



South Downs

National Park Authority

Agenda Item 13
Report NPA20/21-18

Report to	National Park Authority
Date	17 December 2020
By	Director of Countryside Policy and Management, and Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy Lead.
Title of Report Decision	South Downs National Park Authority Climate Change Commitments

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to:

- 1. Note the climate and nature emergency that has been declared by a number of partner organisations**
- 2. Agree the Authority's commitment to contribute to addressing the climate and nature emergency by:**
 - a) Setting a target for the South Downs National Park Authority to become a 'Net-Zero' Organisation by 2030;**
 - b) Working with our constituent Local Authorities and other partners, in particular local communities and landowners, to deliver actions that respond effectively to the climate and nature emergency; and**
 - c) Working towards the South Downs National Park becoming 'Net-Zero with Nature' by 2040, as set out in Appendix 1**
- 3. Adopt the action plan for delivery of these commitments as set out at appendix 2.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1** In Late 2019 /early in 2020 the SDNPA considered a draft Climate Change approach and Action Plan via two member workshops and discussion forum. The proposed plan set out the Authority's intended commitment to addressing the climate and nature emergency by;
 - a) Setting a target for the South Downs National Park Authority to become a 'Net-Zero' Organisation by 2030;
 - b) Agreeing to work with our constituent Local Authorities and other partners, in particular local communities and landowners, to deliver actions that respond effectively to the climate and nature emergency;
 - c) Working towards the South Downs National Park becoming 'Net-Zero with Nature' by 2040, as set out in **Appendix 1**.
 - d) Creating a climate change action fund reserve as part of the 2020/21 budget.
- 1.2** A programme of work began after the 2019 workshop and progress to date is captured at Appendix 2.
- 1.3** The proposed 2030 and 2040 commitments were further considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting in November 2020, and at a workshop prior to that

meeting. The committee resolved to recommend the commitments to NPA, and noted activity to date.

- 1.4 Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and changes in the way the authority took decisions in the early part of the crisis, the climate change action plan has not yet been formally adopted by the Authority, however steps were taken to establish a climate change action fund reserve as part of the 2020/21 budget and this has been used to fund some projects.
- 1.5 The Action Plan is intended as a 5-Year Programme, so some aspects of this are yet to be fully initiated. The Action Plan, as shared with Members in March 2020 was still in draft format and therefore it lacked some detail on specific objectives and actions.
- 1.6 It has been recognised that to deliver the Action Plan all three Directorates of the Authority need to commit time and resources. The Corporate Plan and budgeting process will address this resource planning. Work is underway to identify an Officer lead for each strand of work, and to make better links with individual Team Plans and Development Plans.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 The SDNPA has a key role in meeting the challenges arising from the climate and nature emergency. It has existing Management Plan and Local Plan policies. The NPA also has a range of tools and approaches in terms of advocacy, influence and delivery.
- 2.2 Through our new Local Plan and 2020-25 Partnership Management Plan there is a need to co-ordinate our work on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. The issues are cross-cutting and delivery needs to be resourced effectively across the whole Authority. The Climate Change commitments and Action Plan have been developed to help us to better achieve this.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 Arising from the original member workshop (Nov 2019) SDNPA members requested additional work be undertaken to better understand:
 - The up-to-date evidence for the National Park area in terms of carbon and overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the role of each sector and how the biggest reductions could be made;
 - What the SDNPA could do directly to address the challenge, in terms of its own operations and business continuity;
 - How we might best be able to forge partnerships with other reporting authorities to achieve this shared purpose;
 - How we might use our convening role to achieve the necessary join-up and shared action with other external partners;
 - Areas that were outside the scope of the SDNPA.
- 3.2 The results of this initial work are set out at **Appendix I** and have been incorporated into the draft action plan.
- 3.3 A Members 'micro-briefing' was held on 7 May 2020. This presented an opportunity to consider and discuss the main priority areas for the NPA. This gave a strong emphasis on working with local communities, working with our constituent Local Authorities and supporting the rural economy/green growth.
- 3.4 The priority areas that are included in the Action Plan are:
 - Delivering 'Net Zero with Nature' – Linking Nature Recovery and Climate Action;
 - Work with the wider National Parks family to establish the NPAs as leaders in meeting the challenge presented by Climate Change;
 - Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park by 2040;
 - Working with our local communities – supporting them to become more resilient;

- Working with our Local Authorities and Sector Partners to deliver positive action;
- Support rural businesses to adapt their business operations and transition to a low-carbon economy.

3.5 Although not yet formally adopted by the NPA, since March 2020 progress has been made on a number of these areas. The attached action plan (**Appendix 2**) includes an overview on the progress that has been made, and highlights areas where the NPA needs to focus more effort.

3.6 This report seeks member agreement of the commitments set out above at para 1.1 ('a' to 'c') and the action plan, set out **Appendix 2**.

4. Options & cost implications

4.1 A climate change reserve has been created to provide resources to support this work. To date the only funds allocated have been to the Community Energy Pathway Project. (c£30k). The remaining funds (c£110k) are yet to be allocated.

4.2 In developing the commitments and action plan members and officers discussed a range of options at previous workshops. The proposed action plan and commitments are the result of these considerations and are considered the best approach to delivering the Authority's contribution to addressing climate change.

5. Next steps

5.1 Subject to member agreement the further work will be undertaken to deliver the commitments and associated action plan.

5.2 Progress on delivery against the action plan will be reported back to P&R Committee as required.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No – however performance against the action plan will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The Action Plan will need sufficient staff resource across the NPA to support its delivery. Further work has been done to define specific staff/resource requirements to help with delivery. This includes a CPM lead and lead officer for each work stream.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The Action Plan has been developed in response to the UK's Climate Emergency. Money spent on positive action now will offset the costs of Climate Change Impacts in the future.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No implications arising from the proposals in this report.
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes, no adverse implications have been identified through the development of the action plan. Individual projects will be assessed as they are developed.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	There are no Human Rights implications arising from this proposal.

Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None.
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	There are no Health and Safety implications arising directly from the proposal. Individual projects and activities will be subject to risk assessment at the appropriate time
Are there any Data Protection implications?	None.
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	The Climate Change Action Plan is wholly compliant with the five principles of our Sustainability Strategy. 1 - Living within environmental limits. 2 -Ensuring a strong healthy and just society. 3 - Achieving a sustainable economy. 5 - Promoting good governance. 6 - Using sound science responsibly.

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
The UK Government declared a climate change emergency in May 2019. This is in recognition of the existential threat it presents.	High	High	SDNPA Climate Change Risk Assessment & Adaptation plan. SDNPA Climate Change Action Plan set out a range of actions we are able to take to mitigate and adapt to the worst of these risks. UK Climate Change Committee considers that the necessary transition is possible, with technologies and approaches we already have available to us.

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Appendices	1. Draft Climate Change Approach 2. Climate Change Action Plan
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager
External Consultees	None
Background Documents	https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SDNPA-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy.pdf https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SDNPA-Climate-Change-Action-Plan.pdf https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Delivering-Net-Zero-for-nature.pdf SDNPA Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

Draft Climate Change Approach & Action Plan March 2020

Overall Context

1. National Policy and Local Policy

- 1.1 There has been increased levels of public concern around the impacts of Climate Change and the existential threat it poses. In recognition of this the UK Government declared a climate emergency in May 2019. It has committed the UK to becoming a 'Net Zero' economy by 2050.
- 1.2 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) advises the UK Government. It reports to Parliament on the state of progress bi-annually. Its latest report indicates that the UK is currently failing to maintain the necessary trajectory to meet this target.
- 1.3 The CCC consider the target to be achievable, with technologies and approaches we have available. But it will need rapid action to meet this ambitious target. It will require a transformation in our economy and our approach to land use.
- 1.4 The CCCs report 'Land Use – Policies for Net Zero in Land Use' (2019) recognizes the role that land use, agriculture and forestry could play in reducing emissions. It estimated these sectors accounted for 12% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.5 With the right support farmers and land-managers can play a significant role in reducing these emissions and locking up carbon. To this end, new Agricultural and Environmental Bills are progressing through Parliament.

