

Agenda Item 9
Report PR21/22-08

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	30 September 2021
By	Performance and Research Lead & Project Management Lead
Title of Report (Note)	Q1 Corporate Performance and Project Performance report

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note the content of the Performance Report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The SDNPA considers it important as a publicly accountable body, to monitor its performance. The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include *“To monitor and review the performance, including financial performance, of the Authority in the context of its business delivery, and the management and maintenance of the Authority’s assets in accordance with the Authority’s agreed budget, Corporate Plan and other approved plans, and make recommendations for changes as appropriate”* and *“To monitor and identify improvements arising from the outcomes and evaluation of projects identified by the Committee, audits, survey and other feedback and make recommendations as appropriate”*.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy & Resources Committee on the Authority’s **corporate and project performance** during Quarter 1 of 2021/22: 01 April to 30 June 2021.

2. Corporate Performance Reporting

- 2.1 For an overview of performance for each of the three areas of strategic priority and the areas of organisational priority in the Corporate Plan, see the Excel spreadsheet: **Appendix I: Corporate Performance report Q1 2021/22**. Key data (where applicable), commentary, a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) status¹ for performance and next steps & potential risks is noted for each **key priority** or **area of core work**.
- 2.2 There are **69** key priorities in the Corporate Plan. Of these, 18 are projects and are reported through Tableau as part of the general project update. Of the remaining 51 key priorities, **39** achieved a **green RAG status** for **performance** for Q1, showing that the work is on track.
- 2.3 The table below and overleaf lists the **11** key priorities or areas of core work with an **amber RAG status for performance**, where our work has fallen slightly behind schedule, and the reason for this:

¹ Depending upon whether delivery is on track (green), slightly behind schedule (amber) or significantly behind schedule (red)

Corporate Plan objective	Key priority	In year 2 of our Corporate Plan we will:	Reason for amber status
<p><u>Strategic priority 2: Connect</u> - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events <i>PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences</i></p>	<p>Deliver the Families Outreach Project using the John Muir Award (JMA)</p>	<p><u>Deliver year 2 and evaluate:</u> 1) Deliver face to face activities with community organisations 2) Support organisations through JMA resources and tool-kits 3) Review and evaluate project and embed legacy plans</p>	<p>Face to face delivery delayed by Covid but gradually getting back on track</p>
<p><u>Strategic priority 2: Connect</u> - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events <i>PMP Outcome 6: Lifelong Learning</i></p>	<p>Develop the 'Our South Downs' Learning Network</p>	<p>1) Review pilot of Ambassador Schools and extend approach following learning 2) Run year 2 of schools eco grant</p>	<p>Ambassador Schools programme to resume in September 2021 after being paused due to Covid</p>

<p><u>Strategic priority 3: Thrive</u> - we will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the Duty of National Parks: to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism <u>PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live</u></p>	<p>Work with External funding team to find ways to fund a challenge fund to support the development of community facility enhancements that contribute to mitigating climate change, enhancing nature recovery, promoting health and well-being and supporting the local economy</p>	<p>1) Understand which funders might support this and approach them 2) Work with parishes to identify enhancements needed</p>	<p>Working with parishes to identify enhancements needed but still need to identify funders</p>
<p><u>Organisational priorities</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our organisational objective: to be a confident and secure organisation exercising effective influence; providing excellent customer service, and value for money and generating income to support our work</p>	<p>Implement the learning from the Whole Estate Plans review</p>	<p>Review the WEPs guidance and process</p>	<p>The review has taken place with useful recommendations. We are starting to review our guidance</p>
	<p>Set up thematic research networks with academics and sector specialists based on research requirements highlighted through strategic reviews and in the PMP</p>	<p>Start collaborations around the chosen three themes: Soil Health, Climate Change and Health & Wellbeing</p>	<p>The Research and Evidence Officer who was leading this work left the Authority in Q1. Work will resume once a replacement has been appointed</p>
	<p>Monitor SDNPA and partner delivery against PMP outcomes</p>	<p>Implement framework for PMP impact reporting</p>	<p>The Research and Evidence Officer who was leading this work left the Authority in Q1. Work will resume once a replacement has been appointed</p>
	<p>Implement actions following recommendations for the Equity Diversity and Inclusion review of the South Downs National Park Authority</p>	<p>1) Training plan identified and set in motion 2) Additional key actions and recommendations identified and put into place</p>	<p>The EDI Strategy and Action Plan document has been delayed from the consultants and will be circulated and acted upon from July (Q2)</p>
	<p>Develop relational partnerships: 1) Work with strategic partners to develop work streams to engage with target audiences as</p>	<p>1) Look to build on strategic existing partnerships and develop new partnerships based on ongoing relationships work with DEFRA, NPE,</p>	<p>Once we have received the strategy and action plan we can begin work with strategic partners</p>

	<p>identified within the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion review</p> <p>2) Work with target audiences to co-author mutually beneficial outputs</p>	<p>NP officer groups, ACE, PHE, NE CCs etc</p> <p>2) Develop a range of outcomes which cover multiple PMP ambitions and accord with Glover recommendations for engagement for all</p>	
	<p>Embed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion across the way the National Park Authority works internally and externally</p>	<p>1) Reconsider the policies and processes that are least helpful and replace with more inclusive approaches</p> <p>2) Identify those policies and processes which are easier to amend and make the necessary changes.</p>	<p>Once we have received the strategy and action plan we can begin work with strategic partners</p>
	<p>Continue to review opportunities to secure suitable long term accommodation for our area offices that meets the aspirations of the National Park Authority</p>	<p>Begin arrangements to re-locate central area staff</p>	<p>On-hold to review use of office space with new ways of working</p>
	<p>Commission a new Staff Survey and create an action plan</p>	<p>Procure and undertake survey</p>	<p>Procurement of external staff survey on hold while blended working beds in</p>

2.4 The table below lists the **one** key priority with a **red RAG status for performance**, where our work has fallen significantly behind schedule, and the reason for this

Corporate Plan objective	Key priority	In year 2 of our Corporate Plan we will:	Reason for red status
<p><u>Organisational priorities</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our organisational objective: to be a confident and secure organisation exercising effective influence; providing excellent customer service, and value for money and generating income to support our work</p>	<p>Deliver ongoing process and procedure improvements as set out in the Development Management Improvement Plan</p>	<p>Introduce new pre-application fee charging schedule</p>	<p>This work stream is yet to be progressed due to competing priorities.</p>

3. Project Performance Reporting: Projects in Delivery

- 3.1 A link to the Tableau Dashboards for Q1 is https://public.tableau.com/views/PRProjectsDashboardQ1202122/ProgrammeandRAGstatus?:language=en-GB&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link
- 3.2 There is one Tableau Dashboard which is also shown in **Appendix 2** however please note the **detailed project information can only be seen by using the above link to interpret the dashboards in Tableau. A project summary has now been added to the project information available on Tableau.**
- 3.3 The dashboard worksheet shows the location of all projects currently in delivery across the park. All park-wide projects have been represented under a 'park wide' clickable area that is outside the park boundaries (shown near Billingshurst on the map). The colour of the projects identify which Theme Programme Board (TPB) the project is being governed through e.g. green shows projects being governed by the Landscape & Biodiversity TPB.
- 3.4 At the end of Q1 there were 52 projects in delivery involving SDNPA inputs either through costs or resourcing.
- 3.5 The dashboard shown in **Appendix 2** shows the project programme of delivery or timeline. The colours on this graphic display the RAG status of the projects to help provide an overview of project issues and remaining duration for project delivery. The RAG (Red, Amber and Green) status shows if a project is on track or not. The RAG status is based on an assessment including key deliverables and achievement of targets as well as whether the budget is on or off track. If a project is behind or ahead with delivery or behind or ahead with budget, it will be Amber. If it is both off track in terms of delivery and also in terms of budget it will be red. Where projects have an Amber or Red status the comments relating to the RAG status can be found using the linked Tableau dashboard and using the Tableau Reader software to examine the project data in more detail.
- 3.6 A greater amount of project detail, such as who the lead partners are on each project, a project summary and comments by the project manager from each quarter, can be found using the linked Tableau dashboard and using your mouse to either filter on team area, or project name by the location map or programme chart to examine the project data in more detail. This information is not available from the PDF version in **Appendix 2**.
- 3.7 The 'Programme and RAG status' shows 6 of the projects in delivery at the end of Q1 have an **amber RAG status**.

