

Report to **Policy & Resources Committee**
Date **23 February 2023**
By **Performance and Projects Manager & Project Management Lead**
Title of Report **Q3 Corporate and Project Performance Report 2022/23**
Note

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to receive and consider the Q3 Corporate and Project Performance report 2022/23.

I. Introduction

- I.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 identify improvements arising from the outcomes and evaluation of projects identified by the Committee, audits, survey and other feedback and make recommendations as appropriate” and “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”.
- I.2 The committee also has “... oversight of bids for grant funding including to receive updates on the submission of bids for grant funding and the application of grants funds received”.
- I.3 Whilst the report calls on the committee to receive and consider the content of the performance report, the terms of reference for the committee include considering if the committee wishes to make any recommendations arising from its consideration of the report. Any such recommendations would be subject to a vote at the committee meeting.
- I.4 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy & Resources Committee on the Authority’s corporate and project performance during Quarter 3 (Q3) of 2022/23: 01 October to 31 December 2022.
- I.5 From Quarter 1 onwards, we will also provide Members with a quarterly update on the High Level Targets – see section 2 below.
- I.6 This report also provides Members with a progress update for the actions from the **Annual Governance Statement** and the **Human Resources and Health and Safety report** (see sections 12 and 13). It also updates Members on **Grant Funding** during Q3 (see section 9). We report against PMP outcomes via the nine Corporate Plan priority areas (see below for detail).
- I.7 In this report, corporate and project performance information is being reported on together.
- I.8 The Performance & Projects Team are in the process of reviewing and streamlining reporting processes for the Authority. We are proposing to change the way the Authority

reports performance and projects to P&R Committee against the Corporate Plan. We ask P&R Committee to bear with us for Q3 reporting while we get new processes in place in the new report style. As such, there are no Tableau dashboards to present for Q3 for project progress.

2. Corporate Plan High-Level Targets: quarterly progress update

HLT#1: To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%.

- 2.1 The South Downs Nature Recovery Programme continues with action for ReNature through a variety of mechanisms. We have registered over 330 initiatives on the nature recovery log which are contributing towards both the ReNature (and Core Nature) Corporate Plan targets. As an example, we are currently tracking a total of up to approx. 140ha of habitat creation from the C4NS initiatives being funded through Beelines, Trees for the Downs and the ReNature Grant. The Trees for the Downs schemes equate to over 3,000 trees.
- 2.2 We are currently also in discussion with a number of landowners over the role green finance (e.g. from Biodiversity Net Gain or Nitrate Neutrality) could play in proposals on strategic sites that meet our Nature Recovery aspirations. These involve around approx. 2,700 further hectares. This is an exciting and innovative area and we look forward to providing more detail in future reports which will include figures from other delivery mechanisms such as FiPL and other funded projects and planning.
- 2.3 Both Beelines and Trees for the Downs are now open to applications for delivery in 2023/24. Furthermore, the new SDNPA Biodiversity Officer has started in post and will continue the work to take forward delivery via the C4NS and other initiatives.
- 2.4 Good progress is also being made towards smarter reporting of nature recovery with the ambition to better report the extent of nature recovery for end of year reporting (in Ha and by delivery mechanism). The Nature Recovery Log is being developed and ArcGIS Survey 123 will be piloted from Q3 onwards for Trees for the Downs and Beelines to facilitate the mapping of planting locations, planting extent and enable long term monitoring. Following a review of the pilot, ArcGIS Survey123 could be rolled out, where appropriate to monitor other nature recovery mechanisms.

HLT#2: Maintain, enhance and/or restore existing key sites, habitats and species.

- 2.5 Action for Core Nature is also happening through a number of mechanisms and with multiple partners. The Changing Chalk Grazing Project is working with landowners and farmers to secure sustainable conservation grazing, whilst Area Teams continue to work in partnership on a range of designated sites to maintain and/or enhance SSSI condition. The Protect Sites Strategy for woodland focused around Kingley Vale has now started and will seek to improve woodland management which will support core nature as well as ReNature.
- 2.6 In the previous Q2, South Downs National Park Authority Area teams trialled rapid habitat condition assessments for chalk grassland, lowland heath, ponds and woodland habitats. A final metric(s) is currently being chosen and will lead to the definition of "good condition" for each of the four key habitat types this winter. The metrics for each habitat will inform a programme of condition assessments across sample squares from Q1 in 2023/24. This use of consistent condition assessments will strengthen the evidence base for the condition of key habitats across the South Downs National Park.
- 2.7 The Species Prioritisation work has now gone out to tender with a view to the work being completed by the end of March 2023. This will enable a better understanding of the priority species and local specialities for long term monitoring and specific action for species recovery as part of the SDNPA Nature Recovery Programme.

HLT#3: South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target.

- 2.8 Carbon Accounting will be completed at the end of the financial year 2022/23. This reporting will feed into the new proposal to monitor emission reduction targets across the

Defra group. SDNPA emissions will be within scope and this relates specifically to the NPAs operations, estate and procurement processes. Reporting against area-based assessment/targets we have established for the SDNPA will continue.

HLT#4: 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019.

- 2.9 A number of large scale woodland planting projects are in development within the National Park. These are still in the planning/approval stages - but will be taken forward as part of the Woodland Carbon Code. Once permissioned and planting is underway, these will contribute to sequestering and storing more carbon - and our overall land-use based targets for 'Net-Zero by Nature'.
- 2.10 The launch of the woodland opportunity mapping platform this quarter, will help to identify areas with the best potential for new woodland planting across the National Park. Alongside helping to deliver our Nature Recovery targets, it also helps to plan and design good woodland planting schemes that help us deliver carbon reductions and meet the Net-Zero target for the National Park.

HLT#5: Increase the diversity of visitors to, and those engaging with, the South Downs National Park.

- 2.11 Q3 saw the launch of the new 'Carers in Nature' project. Led by **Wild Gathering**, and supported by SDNPA, the project aims to provide opportunities for unpaid carers experiencing social isolation to access green and blue spaces to support their mental and physical wellbeing and to provide respite from their caring responsibilities. The project comprises a series of mindful walks in and around the National Park combined with creative activities.
- 2.12 Major Events and Engagement activities held this quarter include:
- Black History Month Personality was held in October. As part of the 'voices' programme, SDNPA featured 3 people from black backgrounds on our social media platforms sharing their passion and work in relation to nature as well as the South Downs National Park. This content reached 94,990 people through our digital channels.
 - Successful 'in person' Parish meetings were held in October/November attended by 77 councillors from 50 parishes across East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire.
 - 4 Heathland Reunited pop-up events were held in October/November; the events engaged approx. 220 people.

HLT#6: Devise impact measure for direct engagement.

- 2.13 Two Theory of Change Workshops have been held during Q3, with a final workshop planned for January 2023. By end of Q1 2023/24, we will have defined and agreed outcome measures for A National Park for All, which will reported on for new financial year 2023/24.

3. Priority area I: Nature Recovery

- 3.1 SDNPA continue to deliver action for nature recovery through multiple mechanisms. In particular our green financing approach is now being tested on a number of strategic sites. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Readiness paper is currently being drafted.
- 3.2 We are currently waiting on the publication of the Regulations and Guidance for Local Nature Recovery Sites (LNRS) by DEFRA. We continue to be party to LNRS readiness discussions/ meetings with the three Responsible Authorities. Internally our own readiness for LNRS is being progressed through the development of the core nature network map of the South Downs National Park.
- 3.3 Thirteen projects that are working towards the Nature Recovery priority area have been delivered through the Landscape and Biodiversity Theme Programme Board in Q3. These include 10 ongoing projects and 3 projects that closed in Q3.

Ongoing projects:

- **Chalk - Dew Ponds:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Changing Chalk - Grazier Post:** this project is 18% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Cut and Collect:** this project is 66% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill:** this project is 45% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Hampshire Hedgerows:** this project is 75% complete and **green RAG**.
- **On Course to Flail:** this project is 60% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Rampion Monitoring:** this project is 49% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Seven Sisters:** this project is 95% complete and **green RAG**.
- **TAP (The Aquifer Partnership):** this project is 55% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Wealden Heath SAMM:** this project is 64% complete and **green RAG**.