2. UK Clean Growth Strategy

- 2.1 We should also recognise that the rapid transition to 'Net-zero' presents opportunities for the wider UK economy. To meet the national carbon budgets for the periods 2023 to 2027, and 2028 to 2032 requires a rapid acceleration in the shift to a low-carbon economy.
- 2.2 The UK's Clean Growth Strategy was published in April 2018. It sets out the Government's ambition to grow the economy while cutting Green House Gas emissions. The strategy promotes technological innovation, creation of high value jobs and industry and the development of low-carbon expertise and technology.

3. The 25 Year Environment Plan – Responding to Climate Change at a Landscape Scale.

- 3.1 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP) was published on the 11th January 2018. The important role that National Parks play as delivery bodies is frequently referenced.
- 3.2 The NPAs purposes of 'conserving and enhancing' the natural environment is also strongly emphasised. The plan sets out a number of mechanisms that could help to drive or fund this work. These include:-
 - The need for NPAs and their partners to work at a Landscape Scale to deliver climate change Mitigation and Adaptation.
 - Establishing the principle of Biodiversity 'net gain' within the planning System.
 - Design and delivery of a new Environmental Land Management System – where the principle aim is environmental enhancement.
 - The co-design and delivery of 14 natural capital plans – with Local Nature Partnerships.
 - Establishment of 25 new catchment/landscape scale 'nature recovery' areas.
 - Expanding the use of natural flood management solutions.
 - Work with landowners and farmers to identify and target areas that would most benefit from woodland creation.

- The need to link up protected sites and landscapes as a means to deliver a 'Nature Recovery Network'.

4. The SDNPA Policy Framework

- 4.1 The South Downs NPA has a key role in delivering this broad agenda. We have our existing Management Plan and Local Plan policies. We have a range of tools and approaches at our disposal in terms of advocacy, influence and direct delivery. This is especially the case in terms of our strategic planning and policy making role.

5. The Climate Change Adaptation Plan

- 5.1 We currently report on our adaptation planning on a five year rolling programme. Our current Adaptation Plan seeks to:-

- Assess the current and predicted impacts of climate change on our purposes and statutory functions;
- Considered the impact upon key assets of the National Park, and on sectors such as farming, forestry and other land-use;
- Set out proposals and policy responses to adapt adequately to these risks.

- 5.2 The Adaptation Plan sets out some of the adaptive actions that are needed over the short, medium and long-term. It looks ahead over multiple Management Plan review cycles. It also informs the UK Governments own Adaptation Strategy.

- 5.3 The Plan provides us with a comprehensive assessment of the risks and opportunities, and a good basis for taking positive action. A link to the on-line version of this report is included here:-

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SDNPA-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Plan-Final-On-line-version.pdf>

- 5.4 Inevitably this document focusses more on adaptation responses. The UK wide response to the 'climate emergency' also needs to focus on mitigation (reducing carbon emissions).

Scope, partnerships and delivery

6. Scope of our Action Plan

- 6.1 We need to co-ordinate our work on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Some of the proposed actions have the potential to deliver both.

Climate Change Mitigation – Actions that limit the magnitude or rate of climate change and its related effects by cutting emissions.

Climate Change Adaptation – The process of adjustment to the actual or expected changes in climate and its related effects. This is generally focussed on developing resilience to climate change impacts at a landscape scale.

- 6.2 Our actions must consider the potential to cut other Green House Gas emissions (such as Methane) not just Carbon Dioxide.

- 6.3 The Climate Change agenda is very broad, and the SDNPA has limited resources. The Action Plan is focussed on the areas where we can have the greatest impact and influence.

7. How we propose to deliver the Action Plan

- 7.1 The SDNPA needs to be influential and effective at a national level. It also needs to deliver at a strategic, park-wide scale and help support local, community based action. In order to achieve this, we propose to deliver the Actions Plan through a broad range of partnerships.

- 7.2 This may include delivery through new groups of partners. A summary of our approach is included in Appendices 2 and 2.

8. National Level - Working with the other Protected Landscapes

- 8.1 National Parks England (NPE) have recently refreshed its Climate Change & Energy Group. The intention being to improve co-ordination and joint-action across the UK National Park family.
- 8.2 The group are currently working on a new 5 year delivery plan. The intent is to achieve a 'step up' in terms of delivery. The main aim is for the NPAs to lead in efforts to tackle climate emergency, and to:-
 - Demonstrate how rapid transition to low-carbon living can be achieved.
 - Work collectively towards becoming 'Net zero' National Parks by 2040.
 - Achieve 'Net zero' as National Park Authorities by 2030.
 - Promote the principle of achieving 'Net Zero with Nature'
 - Work with our constituent communities and enable them to contribute to this shift.
- 8.3 In terms of delivering the ambitions of the Lawton Review we also intend to work collaboratively with the wider Protected Landscape family – including the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) within the region.
- 8.4 To achieve this we will co-ordinate our efforts with the South East & East Protected Landscapes (SEEPL) forum. This brings together 14 designated landscapes across the South East and East of England.

9. Working with our constituent Local Authorities

- 9.1 Delivery of the Action Plan will require greater collaboration with our constituent Local Authorities and a wider range of delivery partners.
- 9.2 Many of our constituent Local Authorities have declared climate emergencies, and are developing 'Net Zero' action plans. There is great potential for us to work closely with them. We are having initial discussions to scope areas for greater collaboration and how the NPA can best add value.
- 9.3 In addition the South East Climate Action group (SECA) have set up a Database. This summarises where Local Authorities are in terms of developing targets and action plans for their area. A link to the database is below:-
<http://bit.ly/SECAclimateactionsurvey>
- 9.4 The SDNPA will need to do further work to align us with our constituent LPAs. This will include joint work on establishing common metrics and targets.
- 9.5 The LPAs rely on national data-sets compiled by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to set and monitor their targets. At present this data is not cut to National Park areas. So there is a risk of effectively 'double counting' any contribution the National Park makes to national targets. This is a common problem for all of the NPAs and we are seeking to address it quickly.
- 9.6 Along with the New Forest NPA, we have requested that BEIS produce a cut of the data to National Park boundaries. We should receive this by April 2020. This will put us on an equal footing with our constituent LPAs overcome the risk of double-counting.

10. Communications & Engagement

- 10.1 There is a significant role for the SDNPA in communicating challenges around Climate Change and to encourage behaviour change. We will develop an effective communications strategy and make Climate Change a priority for our public affairs strategy.

11. Internal governance to deliver the Climate Change Commitments & Action Plan

- 11.1 Senior Management Team will co-ordinate this work as a 'cross-cutting' issue through our Programme Delivery Boards.

11.2 It will need sufficient resourcing across teams to support its delivery. This will require sufficient staff resources to deliver on the action plan. The Operational Management Team (OMT) will assist with resource planning and the links through to team plans.

11.3 The Policies & Resources Committee to maintain oversight on the delivery of the Action Plan as it is progressed.

12. Baseline & Trajectory

12.1 We need a consistent approach to data and metrics that can work at these differing scales. This includes a baseline for current emissions, and establishing the best trajectory towards a Net-Zero target. We also need to be able to monitor our progress.