Projects at Amber or Red RAG status	Q4 RAG 2020/21	Q1 RAG 2021/22	Reason for RAG status
Connecting People and Communities Projects:			
Active Access	Amber	Amber	Arrangements have been made for Rangers to lead walks during the Eastbourne Festival 2021. These are just beginning to be negotiated with the Walking Festival organiser. Walk Ambassador Training has been delivered by 3VA to support walking initiatives across Eastbourne, Newhaven/Peacehaven areas. No Bike it Wild initiatives have been discussed yet.
Communities in the South Downs	Green	Amber	On site meeting with Fittleworth Parish and online meeting with Cheriton parish. Fittleworth and Cheriton assessment reports nearing completion. Contact made with LHAs.
SUDs for Schools	Amber	Amber	Final detailed design work is now complete for Moulsecoomb and Carden and draft detailed design is complete for Wallands PS. beginning for the third school. Contract has been awarded for the construction of the SuDS at Moulsecoomb. A further £15k has been contributed by the EA with possibility of additional funds from Southern Water, Sec.106 and Dept. for Education.
Landscape and Biodiversity Projects:			
Lullington Heath	Amber	Amber	Site meeting with NE and SEW to agree extent and methods for winter season 2021/22 clearance 26.05.21. After reviewing different methods trialled, winter 2020/21 successfully agreed work methods for SDNPA and NE portions of spend in order to reach ambition of major scrub clearance by end of project.
Winchester Study	Amber	Amber	Due to the lead officer undertaking a six month secondment (beginning October 2020) no further work has been

			carried out on this project. It has now re-commenced on return of the lead officer in April 2021.
Cultural Heritage Projects:			
Tide Mills: A Living History	Amber	Amber	<p>Launch of crowdfunding campaign to cover additional costs of project.</p> <p>Web content enhanced to include new pages on wildlife (plants and bird species): Flora and Fauna - The Tide Mills Project</p> <p>Learning resources and downloadable activities have been added to the website: Tide Mills Learning Resources - The Tide Mills Project</p> <p>Sussex Community foundation have awarded a grant to the project.</p> <p>Steering group meeting held in April – four option contingency plans developed for event delivery, based on four scenarios for lockdown easing and ongoing potential public safety measures.</p> <p>Site layout plans devised, linked to four option contingency plans, to guide site installation ahead of the planned heritage celebration events in September. Project partners were able to see a design lay out of the various art installations, performance areas and facilities on site, including scenarios being explored around parking and traffic management.</p> <p>Communications launch showcasing artists commissioned, drip-fed over the past few months to build momentum and interest.</p> <p>Community and schools activities remain in delivery.</p> <p>Development of a community garden, which will be installed on site for the heritage celebration event, showcasing the self-sufficiency of the original communities who lived at Tide Mills.</p>

4. Project Performance Reporting: New Project Approvals

4.1 There were 52 projects in delivery at the end of Q1. Four new projects were approved through TPBs during Q1, these include:

- Two new projects for the Connecting People and Communities TPB: Ouse Valley Cares and Lewes Castle.
- One new project was approved through the Landscape and Biodiversity TPB: Ewe Dean Fencing
- One new project was approved through the Sustainable Economy and Tourism TPB: South Downs Enterprise Partnership.

5. Project Performance Reporting: Project Closures

5.1 There are 3 projects that were closed in Q1 and a further 8 are due to close in Q2. The projects closed in Q1 were:

- Coppicing for Longlands Wood
- Pump it Up
- Scheduled Monument Research and Data.

6. Seven Sisters Project Update

6.1 During Q1 the legal transfer work continued with ESCC as part of the legal conveyancing for the transfer of Seven Sisters Country Park to the South Downs National Park. At the end of June we were at the point of exchange of contracts with ESCC.

6.2 Phase I contractors were appointed in Q1 with full cost engineering completed to achieve the necessary contract value for the associated works. The formal contract will be issued in Q2 on completion of the transfer and legal ownership.

6.3 The new SSCP staff team were recruited in Q1 and a new website completed for the park to start in Q2 on completion of transfer.

7. Project Performance Reporting: Strategic Fund Implications

7.1 The budget for the Strategic Fund for 2021/22 is set out in the overview table below. The level of funding available for projects may vary depending on the level of funding carried over as well as the annual allocation of funds into the Strategic Fund on an annual basis. The annual budget contributions are based on assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by the NPA in March 2021.

	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Annual Budget (£)				
Budget Carried forward (£)	734,014	281,896	242,896	183,896
Total Budget	734,014	281,896	242,896	183,896
Requirement for funding	*452,118	39,000	59,000	0
Estimated funding	281,896	242,896	183,896	183,896

available				
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*This total includes projects that have been approved funding but are currently on-hold awaiting other funding decisions.

8. Project Performance Reporting: Theme Programme Board Fund Implications and PMP delivery of Outcomes.

8.1 There is a separate project pipeline for PMP projects over the next 5 years for smaller proactive projects, these will be funded (where budgets allow) from the Theme Programme Boards (TPB) funds approved in the March NPA 2021. The TPB are split into areas responsible for delivering against specific PMP outcomes (and priorities) (**Appendix 3**) as follows:

- Landscape and Biodiversity (PMP outcomes 1, 2 and 3)
- Access (PMP outcome 5)
- Cultural Heritage (PMP outcome 4)
- Sustainable Economy and Tourism (PMP outcomes 1.3, 8, 9 and 10)
- Connecting People and Communities (PMP outcomes 5.1, 6, 7, 8.1 and 9.2)

The below table summarises the spend allocation by each TPB at the end of Q1 with respect to PMP outcome delivery.

TPB	TPB Budget Approved in March NPA	Total budget including carry over from 2020/21	Approved for projects by the end Q1 (inc. carried over projects)	PMP outcomes delivered
Landscape and Biodiversity	60,000	111,400	81,400	1, 2 and 3
Access	60,000	139,700	139,645	5
Cultural Heritage	60,000	81,600	26,600	4.1 and 4.2
Sustainable Economy and Tourism	60,000	60,000	25,000	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 9.2 and 9.3
Connecting people and communities	60,000	119,000	63,120	5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1 and 9.2

9. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	It will be the case that, as per the standing orders and the terms of reference for this Committee, projects will come forward for approval in due course.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	There are no direct resource implications to this report, as the recommendations are for receive and review only. This report reports a position for projects in delivery at the end of Quarter 1, which includes projects funded from the Strategic Fund, which is funded from approved budgets.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Value for money for individual projects is assessed at the development stage, midway through a project and at the

	<p>end, through an evaluative process that is reported to this Committee.</p> <p>Setting aside a fund to support projects represents a positive return on investment as it enables projects to go ahead which might not otherwise</p>
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes –the subject matter of the report is an update on organisational performance and no specific issues have been identified. Projects are subject to an equalities impact assessment at the appropriate stage of their development.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	No, not directly although during development of the Corporate Plan, sustainability issues are included as part of the process. All projects will contribute positively to some extent to the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes, all of which are aimed at delivering sustainability

10. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

10.1 Robust corporate planning and monitoring of performance are part of the mitigations for our corporate risk as detailed in the table below:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Unforeseen changes to the level of funding provided by relevant Government departments for future years	Likely	Minor	A robust monitoring and project approval system and regular reporting to relevant Committees on projects and the budget available along with a Corporate Plan which sets clear priorities to support delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes.

