

Report to **Policy and Resources Committee**
Date **20 February 2025**
By **Performance and Projects Manager**
Title of Report **Corporate Plan 2025-2026**
Decision

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Receive the draft Corporate Plan 2025-2**
 - 2. Recommend the approval of the Corporate Plan 2025-26 to the National Park Authority (NPA) in March 2025.**
-

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to review and approve a ‘bridging’ corporate plan for 2025-26. The current corporate plan ran from 2020 to 2025, in line with the timeframe for the Partnership Management Plan (PMP). As the review of the PMP will not be finished until the end of 2025, it is proposed that we extend the current corporate plan for 2025-26, to bridge the gap between the current one finishing and the start of a new PMP. This provides an opportunity to review the priorities, targets and text for the corporate plan to make sure it takes account of any additional priorities that have emerged, and to capitalize on the early thinking that is taking place around the focus of the PMP.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The PMP provides the strategic framework for the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) corporate plan. The corporate plan sets out how the SDNPA will deliver the outcomes and priorities in the PMP. The corporate plans runs over the same five-year period as the PMP. It sets higher level targets that are measured over the 5-year period and feeds into team and individual plans.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 Following discussion with SLT and relevant staff, changes were made to some of the targets, and the text of the plan has been refreshed. Adjustments were needed, as the targets in some areas were underestimated and, we have taken the opportunity to change some of them to align more closely with the PLOTf targets that have been introduced and will be used for the new PMP. The PLOTf targets are a standard set of measures and methodologies that will be used across all Protected Landscapes (National Parks and National Landscapes).
- 3.2 The revised corporate plan is at **Appendix 1**. The table of what has changed is at **Appendix 2**.

4. Options & cost implications

4.1 The budget for producing the corporate plan is available within existing allocations. There will also be a requirement for staff time from the Communications and Engagement Team and the Performance and Projects Team to review the wording and to prepare the document for publication.

5. Next steps

5.1 Following this meeting, a final version of the plan will be presented to the National Park Authority meeting in March. If the Authority agrees the Corporate Plan, the next steps are to produce a final designed version for publication. This will include updating the graphics for the measures and targets.

6. Other implications

Implication	Yes
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	The final proposed bridge year corporate plan will go to the NPA meeting in March 2025.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The plan sets out our priorities and is linked to the budget process. The bridge year plan will be considered by Members alongside the budget for 2025-2026.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Implications of this report in itself do not raise an issue of value for money. However the projects that the organisation has funded are assessed for value for money when they are approved. In addition, projects are evaluated individually for value for money when they finish. This is reported regularly to the Policy and Resources Committee.
Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against	The corporate plan sets out how the SDNPA will deliver the PMP outcomes as such it contributes to all PMP outcomes to some extent.
Links to other projects or partner organisations	The SDNPA corporate plan does include work that we are undertaking with partners.
How does this decision contribute to the Authority's climate change objectives	The corporate plan sets out clearly what priorities there are for delivering the Climate Change Action Plan.
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?	Much of the delivery set out in the Corporate Plan aims to address barriers that prevent people with protected characteristics accessing the National Park. Our target audiences are clearly defined in the plan.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None

Implication	Yes
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?	As the corporate plan identifies priorities for delivery over the next year it is possible that some of the work done to deliver it will have data protection implications. This is addressed through consideration of specific pieces of work or separately as part of a project.

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
An out-of-date plan does not take account of changes over the previous years and is out of line with the PMP	2	2	Producing a revised corporate plan reduces the risk that the plan becomes too detached from any new priorities and is linked positively to the emerging PMP.

ANNE REHILL

Performance and Projects Manager

South Downs National Park Authority

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Appendices
 1. Revised Corporate Plan
 2. Table of changes to the Corporate Plan

SDNPA Consultees
 Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management;
 Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer;
 Legal Services.

External Consultees
 None

Background Documents
[Corporate Plan](#)

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DRAFT 1

1. INTRODUCTION

The South Downs National Park covers over 1,600km² of England's most valued lowland landscapes shaped, over millennia, by the people who have lived and worked here. Its inspirational and varied landscapes, internationally important wildlife, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant market towns and villages hold a special place in the hearts of many millions. If we want it to remain a special place, we need to make sure that its landscapes are conserved and enhanced, provide benefits to all of society, and that people can enjoy, understand, and take action to support it.