Completed/closed projects in Q3:

- **Floodplain Meadows in the Rother Valley:** this project is now complete.
- **Greenspaces:** this project is now complete.
- **Lullington Heath:** this project is now closed.

4. Priority area 2: Climate Action

- 4.1 The woodland opportunity mapping platform was launched this quarter.
- 4.2 We were successful in securing funding through the Innovate UK call for projects. The funding and support will be used to help develop a co-ordinated approach to delivering on Climate Action and Net-Zero with our Local Authority and sector partners. One of the challenges of delivering Net-Zero targets is the need to collaborate with our constituent Local Authorities, and to work across multiple Climate Change Strategies.
- 4.3 The initial pilot work for the Farm carbon Project has been completed, and the results of the soils sampling and carbon measurements have been published. This baseline work will support the development of practical measures that will help to restore agricultural soils and increase their ability to sequester and store carbon, water and nutrients. This is an essential element of our current Climate Change Adaptation Plan - and one of the areas at highest risk of impact of Climate Change in the short to medium term.
- 4.4 Five projects are delivering against the Climate Action priority area in Q3.

Ongoing projects:

- **Farm Carbon Project:** this project is 58% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Ouse Valley Climate Action:** the development phase of this project is 100% complete and **green RAG**. The delivery project has only just started.
- **PeCAN (Petersfield Climate Action Network):** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) for Schools:** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**.
- **WeCAN (Winchester Climate Action Network):** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**.

5. Priority area 3: A National Park for All

- 5.1 Funding of £15,000 has been secured this quarter from the SDNP Trust meaning that the Travel Grant scheme can re-open from January 2023. In addition, discussions with Clarion Futures have resulted in a 2 year funding agreement with £5,000 allocated to reopen the Youth Action Fund programme this quarter.

5.2 A new Timescape project is being developed based at Amberley Museum and Buster Ancient Farm. It takes on board learning from the evaluation report of the previous Timescape project. It will start delivery in 2023.

5.3 Works on the South Downs Way at Chilcomb Link and construction of the Centurion Way first section (West Dean-Singleton) are both on schedule and expected to complete in Spring 2023.

5.4 The PeCAN project, in addition to retrofit surveys, produced a promotional video further explaining their project - how home owners can reduce their carbon footprint by improving energy efficiency at home:

PeCan Petersfield area superhomes

5.5 Twenty two projects that are working towards A National Park for All priority area were delivered through the Cultural Heritage and Access Theme Programme Boards in Q3. These include 15 ongoing projects, 1 new project that started in Q3 and 1 project that closed.

New projects for Q3:

- **Carers in Nature:** this project is 8% complete and **green RAG**.

Ongoing projects:

- **Active Access (Newhaven Travel Hub):** this project is 100% complete and **green RAG**
- **Archaeology Walks Programme:** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Artist in Residence SSCP Heritage Coast:** this project is 85% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Beggars Bush Walk For All, Community Nature Area:** this project is 22% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Centurion Way:** this project is 12% complete and **amber RAG**.
- **Communities in the South Downs:** this project is 60% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Community Wanderings:** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Community Travel Grant Pilot:** this project is 75% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Egrets Way- Phase 5:** this project is 95% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Egrets Way- Phase 6:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Footsteps App:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Iron Age Build at Butser:** this project is 30% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Miles without Stiles:** this project is 95% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Portraits of the South Downs:** this project is 25% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Project Thrive (Allen Gallery):** this project is 0% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Setting the Standard:** this project is 20% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Shifting the Gaze (extended):** this project is 20% complete and **green RAG**.
- **The Forest: Stop Gap Dance:** this project is 70% complete and **green RAG**.
- **We See You Now: Legacy Project:** this project is 30% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Wriggle Room:** this project is 70% complete and **green RAG**.

Completed/closed projects in Q3:

- **Artscape 2 (Timescape):** this project is now complete.

6. Priority area 4: Rural Economy

6.1 In Q3, work has commenced on the creation of numerous initiatives and offers for Our South Downs (OSD) members, examples include: South Downs Guardian, South Downs Protector and e-cards. Work has also been carried out to produce six 'Meet the Business' short films showcasing exemplar sustainable businesses in the National Park which also act as publicity for OSD.

[Meet the Business - YouTube](#)

6.2 In Q3, Barlavington Estate WEP was successfully endorsed by P&R Committee on 24th November 2022. The pipeline now consists of four estates at various stages of the WEP process.

6.3 SDNPA are currently developing a proposal around Fallow Deer and communicating 'healthy woodlands' through the lens of a single species. The proposal links to a larger funding bid currently in development by the University of Exeter to take existing research by Professor Naomi Sykes and utilise it for public, policy and economic benefits. Naomi is looking to secure up to £100k for ongoing work in this area. Her previous project piloted work that covered policy discussions (national strategies), public engagement and venison supply chains and was featured positively in national press. We are proposing a bolt on series of activities and outputs to complement that work. Natural England are interested in commissioning SDNPA to develop a similar animation to the Renature film to place set the idea of 'healthy woodlands'.

6.4 Four projects that are working towards the Rural Economy priority area have been delivered through the Sustainable Economy and Tourism Theme Programme Board in Q3. These include 1 new project, 2 ongoing projects and 1 project that closed.

New projects for Q3:

- **Coastal Capital Private Clients:** this project is 45% complete and **green RAG**.

Ongoing projects:

- **South Downs Hub (SSCP):** this project is 60% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Green South Downs:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**.

Completed/closed projects in Q3:

- **Phase 2 Signage:** this project is now complete.

7. Priority area 5: Seven Sisters Country Park

7.1 Performance information on SSCP is included at agenda item 12 of this meeting of the P&R Committee.

8. Priority area 6: Delivering the Statutory Planning Service

8.1 All government targets for the operation of the planning system are being met. The appeal record in Q1 to Q3 was particularly good with 81% of appeals being dismissed.

8.2 Local Plan: The NPA approved the integration of the AAP into the Local Plan Review (LPR) and a new timetable for the LPR at the Authority Meeting on 14-12-22. Substantial work has happened this quarter on progressing the LAA Stage 1.

9. Priority area 7: Major Projects

9.1 National Highways' Development Consent Order application for the M3 J9 proposal was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2022. Officers are currently reviewing the application.

9.2 The 'call for projects' has opened for the 22/23 CIL spend (closing date 3rd March). Projects funded this quarter include heathland restoration in Fittleworth, new play and outdoor education facilities, cycle ways and village improvement schemes.

Total CIL spend this quarter:

£298,950.86 paid directly to 26 Parishes.

£167,236.55 has been spent on 10 projects (from previous year's CIL allocations).

9.3 S106 projects funded this quarter include affordable housing and bridleway works.

Total S106 spend this quarter:

£77,004.03 for specific obligations

£61,229.27 on 3 projects.

10. Priority area 8: Generating Income

10.1 Generating Income continues to progress with £3,182,310 (an increase of £281,500 on Q2) currently secured. External Income includes an extension to our SELEP Seven Sisters funding, to account for inflation and support from UK Innovate, supporting our Climate Action work. £210,000 is currently sitting in warm opportunities. These have reduced significantly on Q2, as income now starts to fall into the next financial year.

10.2 During Q3 the Income Generation and Marketing Team progressed 2 new bids, one to UK Research Innovation and one to the Shared Prosperity Fund. One of these bids, to the Research Innovation Fund bid, was successful. However, our Arun Shared Prosperity application received a rejection. Our pending application for Seven Sisters inflationary support to SELEP was also approved.

