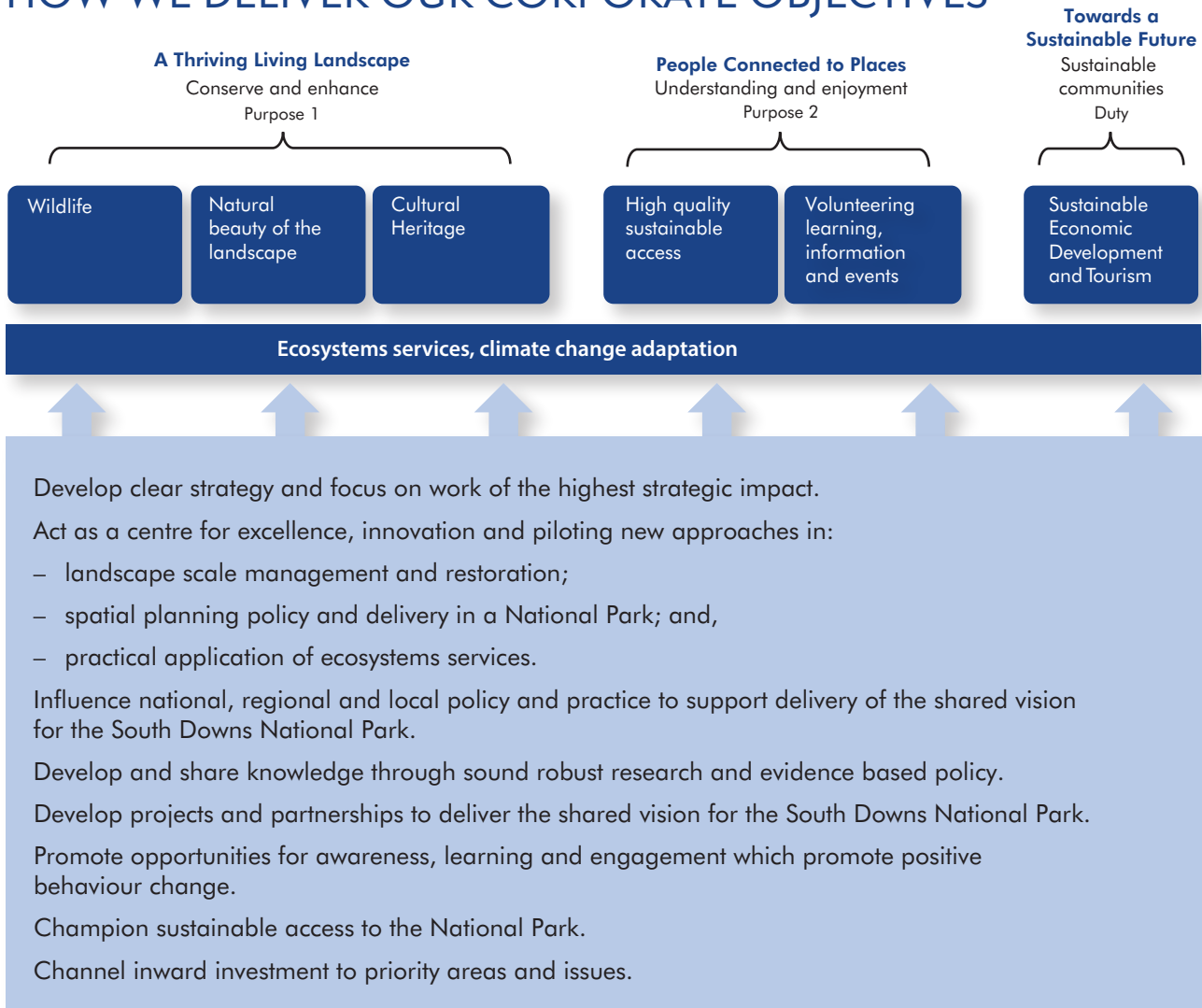
MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- PMP delivery plan agreed and published by April 2019
- References to the SDNP PMP in strategic plans of other organisations
- % of planning applications by type dealt with in a timely manner:
 - a) major applications determined within 13 weeks
 - b) minor applications determined within 8 weeks
 - c) other applications determined within 8 weeks
- Customer satisfaction with the planning service
- £X of income secured by the South Downs National Park Trust and transferred to projects

KEY PRIORITY	WE WILL:
OUR SERVICES Make correct and high quality decisions on development management proposals	1. Deliver a robust and well performing development management service 2. Work with host authorities to improve the quality of their decision making and performance
KEY PRIORITIES	WE WILL:
OUR ORGANISATION Increase the income available for projects delivering the Partnership Management Plan	1. Continue to work with the Trust to encourage a culture of philanthropy for the National Park, promoting legacy giving, donations and visitor payback 2. Pursue commercial partnerships that help us deliver our Purpose and Duties
Drive efficiencies in new contracts	Complete retendering of the GIS contract
Lead the review of the Partnership Management Plan and develop an approach to keeping the PMP delivery framework relevant and refreshed	1. Engage partners, key stakeholders and staff in delivering a revised PMP delivery plan for launch in April 2019 2. Work with partners to demonstrate how they have delivered their responsibilities and commitments to delivering the PMP 3. Complete thematic evidence reviews and development of strategic priorities for the PMP and the next corporate plan (Defra 8pp)
Keep accommodation outside of the South Downs Centre under review in order to meet changing business needs in the longer term	Implement outcomes from the accommodation review for area offices
KEY PRIORITY	WE WILL:
OUR PEOPLE Foster a culture where our people are empowered and supported to deliver to their potential	1. Implement key recommendations from the culture group 2. Carry out a staff survey and define measures and targets 3. Implement the outcomes of the member survey



HOW WE DELIVER OUR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES



OUR SHARED VISION



South Downs National Park Authority

South Downs Centre

North Street

Midhurst

West Sussex

GU29 9DH

01730 814810