Much is changing with national policy - on the environment in general and with respect to Protected Landscapes (National Parks and National Landscapes) since we first wrote our corporate plan. Defra is reviewing its Environmental Improvement Plan and has published further guidance on achieving 30 by 30. The Environment Act includes commitments to statutory Net Biodiversity Gain through the Planning system and the creation of mandatory Local Nature Recovery Strategies for every part of England. In addition, we have seen the strengthening of the duty of public bodies to help improve National Parks, and intentions to strengthen National Park purposes and give Park Authorities more flexibility to undertake commercial activity. Alongside that we are seeing reform to the planning system that will provide new challenges and opportunities. The entire system of support for farming is in transition as the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme replaces the old EU CAP (Common Agricultural Policy).

During 2025-26 the National Park Authority will be undertaking a review of the Partnership Management Plan. This will identify revised vision and outcomes and show how different partners will be taking action to help achieve them. The plan will be ready for public consultation in Summer 2025 and a new 5-year plan will be approved by the Authority in December 2025. It will inform the new corporate plan for 2026-31. To bridge the gap between now and 2026 this corporate plan will run for one year 2025-2026.

Despite this I envisage that our objectives will remain broadly relevant, and we can expect the next iteration of the corporate plan to be an evolution rather than a dramatic change. Where we will see a difference will be in a shift in how we define our objectives to align more with national level targets

Siôn McGeever

Chief Executive Officer

South Downs National Park Authority

2. HIGH LEVEL TARGETS

The long-term ambitions of the [Partnership Management Plan](#) (PMP) and the Local Plan are very broad - it is therefore essential that we focus on those areas where we know we can make the most impact against the priorities in the PMP, the Public Affairs Strategy and Government’s Glover response. This does not mean abandoning the entire range of the PMP. We will maintain the breadth of its ambition with the associated partnerships so that we can respond swiftly when circumstances change and/or funding is secured.

It is for this reason that we are putting in place a single set of high-level targets for this Corporate Plan. This is how we will measure the overall effectiveness of the South Downs National Park Authority between 2022 and 2025 in terms of its impact on the ground. We will expect every team to maximise its contribution towards these targets.

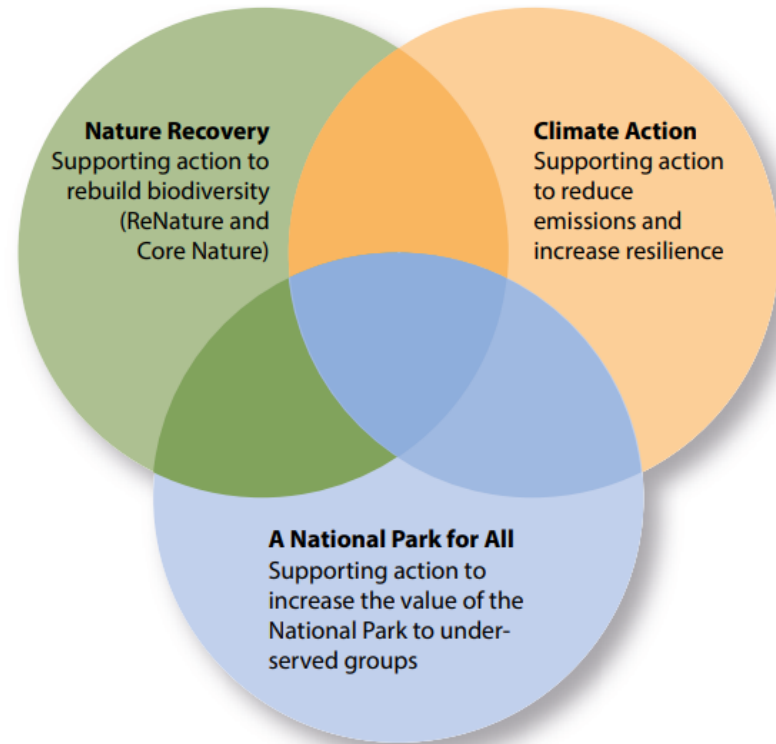
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A series of Key Performance Indicators and targets have been developed to measure progress towards the High-Level Targets.

Core work and Project delivery by all parts of the organisation will not be itemised in the Corporate Plan but will contribute to the High-Level Targets and will be monitored against agreed delivery plans and be part of the overall figures we report.

These Key Performance Indicators and Targets are subject to change according to, but not limited to, Government directives such as the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain, the Defra targets for Protected Landscape and Natural England species recovery targets.

The Key Performance Indicators have been developed according to what is currently measurable. Meanwhile significant work is taking place to develop baselines and improve systems to better evidence the impact of the South Downs National Park Authority’s work towards Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All. We will continue to develop qualitative measures of impact.