12.2 There are two ways of considering carbon emissions, and for setting targets.

- Consumption Based – Emission calculations are based on the consumption of all goods and services by UK Households. It also takes into account the effects of trade and imports.
- Production Based – Emission calculations are based on fossil fuel usage and other relevant processes such as industry and agriculture

12.3 Several methodologies exist, and they vary greatly in terms of complexity. There are also risks in adopting an approach purely based on either a production or a consumption basis.

12.4 The SDNPA previously contracted Small World Consultancy to develop a consumption based assessment for the National Park. The work provided a useful insight into the sources of emissions for the Park.

12.5 Though helpful, the work was completed in 2014, and is now dated. It also presents less detail on the contribution from key sectors such as agriculture. We are currently commissioning follow up work in collaboration with the other NPAs. This will give us the common approach to data and metrics that we require.

12.6 This new study will be a blended approach, with elements of both consumption and production based modelling. It will also present us with different scenarios that could apply in terms of achieving Net Zero for the National Park area.

12.7 This contract is currently being let. As a result we should have updated emissions figures sometime during 2020. The contract will also consider the need for annual updates. As a joint piece of work, we will achieve a cost-benefit. The work should cost us around £6-7K per annum to monitor progress.

Net Zero for the SDNPA

13. Meeting a 2030 'Net-Zero' target for the National Park Authority

13.1 The National Park Authority should lead by example. How it operates, its working practices and how it manages its Estate can make a significant contribution to achieving this target.

13.2 The NPA should do all it can to minimise its carbon footprint and achieve high levels of sustainability. Through our Corporate Plan, internal governance and resource planning we need to ensure that we imbed Climate Change action across the Authority.

13.3 Achieving a 'Net-Zero' target for the NPA will be very challenging. It has implications for how we manage our estate, purchase supplies and equipment and our working practices. Work is underway to baseline the carbon footprint for the Authority. We propose to use a common approach that has been used by other NPAs so we have comparative data.

13.4 The acquisition of Seven Sisters Country Park also presents an opportunity to develop the sites as an exemplar in terms of Climate Change adaptation and a low-carbon future,

14. The Sustainable Solutions Group (SSG)

14.1 The NPA has a clear role in sharing best practice and demonstrating how an organisation can progress towards achieving a 'Net-Zero' target. The SSG has been established as part of

our corporate response to the challenges of Climate Change. Its purpose is to provide leadership on our organisational response and promote best practice in terms of sustainability. The group is working on the following outcomes:-

- Improve our performance and become carbon neutral as an organisation;
- Set targets for carbon reduction and monitor progress;
- Develop a strategy for sustainability for the SDNPA;
- Produce an annual action plan to address issues of highest priority.

14.2 As an early set of actions the group has committed the NPA to:-

- Identify 'quick wins and opportunities' through a staff survey;
- Undertake a carbon audit in line with other UK NPA by June 2020;
- Undertake a full sustainability audit by September 2020.

Net Zero for the National Park

15. Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park

- 15.1 There are even greater challenges to meeting a 'Net-Zero' target for the National Park. We need to use a partnership based approach, much like the Management Plan. It may require us to work with new groupings of partners.
- 15.2 There is an opportunity for the NPA to collaborate widely and be an exemplar both in terms of public awareness and actively driving change. Using our convening role is where the National Park Authority potentially adds the most value.

16. 'Net Zero with Nature'

- 16.1 As a National Park, our statutory purposes are about protecting and enhancing nature. We can promote actions to the climate emergency are nature-based. Any response to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change can also help with nature recovery.
- 16.2 We cannot achieve one without the other. Where we are seeking to restore and create habitats, and improve their connectivity – we should also seek to maximise opportunities to sequester and store carbon. The principle that guides our approach should be that we seek to deliver '**Net Zero with Nature**'.
- 16.3 Some change may be inevitable. The ability of natural systems to be resilient or adapt to change is hugely variable. Our understanding of environmental limits may at times be insufficient. In this case the SDNPA must adopt the precautionary approach¹.
- 16.4 There is also a strong push for Net-Zero from within the farming sector. The NFU and CLAs have been doing extensive work on carbon monitoring at farm level and developing targets to reduce emissions.
- 16.5 There is potential through the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) to deliver sustainable land management, improve soils and increase opportunities for carbon sequestration. The SDNPA can add further value through our involvement in the national 'test and trials' programme.
- 16.6 Through our involvement with the Farm Clusters, and our work on Whole Estate Plans, we have an excellent platform. We can help support the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy for the land-based sectors.
- 16.7 There is a clear link with activity to deliver the Nature Recovery Network. We are already seeing projects that help demonstrate how Nature Recovery might be financed through the

¹ 'Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures that prevent environmental degradation' (United Nations General Assembly, 1992'.

use of carbon or nitrate off-setting schemes. The SDNPA has a role in helping to find suitable recipient sites.

17. Potential for trees and woodland

- 17.1 There are also opportunities for new woodland planting within the South Downs National Park. The UK Climate Change Committee has set a national target of 19% woodland cover. The same target has been adopted by the Woodland Trust in terms of their Climate Change Action Plan. The South Downs (with 23% woodland cover) currently exceeds the UK target. But there is still scope to see some significant enhancement in woodland cover.
- 17.2 Some trees are naturally less resilient to the direct impacts of Climate Change. We will see declines in some species. We will work with the Woodland Partnership Group to deliver effective successional planting within the landscape.
- 17.3 We need to balance the push for increased tree planting with the need to protect other priority habitats and avoid unintended consequences. The grasslands and pastoral systems of the South Downs also have potential to draw-down and store carbon.
- 17.4 We must not lose our biodiversity rich grasslands to poorly planned or conceived planting schemes. It is equally about nature recovery, not just about blanket tree planting. The National Parks guidance on 'right tree, right place' is helpful here – and should develop good schemes that enhance the landscape as well as capturing carbon.

Planning & Land-use

18. Using the Planning System

- 18.1 It is essential that the SDNPA use its existing planning policies for best effect. We can also look to develop the potential around net-gain and other delivery mechanisms such as CIL.
- 18.2 There are a number of proposals that are currently being progressed that can help to achieve this. We will need to implement a method to assess the carbon implications of all decisions that are made, including within the planning process.

19. Biodiversity Net Gain

- 19.1 The current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 included provisions for Net gain for Biodiversity. This is intended to ensure that planning and development make a positive contribution to enhancing habitats and biodiversity.
- 19.2 This is also now a requirement of Strategic Policy SD9 in the adopted South Downs Local Plan. It is set to be a mandatory condition of planning permission in the emerging Environment Bill. The proposed level is for a 10% gain, as measured using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric.
- 19.3 This requirement presents a significant opportunity to deliver wider environmental benefits. It could support actions such as tree planting, carbon sequestration and work on climate change resilience.

20. Call for sites – Carbon Sequestration

- 20.1 This would work in a similar way as a call for housing and employment sites. In this case we would look for sites that could provide opportunities for carbon off-setting. Recipient sites would be assessed in terms of their capacity to lock up carbon – or their potential to form a part of a Nature Recovery Network.
- 20.2 This could apply for sites already managed for nature or support the shift to more sustainable land management. It could identify areas suitable tree planting, protect important carbon sinks and create or link priority habitats.
- 20.3 It would enable the SDNPA to consider sites strategically across the National Park. It could be done quickly, and on a less formal basis, than the housing allocation process. We could also effectively screen the sites for any unacceptable impact on landscape, priority habitats or the historic environment.

