

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	16 May 2019
By	Director of Countryside & Policy Management
Title of Report Decision	Approach to Producing the Revised Partnership Management Plan

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to:

- 1. Agree the draft outcomes and priorities for inclusion in the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) (Appendix 1).**
- 2. Note the current draft Joint Action Plan (Appendix 2).**
- 3. Agree the approach to reporting on the PMP to the Authority, partners and wider public (paras 3.4 -3.7 and Appendix 3).**
- 4. Agree the approach to restructuring and to communicating the PMP (para 3.7 and Appendix 4).**
- 5. Delegate authority to the Director of Countryside Policy & Management, in consultation with the Chair of the PMP Task & Finish Group, to make any further changes to the draft joint action plan arising from the Authority's deliberations prior to final submission to the Authority in July.**

I. Introduction

- I.1 The purpose of the report is to request that the Authority agrees the revised Outcomes and Priorities for the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) and the proposed process and next steps for publication by the end of the year.
- I.2 A PMP Member Task and Finish Group (PMP T&FG) was established, which first met in February 2018, to oversee the process and help determine priorities, and this has worked in close collaboration with officers throughout. The Policy and Resources Committee have previously agreed the overall approach to the review and have received regular updates on progress. At their meeting on 25 April 2019 the Committee resolved to; endorse and recommend approval of the outcomes and priorities; endorse the approach to communicating and reporting on the plan; it also noted the approach to restructuring and re-writing parts of the PMP.
- I.3 The 2050 vision and the 57 policies in the original plan remain unchanged. The new elements are a revised and re-ordered set of ten outcomes for 2050, which now include health & wellbeing, supported by a set of 21 priority programmes. These priorities are a new element of the PMP and create a framework within which project commitments from a range of partners are being captured. The revised outcomes, the priorities and the project list form the key elements of the Joint Action Plan for the next five years of the PMP.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 National Park Authorities are required by Section 66 of the Environment Act 1995, to produce a Management Plan and to keep it under review. Section 66 (4) specifies that “a National Park Authority shall review its plan within the period of 5 years of its operational date and, after the first review, at intervals of not more than five years”. Section 66 (6) (a-c) requires National Park Authorities to determine if any amendments should be made, make them and then publish a report on the review specifying any amendments made.
- 2.2 The PMP review has given an opportunity for a range of different partners to demonstrate how they have contributed to date and make commitments for the next five years. All of the work of officers and Members to date, has been developed with support from a wide range of partners.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 The process of the review began in late 2016, developing an agreed approach with Members and Partners. The review was broken into various stages. The first was to review and celebrate progress in delivering the commitments since the launch of the PMP in 2013. We then looked at changes in the external environment that might have an impact on the next 5 years of the PMP. The original 11 outcomes for 2050 were reviewed and priorities for the next 5 years considered. The PMP T&FG, with Strategy Leads, undertook a rigorous exercise in slimming the longlist of priorities down from over 100 to 21. Officers have undertaken extensive engagement with over 200 partners in order to identify over a hundred projects which will deliver against the priorities, and as part of this two joint sessions with Members and partners were held in September and March.
- 3.2 During the review process, a number of revisions to outcomes were suggested. This was not the original intention of the review, but following the examination of changes in the external environment and following the consideration of a reduced number of priorities by the PMP T&FG; it was decided that the outcomes should be revised. The changes suggested were: the inclusion of a specific outcome related to health and well-being; a consolidation of the cultural heritage outcomes into one and the consolidation of two outcomes relating to skills and training and economic development. The revised outcomes, of which there are now 10 rather than 11, and the 21 proposed priorities are at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 As set out in paragraph 3.1 a lot of work has been undertaken with partners in developing a list of projects and other work that will contribute to the delivery of the outcomes and the priorities over the next 5 years. This is pulled together in a draft joint action plan, which is at **Appendix 2**. Members should note that this still represents work in progress as projects are still being put forward by third parties. Since the new PMP will be for the next five years, new projects which contribute to the 21 priorities will continue to emerge after the relaunch.
- 3.4 The above changes to the PMP also require a revision to the set of indicators that we will be using to measure delivery against the plan. When the PMP was first launched there were originally 35 indicators, designed to measure progress (direction of travel) towards the outcomes, rather than setting targets. Data is collected annually where possible, but most datasets are supplied by third parties. In drawing up a revised indicator set we have made a comparison against the emerging indicators for the Defra 25 year plan to ensure maximum synergy.
- 3.5 The key areas for development of new indicators included cultural heritage (as the existing indicators are not fit for purpose); health and well-being (as this is a new outcome); climate change adaptation (which, as a result of DEFRA guidance all National Parks in England will be required to integrate into their PMP reporting) and ecosystem services and natural capital. The PMP T&FG has asked for further work on indicators which will help to deliver a bold, ambitious and measurable plan that clearly demonstrates the difference being made through delivery of a revised joint action plan. Work is underway to define these new measures.
- 3.6 Agreement of the outcomes and priorities will allow this work to be completed in time for final recommendations to be made to the July NPA meeting. The PMP T&FG and officers