2.1 NATURE RECOVERY

IMAGE

Nationally and globally, nature is under intense pressure, with fresh evidence every week about declines in insect populations, farmland birds, soils, water and air quality, and the onset of new pests and diseases (such as ash dieback). All these trends are evident in the South Downs; however, there is also hope. Superb examples already exist across the National Park of action to manage and expand biodiversity, often by farmers, estates, businesses, and communities in addition to the dedicated work of environmental NGOs and Public Bodies. Awareness of the value of nature's intrinsic value soared during the pandemic, and restoring biodiversity will also bring social, health and wellbeing, and economic benefits as well as being key to tackling climate change.

“The South East of England is a water stressed environment and the chalk aquifer of the South Downs is an essential resource for water supply. The condition of wetland habitats and rivers, including chalk streams, is also in poor condition. During 2025/6 we will continue to work in partnership to improve ecological status of our rivers and wetlands, protect the groundwater resource support a catchment-based approach.”

Framed by the South Downs National Park Wildlife Delivery Plan and Campaign for Nature Recovery #ReNature, our goal is to have 33% of the South Downs National Park for nature and 67% to be nature friendly, in a connected and joined up network of habitats.

Key definitions:

Nature Recovery = Core Nature + ReNature + Connecting people with nature:

- Core Nature – the sites/initiatives which already have a primary objective for nature or managing biodiversity. For example, designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and ancient semi natural woodland. This is the 25% of land for nature from the 2020 baseline of best available data for habitat extent in the South Downs National Park.
- ReNature – the sites/initiatives where there is a significant change of land management whereby nature's recovery or managing for biodiversity becomes the/a primary objective. The uplift from 25% of land for nature to 33%.
- Connecting people and nature – ensuring that society benefits from nature – ecosystem products and services.

NATURE RECOVERY: EVIDENCING SUCCESS

It is important to note that nature will not be “recovered” instantly. These key performance indicators evidence that nature recovery action has been taken and will, in time, lead to Nature Recovery through improved habitat condition, species abundance and biodiversity.

	High Level Target	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
HLT1	To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%	H1.1 Total hectares of habitat created H1.2 Total hectares of habitat improved for nature H1.3 Total hectares legally secured via the ReNature H1.4 Total hectares land put forward for future nature recovery	H1.1/1.2/1.3/1.4 1,300 hectares – This is a cumulative target over 10 years towards 13,000ha
HLT2	Work to maintain, enhance and/or restore 30% of existing Core Nature sites and support key species recovery within the SDNP by 2030	H2.1 Total extent of Core Nature sites where SDNPA activity is contributing towards favourable condition H2.2 Number of species recovery programmes developed for delivery from 2023	H2.1. H2.1 To be reported using case studies highlighting number of sites assessed for condition and the condition of those sites H2.2 To be reported using case studies for 2025-26
HLT3	To implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	H3.1 Relevant applications to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value. [Additional indicators from BNG regulations are likely to be implemented in once delivery commences]	H3.1 At least 10% BNG increase from the pre-development biodiversity value

2.2 CLIMATE ACTION

IMAGE

Climate Change is one of the principal drivers of environmental change for the South Downs National Park. Its impacts are likely to be significant and profound across a whole range of areas and assets. The South Downs National Park Authority has a key role in meeting the challenges arising from the climate and nature emergency in terms of advocacy, influence and delivery. Climate change is having a fundamental effect on biodiversity, agriculture, water resources and communities in the South Downs National Park. We are already experiencing more unpredictable weather events causing drought, soil erosion and flooding.

Action to reduce emissions and react to existing climate change will help to make South Downs communities and businesses more resilient, bring people together with a shared purpose, and stimulate jobs and economic activity. Reducing land-based emissions and scaling up on the ability of both agricultural land and habitats to sequester more carbon will be crucial for addressing both the climate and nature recovery crisis. We will also act as an exemplar by demonstrating best practice in our corporate response to climate change. We want to be recognised as a leading player in managing the impacts of climate change on the South Downs National Park and contributing to a low carbon economy. The delivery of technical and nature-based solutions, to draw down and sequester greater amounts of carbon will be the main mechanism that will get us to our Net-Zero target.

CLIMATE ACTION: EVIDENCING SUCCESS

Work to develop a habitat carbon inventory of the South Downs National Park is underway. This resource will provide a baseline for carbon sequestration across the National Park and ensure that Nature Recovery is viewed through a carbon lens – meaning that initiatives will not just perform for biodiversity but will also have the best possible impact for carbon.