21. Potential to use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 21.1 The allocation of CIL funds to projects is determined by Planning Committee for each funding year. At present we do not use CIL funding for projects specifically related to climate change. This could be achieved through two mechanisms.
- 21.2 One is a 'quick-win', and presents an opportunity to lead by example.
 - Use CIL to directly fund projects that address Climate Change mitigation or adaptation.
- 21.3 The other is also possible – but would require additional work to put in place.
 - Explore the potential to use CIL as an incentive within the Planning System.
- 21.4 In the latter case, the SDNPA could offer a CIL discount to homes. This would be on conditional on them being built to a recognised 'carbon standard'. In this way we could provide an incentive to developers and raise the bar in terms of sustainable building and design.
- 21.5 This could be based on a 50% discount on any properties built to meet the recognised 'Passive house' standard. This would represent a potential saving of around £10k for a 3 or 4 bedroom home.
- 21.6 As yet, this mechanism is untried – but it has great potential. The NPA are currently seeking legal advice on whether this is possible under the CIL Regulations.

22. Sustainable Construction – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- 22.1 As a Local Planning Authority we have some degree of influence and control over new development within the National Park area. The application of planning policies is clearly an area where we could seek to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions. We can also ensure that buildings are well designed to adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change.
- 22.2 The SPD builds on Local Plan policies to reduce CO2 emissions - through energy efficiency measures and on site low/zero carbon energy production. At present, Government policy prevents us going beyond current building regulations for energy efficiency. But this may be reviewed in future. For now the SPD pushed things as far as it is possible to do.
- 22.3 The draft document was approved by Planning Committee in January 2020. It is out for public consultation until 23 March 2020. Subject to any comments we receive, it will return to Committee for approval in June.
- 22.4 If the opportunity arises to strengthen our approach in the next 2 years, we will revisit the SPD again. We may also seek to add to our Local Plan when it comes up for review in the future. It is possible we could look to strengthen policies around design and sustainability at that stage.

23. Carbon offsetting through the Development Management Process

- 23.1 The SPD seeks to deliver measures to reduce CO2 emissions on site. There may be some cases where this is not practicable. There may be potential to require developers to pay a fee to offset the carbon generated by the development where it couldn't be achieved on site. This money would be used for energy efficiency measures elsewhere (e.g. retrofitting schools or other community buildings).
- 23.2 We cannot incorporate at this stage, but could be covered by an updated SPD in future. Again this is something the SDNPA could seek to include in our next Local Plan review.

24. Renewable Energy

- 24.1 Achieving Net-zero targets by 2050 will drive the transition to renewable energy. Some of this may be community level schemes that support rapid transition away from oil and gas fired systems. It could also see an increase in district level schemes were partner authorities are looking for economies of scale.

- 24.2 Within the National Park this could see an increase in applications for Solar PV and a renewed focus on off-shore and on-shore wind generation. We will need to work with our constituent authorities to ensure that schemes are developed that support the special qualities of the National Park.

25. Retro-fitting existing building and housing stock

- 25.1 One of the biggest challenges is improving the energy efficiency and thermal performance of existing buildings and housing stock. The SDNPA will need to work closely with our District and Borough Planning Authorities to support this work within the National Park area.

Local Communities.

26. Working with Parishes and local communities

- 26.1 There are 176 town and parish councils across the National Park and a multitude of community based groups. This represents a huge resource in terms of people, time and potential funding to deliver Climate Change action at a local level.
- 26.2 Parishes and community groups could make a huge contribution to reducing carbon emissions and delivering local projects.
- 26.3 They are also an important as a means to encourage action and activity that supports delivery of wider Climate Change targets. The SDNPA needs to effectively engage and 'add value' to local level action involving communities within and adjoining the National Park.
- 26.4 There is an important role for the SDNPA in harnessing this resource, there are a number of areas of work where the Authority to focus its efforts, these are broadly set out below.
- 26.5 We are starting to develop links with relevant Groups to engage with at this level including the Worthing Climate Action Network, South East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Petersfield Climate Action Network, Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.

27. Neighbourhood Planning – encouraging action at a local level

- 27.1 To date, the SDNPA has developed a lot of experience around working with Neighbourhood Plan groups. Previously this has primarily been based on housing allocations and identifying sites for development.
- 27.2 Many of these plans will shortly come up for review. There is potential for the plans to support delivery for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. We should be ready to support Parish and Town Councils, community groups and other 'partnerships of the willing' to take action at a local level.
- 27.3 Since the 1st April 2017 the SDNPA has given **£267,919** in Parish CIL funds. This is a new funding stream for many of our local communities. We should support local communities in using this resource effectively to deliver on a range of community benefits. This could include actions to tackle the effects of climate change. This could be through:-
- Encouraging appropriate land allocations and designations which can tackle climate change, this could include tree planting on local green spaces, community facilities and renewable energy schemes.
 - Support town and parish councils to provide basic planning advice to local communities.
 - Planning advice to demonstrate how small scale improvements could be such as sustainable urban drainage, rain gardens, habitat creation and enhancements.
 - Supporting Town and Parish Councils to become central point for sharing best practice / advice with local residents on making a positive contribution to climate change action.
- 27.4 We also have our existing grant-in-aid schemes, such as the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) that could be used to help support Climate Change action.

28. Opportunity to use ‘Net Zero’ carbon targets at a Parish and local community level.

- 28.1 Winchester Action of Climate Change (WinACC) are a local group working to encourage positive action on Climate Change. They have developed an approach that produces a cut of national emissions data for rural Parishes within Winchester City Council’s area.
- 28.2 The intention is to provide them with a consistent, and comparative, baseline and highlight areas where they can reduce emissions.
- 28.3 This is potentially a very useful approach, and one that the SDNPA could try to adopt for Parishes across the National Park. This would allow them to understand their current carbon footprint and seek ways to improve their performance. Providing this information would also provide a clear basis on which to measure success.
- 28.4 We are in discussions on the potential to roll out this approach more widely across the National Park. This would provide further opportunity to tailor funding streams, advice and support to local communities.
- 28.5 A number of other areas where the SDNPA might be able to support local communities are also considered in the action plan, including:-
- Sharing information and best practice;
 - Convening events to raise awareness and improve understanding;
 - Working with sector partners to deliver local training and support;
 - Regular articles in parish magazines promoting local action, projects and opportunities for funding.

29. Climate Action Fund Bid – Ouse Valley CARES project

- 29.1 The SDNPA, along with the South Downs Trust and community groups have submitted a bid to the National Lottery Communities ‘Climate Action’ Fund. The bid focuses on the communities of the Ouse Valley in East Sussex.
- 29.2 If successful it will bring together over 100 community projects and organisations to take climate action, over five years, with a focus on those people who are least engaged at present. It will support those community groups and organisations to:-
- Take practical action now;
 - Maintain and increase ecological resilience;
 - Accommodate change - Integrate across all sectors;
 - Develop knowledge and plan strategically.

29.3 The project area follows the river downstream from Barcombe, through Lewes and the lower Ouse Valley, to the large coastal communities (“the Havens”).

29.4 The learning from this project will inform our community engagement efforts across other areas of the National Park.