<p>There may be some risks to our reputation if we are unable to provide match funding for some of our larger projects. This would also potentially reduce the types of funding we were able to apply for.</p>	<p>Possible</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The main mitigation for this is to keep close scrutiny of the Strategic Fund and apply a rigorous prioritisation process when approving those projects that commit the SDNPA to significant funding over a number of years.</p> <p>Further mitigation for this risk is the work that will be carried out to generate income for the South Downs National Park and also potentially for the SDNPA.</p>
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Appendices

1. Corporate Performance report Q1 2021/22
2. Q1 Projects Tableau Dashboard
3. Outcomes and Priorities summary

SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager; Countryside and Policy Managers

External Consultees None

Background Documents [Corporate Plan 2021/22](#)

Tableau Dashboard Link for Q1 Report
https://public.tableau.com/views/PRProjectsDashboardQ1202122/ProgrammeandRAGstatus?:language=en-GB&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

Tableau training video
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p1WbMxcICNUnBBwRzkLTxNCJdnSXafnQ/view?usp=sharing>

Item 9 Appendix 1: Corporate Performance Report Q1 (April to June) 2021/22

Strategic Priority or Organisational Priority	Key priorities	In year 2 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
<p>Strategic priority 1: Enhance - We will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage</p> <p>PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty</p>	Deliver the strategic work streams for the People and Nature Network (Green Infrastructure)	<p>1) Develop greater detail around the Nature Conservation Improvement Areas (NCIA) and audit current activity</p> <p>2) Align Local Plan Green Infrastructure (GI) policy and practice with Environment Bill, GI standards and partner authorities' Local Plans where possible to develop shared policy objectives</p> <p>3) Support and develop cross boundary links to wider initiatives to support the setting of the SDNP</p> <p>4) Integrate strategic GI approach with Nature Recovery Network (NRN) and Net Zero with Nature (NZWN)</p>	<p>1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects</p> <p>1.2 Improve green and blue infrastructure to deliver nature recovery networks and connect people to nature within and around the SDNP</p>	<p>8 strategic cross boundary areas identified in the SDNPA Wildlife Delivery Plan (WDP) Opportunity Map</p>	<p>Officer restarted at SDNPA in May 2021 after 7 month secondment. Winchester Landscape Conversation Report 1st draft completed, this is NCIA 1. Response given to SDNPA Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation on GI (green infrastructure) section. Research and data prep for SDNPA on river catchments and river Priority Habitats. NCIA's integrated within the SDNPA Wildlife Delivery Plan opportunity areas.</p>		<p>Next steps: Natural England GI standards introduction due 2022. Set out framework for NCIA Audit. Pull together local plan information and develop approach. Integrate GI standards with SDNPA LP and BNG.</p>
	Lead the Authority's response to: i) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Proposals (NSIPs) ii) Major and strategic planning applications iii) Other ad hoc major projects as required	Respond in a timely and appropriate fashion to NSIPs and major planning applications which may impact the National Park	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects		Speed of determination of major planning applications remains in excess of Government targets. All NSIP deadlines met.		
	Provide high quality specialist advice in Design, Conservation and Landscape, as required across the organisation	Provide specialist advice as and when required	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects		Specialist advice has been provided throughout the quarter.		<p>Note: Site visits by specialists to the outside of buildings are taking place, where social distancing can be observed</p>
	Support farm clusters across the South Downs National Park	Develop and operate projects that prepare farmers for the implementation of the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme at a landscape scale	1.3 Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park	<p>20 farmers identified to participate in the South Downs National Park Farm Carbon Project</p> <p>5 Meet the Farmer videos filmed with the South Downs Farmers Group.</p>	<p>In May, the Landscape & Biodiversity TPB agreed to contribute £45,000 from the Climate Change Fund over three years (2021-2023) to support the South Downs National Park Farm Carbon Project. This will contribute to soil sampling/analysis and Farm Carbon Toolkit calculations on 20 farms across four Farmer Clusters (Eastern Downs, Arun to Adur, Rother Valley and Selborne Landscape Partnership). It will also support follow-up workshops and events, both within and outside Farmer Clusters, to discuss results and identify practices that can be used to improve soil quality and reduce carbon emissions. In June, five farmers from the South Downs Farmers Group were filmed for the next tranche of Meet the Farmer videos. The project has been funded through the Spencer Wills Trust.</p>		<p>Next steps: Farmers participating in the SDNP Farm Carbon Project to be contacted by Stephen Woodley Crop Services and South West Farm Consultants to plan and agree on-farm soil sampling. Meet the Farmer videos to be edited to final copies, QR/NFC plaques to be produced and project finished.</p>
	Participate in the Environmental Land Management (ELM) National Pilot	Ensure National Park involvement, where possible, in all components of the ELM National Pilot	1.3 Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park		Awaiting details of the Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery pilots from Defra.		<p>Next steps: we will ensure we are involved once information received from Defra</p>
	Support Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)	Implement and manage FiPL funding across the National Park	1.3 Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park	<p>5 FiPL training events attended</p> <p>2 FiPL Advisors recruited</p>	<p>Defra officially launched FiPL on 23rd June 2021. In the SDNP, this included a dedicated webpage on our website, social media, print and radio promotion. The Programme is open to applicants on 1st July. At the end of June, the National Farmwork and supporting documents were published. Five FiPL training events were attended, providing an opportunity to ask questions and clarify details. Seven Farmers and one NE representative were contacted to assess interest in sitting on the Local Assessment Panel (LAP). Two FiPL Advisors were recruited (Sophie Brown and Max Sheldon), each working 3 days/week on FiPL, to support local delivery of the Programme.</p>		<p>Next steps: Confirm Local Assessment Panel and convene initial meeting. Begin to develop FiPL applications as project ideas are submitted.</p>

<p>Strategic priority 1: Enhance - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage</p>	<p>Develop and deliver SDNPA projects as part of the National Trust led HLF funded Changing Chalk initiative</p>	<p>Development Phase continued: submission June 2021</p>	<p>2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>		
	<p>Reduce nitrates into groundwater as part of Brighton ChAMP Phase 2 (The Aquifer Partnership (TAP))</p>	<p>Continuation of TAP</p>	<p>2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>		
<p>PMP Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience</p>	<p>Support the South Downs Forestry Champions partnership</p>	<p>Review the composition of the partnership group and continue delivery of the action plan</p>	<p>2.2 Improve the resilience and quality and quantity of trees and woodlands in the National Park and ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place</p>	<p>New members have joined the SD Forestry Champions Partnership. First meeting of the SD Forestry Champions Partnership held at Stansted Park on the 30th June 2021. Partners interested in sharing best practice. Updates on grants and the England Tree Action Plan was provided by Forestry Commission. The group discussed the use of biodegradable tree shelters and the options available in the market; species selection for restoration of ash dieback sites, deer management and squirrels, amongst other things. One of the partners was keen to host 2 forestry apprentices.</p>		<p>Next steps: Organise next meeting of the Forestry Champion Partnership in Alice Holt Wood; site visit led by Gail Atkinson from Forest Research. Contact partners and RFS/ICF/FC to explore ways to promote Forestry Apprenticeships with the aim to have 2 apprentices in January 2022. Potential risks: Changes in Covid-19 restrictions during or after the summer holidays might still have an impact on working patterns / practices if another wave of the pandemic sweeps the country.</p>
	<p>Support the Woodland Trust conservation partnership</p>	<p>Deliver a package of targeted woodland management advice and support to landowners and woodland businesses</p>	<p>2.2 Improve the resilience and quality and quantity of trees and woodlands in the National Park and ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place</p>	<p>Engaged and visited 10 landowners for the first time covering 184 hectares of woodland with 61 hectares being ancient (29 ASNW / 33 PAWS) 9 Ancient Woodland surveys were carried out in this period plus 2 days of ancient tree surveys. 3 revisits to landowners we have been previously working with to offer further advice</p>	<p>Continued to provide advice to landowners previously engaged with as well as SDNPA staff. Main focus of engagement will be the target areas identified on the Conservation Partnership Agreement.</p>	
<p>Strategic priority 1: Enhance - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage</p> <p>PMP Outcome 3: Habitats & Species</p>	<p>Complete Heathlands Reunited and secure ongoing commitments to heathland recovery and public engagement</p>	<p>1) Complete/close HeRe project 2) Initiate Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMM) Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Project 3) Development of a landscape-scale approach to the Wealden Heaths</p>	<p>3.1 Create, restore and improve areas of priority habitat to be more, bigger, better, and joined up at a landscape scale</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>		
	<p>Restore nature at scale. Develop and implement a South Downs Delivery Plan for Wildlife. Work with regional and local partners (inc. Local Nature Partners (LNPs) and South East Protected Landscapes (SEPL) to define Nature Recovery Networks (NRNs) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)</p>	<p>1) Define & adopt the Nature Recovery Network in partnership 2) Develop a nature recovery vision specific to the SDNP 3) Develop nature recovery in the SDNP by landscape character area 4) Develop a matrix / framework which outlines the different mechanisms (financing nature recovery and natural capital) 5) Develop a monitoring & reporting framework: develop and adopt the SDNPA approach to biological monitoring 6) Develop nature recovery/nature based solutions as part of the climate change action plan</p>	<p>3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases</p>	<p>Nature Recovery Network (NRN): Definition of the NRN continues in partnership with the county Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) (Sussex & Hampshire). Collaboration at a regional level to develop SE NRN Framework now initiated (through the SE Nature Partnership). Vision: high level vision, targets and opportunity map produced as part of SD Wildlife Delivery Plan (WDP)/ SD NR Prospectus. Supported by Members at P&R Committee 15-July-21. NR by Landscape Character Assessment (LCA): draft "menu" produced. Mechanisms matrix: matrix working document produced. Financing Nature Recovery group also set up. SD Biodiversity Monitoring Framework (BMF): Version 1 published. Working towards delivery of Action Plan. Interim NR log set up and in use.</p>		<p>Next steps: SD Nature Recovery Campaign #Renature successfully launched on 5-July. NR Member Workshop held on 13-July. Paper to P&R Committee on 15-July supporting high level targets, campaign and approaches to BNG and Call for Nature Sites. Lessons learnt and feedback from P&R Committee (15/7) to be embedded into NR Programme of Work. Continue to work with County LNPs and SENP re NRN development. Develop content and launch NR Resource Hub. Continue to develop BNG and Call for Nature Sites approaches. Environment Bill/Act readiness preparation Potential risks: impact of campaign. Ability to bring land managers and partners to the table to take action. Capacity to meaningfully engage in the complex range of NR activity. Clarity of SDNPA role in facilitating new mechanisms.</p>
	<p>Set up and administer a South Downs Nature Recovery Campaign and Challenge Fund</p>	<p>Go live</p>	<p>3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases</p>	<p>Nature Recovery Campaign developed - "Help Nature ReNature". The campaign will launch on 5 July based around a hero animation. The initial campaign push will be earned media followed by a second push in late July/early August through paid for media and advertising including screening at cinemas across the South East.</p>		<p>Next steps: campaign launched in Q2</p>
	<p>Produce a Landscape Management Plan (LMP) for Seven Sisters Country Park</p>	<p>LMP completed. Delivery in SSCP started</p>	<p>3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases</p>	<p>Seven Sisters updates are reported as part of the Quarterly Project Update</p>		