	High Level Target	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
HLT4	SDNPA to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target	H4.1 Total annual SDNPA carbon emissions	H4.1 150 (tonnes Co2) reduction on the previous year
HLT5	5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the SDNP from the baseline reported in 2019	H5.1 Total tonnes Co2 reported year on year in annual LULUCF (forestry component) data	H5.1 5% annual reduction (tonnes Co2) from 2019 baseline

Key definitions:

[The Forest Information System for Europe](#) provides a simple definition for LULUCF: *“LULUCF stands for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. The LULUCF sector includes the land use categories: Forest land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements and Other land...The LULUCF sector comprises emissions and removals from the forest carbon pools above- and below-ground biomass, deadwood, litter, mineral and organic soils. Carbon stored in wood products (sawn wood, panels and paper) is reported in the Harvested Wood Product pool (HWP) and is estimated separately.”*

[A greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario](#) was completed by Small World Consulting for the South Downs National Park in 2019. The report sets out the minimum target which results in a net zero date of 2045 for the South Downs National Park.

2.3 A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

IMAGE

National Parks were created for everyone, and they have a power to nourish, inspire and connect everyone with nature – whether in person or remotely. We want the South Downs to be a welcoming accessible place for everyone, whether living in the National Park, close to its boundaries or travelling from further afield, to connect with nature, the landscape and our rich cultural heritage. We want it to be a place that supports physical and mental health and well-being. We want to inspire individuals and communities to experience The South Downs National Park and take action to care for it. We want to work with individuals and communities to break down the barriers that stop them from feeling that the National Park is not for them, or which make it difficult for some to visit. We want to continue working to make the landscape more accessible and inclusive to people of all ages and abilities and from all backgrounds.

Our work on connecting people to the South Downs National Park is varied and complex. Alongside our work to make the National Park welcoming for everyone, we will also focus on specific audiences, who face the greatest barriers to access:

- Young people (aged 16-24);
- People from Black, Asian and ethnically diverse/ global majority communities;
- People facing forms of health and access inequalities including disabled people;
- People living in urban areas, especially people facing socio-economic barriers to inclusion.

A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL: EVIDENCING SUCCESS

The measures and targets have been adjusted for 2025-26 and will be reviewed in detail for the 2026-2031 corporate plan.

	High Level Target	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
HLT6	Increase diversity of those engaging with the South Downs National Park	H6.1 Number of people from under-represented audiences engaged through engagement and project delivery activities H6.2 Number of engagement activities targeted at underrepresented audiences	H6.1 3,500 of people from under-represented audiences engaged H6.2 90 engagement activities
HLT7	Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquillity of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are.	H7.1 Number of sessions facilitated by new mobility equipment H7.2.1 Metres of new accessible path H7.2.2 Number of interventions to improve access H7.3 Number of visits to the digital Accessibility Hub H7.4 Number of downloads for the Seven Sisters Country Park Accessibility Guide	H7.1 100 sessions facilitated H7.2.1 1350m H7.2.2 85 interventions H7.3 8,000 visits H7.4 5,000 downloads
HLT8	Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP	H8.1 Total number of E-newsletter subscribers H8.2 Total social media audience H8.3 Total visits to the digital hubs throughout the year: (Nature Recovery, Climate Change, Walking hub, Communities)	H8.1 Achieve 14,000 subscribers H8.2 Grow social media audience to 120,000 in 2025/26 H8.3 60,000 visits to the digital hubs in 2025/26

2.4 ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF OUR HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS

IMAGE NEW

The High-Level Targets provide the ultimate measures of success for the whole Corporate Plan. Below this are many strands of work. We have statutory functions - for example in delivering our planning service and managing open access land. Our support for cultural heritage activities provides tangible benefits both economic and in terms of the wellbeing of people who engage creatively. We focus our work on the rural economy within the National Park to inspire businesses to positively contribute to the South Downs National Park purposes. Our planning service needs to strike the balance between protection of landscape character and enabling much needed affordable housing and economic activity.

To deliver our priorities for the National Park it is essential that the Authority is as efficient and effective as possible – making the right decisions, based on the right information and with the confidence that these decisions will deliver across our priorities. The purpose of this area of work is to ensure that we have robust processes in place to support this wider delivery and maximise the impact of the Authority's actions for the National Park.

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HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS

IMAGE NEED

1. PLACE MAKING

	Corporate Plan Priority	Key Performance Indicator	2025-26
CP1	Administer the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 – key income streams for delivery	CP1.1 The total CIL and S106 distributed (in £) across the three themes of Nature Recovery, Climate and A National Park for All.	CP1.1 No target required. CIL and S106 distribution to be reported, with case studies.
CP2	Provide specialist advice in respect of Conservation, Design and Landscape across the organisation	CP2.1 Summary of service provided to be included in the Authority’s Annual Monitoring Report	CP2.1 No target required. Qualitative case studies to be produced to support AMR