30. Community Energy schemes within the National Park.

- 30.1 On the 22nd January 2020, the SDNPA convened a meeting with organisations that are involved with supporting and developing community based energy schemes.
- 30.2 This brought together local delivery partners including OVESCO and Community Energy Sussex who are an industry leader in the sector. The intention was discuss the sorts of projects that had the greatest potential in the context of the National Park.
- 30.3 A number of ideas from that meeting are being progressed as part of the Climate Change Action Plan. These include:-

- Development a network of Climate Change ‘Champions’ to promote best practice and deliver local training and support.
- Establish a Community Energy programme and encourage local action via the allocation of CIL money.
- Focus on communities that are ready to move fast – and keen to make rapid transition to a low-carbon future i.e./ in terms of shifting away from oil fired heating to local scale renewable.
- Re-energise neighbourhood plan groups during the review cycle and focus on ‘zero-carbon’ plans, community energy and other priorities rather than just planning and housing allocations.
- Develop this approach within a couple of pilot areas, either clusters of Parishes or community groups who are keen to deliver an exemplar scheme. A number of parishes are forming local community based action groups – so we could develop a partnership based on these.
- Look to build on the successful bid to the HLF Climate Fund bid, along with active local community groups, to drive these opportunities along.

Infrastructure, rural business and other key sectors

31. Transport and Sustainable Access

- 31.1 Many of our constituent Local Authorities are working on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). These encourage modal shift by providing improved facilities for walking and cycling in towns. They use an evidence based approach to target investment where it can have the greatest impact.
- 31.2 The authorities are also looking to create sustainable travel connections between settlements to reduce emissions by taking motorised traffic off the road. The SDNPA is working alongside local authorities in the development of these plans to promote best options for connecting into the National Park.
- 31.3 The Local Highways Authorities are developing their Local Transport Plans (LTPs). These plans potentially form part of the action on Climate Change. They can encourage use of sustainable modes of transport and to support greener forms of public transport. An example being the Ultra-low emission bus scheme being developed by Brighton and Hove City Council.
- 31.4 The SDNPA Cycling and Walking Strategy 2017-2024 seeks to enable greater use of more sustainable modes of travel through the creation and improvement of a network traffic free access routes enabling a wider range of people to walk and cycle for both recreational and utility journeys. In creating and improving routes we should consider the carbon footprint of the construction of the schemes, and any opportunities to sequester and store carbon.
- 31.5 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as major road or transport schemes are not required to deliver net gain. However, when negotiating with the promoters of such projects will seek to achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity.
- 31.6 Specific areas where the SDNPA can add value include:-
 - Working with our sector partners to encourage provision of facilities, opportunities and incentives to allow for reduced carbon travel.
 - Working with partners to identify clear carbon budgets and actions and timescale needed to get to net zero in line with government deadline.
 - Change attitudes to transport and support the shift to low-carbon travel, support and encourage people to go ‘car free’ during their visit to the National Parks.
 - Build and promote off road cycle infrastructure and electric public transport networks.

32. Rural Economy & Tourism

32.1 The SDNPA will seeks to nurture businesses at a time of significant economic shift. We will support rural businesses to adapt their business operations, improve their sustainability, and boost their contribution to the SDNP local economy. The shift to a low-carbon economy will generate new opportunities to train and employ local people, source local products and support other local businesses. To support this transition the SDNPA will:-

- Create an enterprise network as the vehicle to allow communication between SDNPA and the NP businesses. The network will facilitate the delivery of our climate change aspirations.
- Deliver a business engagement strategy that helps businesses to decrease their carbon footprint, and improve their operational sustainability.
- Help to promote the SDNPA as a 'Low carbon' destination and work with businesses who can help us deliver on this.
- Work with the Responsible Travel partnership to promote places to stay which can demonstrate their environmental sustainability.
- Broaden the membership of Green Tourism and other accreditation schemes.

33. Historic environment and heritage assets.

33.1 There is a need for improved data and evidence on the climate change impacts upon designated heritage assets across the National Park. We need to better understand the implications and adaptations required to preserve the historic environment, this will help to develop solutions that enhance their resilience and help protect them for the future. We can achieve this through supporting historic environment research into climate change impacts.

33.2 In some cases archaeology and heritage assets may be lost, from accelerated coastal erosion for example. There is an opportunity for the SDNPA to work with sector leaders around how we communicate the engage around "curated loss" and open a public debate around the loss of heritage assets as a result if climate change.

33.3 Engagement around the arts has potential to engage and communicate with the public on issue around climate change, adaptation responses and the need for individual action. This is a key component of encouraging behaviour change.

34.0 Engagement and Outreach

34.1 The SDNP Learning Network have identified climate change education as a key area that they would like to see collaboration on across this sector. In particular the network have identified that schools are ahead of learning providers in delivering education on climate change.

34.2 There is also recognition that the way that we frame our communication with young audiences needs to be sensitive to minimise the potential for eco-anxieties of young people.

34.3 Three events are planned or are being delivered this year:

- Hopeful Earth Conference - Ditcham Park School.
- Earth Protectors Conference for teachers - The Sustainability Centre.
- Climate Change Teachers Twilight - Brighton and Hove Environmental Education (BHEE).

34.4 The SDNP Learning Network has asked for a workshop for learning providers in supporting learning about climate change and the SDNPA will look to convene a workshop for this network in summer 2020.

34.5 The SDNPA is also looking to develop a 'climate action' fund which would be able to give small grants to schools to fund climate change related action.

Delivering ‘Net Zero with Nature’ – Responding to the challenge of Climate Change with nature based solutions				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Support the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy for the land-based sectors.	<p>Work closely with sector partners who have also declared net zero ambitions, particularly the NFU (2040), National Trust (2030) and Environment Agency (2030).</p> <p>Promote uptake of high precision or low-input farming techniques so that the application of nitrate fertilisers does not result in excess nutrients passing into the aquifers at key times of recharge (Autumn/Winter)</p> <p>Support for farmers in terms of diversification to new crops and livestock breeds that may be more resilient to changing climatic conditions.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable land management that protect the environmental assets and ecosystem services of the South Downs while maintaining the profitability of farming.</p>	SDNPA, NFU, CLA, Farm Clusters and FC Facilitators, Research Bodies (NERC, CEH), Statutory Agencies.	<p>Proposal for roll-out of a Farm Carbon Calculator tool are in discussion. We would look to trial this with the Farm Clusters to test the approach, and to support farmer in its use.</p> <p>This would be achievable through our current involvement with the Farm Clusters. Still needs to secure additional staff time from CPM directorate and Area Teams to take this forward.</p> <p>CPM is working to define additional resource requirements.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)	<p>Encourage land management practices that maintain the structural and microbial condition of soils and maximise its ability to store water and nutrients.</p> <p>Encourage measures that retain soils in situ such as contour ploughing, minimum or ‘no tillage’. Promote the use of green manures and cover crops.</p> <p>Encourage land management practices that support pollinators. Use of natural pest controls or pest resistant crop species to reduce the need for pesticide use.</p>	SDNPA, NFU, CLA, Farm Clusters and FC Facilitators, Research Bodies (NERC, CEH), Natural England and the Statutory Agencies.	<p>ELMS ‘tests and trials’ programme is also picking up much of this work. The revised schemes are likely to support and promote many of these actions – and would therefore make a contribution to Climate Action.</p> <p>We are still awaiting the final form of the Agricultural Bill and the Environment Bill for the detail on what will be covered by the revised schemes. It returned to the Commons to consider further amendments on 4 November 2020.</p> <p>The Environment Bill returns to the Public Bill Committee for further consideration on the 1st December 2020.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the CHAMP Project will also target these kinds of interventions with Farmers and Land Managers in the Eastern Area.</p> <p>Soils project being developed in the Western Area with the Winchester Farm Cluster group, opportunity to apply any learning from this project more widely.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Nature Recovery Network (NRN)	<p>Target project funding and environmental grant funding towards measures that increase resilience to a changing climate, support biodiversity and provide wider Ecosystem Service benefits.</p> <p>Undertake adaptive management and ensure that areas of valuable habitat are bigger, better managed and joined up. SDNPA to promote delivery at landscape scale.</p> <p>Increase the quality and habitat diversity of wildlife sites. Deliver large scale habitat creation where opportunities exist, create buffer zones for vulnerable or fragmented habitats</p> <p>Demonstrate how nature-based solutions can help develop resilience to climate change at a landscape scale.</p>	SDNPA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife & Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, Local Planning Authorities.	<p>This is now a major work strand for the Landscape & Biodiversity Programme Board. A NRN Working Group has been set up involving staff time from CPM & Planning.</p> <p>SDNPA is working with National Parks England to develop a National Delivery Plan. Roni Craddock has been seconded to work on this with Natural England, NPE and the National Association of AONBs.</p> <p>Regionally the SDNPA is working with the South East Protected Landscapes Group (SEPL) to develop joint principles for developing a NRN based on the Protected Landscapes as core areas.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track.</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>