<p>Strategic priority 1: Enhance - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage</p> <p>PMP Outcome 4: Cultural Heritage</p>	Create and undertake a Scheduled Monument Monitoring project	Apply for funding, recruit project delivery staff, plan delivery, design participant agreements and recruit participants	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update			
	Roll out the Footsteps App	Develop and deliver new App content (max. 2 new organisations)	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update			
	Create and Install 'Meet the Archaeologist' Near Field Communication (NFC) plaques	Deliver tranche 1 plaques	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update			
	Support and encourage traditional skills through partnerships	Develop and deliver new projects across both aims	4.2 Promote creativity and understanding of the landscape and traditions of the South Downs through contemporary arts and crafts	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update			
	Encourage creative experiences and activities and cultural programming, providing a platform for increased representation and engagement for all groups	Build on projects and co-author follow on projects	4.2 Promote creativity and understanding of the landscape and traditions of the South Downs through contemporary arts and crafts	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update			
<p>Strategic priority 2: Connect - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events</p> <p>PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences</p>	Increase our digital reach and engagement	1) Increase web traffic to 55,000 visitor average per month 2) Deliver Phase 2 of the website 3) Increase our social media following to 65,000 (10% increase)	5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion	The website had 474,392 unique visitors during this period, providing us with a monthly average of 158,130 visitors. Across social media, we have 66,094 followers	Website phase two is not yet complete. Social media includes SDNPA Twitter, SDNPA Facebook, SDNPA Instagram and the SDNPA Ranger Twitter accounts		Next steps: we expect the improved Discovery, Volunteer and Learning map (amalgamated) on the SDNP website to be released in July 2021 Potential risks: Website visitors may yet plateau but there are no signs this will be the case.
	Deliver the Communications Plan and signage and interpretation plans for Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP)	1) Engage with local communities on the redevelopment and launch of SSCP 2) Develop and launch new Seven Sisters website and social media channels 3) Develop and deliver new site signage 4) Deliver new interpretation in the visitor centre 5) Launch and promote SSCP after Phase 1 has been completed	5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion		A Communications Plan has been developed and kept up to date. We are currently sharing information through a dedicated section on the SDNP main website. As part of the Communications Plan and in anticipation of the launch, a brand and a new website has been developed. New social media channels are set up ready to go. An FAQ on SSCP is kept up to date to ensure we have clear and consistent messaging on SSCP. Updates on Communications & Engagement Plans for SSCP have been brought to the SSCP Project Board, with the latest update being on 24 June 2021.		
	Manufacture and install 30 new entry signs inside the National Park	Complete manufacture and installation of phase 2 which was delayed by Covid	5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update			
	Comms to work alongside the Trust to develop and deliver a Nature Recovery Campaign. The aim is to raise substantial funds to enable delivery of our ambitious nature recovery plans for an additional 13,000 hectares of land that will be managed for nature by 2030	Develop and launch our Nature Recovery Campaign	5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion		The Help Us Renature Campaign has been developed working with the Nature Recovery Working Group and the SDNP Trust. The campaign is based around a hero animation, "The Night We ReNatured". The campaign will direct supporters to a digital hub for the campaign and also a digital hub for information and resources on how to reNature.		

<p>Deliver the Families Outreach Project using the John Muir Award (JMA)</p>	<p>Deliver year 2 and evaluate: 1) Deliver face to face activities with community organisations 2) Support organisations through JMA resources and tool-kits 3) Review and evaluate project and embed legacy plans</p>	<p>5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion</p>		<p>1. Face to face engagement with community groups is now underway having been paused due to Covid restrictions which have hit the target audiences of this project significantly, including many community groups. We are working with EnableAbility to deliver a family JMA in conjunction with a local care home. Other group activities are scheduled for summer and autumn 2021 although these are taking the form of JMA taster days rather than a full award given the time squeeze placed on the project from the pandemic. 2. A bespoke colouring canvas for families has been created and delivered as part of the resource support to community organisations in the project. These canvasses will be used with groups throughout the summer programme. 3. Funding has allowed a two month extension to the project to try to embed some of the face to face delivery that was lost due to the pandemic. The online Family JMAs have been evaluated and reported back to funders.</p>		<p>Next steps: Review of the whole project will take place in November and December 2021 ahead of the project closedown in December. Note: The pandemic had a huge impact on this 2 year externally funded project. The entire delivery phase was impacted due to Covid restrictions and this resulted in a rapid but effective switch to online engagement through the virtual JMAs. These virtual awards had great reach, however the main principle of this project was engaging families from our most disadvantaged communities in face to face JMA activities. Instead of an 18 month delivery window we are now working to deliver taster day activities to a wide range of family groups from June - October with ongoing support to these groups throughout the autumn period.</p>
<p>Provide funding for permissive paths as a stop gap between expiring existing agri-environment schemes and the start of the new ELM scheme</p>	<p>Ensure agreements are in place with relevant landowners</p>	<p>5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>			
<p>Create a safe crossing on the A283 at Upper Beeding on to the South Downs Way (SDW)</p>	<p>Support West Sussex County Council with scheme feasibility and outline design work</p>	<p>5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>			
<p>Deliver Centurion Way Phase 2 from Singleton to Cocking</p>	<p>Undertake ecological/tunnel surveys for Centurion Way Phase II</p>	<p>5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways</p>		<p>Monthly, ecological/tunnel surveys for West Dean, Singleton and Cocking disused railways tunnels carried out in May and June.</p>		<p>Next steps: Continuation of monthly surveys over summer months (no C-19 impact).</p>
<p>Create a new multi-user route along the Rother Valley</p>	<p>1) Review, negotiate and agree route alignment with landowners 2) Develop and submit planning application</p>	<p>5.3 Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>			
<p>Strategic priority 2: Connect - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events</p>	<p>Develop the 'Our South Downs' Learning Network 1) Review pilot of Ambassador Schools and extend approach following learning 2) Run year 2 of schools eco grant</p>	<p>6.1 Provide high-quality outdoor learning opportunities as part of a locally relevant curriculum</p>	<p>£33,711 of School Visits Grants allocated, supporting 4,421 pupils to engage with the SDNP</p>	<p>1. Ambassador Schools programme continues to be paused due to school priorities in responding to the pandemic. 2. School eco-grants has now been handed over to the SDNP Trust who are administering this scheme as part of their grants programme. This grant is currently paused. We are running an extensive School Visit Grants programme this year as part of our Covid learning sector support. Grants are awarded for fully facilitated visits to learning providers in the SDNP as well as enabling providers to take the SDNP into the school grounds via in-school visits. In addition we continue to run the travel grant.</p>		<p>Next steps: Ambassador Schools programme to resume in September 2021</p>
<p>PMP Outcome 6: Lifelong Learning Deliver Generation Green</p>	<p>1) Contract learning provider to deliver educational sessions at YHA sites across the National Park (Eastbourne, South Downs and Truleigh) 2) Deliver South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) days as part of targeted delivery of volunteering opportunities for project participants 3) Work with partners in the SDNP Learning Network to deliver teacher CPD sessions on learning in the National Park 4) Work with Generation Green Project Manager to secure additional funding for Years 2-5 as part of the Access Unlimited consortium</p>	<p>6.1 Provide high-quality outdoor learning opportunities as part of a locally relevant curriculum</p>		<p>1. So Sussex contracted to deliver the educational sessions of the Generation Green project 2. South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) programme created 3. Contributed to a paper on the future of Access Unlimited coordinated by the Generation Green Project Manager. Discussions are underway for the next phase of this consortium delivery</p>		<p>Next steps: South Downs Youth Action marketing due to start in July. 24 South Downs Youth Action Days scheduled for summer and autumn 2021. 3 South Downs Youth Action residentials scheduled September and October 2021. Providers will be invited to submit proposals for sessions for the Teacher CPD sessions in July with delivery scheduled from September onwards</p>