IMAGE NEED

2. GENERATING INCOME

	Corporate Plan Priority	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
CP3	CP 3 Aim to raise self-generated income each year	CP3.1 External income generated through philanthropy, visitor-generated revenue, SSCP and nature-based services	CP3.1 £3.5 million for 2025-26
CP4	CP4 Incubate a number of income generating initiatives, to generate £250k per annum	CP4.1 Number of new income generating pilots, for example, LA Consultancy linked to Green Finance and WEPS, Carbon Platform and commercialisation of conservation services CP4.2 Increase in income that contributes towards core costs or is budget relieving	CP4.1 One new income generating pilot CP4.2 £250,000

3. LAND MANAGEMENT

	Corporate Plan Priority	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
CP5	Facilitate and support the endorsement, actions and key priorities through the process of Whole Estate Plans (WEPs)	CP5.1 No. of Estates with new endorsed WEPS CP5.2 No. of estates working towards an endorsed WEP CP5.3 Extent of land in nature friendly farming	CP5.1 One newly endorsed WEP in 25-26 CP5.2 3 Estates on their WEP journey CP5.3 To be reported using case studies in 2025-26
CP6	Deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in the National Park	CP6.1 Total funding (£) allocated across the Defra themes of People/Place/Nature/Climate	CP6.1 No target required. FiPL data contributes to reporting against HLT1, 2, 4 and corporate priorities linked to the economy

4. ECONOMY

	Corporate Plan Priority	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
CP7	Develop the 'Our South Downs' enterprise network	CP7.1 No of businesses signed up CP7.2 No. of Green South Downs certified businesses CP7.3 Total unrestricted income generated in £	CP7.1 60 for 2025-2026 (500 cumulative from baseline of 375) CP7.2 32 (cumulative) by end of 2025-26 CP7.3 £20,000 per annum for 2024-205 and 2025-2026
CP8	Tourism in the South Downs National Park	CP8.1 No. of businesses signed up to Visitor Giving	CP8.1 2 per annum for 2024-25 and 2025-26 from baseline of 5

5. AUTHORITY PROCESS

	Corporate Plan Priority	Key Performance Indicator	2025-2026
CP9	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	CP9.1 Staff and Member profile better reflects regional profile CP9.2 Policies in place to ensure the SDNPA is taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers	CP9.1 Establish a baseline of consistent demographic data for staff and Members CP9.2 Policies in place or reviewed as per schedule

SDNPA HIGH LEVEL TARGETS

NATURE RECOVERY

HLT1 To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 form a baseline of 25%

KPI

H1.1 Total hectares of habitat restored, improved or created.	H1.2 Total hectares of restoration funded by The South Downs National Park Trust
TARGET	
2,600^{HA} by 2025	2,000^{HA} by 2025

HLT2 Work to maintain, enhance and/or restore 30% of existing Core Nature sites and support key species recovery within the SDNP by 2030

KPI

H2.1 Total Core Nature sites where SDNPA is contributing towards favourable condition	H2.2 Number of species recovery programmes developed for delivery from 2023
TARGET	
3,541^{HA} by 2025	TBC^{HA}

HLT3 To prepare for and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

KPI

H3.1 The requirement is for relevant applications to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value

TARGET

+10%

BNG from pre-dev value

NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

HLT6 Increase diversity of those engaging with, the South Downs National Park

KPI

H6.1 % people from under-represented audiences engaged through delivery activities	H6.2 Number of engagement activities targeted at under-represented audiences
TARGET	
Baseline to be established in 23/24	30 engagement activities to be delivered annually

HLT7 Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquillity of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are

KPI

H7.1 Number of sessions facilitated by mobility equipment	H7.2 Metres of new and/or improved accessible path
TARGET	
100^{SESSIONS} per piece of equipment	TBC
KPI	
H7.3 Number of visits to the digital Accessibility Hub	H7.4 Number of downloads for the Seven Sisters Country Park Accessibility Guide
TARGET	
5^K VISITS to the digital hub	TBC

HLT8 Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP

KPI

H8.1 Total number of E-newsletter subscribers

TARGET

11,500^{SUBSCRIBERS}
in 2023/24

KPI

H8.2 Total social media audience	H8.3 Total visits to the hubs throughout the year
TARGET	
75^K in 2023/24	20^K hub in 2023/24

CLIMATE ACTION

HLT4 South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target

KPI

H4.1 Total annual SDNPA carbon emissions

TARGET

150^t (CO₂)
reduction on 2022/23

HLT5 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019


















KPI

H5.1 Total tonnes Co2 reported year on year in annual LULUCF (forestry component) data