	Develop pilot projects that show how Nature Recovery might be financed through the development of carbon off-setting schemes		<p>SDNPA is also a representative on the South East Nature Partnership which agreed SE England NRN Principles in October aiming to ensure joint up of the network and ongoing collaboration across counties (Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire & IoW)</p> <p>Through the NRN Working Group we are also developing a SDNPA Approach to Biological Monitoring. This will provide a standard framework in which to monitor and report on nature recovery.</p>	
New woodland planting	<p>Research on which tree species may be most impacted by changes in climatic conditions. Plan ahead in terms of planting species that may be more resilient to prevailing climatic conditions in the medium/long term.</p> <p>Identify the best carbon storage options for the National Park that provide the widest range of ecosystem service benefits. Enhance the capacity for carbon storage and sequestration at landscape scale.</p> <p>Encourage woodland management that provides the best range of ecosystem service benefits including enhancing biodiversity, natural flood management, air quality, carbon sequestration and renewable energy potential.</p> <p>Produce guidance on the 'right tree in the right place' to help inform the design of good planting schemes that meet carbon targets and enhance the landscape quality of the National Park.</p>	SDNPA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife & Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, South Downs Woodland Partnership, Local Planning Authorities.	<p>We would propose to work with sector partners to produce guidance that we can share that would apply to tree and woodland planting across the National Park. This will support tree planting and ensure it happens in the most appropriate locations and delivers the maximum benefit for society.</p> <p>Additional time and resource will be required within CPM and from the Strategy Lead (Woodland) to achieve this.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Meeting a 2030 'Net-Zero' target for the National Park Authority				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Sustainable Solutions Group	<p>Identify 'quick wins and opportunities' through a staff survey</p> <p>Undertake a carbon audit in line with other UK NPA by June 2020</p> <p>Undertake a full sustainability audit by September 2020.</p>	SDNPA	<p>A new Sustainability Policy has been developed with input from the Operational Management Team (OMT). It aims to reduce our carbon footprint so that we become a 'carbon neutral' organisation by 2025. The intention is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify within our operations and activities, where we can improve sustainability and reduce, recycle and reuse resources where possible; Set and monitor targets for carbon use through reduction and renewable alternatives; Enhance natural capital by offsetting carbon use through appropriate schemes; Develop and monitor an annual action plan to address issues of highest priority; Embed sustainable behaviour and processes with SDNPA staff and Members. 	<p>2019-2020</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On Track</p>

	<p>Improve our sustainable performance and become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set targets for carbon reduction and monitor progress Develop a strategy for sustainability for the SDNPA Produce an annual action plan to address issues of highest priority Oversee all activity to deliver the action plan. 	SDNPA	<p>Work has commenced on producing a set of carbon accounts for the NPA. We are now able to report on the same basis as the other National Parks. The group is looking to extend the scope of this reporting. These accounts will run for the financial year – as opposed to a calendar year as many sources are a result of procurement decisions by the SDNPA.</p> <p>Work has started to estimate the level of embodied carbon across our inventory of assets and equipment.</p> <p>We should have a reasonably extensive set of accounts for March 2021</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track</p>
Working with other National Parks – Climate Change & Energy Group				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Develop a Joint Delivery Plan for the UK National Parks.	<p>Establish the UK National Park family as leaders in meeting the challenge presented by Climate Change.</p> <p>Lead a rapid change in effort to tackle the climate emergency.</p> <p>Demonstrate how rapid response and transition to low-carbon living can be achieved.</p> <p>Work collectively towards becoming 'Net Zero' National Parks by 2040.</p> <p>Achieve 'Net Zero' as National Parks Authorities by 2030.</p> <p>Promote the principle of achieving 'Net Zero with Nature'.</p>	National Parks England, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>The Climate Change & Energy Group they have produced an updated Climate Change Delivery Plan. This sets out planned actions for the NPAs collectively and is a step up in terms of delivery.</p> <p>Work has also been underway on shared metrics and targets – and expanding the scope of current reporting on NPAs individual Carbon Performance.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – on track.</p>
Joint Advocacy	<p>Consider the opportunities with UK National Parks to promote our work through our National communications programme. Work together to plan a fringe event at CoP26.</p> <p>Work with National Park Partnerships to secure funding for the Net Zero with Nature proposal.</p> <p>Help to implement the recommendations of the Glover Review and promote collaboration at strategic level between NPA/AONB's</p>	National Parks England, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>National Parks England has been running a NPA Chairs Task & Finish group – which has met twice during 2020.</p> <p>Discussion are underway with Defra/BEIS about how the National Parks can collectively help deliver the UK carbon reductions targets. This includes preparing for and supporting events as part of COP26.</p> <p>A series of regional events are planned as part of the preparation for COP26 and the desire to engage with key sectors and local communities.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – on track.</p>
Research & Evidence	<p>Better data on carbon storage by land use or habitat type, to make more informed choices on land use change</p> <p>Understanding of how to maximise carbon through biodiversity projects. Develop case studies of nature based and adaptation solutions</p>	National Parks England, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>Natural England are due to issue their updated research on the comparative ability of habitats to lock up carbon. This is now expected in December 2020.</p> <p>This will help the SDNPA to identify current carbon sinks, and where the greatest potential is for carbon sequestration is across the Park.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Report delayed – but remains on Track</p>