10.3 Trust activity for Q3 was 7 Major Donor meetings, 11 Trust applications and 4 Corporate proposals.

| Funder & Scheme | Project | Status | Value | Lead |
|----------------------------------|---|--|------------|-------|
| Landscape Enhancement Initiative | Ebernoe and Butcherlands Landscape Enhancement Scheme | Successful. Project in delivery. | £123,293 | SDNPA |
| Lottery Communities Fund | Ouse Valley Climate Action | Successful. Project in delivery | £2,022,000 | Trust |
| Lewes District Council CIL | Ouse Valley Footpath Improvements | Successful. Project due to start soon. | £35,000 | SDNPA |
| Lewes District Council CIL | Cliff Gardens (Seaford Community Partnership) | Successful. Matched with Ouse Valley Cares | £56,000 | SDNPA |
| Landscape Recovery Pilots | Lapwings and Landscapes: Nature recovery in the Arun Valley | Unsuccessful, but project on reserve list. | £500,000 | SDNPA |
| Biffa Award 25 Years Award | Magnificent Seven: Seven Sisters capital works | EOI unsuccessful. | £2,500,000 | SDNPA |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------|-------|
| Shared Prosperity Fund (Eastbourne District Council) | South Downs Way connecting Towns to the Downs | Successful. Awaiting further details from funder. | £50,000 | SDNPA |
|--|---|---|---------|-------|

10.4 The following applications that had a final outcome at the time of the last report (i.e. unsuccessful or funding secured or in delivery) have been removed from the main table at 10.4.

10.5 In line with the new proposals agreed at Policy & Resources Committee; full applications over £50k have been shared with the Committee Chair.

| Funder & Scheme | Project | Status | Value | Lead |
|--|----------------------------------|--|------------|-------|
| National Lottery Heritage Fund | Downs to the Sea | £130k Development grant successful. Now working up the longer term Delivery application. | £1,300,000 | Trust |
| SELEP – Get Britain Building Fund | Seven Sisters Inflationary Costs | Successful. Project in delivery. | £84,000 | SDNPA |
| UK Research Innovation | Net Zero Living Pioneer Places | Successful. Project due to start soon. | TBC | SDNPA |
| Shared Prosperity Fund (Arun District Council) | Apprentice Rangers | EOI. Unsuccessful | £103,344 | SDNPA |

11. Priority area 9: New Ways of Working

11.1 The specification has been written for an ITT to procure a consultant to provide EDI development. In addition to this, a new Chair has been appointed for the EDI Steering Group and a ranger representative has been invited to future steering group meetings. Discussions have been underway for a new training platform for staff and members in relation to EDI, and Knowledge Nuggets - short pieces of EDI information - have been launched via update and staff email.

11.2 The internal Update has been newly launched as an e-newsletter using Microsoft Sway that can be better accessed by all staff, members and volunteers. It is hoped MS Sway will be used by wider staff for communicating information where relevant e.g case studies.

12. Project Performance Reporting: Strategic Fund Implications

12.1 There is a balance of £187,183 unallocated in the Strategic Fund, this amount takes into account allocations made on existing projects up until 2025/26.

13. Annual Governance Statement

13.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021/22 detailed 5 actions for 2022/23. These are monitored and reported on quarterly. See Appendix 2 for progress on the Annual Governance Statement actions for Q3.

14. Human Resources & Health and Safety

14.1 The Human Resources & Health and Safety paper for 2021/22 detailed 8 actions for 2022/23. These are monitored and reported on quarterly. See Appendix 3 for progress on the Human Resources and Health and Safety actions for Q3.

15. Other implications

| Implication | Yes*/No |
|---|--|
| Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority? | Projects may come forward for approval in future. No further decisions are required as a direct result of this report. |
| Does the proposal raise any Resource implications? | There are no direct resource implications to this report, as the recommendations are to receive and review only. |
| How does the proposal represent Value for Money? | Value for money for individual projects and pieces of work are assessed at the development stage, midway through a project and at the end, through an evaluative process that is reported to this Committee. Setting aside a fund to support projects represents a positive return on investment as it enables projects to go ahead which might not otherwise. |
| Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against | We have listed in the report and appendices which PMP outcomes and corporate plan objectives our corporate and project work link to |
| Links to other projects or partner organisations | Where appropriate these are set out in the report. |
| How does this decision contribute to the Authority's climate change objectives | Please see the Climate Action section of this report which sets out high level targets around climate action. |
| Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal? | None |
| Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010? | Yes - Priority area three outlines the projects that have a specific focus on encouraging all people including those with protected characteristics to engage with and access the National Park. Projects across all priority areas are subject to an equalities impact assessment at the appropriate stage of their development and are monitored and adjusted accordingly. Any issues identified are highlighted within this report. |
| Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?? | None |
| Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal? | None |
| Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal? | None |
| Are there any Data Protection implications? | None |

| Implication | Yes*/No |
|---|--|
| <p>Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly | <p>No, not directly although during the 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. We also consider sustainability issues as part of our project approval process.</p> |

16. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

16.1 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 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <p>Unforeseen changes to the level of funding provided by relevant Government departments for future years</p> | <p>Likely</p> | <p>Minor</p> | <p>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> |
| <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> |

Liz Gent
Performance and Projects Manager
South Downs National Park Authority

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| Appendices | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Q3 Corporate performance 2022-232. Q3 2022-23 Annual Governance Statement update3. Q3 2022-23 Human Resources & Health and Safety update |
| SDNPA Consultees | Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Interim Business Service Manager; Countryside and Policy Managers |
| External Consultees | None |
| Background Documents | Corporate Plan 2020-25 year 3 action plan. |

Item 11 Appendix 1: Corporate Performance Report Q3 (July-September) 2022/23

Assist key for the RAG Performance column: Green = on track; Amber = slightly behind schedule; Red = significantly behind schedule

| SDNPA Corporate Plan priorities | In Year 3 of our Corporate Plan we will: | Key data | Commentary | RAG Performance | Next steps and/or potential risks | PMP outcome(s) delivering against |
|---|---|----------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Nature Recovery thematic area | | | | | | |
| ReNature the South Downs National Park | Define a core nature network for the SDNP by end Q3 to inform Nature Recovery Networks (NRNs) and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) | | Core Nature Network map for the SDNP is completed. | Green | Next steps: Meeting in January to confirm publication and dissemination of both the core nature map and the nature by LCT mapping work. | Outcome 3: Habitats & Species |
| ReNature the South Downs National Park | Contribute to the development of approximately 2-4 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) | | No change from Q2 in that we are still waiting on the publication of the Regulations and Guidance for LNRS by Defra. We continue to be party to LNRS readiness discussions/ meetings with the three Responsible Authorities. NE have appointed LNRS Advisers for all of the LNRS areas. Internally our own readiness for LNRS is being progressed through the development of the core nature network map of the SDNP. | Amber | Next steps: continue dialogue with Responsible Authorities (RAs) re LNRS readiness and governance. Internally publish the core nature network for the National Park and share with RAs. Potential risks: Further delays due to Regulations and Guidance not being published. Resource/ capacity constraints affecting ability of SDNPA to engage effectively, but also lack of resources for RAs to develop LNRS. | Outcome 3: Habitats & Species |
| ReNature the South Downs National Park | Proactively deliver #ReNature through projects and initiatives using a variety of mechanisms. | | The South Downs Nature Recovery Programme continues with action for ReNature and Core Nature through a variety of mechanisms. We have registered over 330 initiatives on the nature recovery log which are contributing towards Corporate Plan targets. A Nature Recovery Member Workshop was held on 7-September with a follow-up paper going to P&R on 21-September. We are currently tracking a total of up to* approx. 140ha of habitat creation from the C4NS initiatives being funded through Beelines, Trees for the Downs and the ReNature Grant. The Trees for the Downs schemes equate to over 3,000 trees . We are currently also in discussion with a number of landowners over the role green finance (eg from Biodiversity Net Gain or Nitrate Neutrality) could play in proposals on strategic sites that meet out Nature Recovery aspirations. These involve around approx. 2,700 further hectares . This is an exciting and innovative area and future reports will include figures from other delivery mechanisms such as FiPL, other funded projects and through planning. The Woodland Opportunity Mapping tool has been launched as part of national tree week in early December. The Protected Sites Strategy for woodland focused around Kingley Vale has started and the far Eastern Chalk block (Seaford - Eastbourne) will be the focus for one of 15 national NE Nature Recovery Projects - with another centred around Thursley NNR in the Surrey Hills. Both Beelines and Trees for the Downs are now open to applications for delivery in 2023/24. The new SDNPA Biodiversity Officer has started in post and will continue the work for delivery via the C4NS. The Biodiversity Monitoring Group has re-established to progress the BMF AP Yr2 (2022/23). Tender for Species Prioritisation work was published on tender portal. | Green | Next steps: continue to deliver action for nature recovery through multiple mechanisms. In particular our green financing approach is now being tested on a number of strategic sites. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Readiness paper is being drafted and the BNG TAN will be updated. Continue to develop and invest in our ability to monitor and report on nature recovery including exploring the option of LandApp and One Planet platform for Nature-based solutions. Next steps for the Nature by LCT Map and Core Nature Map for SDNP to be finalised. Progressing with species work including the Species Prioritisation Analysis. Finalise Nature Recovery Programme of Work 2023/24 and feed into the Corporate Plan HLT for 2023/24. Potential risks: Resource (staff & budget) constraints affecting ability of SDNPA to take forward projects. Q3 saw the departure of JB and VC, and at the end of January SLM will be leaving. Unsuccessful funding bids. Investment if fit-for-purpose systems to support monitoring and reporting of nature recovery. | Outcome 3: Habitats & Species |
| Improve Core Nature in the South Downs National Park by ensuring all SSSIs in the South Downs National Park are in favourable condition | 1) Define 'good condition' for each of the four key habitat types (chalk grassland, woodland, lowland heathland and wetland) and establish a baseline from the end of Q4 2) Improve the area/condition of the four key habitat types | | Condition assessments have now been agreed for Chalk Grassland and Heathland. The Area teams are devising a programme of sites to be monitored using these tools in 2023/24. The Woodland Trust Condition Assessment methodology will be tested next and a methodology for Woodland Condition Assessments in SDNP will be agreed 2023/24 Wetlands are the most challenging of the four "target" habitats. The Biodiversity Officer will liaise with Natural England to review available methodologies to trial. | Green | Next steps: Area Teams to identify a programme of Chalk Grassland sites for survey in 23/24. This will complement the list of sites identified for survey already through Changing Chalk. HBIC will continue a programme of Heathland Survey. Woodland condition methodologies to be trialled following input from the Woodland Trust. Potential Risks: Due to the reduction in staff numbers, it will not be possible to create a baseline dataset for the 4 key habitats. However record centre survey time has been prioritised on Lowland Heath and Chalk Grassland sites so the evidence base is building . | Outcome 3: Habitats & Species |