TARGET

1.5% reduction (t CO₂)
annually from 2019 baseline

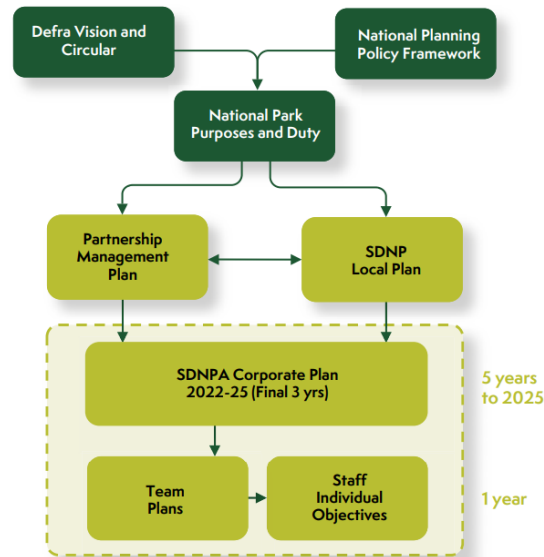
HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR HIGH LEVEL TARGETS: CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

PLACE MAKING 		GENERATING INCOME 		ECONOMY 		
						
CP1.1 Total CIL and S106 (£) distributed	CP2.1 AMR to include summary of service provided & case studies	CP3.1 Raise £2.5m total self-generated income in 2023/24	CP4.1 Generate £805,945 from Green Finance	CP7.1 No of business sign ups to 'Our South Downs' network	CP7.2 No. of Green South Downs certified businesses	CP7.3 No. of businesses signed up to 'South Downs Guardian
AUTHORITY PROCESS 						
						
CP9.1 100% completed EDI impact assessment forms	CP4.2 One new income generating pilot	CP4.3 £200k via full cost recovery on external projects	CP7.4 No. of businesses signed up to 'South Downs Protector'	CP7.5 Total unrestricted income (£) generated via OSD	CP8.1 No. of businesses signed up to Visitor Giving	

Corporate Plan Priorities

3. THE CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH WE WORK

The South Downs National Park Authority’s Corporate Plan sets out how we will deliver those elements of the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan (PMP) for which we are responsible. All relate back to the 10 Outcomes in the PMP. The Corporate Plan is one of our key management tools to ensure delivery of our Purposes and Duty. Progress towards demonstrating that we have delivered on our Corporate Plan priorities will be monitored by the South Downs National Park Authority Policy & Resources committee every quarter and published in the Annual Review for 2023/24.



4. NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND THE DUTY ON THE SDNPA

Our first Purpose is: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

Our second Purpose is: To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

The Duty on the SDNPA is: To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Par in pursuit of our purposes.

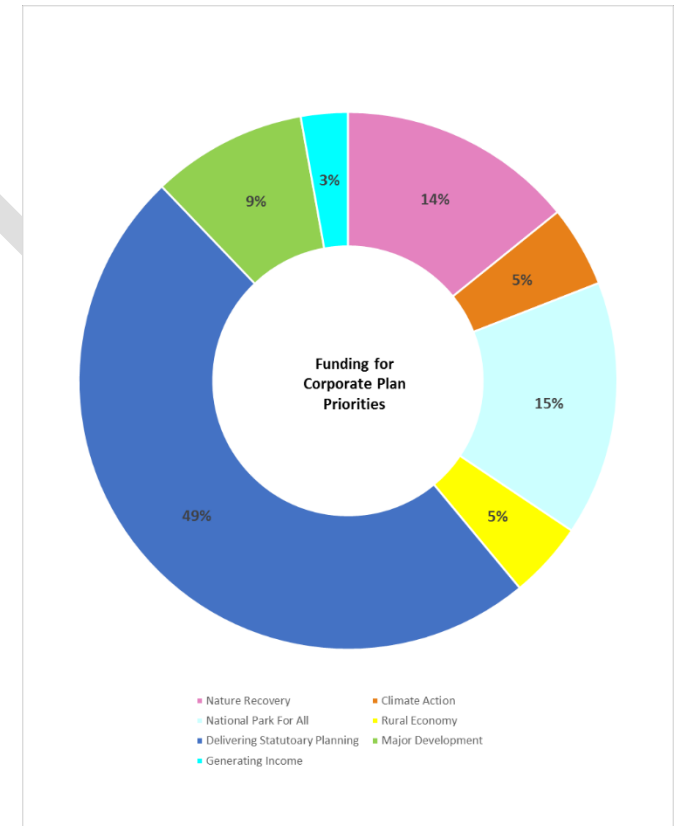


5. OUR RESOURCES

The Authority’s budget¹ for the financial year 2025/26 is £14million. This is funded from the National Park Grant from Defra of £10.5million, £1.3million from Planning Fees and £0.6m from the new Nature Recovery Initiative, with the remainder being made up from specific grants. On the expenditure side the overwhelming majority of our budget is deployed on core staffing (49%), delivery of the planning service through s101 agreements with host authorities, and underpinning contracts for corporate services such as IT, finance and GIS. The amount of discretionary spend available to fund projects, programmes and partnerships in support of the High-Level targets is therefore very limited, and it is the use of our officer time across the staff structure which is the biggest factor in aligning resources with priorities.

