



South Downs

National Park Authority

Agenda Item 12

Report NPA19/20-14

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	1 October 2019
By	Performance and Projects Manager
Title of Report Decision	Approval of Revised Partnership Management Plan

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to:

- 1. Agree the content of the draft Partnership Management Plan as set out at Appendix 1;**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Countryside and Policy Management, in consultation with the Chair and of the Authority and the Chair of the Partnership Management Plan Task and Finish Group, to undertake the required statutory notifications set out in section 66 (7&8) of the Environment Act 1995;**
- 3. Note that any responses received through the statutory notifications and the final proposed Partnership Management Plan, will be brought to the NPA Meeting on 19 December 2019 for consideration and approval.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request that the Authority approve the content of the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) and the proposed process and next steps for publication.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 National Park Authorities are required by legislation, to produce a Management Plan and to keep it under review at least every 5 years. The Act 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 first South Downs Partnership Management Plan (PMP) was launched in 2014. It took as its starting point the Purposes & Duty and the Vision and Special Qualities which had been developed as part of the State of the Park Report 2012. The two documents were based on over two years of very extensive engagement with the general public, communities, businesses, landowners and environmental organisations. The original PMP took a long-term approach (with Outcomes for 2050) but included a five-year Delivery Plan which set out projects from a wide range of stakeholders. Its development was overseen by the SDNPA but with strategic advice from the South Downs Partnership.
- 2.3 The review has given an opportunity for partners to demonstrate what has been achieved since 2014 and to make commitments for the next five years. The work of SDNPA officers

and Members has been developed with support from over 200 organisations who have contributed new projects, and with strategic advice from the South Downs Partnership.

3. Development of the Plan

- 3.1 The start of the review process was in January 2017, when the initial approach was set out and a joint meeting of SDNPA members and the South Downs Partnership agreed how the process should be undertaken. It was agreed that the basic framework was still fit for purpose and that the emphasis should be on delivery over the next five years rather than extensive rewrites. Five subsequent workshops were held with partners and stakeholders to help review the outcomes, set new priorities and agree an approach to reporting the PMP, the last took place in March 2019. Officers developed a number of strategies to identify priorities in key areas. These reviews were used as the basis for detailed engagement with well over 200 stakeholders across different sectors such as biodiversity, access or education, and to develop the content of the PMP.
- 3.2 A Member Task and Finish Group, reporting to the P&R Committee, was set up in February 2018 to scrutinise and support the more detailed development of the outcomes and priorities. It met on 13 occasions and completed its work in July 2019. As the PMP review progressed it became apparent that a more extensive rewrite would be necessary, not least because of the extensive changes in the external environment since 2014.
- 3.3 The P&R Committee has supported the review of the PMP throughout, and received four reports in addition to receiving updates, approving outcomes and priorities for recommendation to the NPA and agreeing the approach to monitoring and reporting. In May 2019 the NPA agreed the new framework of outcomes and priorities, the proposed approach to reporting and the communication plan.
- 3.4 The original PMP had eleven 2050 Outcomes. In the revised plan, two of the previous outcomes have been combined and, importantly, a new outcome added relating to Health and Well-being. Below these, 21 priorities for the next five years have been identified and these provide the connection between the long term outcomes and the projects of the contributing partners (including the SDNPA). The text of the PMP has been restructured and substantially revised to reflect these changes. Members are asked to approve the revised text for the PMP at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5 Laid out under each of the 21 priorities are a range of contributing projects that the SDNPA or its Partners will deliver, with nearly 100 confirmed and many more planned or under development. The action plan at **Appendix 2** sets out those that are confirmed. This full list will form part of the final PMP but will not be printed, because it will constantly evolve, but will be published online.
- 3.6 Sustainability and equalities assessments have been carried out. An initial Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was carried out in July 2019 **Appendix 3**. The feedback from this has been taken into account in the proposed text. The equalities assessments for each outcome have been completed by relevant staff **Appendix 4**.
- 3.7 Regular monitoring of progress - in delivery of confirmed projects and trends in key indicators - will be carried out. Where the SDNPA is entirely responsible for delivery of an indicator it is possible to set quantitative targets, but this is not the case for the majority of the indicators in the PMP.
- 3.8 A high level assessment of the RAG status of every partner-led project, including outputs and case studies, will be carried out annually and published in a two page assessment. (All SDNPA led projects will of course be subject to our much more detailed mid-term and end of project reporting). In addition, we will continue monitoring overarching indicators. Where possible we have retained these indicators from PMP 2014-19 to enable long term trends to be identified. The revised set of 40 indicators has been produced and will form the basis for ongoing monitoring and (where it is feasible) target setting. Progress against all of the PMP indicators will be presented annually, where applicable this will include trends over time. The indicator set is at **Appendix 5**.