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| Better connect people with nature | Connect 50,000 people per year with nature through the #ReNature Campaign | 24 Councillors from 15 parish councils attended in East Sussex 24 councillors from 17 parish councils attended the West Sussex meeting 29 councillors from 18 parish councils attended the Hampshire meeting 4 Heathland Reunited pop-up events engaging approx. 220 people. | Major Events and Engagement activities held this quarter include: Black History Month Personality held in October. As part of the voices programme, SDNPA featured 3 people from black backgrounds on our social media platforms sharing their passion and work in relation to nature as well as the South Downs National Park. In person Parish meetings held in October - November.. The meetings were successful. 4 Heathland Reunited pop-up events held in October - November; the events engaged about 220 people. | Green | Next Steps: Dark Skies Festival (4-17 Feb) In-person parish workshops (March) | Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences |
| Better connect people with nature | Target delivery of accessible natural greenspace through the #ReNature programme in areas where there is a deficiency of provision. | | This work is paused due to staff changes and waiting for the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies | Amber | Next steps: Internal discussion regarding resourcing and direction of this priority | Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience |
| 2. Climate Action thematic area | | | | | | |
| Work towards our Net-Zero target for the South Downs National Park | Work towards delivering emissions reductions through: 1) Nature-based solutions; working with farmers, foresters and other land managers and through greening the grey in development 2) Community based Net-Zero planning and projects 3) The launch of the Climate Change digital Resource Hub 4) Engagement with the launch of the 'Count Us In' campaign 5) Work with the Learning Network & South Downs Youth Action | | Q3 saw the launch of the woodland opportunity mapping platform that helps to identify areas with the best potential for new woodland planting across the National Park. Alongside helping to deliver our Nature Recovery targets, it also helps to plan and design good woodland planting schemes that help us deliver carbon reductions and meet the Net-Zero target for the National Park. We were successful in securing funding through the 'Innovate UK' call for projects. The funding and support will be used to help develop a co-ordinated approach to delivering on Climate Action and Net-Zero with our Local Authority and sector partners. Farm carbon project: The initial pilot work has been completed, and the results of the soils sampling and and carbon measurements have been published. This baseline work will support the development of practical measures that will help to restore agricultural soils and increase their ability to sequester and store carbon, water and nutrients. This is an essential element of our current Climate Change Adaptation Plan - and one of the areas at highest risk of impact of Climate Change in the short to medium term. A number of large scale woodland planting projects are in development within the National Park. These are still in the planning/approval stages - but will be taken forward as part of the Woodland Carbon Code. Once permissioned and planting is underway, these will contribute to sequestering and storing more carbon - and our overall land-use based targets for 'Net-Zero by Nature'. | Green | Next steps: The initial phase of the Innovate UK work will be used to help support the delivery of the Ouse Valley Climate Action Project. If successful, as second phase (2023/24) will roll out the approach more widely. The plan would be to develop a platform which supports us to work with our constituent Local Authority and wider sector partners, across the whole National Park area. The Farm Carbon project will continue to run into 2023/24 and will continue to share best-practice and support and encourage farmers and land managers to transition to a low-carbon future. | Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience |
| Work towards our Net Zero target for the South Downs National Park Authority | Work towards delivering emissions reductions through delivery of a Sustainability Policy for the National Park Authority | | Carbon Accounting will be completed at the end of the financial year 2022/23. This reporting will feed into the new proposal to monitor emission reduction targets across the Defra group. | Amber | Next steps: Staff changes have meant a change in responsibility for reporting. A handover will be completed in Q1 2034/24 | Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience |
| Work towards our Net Zero target for the South Downs National Park Authority | Work towards delivering emissions reductions through the development of a localised offsetting option for the National Park | | Carbon Accounting will be completed at the end of the financial year 2022/23. This reporting will feed into the new proposal to monitor emission reduction targets across the Defra group. | Amber | Next steps: Staff changes have meant a change in responsibility for reporting. A handover will be completed in Q1 2034/24 | Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience |

| 3. A National Park for All thematic area | | | | | |
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| Be a representative and welcoming National Park for All, focusing on engaging currently underserved groups | Deliver South Downs Youth Ambassadors and Youth Voice | | Youth Ambassadors supported the EYE Eco-Summit running workshops on renaturing the SDNP with pupils from local primary and secondary schools. Support was also given to SD Youth Action days and hedgelaying events in this quarter. | Green | Outcome 8: Creating Custodians |
| Be a representative and welcoming National Park for All, focusing on engaging currently underserved groups | Co-develop projects with organisations and individuals championing under-served groups accessing the landscape | "We See You Now" worked with 106 artists, creatives, specialists and 144 participants | OMT leads have been asked to carry out EDI assessments of their sections of our developing corporate plan. We have started to develop guidance to support them to do this. | Green | Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences |
| Be a representative and welcoming National Park for All, focusing on engaging currently underserved groups | Support the use of social prescribing and other mechanisms to connect people to the National Park for Health and well-being | | A new Timescape project is being developed based at Amberley Museum and Buster Ancient Farm. It takes on board learning from the evaluation report of the previous Timescape project. It will start delivery in 2023. "Carers in Nature" project started November 2022. We have attended a number of social prescribing network meetings and Healthy Weight Partnership Meetings. Community Transport Pilot ran a number of sessions in response to the recommendations from Social Prescribing Research - exploring the relationship between accessing NP, transport and activities. Enableability session was cancelled due to bad weather. | Green | Outcome 7: Health & Wellbeing |
| Be a representative and welcoming National Park for All, focusing on engaging currently underserved groups | Connect with under-served groups through the Voices programme and our broad engagement programme | | Dedicated content for the Voice Programme is being compiled and developed for use on the website and social media. | Green | Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences |
| Connect under-served groups to nature and the landscape through direct experience of the National Park | Deliver the travel grant scheme and explore new schemes to connect people to the National Park | | Additional funding of £15,000 has been secured this quarter from the SDNP Trust meaning that the grant can re-open from January 2023. | Green | Outcome 7: Health & Wellbeing |
| Connect under-served groups to nature and the landscape through direct experience of the National Park | Co-develop projects with organisations and individuals to empower/enable people from under-served groups to actively participate in/experience the National Park | | Following on from the success of "We See You Now", writer in residence at Seven Sisters - which exceeded most of its targets - we are supporting a follow up bid to deliver "We Hear you Now", a programme delivering follow on activities - this is dependent on external funding. | Green | Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences |
| Connect under-served groups to nature and the landscape through direct experience of the National Park | Deliver a programme of Access infrastructure projects and National Trail management to improve connectivity and increase opportunities for active access | 1.65km of SDW resurfaced or regraded. Contractors on site to deliver 730m of new Chilcomb link route. | Centurion Way Ph2 - construction of first section ongoing (West Dean-Singleton) and are on schedule to complete in April/May 2023. Preparations for the next sections will commence in Jan 2023. SDW Chilcomb Link - works on schedule to complete in February and open in March 2023. Egrets Way Ph5 - works halted mid-Nov due to weather / ground conditions. Contractors due to re-commence in January and complete by February 2023 Egrets Way Ph6 - works halted and contractor demobilised from site due to ground failure at the narrowest section of the route. Engineers and contractors preparing design specification solution for ground stabilisation for Natural England (SSSI) and Environment Agency (Flood Risk Assessment Permit) approval. | Green | Next Steps: Centurion Way - secure funding for continuing the construction into 2023/24. Egrets Way Ph6 - approval for stabilisation works by NE and EA by April, construction re-commence May 2023. Potential Risk: Potential EA flood bank works may delay EW Ph6. Scope of EA works and timescales expected Jan 2023. |
| Encourage individuals, groups and communities to take action to help deliver Partnership Management Plan outcomes | Develop Youth Action & the Youth Action Fund and Micro volunteering | Year to date: 21 SDYA days 155 young people engaged | Youth Action Fund: Discussions with Clarion Futures have resulted in a 2 year funding agreement with £5,000 allocated to reopen the grant programme this quarter. SDYA: the final events of the year took place this quarter. A total of 21 SDYA days took place this year engaging 155 young people. | Green | Outcome 8: Creating Custodians |

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| <p>Encourage individuals, groups and communities to take action to help deliver Partnership Management Plan outcomes</p> | <p>1) Develop a digital community resource hub which promotes best practice and locally distinctive solutions, and provides communities with the necessary tools and advice to deliver community action 2) Support and facilitate community action to enhance local assets to support under-represented groups to visit and use the National Park for wellbeing and enjoyment 3) Support communities to create or restore nature and take action to mitigate or adapt to climate change, provide accessible greenspace for people's health and wellbeing/ sustainable communities</p> | <p><u>PeCAN</u>: 415 trees purchased for planting in February 715 subscribers to newsletter 11 sign ups for retrofitting surveys</p> <p><u>WeCAN</u>: 21 attendees at network event 140 people reached via a newsletter 2 new groups started 9 new activities developed 25 volunteers involved in activities 17 parishes & community groups engaged</p> | <p>1) Community hub on the website is now rescheduled for end of Q4. 2) Greatham Parish Council have used CIL funding to upgrade their play facilities to include accessible equipment. The Arun Valley Toolkit is now available for local authorities to use. 3) Communities in the South Downs catalogue of highways intervention is complete.</p> <p>The PeCAN project, in addition to retrofit surveys, produced a promotional video for their work. This started as a direct marketing campaign to people applying for extensions to let them know about retrofitting. PeCAN have also launched a thermal imaging survey project for volunteers to survey their own homes and others as requested.</p> | <p>Amber</p> | <p>Next steps: PeCAN: starting to explore offer for businesses, plus they will be running a schools conference in July. WeCAN : network event due in February 2023</p> | <p>Outcome 9: Great Places to Live</p> |
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| 4. Rural Economy thematic area | | | | | | |
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| Develop the 'Our South Downs' enterprise network | <p>1) Create a sustainable business network to help businesses work collaboratively, engaging with National Park Authority initiatives around Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All where appropriate</p> <p>2) Deliver a new National Park bespoke business sustainability programme addressing climate change challenges and seeking carbon reduction of enterprise and visitors in the SDNP – e.g. by linking to nature recovery outputs such as tree planting</p> | <p>125 Our South Downs (OSD) Members</p> <p>692 businesses signed up to the Enterprise Newsletter</p> <p>£165.00 of income generated from e-card sales</p> <p>£10,000.00 income generation earned from South Downs Protector Initiative</p> <p>1 x new business signed up to Visitor Giving</p> | <p>In Q3, work has commenced on the creation of numerous initiatives and offers for Our South Downs (OSD) members. These include; South Downs Guardian, South Downs Protector, e-cards, the creation of a new directory and enhancement of the website content and wire frame.</p> <p>In pursuit of increasing member numbers we have commenced marketing the OSD business community.</p> <p>During this quarter work has also be carried out to produce six 'Meet the Business' short films showcasing exemplar sustainable businesses in the SDNP which also act as publicity for OSD.</p> <p>Finally, during this quarter, the Enterprise Newsletter frequency of publication has increased from quarterly to monthly.</p> | Green | <p>Next Steps: Q4 will see the acceleration of marketing and publicity around OSD in pursuit of increasing the member base. The Enterprise Newsletter will continue to be published monthly. The new initiatives such as SD Guardian and SD Protector will be marketed at an accelerated rate alongside existing initiatives such as Visitor Giving, Cyclist Walkers Welcome and Dark Skies Welcome.</p> | Outcome 10: Great Places to Work |
| Facilitate and support the endorsement, actions and key priorities through the process of Whole Estate Plans (WEPs) | Facilitate WEP applications through a successful journey to encourage sustainability in key areas of the National Park to deliver Partnership Management Plan (PMP) outcomes | | <p>In Q3, Barlavington Estate WEP was successfully endorsed by P&R Committee on 24th November 2022. The pipeline now consists of four estates at various stages of the WEP Process. BHCC are taking their WEP to SDNPA P&R Committee on 23rd Feb 2023 for endorsement. Firle Estate are ready to take their Final Version WEP to P&R Committee subject to final checks by the estate following Estate Manager resource changes. Bereleigh Estate are at Stage 3 of the WEP Process and are finalising their Final Draft which will trigger the second of two internal consultations at the SDNPA when submitted. Finally, Westerlands Stud Estate have now commenced their WEP journey and we expect to see steady progress throughout the coming months leading up to an Early Draft submission on 6th April, a Member Site visit on 27th April 2023 and consultation end date of 11th May 2023.</p> | Green | <p>Next Steps: During Q4 we will see B&H Downland WEP come to P&R Committee for endorsement on 23rd February 2023 following the successful endorsement of their WEP by their own P&R Committee on 2nd December 2022.</p> | Outcome 9: Great Places to Live |
| Support and facilitate the South Downs Forestry Champions | In collaboration, deliver key outcomes under the South Downs Forestry Champions priorities (2019-2024) relating to people, place and prosperity | | <p>Second DMG is consolidating - 2 meetings to discuss potential drone surveys and night licence. First Aid Training and DSC1 Training will be funded by NE and SDNPA will provide support by offering meeting rooms for the events in Feb 23.</p> <p>Deer Comms: CH Lead and I are working on a proposal around Fallow Deer and communicating healthy woods through the lens of a single species. The proposal links to a larger funding bid in development by the University of Exeter to take existing research by Prof. Naomi Sykes on Fallow Deer and utilise it for public, policy and economic benefits. Naomi is looking to secure up to £100k for ongoing work in this area. Her previous project piloted work that covered policy discussions (national strategies), public engagement and venison supply chains and was featured positively in national press. We have met with Comms and NE (comms will be part of the Sussex Woods PSS Pilot - funding also from the project) to discuss this idea. We are proposing a bolt on series of activities and outputs to complement that work. Natural England are interested in commissioning SDNPA to develop a similar animation to the Renature film to place set the idea of 'healthy woodlands'.</p> <p>Forestry Apprentices: MoU agreed, including financial contribution of £20k per partner</p> <p>Partnership with WT: Final report commissioned as part of our partnership is now completed. Presentation to the Forestry Champions on the 17th January.</p> <p>Forestry Champions: The agenda for next meeting includes remote sensing of rhody in the SD, Climate Change Adaptation Hub (FR) and updates from FC and us on species list. We will review the ToR and discuss options for future meetings (new chair/s required)</p> | Green | <p>Next steps:</p> <p>Continue engagement and partnership work related to Sussex Woods PSS Pilot, including support to DMGs and joint comms on deer management.</p> <p>Recruitment of 2 Forestry Apprentices: Interviews scheduled for the 18th January.</p> <p>Forestry Champions Meeting on 17th January 2023.</p> <p>Woodland Opportunity Mapping: ground-truthing new woodland creation projects and feed inaccuracies to Julie Middleton. Meeting in March 23 with partners and GIS/Pauline to assess if new datasets or improvements to the tool are required.</p> <p>Potential risks:</p> <p>SLM (Woodlands Lead) leaving the SDNPA at the end of January 23. Lack of resources might become an increased risk to the delivery of actions. There will be a period of time when nobody will be doing this role and the specification for a replacement is still under consideration. A departure plan has been prepared and and highlights the areas where further involvement is required and suggests options to ensure the projects continue. Nevertheless, potentially, there could be a lack of/minimum input/action for a few months due to resources and potential lack of expertise.</p> | Outcome 10: Great Places to Work |