The chart shows how the core funding from the National Park Grant supports the operation of the Authority and contributes to the corporate priorities.

There is additional income of £3 million from Community Infrastructure Levy, £4.1 million from Farming in Protected Landscapes and ad hoc income from the Trust which has been in the region of £2.5 million. The total budget available is likely to be around £20.9 million.



¹ Seven Sisters Country Park expenditure is recovered. The chart excludes support costs.

Item	Target	Proposed change	Related PLTOF target and indicators
Introduction and textual changes		Change to reflect new government and what is relevant Detailed changes will follow after the new PMP is in place	
HLT 1 To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 form a baseline of 25%			Target: Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). Indicator: TI_1 Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites Target: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline). Indicator: TI_8 Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes
H1.1 1300 hectares – This is a cumulative target over 10 years towards 13,000ha	H1.1/1.2/1.3 Cumulative total of 1600 hectares	No change this year	
H1.2 Total hectares habitat created			
H1.2 Total hectares habitat improved for nature			
H1.3 Total hectares legally secured via the ReNature			
H1.4 Total hectares land put forward for future nature recovery		No change this year	
H1.5 Total hectares of habitat creation and improvement funded by The South Downs National Park Trust	2000 hectares funded by the South Downs National Park Trust	Removed as South Downs Trust contributions are captured in KPI H1.1	
HLT 2 Work to maintain, enhance and/or restore 30% of existing Core Nature sites and support key species recovery within the SDNP by 2030			Target: Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042 Indicator: TI_2 Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition Target: For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028. Indicator: TI_3 Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition Target: Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042. Indicator: TI_4 Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes
H2.1 Total extent of Core Nature sites where SDNPA activity is contributing towards favourable condition	H2.1 To be reported using case studies highlighting number of sites assessed for condition and the condition of those sites	Changed to enable better reporting. The target will be developed after the PMP has been developed and on receipt of guidance from Natural England.	
H2.2 Number of species recovery programmes developed for delivery from 2023	H2.2 To be reported using case studies for 2025-26	This will relate to birds, bees, bats and butterflies. The target will be adapted after the PMP has been developed.	
HLT 3 To prepare for and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)			
H3.1 The requirement is for relevant applications to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value.	H3.1 At least 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value	No change this year	
HLT4 South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target			
H4.1 Total annual SDNPA carbon emissions	H4.1 150 tonnes (Co2) reduction on the previous year	No change this year	Target: Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels. Indicator: TI_6 Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes
HLT 5 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019			
H5.1 Total tonnes Co2 reported year on year in annual LULUCF (Forestry component) data.	H5.1 5% annual reduction (tonnes Co2) from 2019 baseline	No change this year	
HLT 6 Increase diversity of those engaging with the South Downs National Park			
H6.1 Number of people from underrepresented audiences engaged through engagement and project activities	H6.1 3,500 people from underrepresented audiences engaged through engagement and project activities	Changed to measure numbers of people rather than percentages. Reporting on the PLTOF targets is already done via other mechanisms but will be incorporated next year. New target 3,500 proposed: for 2025-26	Target: Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme Indicator: TI_9 Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme: TI_9a Metres of accessible path as a % of total path TI_9b Number of accessible toilets and rest stops TI_9c Number of disability accessible parking spaces TI_9d Number of accessible gates and gaps TI_9e Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment TI_9f Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary TI_9g Number of volunteer days TI_9h Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved
H6.2 Number of engagement activities targeted at underrepresented audiences	H6.2 30 communication and engagement activities to be delivered in 2023/24	New target proposed: 90 for 2025-26	
HLT 7 Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquility of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are.			
H7.1 Number of sessions facilitated by new mobility equipment	H7.1 100 sessions facilitated by accessible equipment	Target and measure remains the same	
H7.2 Metres of new and/or improved accessible path	H7.2.1 Metres of NEW accessible path	New target proposed 1350m for 2025-26	
	H7.2.2 Number of interventions to improve access	New target proposed 85 interventions for 2025-26	
H7.3 Number of visits to the digital Accessibility Hub	H7.3 10000 visits	New target proposed: 10,000 for 2025-26 up from 5000 in 2023-24	