<p>Strategic priority 2: Connect - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events</p> <p>PMP Outcome 7: Health & Wellbeing</p>	<p>Link into social prescribing and place based health networks to increase use of the National Park for health and well-being (H&WB) via social prescribing</p>	<p>51) Support the development of the Sussex Local Nature Partnership (LNP) H&WB sub committee 2) Identify places and begin negotiation for at least 1 H&WB hub to be set up 3) Identify existing Local Authority H&WB hubs 4) Use research findings to identify and develop specific interventions 5) Continue to support the Public Health England (PHE) Southern National Park partnership</p>	<p>7.1 Develop initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing</p>		<p>1. Attendance by SDNPA at HWB LNP meetings - contributing to Green and health splinter group 2. Exploring option of HWB at SSCP or Truleigh Hill 3.LA HWB hubs have been identified and linking SDNPA and these hubs are starting 4. Research has been commissioned, questionnaires have been sent to partners and receiving regular updates from Cordis Bright 5. Continuing to support PHE Southern National Park partnership</p>		
<p>Strategic priority 2: Connect - we will support or lead partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events</p> <p>PMP Outcome 8: Creating Custodians</p>	<p>Develop South Downs Youth Action (SDYA)</p>	<p>1) Co-develop Lead Youth Ambassador roles with current Youth Ambassadors and recruit new intake of Youth Ambassadors 2) Deliver the SDYA Park-Wide programme in conjunction with the SDNP Trust, Clarion Housing and Generation Green 3) Launch the #iwillfornature youth action grant scheme</p>	<p>8.1 Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the National Park</p>	<p>13 Youth Action Fund grants awarded in Round 1 totalling £23,500</p>	<p>1. Lead Youth Ambassador role profiles developed with input from current Youth Ambassadors. 2. SDYA programme established in conjunction with the SDNP Volunteering Network. We are working with three Clarion Youth Groups to develop SDYA activities this year 3. Round 1 of the Youth Action Fund completed in June. We awarded 13 grants totalling £23,500 on a diverse range of inspiring youth led social and environmental action projects.</p>		<p>Next steps: New intake of Youth Ambassadors will be recruited from SDYA participants summer and autumn 2021. Training weekend for new Youth Ambassadors scheduled for October 2021 and supported by Sussex Clubs for Young People. 24 SDYA days scheduled over summer and autumn 2021. Three SDYA residential scheduled for September and October 2021. Round 2 of the Youth Action Fund will open in September 2021</p>
<p>Strategic priority 3: Thrive - we will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the Duty of National Parks: to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism</p> <p>PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live</p>	<p>Deliver or support place making enhancements for specific communities</p>	<p>1) Support the development of the Petersfield place making strategy 2) Deliver Communities in the South Downs: develop draft products for 3 areas and begin engagement in 2 further areas</p>	<p>9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park</p>	<p>Attended 2 x Petersfield Officer Group (POG) meetings and 1 x Petersfield Strategy Group (PSG) meetings</p>	<p>During this period officers have continued to support the development of two more project briefs for key junctions in the Town. There are now 4 of the 6 project briefs complete. Officers and Members have provided feedback on the junction modelling software and proposed approach for modelling key junction in the town. Officers continue to support the POG in preparation of the overall masterplan. Input to the Government's welcome back fund on possible quick win projects in the Town Centre. The consultants have carried out unaccompanied visits to all year 1 pilot parishes and reviewed the highway issues locally. Officers have coordinated and attended the Fittleworth Parish site visit and input into discussion as to priority areas for project focus. Officers have worked closely with year 2 pilot parish Cheriton to bring them forward to year 1 of the project. Supported Cheriton Parish Council in gathering background evidence and community engagement. Working closely with Jevington Parish Council and local residents to initiate project.</p>		<p>Next steps: arrange stakeholder workshops and invite relevant SDNPA officers to attend workshops to feed into options for junction works. Support officers in facilitation of stakeholder workshops. Support the development of the final two project briefs for remaining junctions. Feed into proposals for spend of welcome back fund in Petersfield. Arrange and attend meetings with Cheriton Parish Council and Jevington Parish Council to review local highways issues and identify possible solutions. Review solutions proposed for Fittleworth and circulate report to parish council for comment. Agree solution to be funded by Communities in the South Downs (CiitSD) in Fittleworth.</p>
	<p>Work with External funding team to find ways to fund a challenge fund to support the development of community facility enhancements that contribute to mitigating climate change, enhancing nature recovery, promoting health and well-being and supporting the local economy</p>	<p>1) Understand which funders might support this and approach them 2) Work with parishes to identify enhancements needed</p>	<p>9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park</p>		<p>No progress on identifying potential funders in 1st quarter. Following a review of community led plans and discussions with town and parish councils across the National Park officers have developed a simple database to record enhancement opportunities which can be used to target any future funding opportunities. There has not been a formal notification of the project sent to all communities as it seemed appropriate to wait on confirmation that there may be available funds before we raised expectations</p>		
	<p>Lead the Development phase of the OUSE Valley CARES bid to the Climate Action Fund</p>	<p>Develop and submit fully costed delivery project proposal for large HLF project</p>	<p>9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park</p>	<p>Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update</p>			