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| <p>Deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in the National Park</p> | <p>Deliver on time and within budget high quality outcomes on climate, nature, people, place, and relevant PMP outcomes</p> | <p>24 projects approved totalling £282,123.55</p> | <p>To the end of Q3 in year two of the FiPL Programme, 24 projects have been approved by the Local Assessment Panel (LAP) totalling £282,123.55.</p> | <p>Green</p> | <p>Next steps: Plan the third and final year of FiPL in the expectation that demand will exceed funding</p> | <p>Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience</p> |
| <p>Position the National Park Authority to have a clear role in delivering Environmental Land Management (ELM) Schemes</p> | <p>Participate in the Environmental Land Management (ELM) National Pilots with regard to Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery elements</p> | | <p>In December the Environment Secretary, Therese Coffey, announced that Defra plan to evolve Countryside Stewardship (CS) rather than develop a new Local Nature Recovery scheme. It is hoped that by doing this the scheme will be delivered on time and will prevent two separate iterations running concurrently. As part of the development it is anticipated that the range of options will be expanded, and that local join up will deliver at scale.</p> | <p>Green</p> | <p>Next steps: Await further updates about CS development (early 2024) and work with farmers in the SDNP to prepare for the next steps</p> | <p>Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience</p> |

| 5. Seven Sisters Country Park thematic area | | | | | | |
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| Work towards Seven Sisters Country Park becoming commercially successful and financially self-sufficient, having a positive impact on the local economy | <p>1) South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd to take over management of the site to allow commercial delivery</p> <p>2) Complete and open Phase 1 works (Exceat May 2022, Foxholes Nov 2022), including food and beverage offer, holiday accommodation, and retail</p> <p>3) Invest in pump barn as a hub for SDNP-based businesses</p> <p>4) Complete and open Phase 2 works (Foxhole Cottage 3 and the Camping Barn with new facilities block)</p> <p>5) Carry out urgent repairs and light</p> | 87% of Retail and Food & Beverage (F&B) products sourced from businesses based in or close to the South Downs National Park (annual target 25%) | <p>The pump barn has had an M&E (mechanical & electrical) fit out, been re-decorated, had wifi installed and a wood burning stove installed.</p> <p>The first pump barn event, a Christmas market, successfully took place on the 10th and 11th of December.</p> <p>Works continue at Foxholes and are planned for completion in late January 2023, the first guests are anticipated late spring/early summer 23.</p> <p>Retail and F&B products are now 87% (significantly above the annual target of 25%) sourced from businesses based in or close to the South Downs National Park.</p> | Amber | <p>Next Steps: In Q3/4 building works at Foxhole will be completed, the cottages will then be fitted out & external landscaping will take place. We will put out a tender to engage a contractor to operate the holiday accommodation with the hope that they can begin taking bookings in March and open to the guests early in the next financial year.</p> <p>We will install furniture and audio/visual equipment in the pump barn ready for regular use from April 23</p> | Outcome 10: Great Places to Work |
| Lay the foundations for Seven Sisters Country Park to become a high quality site for nature through exemplary management of the habitats | <p>1) Use 'nofence' in partnership with Plumpton College to deliver targeted grazing.</p> <p>2) Fundraise for habitat improvements including reseeded, pond repairs, and scrub removal</p> | | <p>Grazing animals moved to slopes for the winter. Unfortunately, Plumpton College, our grazer, removed 11 Sussex cows in October and has not replaced them as of end of December 2022. This means that the number of animals is a lot lower than required. We need at least 80 cows in total and currently have only 27 on site.</p> | Amber | <p>Next steps: Talks with Plumpton College (grazier) have been ongoing and they are aware of our requirements. We have a 6th January 2023 deadline for at least 40 new animals (taking us to 67). We need at least 80 cows in total.</p> <p>However, it is possible that Natural England may ask us to have even more grazing than 80 cows can provide. This may force us to look at other options/graziers to meet our grazing need.</p> <p>Potential risks: Possibility of terminating our grazing licence with Plumpton College if they can't help us manage the grazing level that we require.</p> | Outcome 3: Habitats & Species |
| Develop Seven Sisters Country Park as an exemplary site for public access to the countryside. Ensure that we attract a diverse audience that reflects our local communities and that people have an enjoyable, inspiring experience | <p>1) Remove internal fencing (facilitated by 'nofence') to improve access</p> <p>2) Install new Changing Places toilet and level access at Exceat</p> <p>3) Develop new, diverse and accessible volunteering opportunities</p> <p>4) Create new and improved walking routes across the whole Country Park</p> <p>5) Fundraise for trampers (off-road mobility scooters)</p> <p>6) Provide a year-round programme of activities for diverse audiences</p> <p>7) Trial social prescribing in partnership with health providers</p> | | <p>1) No more fencing or gates/stiles to be removed at the current time in order that we can maintain our grazing areas for the incoming extra cows who won't have 'nofence' collars.</p> <p>4) Continuation of the improvement works to the walking routes on the park with surface repairs and extra waymaking going in.</p> <p>5) Trampers (off-road mobility scooters) funded through accessibility due to arrive early January 2023.</p> <p>6) Two days of Xmas market were put on in December in our newly reburbished Pump Barn</p> | Green | <p>Next steps: Well being hub and accessible volunteering opportunities to be discussed in upcoming meeting with Amanda Elmes and her team on the 9th January 2023.</p> <p>Surface repairs to "Hard-link" on the Country Park Trail to be completed by end of Q4</p> | Outcome 10: Great Places to Work |
| 6. Delivering the statutory planning service thematic area | | | | | | |
| Effectively and efficiently process planning applications and appeals | <p>1) Endeavour to ensure application decisions are issued in accordance with Government targets: Major 60%; Minor 70%; Others 70% and value added (and recorded), where possible when considering applications</p> <p>2) No more than 10% of all decisions to be overturned at appeal in a 2-year period</p> | <p>The Authority has achieved the following performance in Q3: Majors 84%, Minors 80%, Others 83.9%</p> <p>Percentage of Appeals overturned: Year to date: 20.5% Q3: 31.25%</p> | <p>The Authority has achieved the following performance in Q3: Majors 84%, Minors 80%, Others 83.9%</p> <p>(NB No county apps determined in period)</p> <p>Percentage of Appeals overturned: Year to date: 20.5% Q3: 31.25%</p> | Green | | Core work |
| Effectively deliver the enforcement role | To continue to deliver the enforcement function within the National Park together with the host authorities and metrics to be reported through the Annual Planning Performance Report to P & R Committee | | The Authority has continued to deliver the Enforcement function within the National Park. | Green | | Core work |