H7.4 Number of downloads for the Seven Sisters Country Park Accessibility Guide	H7.4 5000 downloads	New target proposed: 5,000 for 2025-26	
HLT 8 Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP			
H8.1 Total number of E-newsletter subscribers	H8.1 Achieve 12,000 subscribers	New Target proposed: 12,000 for 2025-26 - up from 11,500 in 2023-24	
H8.2 Total social media audience	H8.2 Grow social media audience to 100,000	New proposed target: 100,000 for 2025-26 up from 75,000 in 2023/24	
H8.3 Total visits to the hubs throughout the year: (Nature Recovery, Climate Change, Walking hub, Communities)	H8.3 65,000 visits to the hubs	New target proposed: 65,000 for 2025-26 up from 20,000 visits to the hubs in 2023/24	
CP1 Administer the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 – key income streams for delivery			
CP1.1 The total CIL and S106 distributed (in £) across the three themes of Nature Recovery, Climate and A National Park for All.	CP1.1 There is no target. CIL and S106 to be reported, with case studies as part of the Value added by Planning.	No change this year	
CP2 Provide specialist advice in respect of Conservation, Design and Landscape across the organisation			
CP2.1 Summary of service provided to be included in the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report	CP2.1 There is no target. Qualitative case studies to be reported as part of the Value added by Planning.	No change this year	
CP 3 Aim to raise £3.5 million self-generated income per annum			
CP3.1 External income generated through philanthropy, visitor-generated revenue, SSCP and nature-based services	CP3.1 £3.5 million	Revised measure: To simplify reporting the wording has been updated. Previous wording was: <i>Aim to raise self-generated income each year, supporting Partnership Management Plan delivery through bids to Statutory sources and support for the South Downs National Park Trust in continuing to build a philanthropic income stream. The target has increased to £3.5 million for 2025/26</i>	
CP4 Incubate a number of income generating initiatives, to generate £250k per annum			
CP4.1 Total income (£) generated through the new Green Finance Off Set and Brokering service		Measure to be removed and incorporated into CP 3.1 to simplify reporting	
CP4.1 Number of new income generating pilots, for example, LA Consultancy linked to Green Finance and WEPS, Carbon Platform and commercialisation of conservation services	CP3.2 One new income generating pilot	No change this year	
CP4.2 Increase in income that contributes towards core costs or is budget relieving	CP4.3 £250,000	Measure reworded from: Total income (£) generated through core cost recovery on externally funded projects. Target increased from £200,000 to £250,000 for 2025-26	
CP 5 Facilitate and support the endorsement, actions and key priorities through the process of Whole Estate Plans (WEPs)			
CP5.1 No. of Estates with new endorsed WEPs	CP5.1 1 newly endorsed WEP	Revised target: One newly endorsed WEP in 25-26. The previous target was 4 WEPs for 2023-2025	Target: Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030 Indicator: TI_5 Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on, a percentage of their land
CP5.2 No. of estates working towards an endorsed WEP	CP5.2 3 estates on their WEP journey	Revised target: 3 Estates on their WEP journey. WEP contributions to the High-Level Targets will be captured in the annual review	
CP5.3: Extent of land in nature friendly farming	CP5.3 To be reported using case studies for 2025-26	Proposed revised indicator CP5.3: Extent of land in nature friendly farming The target will be adapted after the PMP has been developed	
CP 6 Deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) programme in the National Park			
CP6.1 Total funding (£) allocated across the Defra themes of People/Place/Nature/Climate	No target	No change this year	
CP 7 Develop the 'Our South Downs' enterprise network			
CP7.1 Number of businesses signed up	CP6.1 60	New target proposed: 60 for 2025-2026	
CP7.2 No. of Green South Downs certified businesses	CP6.2 32	New target proposed: 32 (cumulative) by end of 2025-26	
CP7.3 No. of businesses signed up to South Downs Guardian	n/a	Indicator discontinued in 2023/24-Captured in 6.5	
CP7.4 No. of businesses signed up to South Downs Protector	n/a	Indicator discontinued in 2023/24-Captured in 6.5	
CP7.5 Total income generated in £	CP7.5 20,000	New target proposed: £20,000 per annum for 2024-205 and 2025-2026	
CP8 Tourism in the South Downs National Park			
CP8.1 No. of businesses signed up to Visitor Giving	CP8.1 2	New target proposed: 2 per annum for 2024-25 and 2025-26 from baseline of 5	
CP 9 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			
Total percentage of EDI impact assessment forms complete		Measure discontinued.	
CP9.1 Staff and Member profile better reflects regional	CP9.1 No target - work to establish a baseline of consistent demographic data for staff and Members	New measure proposed: Staff and Member profile better reflects regional profile Establish a baseline of consistent demographic data for staff and Members	Target: Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme Indicator: TI_9i Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers
CP9.2 Policies in place to ensure the SDNPA is taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers	CP9.2 No target - Policies in place or reviewed as par schedule	New measure proposed	