	Deliver Sustainable Drainage Project with schools	Rainscape construction planned in 2021/22- two schools (Moulsecomb and Carden)	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park	Projects are reported on in the Quarterly Project Update		
	Engage digitally on Local Plans, neighbourhood plans and other planning documents	Explore interactive digital engagement starting with our new SPDs/TANs, major planning applications and Whole Estate Plans. Investigate any pilot schemes from MHCLG.	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park		We decided to concentrate on exploring interactive digital media for the Shoreham Cement Works Area Action Plan. We put in a bid for Government Pathfinder funding in April, but were unfortunately unsuccessful. We are looking into different consultation platforms such as Common Place and Vu City.	Next steps: We are looking to engage consultants Q3 and actually consult in Q4
	Effectively and efficiently operate all processes and systems for incoming and outgoing monies related to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 legal agreements	Continue to produce the yearly Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP) as a mechanism to direct CIL money to priorities	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park	S106 data - collected £28,089.39 for specific obligations, spent £76,050.00 on 3 projects Signed 2 new S106 - secured 7 affordable housing units in Fittleworth and land for nitrate mitigation CIL - for 2020/21 financial yr collected a total of £1,836,384.19 and £369,818.09 has been paid directly to 30 Parishes. Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2021 IBP (i.e. spending of 2020/21 CIL Receipts)	S106 spend includes helping to deliver 2 affordable homes in Midhurst.	Next steps: IBP and recommendations for spending 2020/21 CIL Receipts heading for September Planning Committee. Amendments to CIL Regulations came into force on 22nd July 2020, this allows deferred payments / longer payment plans for CIL monies due and Developers are able to defer payments / obligations under a Section 106 agreement requests can be made up until 31 July 2021. However still 'business as usual' for preparing this year's IBP - the spending of 2020/21 CIL Receipts. Potential risks: Covid-19 - whilst the change in the CIL Regs to allow the deferral of payments expire on 31 July 2021, may still have requests to defer payments and / or longer payment plans (or a longer time to complete a particular obligation). Whilst deferral is unlikely to be agreed, we are being pragmatic about offering longer payment plans.
<p>Strategic priority 3: Thrive - we will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the Duty of National Parks: to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism</p> <p>PMP Outcome 10: Great Places to Work</p>	Create a Business Network for likeminded local economic and social enterprise partners who positively contribute to the National Park	Deliver business engagement programme through the South Downs Enterprise Partnership. Aim for 60 members	10.1 Strengthen and support sustainably managed land-based industries and local enterprise	592 businesses subscribe to the business newsletter	The business community will now be referred to as 'Our South Downs'. YourMembership has been identified as the preferred supplier for the Platform/CRM/Network. Branding & Logo procurement is complete with a consultant appointed to commence the works w/c 21st June 2021. The business newsletter continues to be written and shared with a subscription base of 592 businesses every month. Our Farming Officer will be using the monthly business newsletter as the main platform for communicating with SDNP farmers regarding the FiPL fund	Next Steps: Sign contract with YourMembership and commence development of Platforms, CRM and Network. Complete Branding & Logo creation. Progress on creation of content for the Platforms. Continue to develop 'Member Benefits' for the new business Community.
	Deliver our Public Affairs Strategy	Develop and deliver an annual action plan for the three priority areas of the Public Affairs Strategy	10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit		We are in the process of developing a stakeholder management plan for the Public Affairs Strategy. In this first quarter our work has focused on the development of the Nature Recovery Campaign, which is a key part of the Nature Recovery Public affairs objectives. We have also focused on establishing our position and knowledge around the future of farming, with a focus on liaison with Government on the new ELMs and FiPL which was launched on 24 June 2021 and goes live on 1 July 2021. In Engaging Young people, our focus has been on shaping and feeding into the Generation Green joint work with NPE and also our own Youth Action work.	
	Deliver the extended National Park Experience Collection (ENPEC), including roll out of Ranger Experiences	Support project legacy through collaborative NPA UK experience body	10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit	Publicity received for South Downs experiences: i-news (online and print) feature Sheerlux - overview of platform launch British Travel Journal (online, digital version and print mag) - 10 page feature	A difficult launch with the UK travel restrictions changing but bookings show a promising start. First bookings achieved for Fins & Forks through NPA platform - waiting for data from other experiences.	Next steps: Q1 Reporting meeting is planned for 26 July when we will be discussing the next quarter and will receive actual booking data.
	Work towards building Seven Sisters Country Park into a world class visitor attraction	1) Complete Camping Barn bunkhouse construction 2) Ensure marketing is underway	10.3 Establish the South Downs as an exemplar in sustainable tourism	Seven Sisters updates are reported as part of the Quarterly Project Update		
Organisational priorities - we will support our partnerships and projects which deliver our	Complete Phase 1 scope of works at Seven Sisters Country Park	Phase 1 construction underway	Core work	Seven Sisters updates are reported as part of the Quarterly Project Update		

which deliver our organisational objective: to be a confident and secure organisation exercising effective influence; providing excellent customer service, and value for money and generating income to support our work

Develop a wider masterplan for the future Phase 2 and Phase 3 work at Seven Sisters Country Park	Identify development opportunities following completion of Phase 1 work to support operational and commercial delivery at Seven Sisters Country Park. This will be led by the Trading Company	Core work	Seven Sisters updates are reported as part of the Quarterly Project Update			
Set up a trading company for Seven Sisters Country Park	Ensure trading company is operating. Commercial elements now trading - visitor centre/bunk house/ holiday lets	Core work		Company established and directors appointed		Next steps: Operating agreement due to be agreed by NPA in October so company can begin formal operations in early 2022
Maintain a robust and well performing host authority development management system	1) Monitor service and deliver continued improvements 2) Devise new Section 101 agreements	Core work	Approximately 80% of all planning decisions taken in the National Park are taken by the 5 host authorities	Although host authority performance is generally good there is some variation in host authority performance.		
Provide Local Plan training for officers, members and agents	Train officers, members and agents on the Local Plan	Core work		The next tranche of Local Plan training will take place in Q3 with SDNPA and host authority planners. The Agents' Forum is also scheduled for Q3		Next steps: run training in Q3
Review and update the Local Plan, including evidence gathering and engagement	Incorporate learning from establishment of first Local Plan	Core work		We are actively incorporating learning on the Local Plan into implementation. The system of Planning Policy providing comments is now well established and working well.		
Implement Local Plan Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Technical Advice Notes (TANs)	Provide further guidance on Local Plan policies for Design SPD, Biodiversity Net Gain SPD, Parking SPD, Viticulture TAN, Camping & Glamping TAN, Equestrian TAN, Health & Wellbeing TAN and Ecosystem Services TAN.	Core work		Good progress has been made on a number of our SPDs and TANs as follows: Design SPD (consultation Q1-2), Biodiversity Net Gain SPD (awaiting enactment of Environment Bill), Parking SPD (adopted April 2021), Viticulture TAN (published April 2021), Equestrian TAN (work underway), Health & Wellbeing TAN (work underway)		Next steps: publish Camping & Glamping TAN in July 2021. Start work on Ecosystem Services TAN in Q3
Work cooperatively with neighbouring local planning authorities on cross boundary strategic issues	Respond to consultations from neighbouring local planning authorities concentrating on our six cross boundary priorities	Core work		Comments being prepared on the Issues & Options version of the Lewes Local Plan (due September) and Wildlife Corridors for the Chichester Local Plan. We were due to respond to the Horsahm Pre-Submission Local Plan, but this has been delayed due to changes to the NPPF		Next steps: In July, submit comments on the Hampshire Draft Spatial Framework and the scoping report for the Chichester Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal. In September, submit comments on the Issues & Options version of the Lewes Local Plan
Deliver a robust and well performing development management and Minerals & Waste service	Exceed the performance indicators for issue of decisions whilst adding value	Core work	The Authority has achieved the following performance in Q1: Majors 73%, Minors 80%, Others 84%	Note that these figures are provisional pending quality assurance checks.		
Deliver a robust and well performing development management service in terms of Appeals performance	Respond swiftly to appeals and measure the rate of dismissals	Core work	Percentage of Appeals dismissed in Q1 = 76%	This performance is in excess of the performance target		
Deliver a robust and well performing enforcement service	1) Undertake investigations within agreed timetables 2) Ensure swift resolution and conclusion of investigations	Core work		Investigations have been dealt with within acceptable timescales. Teams continue to work hard to ensure, where possible, swift resolution to investigations.		
Deliver ongoing process and procedure improvements as set out in the Development Management Improvement Plan	Introduce new pre-application fee charging schedule	Core work		This work stream is yet to be progressed due to competing priorities.		
Implement the learning from the Whole Estate Plans review	Review the WEPs guidance and process	Core work		The Whole Estate Plan Review was undertaken by LUC. The draft report has been received in Q1 and SDNPA officers have fed back their comments		Next steps: receive and sign off the final report in Q2 and start work on the action plan and amendments to the WEPs guidance