Meeting a 'Net-Zero' Carbon target for the National Park by 2040				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Establishing a baseline for our Carbon Targets	<p>Establish a baseline from which we can monitor the effectiveness of our actions to cut emissions.</p> <p>Produce options that allow us to demonstrate different trajectories to achieving the 2040 target, and how it might be achieved.</p> <p>Obtain the BEIS data-set in a form that supports our work and is useable at National Park level.</p>	National Parks England, BEIS, SDNPA, UK National Parks and protected landscapes network.	<p>The contract has been let – and is now expected to report early in 2021.</p> <p>BEIS data was produced and provided for the SDNPA and the UK National Parks in June 2020</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Work delayed – but remains in track.</p>
Working with our constituent Local Authorities	<p>Work more closely with our Local Authority partners on Climate Change actions. Help support and add value to their work through the delivery of our own Climate Change Action Plan.</p> <p>Establish links and working arrangements with Climate Change leads within Local Authorities and with important sector groups such as South East Climate Action (SECA). Work to co-ordinate climate action with key delivery partners.</p> <p>Work with our LA partners to establish common metrics and targets so we can make a clear contribution to delivering national and locally based targets.</p>	SDNPA, Local Planning Authorities, Sector Partners such as South East Climate Action (SECA).	<p>We have now met with the CC Leads at both Hampshire and West Sussex. We have also met with many of the District Councils to review their Climate Change Action Plans and identify where we have shared objectives.</p> <p>The SDNPA has also been attending the Sussex Climate Emergency Group – which includes most of our constituent LPAs.</p> <p>We still need to secure adequate staff time/resource to ensure we can adequately cover this work. This still represents a gap in delivery.</p>	<p>2020-2022</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – needs further attention in terms of resource planning.</p>
The role of the South Downs NPAs Planning Function	<p>Embed the principle of both Biodiversity and Environmental 'net gain' within the planning System through our Local Plan strategic policies.</p> <p>Make use of the SDNPA Green Infrastructure framework. Highlight areas for GI investment in and around the National Park.</p> <p>Use our existing Local Plan policies to influence positive impact on landscape character and ecosystem function (Strategic Policy SD2).</p>	SDNPA, Local Authority Partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Developers and Planning Agents.	<p>Much of this work will be delivered through our existing planning policies and Development Management processes.</p> <p>The People & Nature Network (PANN) was launched over the Summer, and has been actively promoted.</p> <p>Net-gain is likely to be mandated, and is supported by our Local Plan policies. Additional work needed between lead officers in planning and CPM/Strategy Leads to ensure join-up with the Nature Recovery Network.</p>	<p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Sustainable Construction – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	<p>Promote energy efficiency and sustainable building standards in terms of design, materials and site layout.</p> <p>Raise the bar in terms of design and build standards via the use of incentives i.e. CIL or other mechanism.</p> <p>Develop design codes that result in more sustainable building and schemes, with the best design, layout and materials to make them resilient to climate change. Incorporate passive solar gain, PV, landscaping, grey water storage and other features.</p>	SDNPA, MHCLG, Local Authority Partners, Natural England, Environment Agency, Developers and Planning Agents.	<p>SPD was approved by the Planning Committee and it was adopted in August 2020. In terms of scope it covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in energy/CO2 from new development through energy efficiency and on-site green energy • EV charge points • Maximum water consumption levels • Sustainable waste and materials measures • Reinforcing GI and SuDS policies • Green roofs for larger developments <p>Training for DM colleagues across our partner LPAs is due to commence in November 2020. SPD and local plan policies will need to be reviewed as Government policies evolve over next few years.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Revisit in 2022-2023</p>

Call for sites – Carbon Sequestration	<p>Initiate a National Park wide call for recipient sites' that looks to deliver carbon off-setting schemes that are 'nature-based'.</p> <p>Map and assess sites and habitat areas in terms of their capacity to lock up carbon – as a component of a Nature Recovery Network.</p> <p>Consider the sites strategically across the National Park. Develop a means to assess and screen sites where they might have an unacceptable impact on the landscape, priority habitats or scheduled historic monuments.</p>	SDNPA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife & Woodland Trusts, Local Nature Partnerships, Farmers and Landowners, South Downs Woodland Partnership, Local Planning Authorities.	<p>Work from CPM and Planning Policy to design and deliver on a 'call for sites'.</p> <p>This would need to be developed alongside work with our LNP partners so it supports the Natural Capital Investments Strategies.</p> <p>This could be progressed through the Landscape & Biodiversity Programme Board as it would support 'Nature Recovery' as well as Climate Change work.</p> <p>Additional staff time would be required from CPM and Planning to develop a way to screen the sites for their potential and any unintended impacts.</p>	<p>2020-2022</p> <p>No progress on this as yet – though the idea is supported by both CPM/Planning.</p>
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	<p>Develop the potential to use CIL funding to fund projects that directly address Climate Change mitigation or adaptation.</p> <p>Explore the possibility to use CIL as an incentive within the existing Planning System and whether this is possible under the current CIL regulations.</p>	SDNPA, MHCLG, Local Authority Partners, Developers and Planning Agents, Parish Councils.	<p>The SDNPA have been considering the potential for CIL discount to homes, provided they were built to a recognised 'carbon standard'. This would be a way to incentivise developers to raise the bar in terms of sustainable building and design.</p> <p>Current legal opinion on the use of CIL for this purpose suggests it may not be possible to use it in this way. Though clearly CIL can be used to fund Climate Change action that meets the schemes requirements.</p>	<p>2021-2022</p> <p>This may not be possible to progress.</p>

Working with our local communities.

Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Helping to develop resilient communities	<p>Extend the scope of volunteer capacity within Parishes and local groups to enhance community resilience to potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>Make use of our existing grant-in-aid schemes, such as the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) to help support Climate Change action at a local community level.</p> <p>Support Town and Parish Councils to become central point for sharing best practice / advice with local residents on making a positive contribution to climate change action.</p> <p>Analyse and review current community action to identify opportunities for adding value to existing projects to deliver climate change outcome and tackle the CC emergency</p> <p>Promote best practice locally to encourage others to take up projects that can contribute to tackling climate change</p> <p>Work with partners such as the associations of local councils to provide training to support councils to become more active in tackling climate change.</p> <p>Share Best Practice – run annual events to promote what local Climate Change Action is happening.</p>	SDNPA, Worthing Climate Action Network, South East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.	<p>This represents a significant amount of new work for the SDNPA. There is a lot of action at a local level and an opportunity to support local groups to deliver on wider climate actions.</p> <p>At present our community engagement work is delivered through the Planning Team. Some elements of this work could be delivered through existing staff resource – but not all of it.</p> <p>To support this additional level of community engagement – specifically on Climate Action, we will need to secure an additional resource.</p> <p>CPM and Planning to do further work to establish the staff time and resourcing requirements around this work. OMT to assist with the resource planning.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – CPM and Planning need to do further work on resource planning.</p>