- 3.9 It is intended that an external contract is let for an independent review of the process to create the revised PMP, to enable feedback from Members, officers and partners. It is anticipated that this will cost in the region of £20-30,000 and will be included in the upcoming budget round. The review might also include suggestions for how the SDNPA and its partners may need to adapt or change their approach if insufficient progress towards the long term vision is being delivered. It may be prudent to consider carrying out this exercise each time the PMP is reviewed or once every 10 years, in order to develop a fully evidenced statement of the impact PMP implementation has.

4. Communication approach

- 4.1 A specific approach to communicating the PMP, including target audiences, key messages and what mechanisms will be used, was developed alongside the review process. This will be summarised in a presentation to the NPA meeting.

- 4.2 Partner engagement in the development of the Outcomes, Priorities and committed projects has taken the form of:

- Joint workshops between Members and the South Downs Partnership to develop the Outcomes and Priorities.
- Strategy Leads liaising with sector groups in the development of their priorities and talking in detail to partners about potential projects.
- Workshops with parish and town councils to raise awareness of the review and to gain ideas from communities about what they could contribute to the PMP.

- 4.3 Awareness raising about the new PMP and the Outcomes and Priorities for the National Park for the next five years will be built by the following:

- An “At a glance” booklet in plain English explaining key outcomes and priorities.
- Full printed report – with Outcomes and Delivery Mechanisms upfront.
- Online information which will give access to more detail via outcomes and priorities. It will also include background information, evidence, the full project lists and FAQs
- Media releases will be used to raise awareness of the plan once it is due to be published online and in hard copy
- Bespoke information will be offered to Parishes for their newsletters and magazines. The e-newsletter will also be used.
- Extensive use of social media to publicise the launch and press releases, case studies and reporting will also be publicised using social media

- 4.4 The website will be redesigned to show more clearly how the 10 new outcomes will be delivered. There will also be a revised hard copy publication alongside the launch of the online material. The structure for the revised plan is at Appendix A. In addition into a longer publication, an at a glance booklet will also be produced, no more than two sides of A4.

- 4.5 An awareness raising and public engagement campaign called ‘Your South Downs’ will run alongside the revised PMP highlighting different aspects of the plan monthly.

5. Options & cost implications

- 5.1 Resources to review the plan have to date comprised mainly staff time. There were some direct costs, totalling £4,295 associated with the engagement of a consultancy firm to help manage a large workshop with partners in September 2018

- 5.2 It is anticipated that the cost of printing the revised PMP document and the ‘At a Glance’ document will be approximately £9,000.

6. Next steps

- 6.1 Part of the process for developing a Management Plan includes submission to the Secretary of State and notification to principal authorities within or partly within the National Park

boundary.

- 6.2 Following receipt of any observations from the statutory notifications the final proposed PMP will be presented to the December NPA meeting, together with the responses for consideration and approval.

7. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes, final wording will be brought to the NPA meeting on 19 December
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Delivery of the PMP will have significant resource implication and these are picked up during the budgeting process for the SDNPA itself. Similarly Partners will have their own budget making processes for their projects. The cost for printing the PMP and the at a glance booklet is approximately £9,000
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	N/A
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- Equalities assessments for the Outcomes in the PMP are attached as part of the appendices
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
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 Data Protection implications?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	A sustainability assessment was undertaken as part of the process and is part of the appendices to this report.

8. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Plan does not deliver agreed priorities	2	2	<p>Keeping the plan under review and monitoring delivery regularly will identify any issues with delivery of priorities.</p> <p>Changes in technology and or drivers in the external environment will be kept under review and used to address concerns over delivery of priorities</p>
Lack of capacity to deliver elements of the plan	3	3	<p>Keeping the plan under review and monitoring delivery regularly will identify any issues with capacity</p> <p>The SDNPA will work collaboratively with partners to identify and issues and address them as appropriate.</p>

ANNE REHILL

Performance and Projects Manager South Downs National Park Authority

Contact Officer: Anne Rehill – Performance and Projects Manager

Tel: 01730 819217

email: Anne.Rehill@southdowns.gov.uk

Appendices

1. PMP draft text
2. Action plan
3. Sustainability appraisal
4. Equalities assessments
5. Indicators

SDNPA Consultees

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

External Consultees

None'

Background Documents

[Approach to revising the PMP - P&R Committee April 2019](#)
[Appendix 1](#)
[Appendix 2](#)
[Appendix 3](#)
[Appendix 4](#)
[Approach to indicators – P&R Committee June 2019](#)
[Appendix 1](#)