Set up thematic research networks with academics and sector specialists based on research requirements highlighted through strategic reviews and in the PMP	Start collaborations around the chosen three themes: Soil Health, Climate Change and Health & Wellbeing	Core work		The Research and Evidence Officer (REO) was leading this work and they left the Authority in Q1. Key thematic research areas have been identified and the new REO will pick this work up when in post		Next steps: appoint a new REO in Q2/Q3 who will pick up this work
Improve performance and project reporting information on the National Park Authority website	Ensure project and performance web content is updated at least quarterly	Core work		Project web pages have been created and signed off by officers. These will be updated every quarter and have clear links to the Corporate Performance quarterly reports and the Annual Review		Next steps: create a learning and improvement area on the website and update the research web pages
Establish, manage and monitor an evaluation framework tasked to carry out external evaluations of SDNPA corporate and project work	1) Ensure evaluations are carried out to a high standard 2) Internally review the success to date of the framework and create KPIs	Core work		The Evaluation Framework, consisting of five evaluation agencies, is proving very effective. Heritage Insider are our main supplier and have undertaken the PMP process review and updated the Sussex Heritage Coast Partnership strategy and action plan. LUC have undertaken the Whole Estate Plans Review, and ERS Ltd are undertaking the monitoring and evaluation of the Timescape project as they are Social Value experts		Next steps: Heritage Insider to undertake a review of our five Theme Programme Boards and our project process in Q2 and Q3. In Q4 they will run training for officers on how to measure and monitor the outcomes and impacts of our projects and work.
Monitor SDNPA and partner delivery against PMP outcomes	Implement framework for PMP impact reporting	Core work		The Research and Evidence Officer (REO) was leading this work and they left the Authority in Q1. Prior to leaving, they worked with officers to devise delivery statements for most of our outcomes. The new REO will pick this work up when in post and will liaise with officers and partners to ensure a framework is established to enable us to start reporting on this information from 2022		Next steps: appoint a new REO in Q2/Q3 who will pick up this work
Implement actions following recommendations for the Equity Diversity and Inclusion review of the South Downs National Park Authority	1) Training plan identified and set in motion 2) Additional key actions and recommendations identified and put into place	Core work		The EDI Strategy and Action Plan document has been delayed from the consultants and will be circulated and acted upon from July (Q2)		Next steps: review strategy and action plan in Q2
<u>Develop relational partnerships:</u> 1) Work with strategic partners to develop work streams to engage with target audiences as identified within the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion review 2) Work with target audiences to co-author mutually beneficial outputs	1) Look to build on strategic existing partnerships and develop new partnerships based on ongoing relationships work with DEFRA, NPE, NP officer groups, ACE, PHE, NE CCs etc 2) Develop a range of outcomes which cover multiple PMP ambitions and accord with Glover recommendations for engagement for all	Core work		Once we have received the strategy and action plan we can begin work with strategic partners		
Embed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion across the way the National Park Authority works internally and externally	1) Reconsider the policies and processes that are least helpful and replace with more inclusive approaches 2) Identify those policies and processes which are easier to amend and make the necessary changes.	Core work		Once we have received the strategy and action plan we can begin work on embedding EDI across the way we work internally and externally		
Develop a fund raising strategy and identify ways to help fund, match fund and increase the value of our partnership work, through supporting our Theme Programme Boards and initiatives that are focussed on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) or are strongly supportive and contribute to our wider EDI aspirations	Develop a funding stream to deliver actions	Core work		A number of our projects include components to help further our EDI, for example, Ouse Valley Cares, Families Outreach and the School Travel Grant		Next steps: Continue to identify key funding needs of each TPB and identify funding opportunities to enhance the SDNP EDI

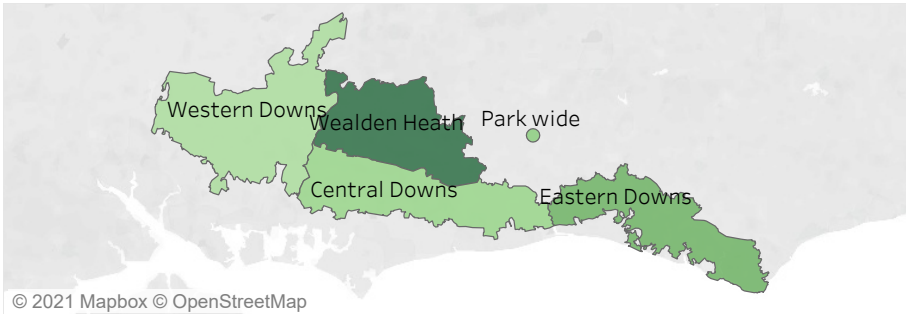
Continue to build on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Communications Plan	Provide platforms for target groups to showcase their experiences to inspire future generations and new audiences	Core work		In this first quarter we have provided opportunities for more inclusive communications by carrying out a review of accessibility on our website to ensure it is as accessible as possible. We have also prioritised support for a number of projects that support the EDI goals of our Communications & Engagement Strategy including supporting Black Trail Runners to film in the South Downs and sharing an interview with those involved in our monthly newsletter. We have also supported and promoted a number of key projects including our new Writer in Residence at SSCP and in April we supported the launch of the Shifting the Gaze microbursaries with Writing Our Legacy. We supported the creation of content about the National Park from different and new perspectives is a key part of our journey to inspiring future generations and new audiences.		
Continue to review opportunities to secure suitable long term accommodation for our area offices that meets the aspirations of the National Park Authority	Begin arrangements to re-locate central area staff	Core work		On-hold to review use of office space with new ways of working. Introduction of blended working in October 2021 likely to mean changes for balance of area accommodation required.		
Commission a new Staff Survey and create an action plan	Procure and undertake survey	Core work		The results from the internal health and wellbeing questionnaire in Q4 2020/21 have been analysed by OMT. This has provided a useful insight into staff views of blended working in the future. The organisation and staff are still adjusting to coming out of the pandemic, with many of our processes and training still adapted and at the beginning of Q3 will then be adjusting to blended working. It will therefore be more suitable to look at commissioning a staff survey in Q1 22/23, which can also incorporate a review of the approach to blended working.		Next steps: commission staff survey in Q1 2022/23 once blended working become more embedded
Aim to achieve climate neutrality for the National Park Authority	Continue to implement and monitor climate change action plan	Core work		Sustainability Working group developing base-line measure on carbon consumption		
Continue to develop self generated income, supporting PMP delivery, through bids to Statutory Sources, support for developing Private Finances for Natural Capital Services and support for the South Downs National Park Trust in continuing to build a sustainable income stream	Raise £2.5 million across all fundraising streams	Core work	£645k secured	This year we are off to a flying start, with £645,000 already secured, the majority of this is currently sitting with the Trust. This includes "Hampshire's Hedgerows", which seeks to restore over 20km of hedges across the Selbourne and Winchester Farm Clusters.		Next steps: We have £600,000 in warm bids and plans to submit a £1,000,000 HLF bid building on the failed, but highly scored, Downs to the Sea Green Recovery Challenge Fund bid.
Set up new South Downs Partnership (SDP)	1) Ensure South Downs Partnership consists of a wide variety of partner organisations 2) Appoint Chair and encourage a wide range of applications for the remaining specialist places on the partnership	Core work		To reflect the Glover Review and the independent assessment of the PMP process, a new SDP has been established. This is more diverse than the previous one, which better reflects the breadth of NP purposes and duty. It has an independent chair, Clare Moriarty, an experienced ex senior civil servant. Most of the 15 roles have been filled, with two still to be recruited which we hope to happen in Q2		Next steps: first meeting of the new South Downs Partnership on Wednesday 7th July.