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| Develop Shoreham Cement Works Area Action Plan (APP) | Planning Committee and the National Park Authority to approve Issues & Options AAP for consultation in Q1. Consultation to take place in Q2. Representations to be reviewed and Preferred Options AAP to be formulated in Q3-4 | | NPA approved the integration of the AAP into the LPR and new timetable at the Authority Meeting on 14-12-22. An initial summary of the representations has been completed and this was sent out in December to all respondents who requested to be kept informed of the project as part of advising of the new timetable. | Green | Next steps: Officers will review the representations and prepare summaries and responses of the points made. Potential risks: Landowner could submit an application in advance of LPR policy being adopted (mitigated by existing SDLP Strategic Policy SD56) | Core work |
| Undertake the Local Plan Review (LPR) | 1) Scope out work plan and budget for the Local Plan Review (LPR). Way forward to be decided by Members in Q1. Depending on the decision of Members work will begin in earnest on evidence gathering for the LPR for the rest of the year. 2) As part of the review ensure that the collective policy matrix for Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All is designed to maximise integrated delivery of corporate priorities through the planning system | | NPA approved the integration of the AAP into the LPR and new timetable for the LPR at the Authority Meeting on 14-12-22. Substantial work on progressing the LAA Stage 1. Government launched a consultation on reforms to national policy on 22-12-22. | Green | Next steps: Review the draft and finalise the HEDNA, complete the Stage 1 LAA and commence Stage 2 (site visits). Develop a detailed timetable for the LPR up to Reg. 18 consultation. Potential risks: Consideration to be given as to what, if any, implications there might be of the proposed planning reforms on LPR. | Core work |
| Progress Minerals & Waste Local Plans | Submit East Sussex LPR for examination Q1. Examination Q2 and hopefully adoption Q4. Issues & Options Hampshire Local Plan Review Q2 | | East Sussex Examination in Public held 08-09 November. Anticipate inspectors initial note early 2023. Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan review published for Reg 18 consultation on 8 November and will run to 31 January. Consultation events well attending near allocated sites. No allocations or public consultation events in SDNP. | Green | Next Steps: Awaiting initial note from East Sussex M&W plan hearings. Anticipated main mods consultation in spring 2023, pending inspectors correspondence. Submission consultation (Reg 19) for Hants Minerals and Waste Plan expected June 2023 An assessment of the West Sussex Minerals and Waste Plan relevance and performance will be carried out in Q4 with a decision on whether a plan review is necessary in Jun/July 23. | Core work |
| Support Neighbourhood Development Plans | At the same time as we are working on the Local Plan Review, we will support and work closely with Parish Councils wishing to prepare neighbourhood plans or neighbourhood plan reviews, to ensure that this work is progressed. It is anticipated that the Local Plan Review will be adopted at the same time that the neighbourhood plans are adopted | | template for Parish Priority Statement assessed by Officers and Members working group. Modifications made to template. Template to be circulated in Q4. Rowlands Castle Reg 14 plan published and officer level comments provided. West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area and Forum designated by SDNPA in August 22. Coldean Neighbourhood Area and Forum designated by SDNPA Dec 22 following 8 week public consultation Steyning Neighbourhood Plan made part of the Development Plan Sept 22 | Green | Next steps: Template for PPS to be sent to parishes in Q4. Rowlands Castle Reg 16 consultation expected Jan 23 Peacehaven and Telscombe Reg 16 consultation expected Jan 23 | Outcome 9: Great Places to Live |
| Work on the Duty to Cooperate in line with our Section 62 of the Environment Act section 11A duty | The need to work on cross boundary strategic issues is ongoing. During 2022-23 we are expecting local plans to come forward proposing substantial development in the setting of the National Park with new local plans in Chichester, East Hampshire, Horsham and Lewes Districts | | Responses made on the Winchester, Havant and Mid Sussex plans. The cross boundary strategic themes were reviewed, and updated themes have been prepared. These will provide the framework for LPR preparation and DtC discussions with neighbouring authorities. Letter to LPAs from Mr Gove, and the consultation on planning reform (Dec 2022) both indicate a move towards standard method OAN as a starting point - this will be relevant for future discussion with our neighbouring authorities. | Green | Next steps: We will be responding to live consultations from Eastbourne and East Hampshire. We anticipate consultations from Horsham and Chichester. | Core work |
| Renegotiate S101 contracts with host authorities | The current S101 contracts with our five host authorities expire on 1 October 2022. The aim is to have contracts in place with Chichester, East Hampshire, Horsham and Winchester Councils for a maximum period of 4 years and with Lewes Council for up to 2 years. This would enable these Councils to continue to provide planning services on our behalf | | All new S101 contracts now in operation. | Green | | Core work |

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| Performance monitoring and reporting | The need to monitor and report on performance is ongoing and so will continue for both the in house and host authority development management functions in 2022/23. Monitoring will include the Annual Planning Performance Report to Policy and Resources Committee and the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report | | All government targets for the operation of the planning system are being met. Appeal record in Q1 to Q3 was particularly good with 81% of appeals being dismissed. | Green | | Core work |
| 7. Major Projects thematic area | | | | | | |
| Deal with major planning applications and appeals; considering major development in plan making | 1) Deal with major planning applications and appeals in an efficient and timely manner whilst driving maximum benefit for the National Park 2) Ensure that major development is robustly addressed in all our development plans | | Speed of determination of major planning applications remains well in excess of Government targets. | Green | | Core work |
| Administer the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 – key income streams for delivery | CIL will retain its link to funding infrastructure needed to support growth as required by legislation. As part of this we will also look to support and fund more projects that deliver the Corporate Plan priorities of Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All | £298,950.86 paid directly to 26 Parishes. £167,236.55 has been spent on 10 projects (from previous year's CIL allocations). S106: £77,004.03 for specific obligations £61,229.27 on 3 projects. | CIL - Opened the 'call for projects' for the 22/23 CIL spend (closing date 3rd March). Projects money spent on include heathland restoration in Fittleworth, new play and outdoor education facilities, cycle ways and village improvement schemes. S106 - Projects money has been spent on include affordable housing and bridleway works. | Green | | Core work |
| Deal with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within the National Park | Ongoing work to protect the National Park, to maximise development benefits and to secure appropriate mitigation and compensation from NSIP schemes. Responding to statutory consultations as required. The A27 at Arundel and Rampion 2 examinations in public are expected | | National Highways' Development Consent Order application for the M3 J9 proposal was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2022. Officers are currently reviewing the application. | Green | Next steps: Planning Inspectorate are expected to commence the 6 month examination period in Q4. | Outcome 9: Great Places to Live |
| Provide specialist advice in respect of Conservation, Design and Landscape across the organisation – especially in regard to Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All | Align and focus specialist advice on: i) Delivering the three Corporate Plan priorities ii) Assisting our work as the Local Planning Authority A South Downs Design Review Panel will continue to operate that helps deliver better design in the National Park | | Advice provided across the organisation as required. | Green | | Core work |