	Run an annual event for Local Councils, Community Groups, and other organisations to share best practice with other community groups.			
Neighbourhood Planning	<p>Promote the development of “Net zero” Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Support Neighbourhood plan groups during the review cycle and focus on ‘zero-carbon’ plans, community energy and other climate action.</p> <p>Encourage local action within parishes and other community groups that supports the delivery of wider Climate Change targets</p> <p>Develop this approach within a couple of pilot areas, either clusters of Parishes or community groups who are keen to deliver an exemplar scheme.</p>	SDNPA, Parish Councils, Local Planning Authority Partners, Developers and Planning Agents, Parish Councils.	<p>At present the Neighbourhood Planning element of our work is delivered through the Planning Team. This may be achievable through the existing staff structure, though additional work would be needed to develop a template for ‘Net Zero’ plans at this local level.</p> <p>CPM and Planning to do further work to establish the staff time and resourcing requirements around this work. OMT to assist with the resource planning.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – CPM and Planning need to do further work on resource planning.</p>
‘Net Zero’ carbon targets at a Parish and local community level.	<p>Work with town and parish councils to audit their own buildings / operations to identify opportunities for improved performance.</p> <p>Working with a small number of pilot communities to establish the CO2 emissions of their own operations. Establish action plans to improve energy performance.</p> <p>Help support communities that are ready and willing to make a fast transition to ‘Net Zero’. Use these communities as exemplars for others to learn from and follow.</p>	SDNPA, Worthing Climate Action Network, South East Climate Alliance, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups.	Good progress has been made in terms of establishing a baseline for Parish level carbon budgets. Through the Research & Evidence Team we commissioned WinACC to produce a set of carbon accounts for the Rural Parishes within the National Park. We received the report and data for this work in October 2020 – and are currently reviewing it.	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – CPM and Planning need to do further work on resource planning.</p>
Developing Community Energy schemes within the National Park.	<p>Development a network of Climate Change ‘Champions’ to promote best practice and deliver local training and support.</p> <p>Establish a Community Energy programme and encourage local action via the allocation of CIL money.</p> <p>Focus on communities that are ready to move fast – and keen to make rapid transition to a low-carbon future i.e./ in terms of shifting away from oil fired heating to local scale renewable.</p> <p>Ensure local communities and businesses can access benefits from delivering carbon storage, renewable energy generation and other low carbon activity.</p> <p>Encourage uptake of micro-generation and community based renewable projects that minimises the impact on the South Downs Landscape.</p>	SDNPA, Ovesco, Community Energy groups, Local Authority Partners, Renewable Energy Companies, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups, Parish Councils and Landowners.	<p>Community Energy Pathway project was given funding approval in June 2020 and work is currently underway.</p> <p>A survey of Parishes and Community Groups was conducted in September 2020 to assess the level of interest in Community Energy.</p> <p>The survey received a good level of responses. These will be reviewed to select five groups to participate in the next phase of the project – and will be supported to develop plans for their local community that can be taken forward as funding bids.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track.</p>
Community Lottery - Climate Action Fund Bid	<p>Bring together community projects and organisations to take climate Action, over five years, focus on people least engaged at present. Support them to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take practical action now; Maintain and increase ecological resilience; 	SDNPA, South Downs Trust, Ovesco, Community Energy groups, Local Authority Partners, Greater Brighton Energy Group, Community	Bid was successfully submitted to the Climate Action Fund with support from the External Funding Team. Application was made for development phase funding c£100-150K over 12 months. We are still waiting for a decision.	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On track.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate change - Integrate across all sectors; Develop knowledge and plan strategically. <p>Apply learning from the project to inform our community Engagement efforts across other areas of the National Park.</p>	Land Trusts and Transition Town Groups, Parish Councils and Landowners.	Will include a project officer to add capacity. This is needed to support further work and ensure a robust and deliverable project	
Historic Environment & Archaeology				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
	<p>Improve data and evidence on the climate change impacts upon designated heritage assets across the National Park. Use this data to develop solutions that enhance the resilience of historic assets and help protect them for the future.</p> <p>Support for historic environment research into climate change impacts within the National Park.</p> <p>Engage with sector leaders around dialogues linked to “curated loss”, linking with communications and engagement.</p> <p>Support socially engaged arts projects that seek to engage the public with climate change, adaptation and individual action.</p> <p>Public engagement with positive approaches to building adaptation (where appropriate), and value of natural / historic materials in built structures, by signposting to specialist guidance.</p>	SDNPA, Historic England, HERs and Heritage Groups	<p>This would need to be delivered through the work of CPM and the relevant Strategy Lead. Further work required by CPM Managers to assess the time/resource requirements of this element of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Potentially deliverable with our existing level of resources.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – Progress has been delayed by the impact of Covid.</p>
Engagement and Outreach				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
<p>SDNP Learning Network</p> <p>Raise awareness of SDNPA climate change strategy to Our South Downs Education Network members</p>	<p>Extend the scope of volunteer capacity within Parishes and local groups to enhance community resilience to potential climate change impacts.</p> <p>Focus on climate change as a key area for collaboration across the education sector.</p> <p>Develop new ways to frame our communication with young audiences that are sensitive to the need to minimise the potential for eco-anxiety in young people.</p> <p>Collaborate on a workshop for learning providers in supporting learning about climate change.</p>	SDNPA, Learning Network, Schools and Education sector partners, Sustainability Centre, Plantlife, Learning through Landscapes.	<p>The planned ‘Learning providers’ climate change workshop - did not take place owing to the pandemic. Postponed for the time being and not a communication priority during the ongoing pandemic.</p> <p>Climate change collaboration across the education sector – projects running with strategic input from SDNPA education team, addressing adaptation and resilience to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bee-lines school competition, supporting schools to create pollinator habitat through online workshops, learning resources and covering costs to install new habitat areas. Clean up and create competition, empowering school children to use recycled materials to create art and communicate the negative impacts of litter and create behaviour change. Mini grants for schools (planned re-launch in Winter 2020/21), student led projects that improve school grounds in support of National Park PMP, including climate change adaptation. 	<p>2020-2021</p> <p>Ongoing Programme – On Track</p>

Transport & Sustainable Access				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Work alongside local Highways Authorities to develop sustainable travel schemes and deliver the best 'low-carbon' options for connecting into the National Park.	<p>Work with our sector partners to encourage provision of facilities, opportunities and incentives to allow for reduced carbon travel.</p> <p>Work with partners to identify clear carbon budgets and actions and timescale needed to get to net zero in line with government deadline.</p> <p>Change attitudes to transport and support the shift to low-carbon travel, support and encourage people to go 'car free' during their visit to the National Parks.</p> <p>Build and promote off road cycle infrastructure and electric public transport networks.</p>	SDNPA, Highways Authorities, Highways England, Public Transport Providers, Access and Amenity Groups, Local Access Forum, Local and County level Cycle Forums are an important partner, Community Rail partnerships.	<p>This would need to be delivered through the work of CPM and the relevant Strategy Lead. Further work required by CPM Managers to assess the time/resource requirements of this element of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Actively supporting local authorities' emerging LCWIPs, also input into feasibility studies such as Brighton Bike Share; and working with Highways England to progress A27 East of Lewes NMU route.</p> <p>We continue to plan and seek funding for off road infrastructure as set out in our 'Vision Map'.</p> <p>SDNP cycling and walking strategy will be reviewed in 2020/21 taking into account new local authority LCWIPs, Govt. 'Gear Change' strategy and updated Design Guidance.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Current Management Plan and Local Plan cycle.</p> <p>Carry Forward into next Management Plan cycle 2024-2030</p>
Rural Economy & Tourism				
Work Area	Proposed Actions	Lead Partner/Partnership	Update on progress so far	Target Date
Support rural businesses to adapt their business operations, improve their sustainability, and boost their contribution to the SDNP local economy.	<p>Create an enterprise network, with the working title of 'South Downs Enterprise Partnership (SDEP)', as the vehicle to enable communication between SDNPA and the SDNP business community.</p> <p>Deliver a business engagement strategy that helps businesses to decrease their carbon footprint, and improve their operational sustainability.</p> <p>Help to promote the SDNPA as a 'Low carbon' destination and work with businesses who can help us deliver on this.</p> <p>Work with the Responsible Travel partnership to promote places to stay which can demonstrate their environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Broaden the membership of Green Tourism and other accreditation schemes.</p>	SDNPA, Responsible Travel Partnership, Tourism Providers, National Parks England and the Tourism Officers Group.	<p>The South Downs Enterprise Partnership has been presented to SET TPB and SMT (19th Oct) and was supported in principle. The next step is for SMT (18th Nov) to consider options, resource implications and agree a projected start date.</p> <p>The Covid-19 Pandemic has changed the focus of the SDNPA's business engagement strategy. The economic fall-out required us to quickly re-focus efforts to writing an 'economic recovery' strategy. This work has now been completed.</p> <p>We are partnering on tourism industry webinars for businesses in dealing with Covid-19. One of these webinars will focus on Sustainability and green recovery – this is scheduled to take place early 2021.</p> <p>Renewed contract with Responsible Travel Partnership for 2020/21. They have secured funding to produce 10 articles to promote sustainable tourism in the South Downs.</p>	<p>2020-2025</p> <p>Ongoing Programme</p>