SDNPA Projects in Delivery by end Q1 2021-2022

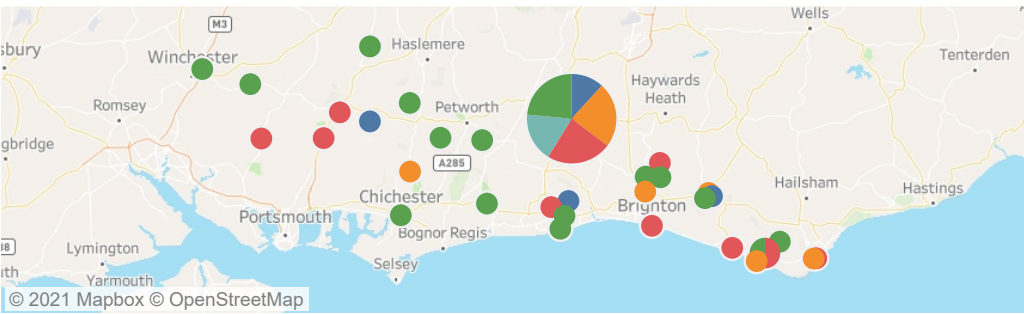
Number of Projects in Delivery

50

Team Areas

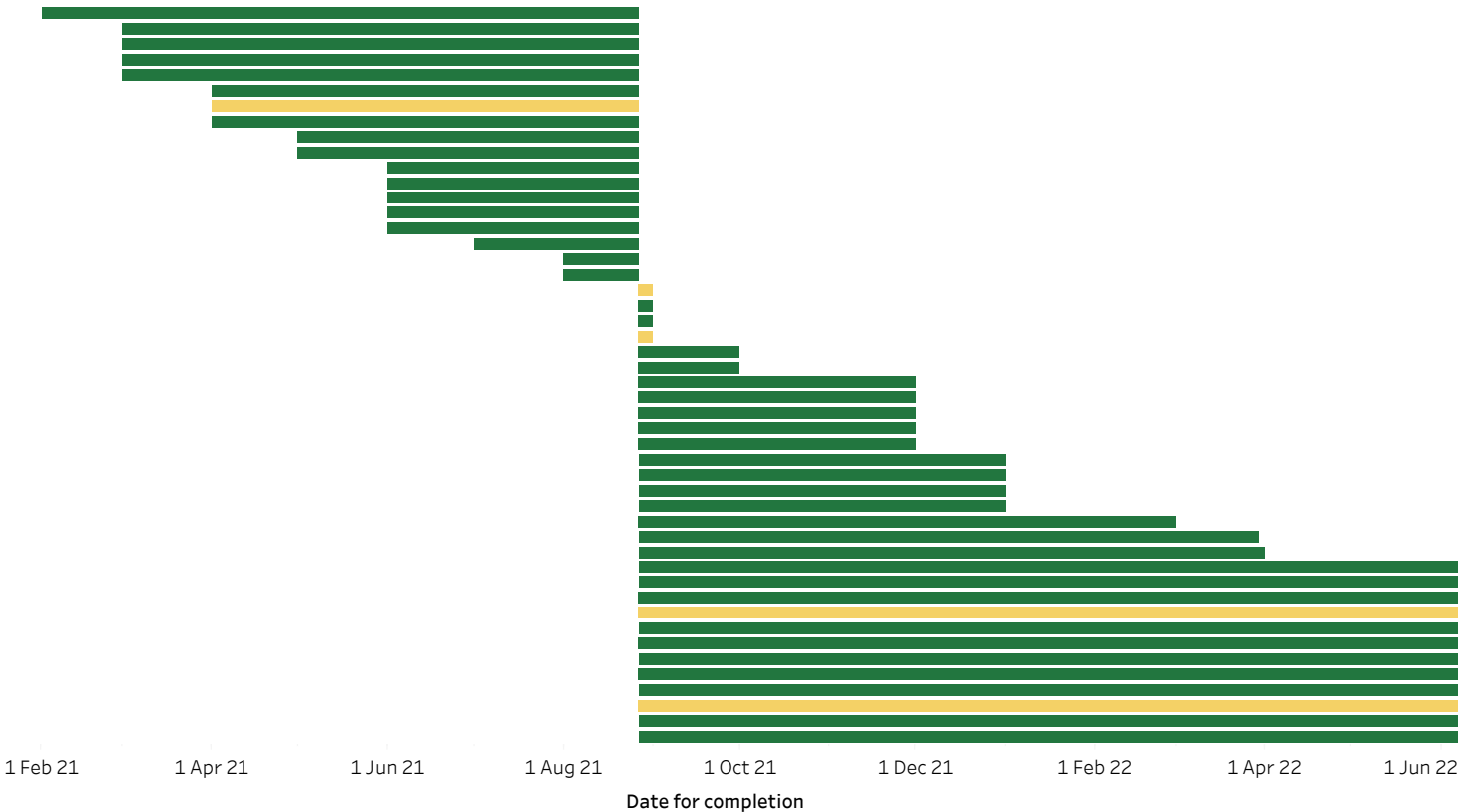


Project Location by RAG



RAG status project time line

Deep Time	01/04/2020	01/02/2021
Beat the Street	01/04/2020	01/03/2021
Grafham Woodland ..	01/09/2020	01/03/2021
Rother Valley Wav	01/04/2020	01/03/2021
Sussex Modern	25/03/2019	01/03/2021
Kindley Vale Interpre..	01/02/2021	01/04/2021
Winchester Studv	01/12/2018	01/04/2021
Workforce Support ..	01/11/2020	01/04/2021
Cockshut Stream Reg..	01/01/2021	01/05/2021
Friends of SDW Gates	20/02/2019	01/05/2021
Cissburv Digtal Inter..	01/11/2020	01/06/2021
Community Enerav P..	01/06/2020	01/06/2021
Footsteps App	01/11/2020	01/06/2021
The Full Harvest (wa..	01/01/2021	01/06/2021
Towner Art Packs	01/02/2021	01/06/2021
Earets Wav-Phase 5	01/04/2020	01/07/2021
Environmental Sum..	01/03/2020	01/08/2021
Stop a minute	01/03/2021	01/08/2021
Active Access	01/10/2017	01/09/2021
Beaars Bush Walk F..	01/05/2018	01/09/2021
Heathlands Reunited	01/06/2016	01/09/2021
Tide Mills: A Livina Hi..	01/03/2020	01/09/2021
Arun Vision	01/10/2019	01/10/2021
Lewes Castle	01/06/2021	01/10/2021
Artscape 2 (Timesca..	23/05/2020	01/12/2021
Petersfield Museum	01/10/2018	01/12/2021
Phase 2 Sianaae	01/06/2019	01/12/2021
Shifting the Gaze - Mi..	01/11/2020	01/12/2021
South Downs Enterpr..	Null	01/12/2022
Chandina Chalk - Dew..	13/01/2020	01/01/2022
Chandina Chalk - Gra..	13/01/2020	01/01/2022
Downland Man	01/09/2021	01/01/2022
Poetry for Wellbeing	01/01/2021	01/01/2022
Generation Green (w..	01/03/2021	01/03/2022
Miles without Stiles	01/08/2018	30/03/2022
Channel Pavments fo..	01/09/2017	01/04/2022
Bringing back the EL..	01/01/2019	30/06/2022
Floodplain Meadows..	01/10/2019	01/10/2022
Artist in Residence S..	01/11/2020	01/11/2022
SUDs for Schools	01/04/2020	01/03/2023
Wealden Heath SAMM	01/04/2021	01/04/2023
Seven Sisters	01/06/2019	01/06/2023
Watercress and Wint..	01/06/2017	01/01/2024
Cut and collect	01/02/2021	01/02/2024
Greenspaces	01/02/2021	01/03/2024
Lullinaton Heath	01/09/2020	01/09/2024
TAP	01/04/2020	01/03/2025
Rampion Monitoring	01/01/2019	01/12/2029



Outcome	Priority programmes
Purpose 1 - Enhance	
Outcome 1 The landscape character of the South Downs, its special qualities, natural beauty and local distinctiveness have been conserved and enhanced by avoiding or mitigating the negative impacts of development and cumulative change	<p>1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects</p> <p>1.2 Improve green and blue infrastructure to deliver nature recovery networks and connect people to nature within and around the SDNP</p> <p>1.3 Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park</p>
Outcome 2 There is increased resilience within the landscape for its natural resources, habitats and species to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other pressures	<p>2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats</p> <p>2.2 Improve the resilience and quality and quantity of trees and woodlands in the National Park and ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place</p>
Outcome 3 A thriving and connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park	<p>3.1 Create, restore and improve areas of priority habitat to be more, bigger, better, and joined up at a landscape scale</p> <p>3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases</p>
Outcome 4 Cultural heritage of the National Park is enhanced and widely understood and enjoyed	<p>4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage</p> <p>4.2 Promote creativity and understanding of the landscape and traditions of the South Downs through contemporary arts and crafts</p>
Purpose 2 - Experience	
Outcome 5 Outstanding experiences for communities and visitors are supported by high quality access and sustainable transport networks	<p>5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion</p> <p>5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways</p> <p>5.3 Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services</p>
Outcome 6 Widespread understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and the benefits it provides	<p>6.1 Provide high-quality outdoor learning opportunities as part of a locally relevant curriculum</p>
Outcome 7 The South Downs National Park is a well-used and recognised asset for sustaining mental and physical health and wellbeing	<p>7.1 Develop initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing</p>
Outcome 8 More responsibility and action is taken by visitors, communities and businesses to conserve and enhance the special qualities and use resources more wisely	<p>8.1 Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the National Park</p>
Duty – Thrive	
Outcome 9 Communities in the National Park are more sustainable with an appropriate provision of housing to address local needs and improved access to essential services and facilities	<p>9.1 Increase affordable housing stock in the National Park, with focus on exemplary design and using local sustainable materials.</p> <p>9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park</p> <p>9.3 Support improvement in digital infrastructure, speed and coverage throughout the South Downs National Park</p>
Outcome 10 A diverse, sustainable, dynamic economy which is positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park	<p>10.1 Strengthen and support sustainably managed land-based industries and local enterprise</p> <p>10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit</p> <p>10.3 Establish the South Downs as an exemplar in sustainable tourism</p>