propose to adopt a similar approach to reporting on PMP delivery as that adopted by Dartmoor National Park, see **Appendix 3**. This is based on simple presentation and some narrative reporting alongside what quantitative information we produce.

- 3.7 As previously reported to Members, and endorsed at the joint NPA/South Downs Partnership workshop in March, the revised PMP will be communicated using a number of different mechanisms. This will include a reformatted written document, dedicated web pages, a small at a glance document and a campaign 'Your South Downs' to support the launch at the end of the year. The revised format will be developed over the next few months, with draft text being approved by the NPA in July. Once the basic text has been approved by Members, final drafting and proofing will be managed by the Communications Team. In addition, an annual document setting out progress, linked to the priorities and outcomes will be produced, it will also link to the annual monitoring information where we are able to produce it annually. The proposed structure is at **Appendix 4**.

4. Options & cost implications

- 4.1 None directly. The cost of reprinting the PMP and the associated communications products will form part of the budget for this financial year. The revised PMP will drive programme expenditure over the following five years.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 We aim to bring forward to the July NPA the draft joint action plan (with final outcomes, priorities and project commitments along with draft text) and final indicators for approval. We aim to complete drafting and proofing and have all elements of the plan agreed for publication by the end of the year. It is therefore important that Members are aware that any content they receive in July will be draft rather than in the proposed final format. This is to ensure a consistent approach to drafting which is best managed by the Communications team.

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes, the full NPA in July will receive a further paper as detailed in para 5.1
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	See 4 above
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The PMP is the key mechanism for bringing together a wide range of partners to deliver against the purposes of the National Park.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes. The emerging outcomes and priority programmes have no direct equalities implications. The inclusion of health and wellbeing and activities in relation to affordable housing and volunteering will contribute to providing access and engagement for all groups. Projects and activities arising from delivery of the PMP will be subject to equality impact assessments at the appropriate time
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Crime &	None

Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Data Protection implications?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	An environmental and sustainability assessment is being prepared – this will be an update of the assessment for the original PMP in 2013

6. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Inadequate resource commitment from partners to deliver against priorities.	Low	High	Extensive process of consultation both one-to-one and using the South Downs Partnership. Written commitments by partners and reporting framework.
Rapidly changing external context renders parts of revised plan obsolete.	Medium	High	Entire review process has taken account in so far as is possible external factors such as Defra 25 Year Plan, Brexit and Glover Review. New framework is flexible enough to accommodate changes of emphasis during the five year period.
SDNPA resources spread too thinly to deliver across the whole plan.	Medium	Medium	Corporate Plan process and medium term financial strategy. Generation of new income.

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Appendices

1. Revised outcomes and priorities
2. Draft Joint Action Plan
3. Example of reporting used by Dartmoor
4. Proposed structure

SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager; Countryside and Policy Managers.
External Consultees	Extensive range of partners see above.
Background Documents	Report to P&R Committee April 2019 Appendix 1 Appendix 2 Appendix 3 Appendix 4