| 8. Generating Income thematic area | | | | | | |
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| Aim to raise £2.5 million self-generated income per annum, supporting Partnership Management Plan (PMP) delivery, through bids to Statutory Sources and support for the South Downs National Park Trust in continuing to build a sustainable philanthropic income stream | Raise £2.5m of self-generated income through philanthropic gifts, corporate partners and competitive government grants. This additional funding will be paired with strategic projects that drive forward delivery against the High Level Targets | £3,182,310 secured to date | Income continues to progress with £3,182,310 currently secured and £210,000 in warm opportunities. Warm opportunities have reduced as income starts to fall into the next financial year. Income includes SELEP funding and support from Innovate UK. | Green | Next Steps: In the final quarter we will be focused on securing funding and fulfilling current commitments. Our focus now moves to the next financial year, including developing a successful Downs to the Sea HLF bid and developing a bid for the next DEFRA Landscape Scale Nature Recovery Pilots. | Core work |
| Support the role of private finance for Nature Recovery, securing funding to restore 1,000 hectares for Nature | Restore 1,000 hectares p.a. through projects which support landowners to secure private funding, changing current land management practices in favour of nature | 481 hectares are currently in pilots considering Green Finance | We are currently seeking to secure the private finances necessary to deliver the remaining hectares contained within our two initial Green Finance pilots This includes work within own planning function, alongside efforts with our parnters NPP and Palladium. We are also in the process of shortlisting a number of other pilot sites that will build on and follow the existing projects. | Green | | Core work |
| Incubate a number of income generating initiatives, building on Seven Sisters and the South Downs Trust, scaling these up to generate £200k per annum | Generate £200k through full cost recovery, securing restricted funding against budgeted costs or via profit from new commercial ventures | £205k raised for full cost recovery and budgeted expenditure | Additional funding has been secured through funding inflationary costs on Seven Sisters and core cost contribution to Trust staff. In addition, £40k has been secured through the new approach to offset, through initial monitoring fees. | Green | Next steps: The full cost recovery approach is now embedded and our focus is currently on supporting the new Broker role, which now has 4 prospective landowners and incoming sales enquiries | Core work |
| 9. New Ways of Working thematic area | | | | | | |
| Adopt a blended style of working that balances sustainability and flexibility whilst supporting business delivery | 1) Undertake a blended working Staff Survey in Q3 2) Adapt the PDR process to reflect new ways of working by Q4 3) Train staff in the matrix management style of working by Q4 | | Blended working survey actions drafted by OMT and agreed at the end of December 2023 Dates for Leadership Development Programme confirmed for May and June 2023 | Green | Next steps: Blended working survey action plan to be communicated to staff in Q4 | Core work |
| Streamline levels of service to Members and Partners to ensure they are proportionate and reflect the resources available for their delivery | Complete a review of internal governance and propose recommendations for changes to structures and processes, as appropriate | | e-Reports system trial continues. An upgrade to IT/AV equipment in the Memorial Hall and main meeting rooms is being undertaken. | Green | Next steps: eReports System will be taken forward by the newly in post Senior Governance Officer. | Core work |
| Through the use of new technology and new approaches to internal decision making and internal communications, the SDNPA will have developed a culture of “the right information in the right place” – leading to improved decision making and organisational efficiency | MS Teams road map in place | | MS Teams update provided to OMT on 14th November picking out points from the draft MS365 Teams Roadmap, providing information on feedback received and statistics on the current usage of Teams. | Green | Next steps: Finalise Teams Roadmap document ready for OMT meeting on 6th February 2023 (agenda permitting). | Core work |
| Through the use of new technology and new approaches to internal decision making and internal communications, the SDNPA will have developed a culture of “the right information in the right place” – leading to improved decision making and organisational efficiency | Review of internal Comms outputs, processes and practices | 6 x information sharing carousels run at December staff and Member meeting | One of the carousels at the All Staff December event was a session to enable staff and members to feed into the creation of a communities hub on the website, while others covered issues such as EDI. The internal Update has been newly launched as an enewsletter using Microsoft Sway that can be better accessed by all staff, members and volunteers. | Green | | Core work |
| Ensure that the organisation is more diverse and representative both in its staff and Members and considers Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in service delivery and policy development | Adapt the way we recruit, to increase the diversity of applications received from the current baseline | | Continuation of roll out of applicant tracking system | Green | Next steps: Trial of system in Q4 | Core work |
| Ensure that the organisation is more diverse and representative both in its staff and Members and considers Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in service delivery and policy development | Ensure that 100% of new programmes, projects, policies, services and strategies have EDI as a central delivery component. This will be evidenced by the completion and consideration of the EDI screening and impact assessment form at the start of the process | | A new Chair has been appointed for the EDI Steering Group. Discussions have been underway for a new training platform for staff and members in relation to EDI. Knowledge Nuggets, short pieces of EDI information, have launched. A ranger representative has now been invited to future steering group meetings. | Amber | Next steps: EDI assessments for the corporate plan are being developed. Training ITT will be published and provider will be appointed. Inviting new members of the EDI steering group to represent all areas of the SDNPA. | Core work |
| Ensure that the organisation is more diverse and representative both in its staff and Members and considers Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in service delivery and policy development | Develop a training plan to prioritise EDI training and skills development for staff and Members and begin delivery of specific training | | Specification written for ITT to procure a consultant to provide EDI development | Green | Next steps: Evaluation of tenders and award contract for EDI development | Core work |

ITEM 11 APPENDIX 2: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTIONS FOR 2022/23: Q3 UPDATE

| Action | Commentary | Next steps and/or potential risks |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Further embedding of processes related to paperless meetings <i>(ongoing from 21/22)</i></p> | <p>eReports system has been launched and is now being trialled by Members and officers. Following a successful trial the system will be brought into permanent use for Member meetings and workshops. This will be taken forward by the the newly in post Senior Governance Officer</p> | |
| <p>Review the position regarding the use of byelaws at Seven Sisters Country Park <i>(ongoing from 21/22)</i></p> | <p>A thorough review and assessment of the use of byelaws at SSCP has been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Governance. The process of making byelaws is both lengthy and complex and potentially very resource heavy. A proposed approach will be brought to a future meeting of the Authority.</p> | |
| <p>Implementation of changes arising from the review of the staff PDR process <i>(ongoing from 21/22)</i></p> | <p>The review remains ongoing and implementation of any proposed changes will be considered on completion of the review.</p> | |
| <p>Complete the review of the model councillor code of conduct recently published by the Local Government Association to identify whether further revision of the Member Code of Conduct is needed</p> | <p>No major revisions have been identified requiring update to SDNPA code of conduct. Review continues and any required changes will be reported to NPA via AM&S Committee</p> | <p>The Monitoring Officer will report on this to AM&S Committee in April/May 2023.</p> |
| <p>Implement the outcomes of the 2022 Member survey and review of governance as reported to the NPA in May 2022</p> | <p>A streamlined cycle of Member meetings and workshops has been agreed and implemented for 2022/23 and 2023/24. Members have moved to electronic payslips, supported by the Governance Team and BHCC. eReports system trial is underway. Preparations are underway to hold the Feb 23 meeting of P&R Committee in Lewes. An upgrade to IT/AV equipment in the Memorial Hall and main meeting rooms is being undertaken.</p> | |

AGENDA ITEM 11 APPENDIX 3: HUMAN RESOURCES & HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIONS 2022/23: Q2 UPDATE

| Action | Commentary | Next steps and/or potential risks |
|---|---|---|
| Implementing the HR responsibilities relating to the EDI action plan: | Working with an external consultant for advice on an approach to EDI training and development | Roll out EDI training plan to staff and members in Q4 |
| Introduction of an applicant tracking system | on -going - modifying system to be fit for purpose for SDNPA processes | Implementation in Q3/Q4 |
| Design and communicate a staff survey to review the blended working arrangements | Survey sent to all staff in September 2022 | Action plan to be compiled following results of survey an fed back to staff Q3/Q4 |
| Review the organisation's approach to stress management | Stress policy being developed based on HSE template. Working with Consultants to design a bespoke Leadership development programme that will include approach to stress management | Policy to be reviewed by H&S committee in December 2022. Identify dates for Leadership training - likely to be on 2023/24 Q1/2 |
| Look at ways of digitalising existing HR processes to increase efficiency | on-going | Implementation and communication of Applicant Tracking system and automated training booking system in Q3/4 Implementation |
| Continuation of the work on internal health and wellbeing | Monthly wellbeing e-mails and updating of Wellbeing resources on intranet | Mental Health First Aid training was postponed and now rescheduled for Jan 2023 Review role of MHFAs and the wellbeing group |
| Ensure that Members are fully briefed and trained on their H&S responsibilities | Due to personal circumstances of the trainer this is on hold until Q4 | Training to be arranged for Q4 |
| Continuing development and implementation of robust safety systems of work and risk assessments at Seven Sisters Country Park accounting for the type of activities in place | Food outlets received a 5 star rating for Food Hygiene Regular site visits carried out by internal H&S Advisor to ensure that staff are fully supported and informed of their H&S responsibilities Pump Barn handed over from contractors and a L8 Legionaire assessment has been carried out | Full audit by external Consultant in December 2022 |

