

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

20 July 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**CONSULTATION – DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN: PEAK DISTRICT
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval to respond to the Peak District National Park Authority's (PDNPA) public consultation on its draft Management Plan (MP) for the period 2018 to 2023.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The County Council has been consulted by the PDNPA on its draft MP. It is required to produce a MP which outlines the vision for the National Park every five years. Once approved by the Secretary of State, the draft MP will replace the current 2011 – 2017 Plan. A response is required by 31 July 2017.

The Plan sets out the big issues the National Park Authority will seek to tackle in the next five years. It is not the intention of the Plan to duplicate or outline what others are already doing. The intent is to add extra value to the good work already in hand. The vision framework set out in the previous Plan will remain unchanged as the PDNPA believes that this continues to accurately express what it wants to achieve, which is:

- a diverse working and cherished landscape;
- a welcoming and inspiring place;
- thriving and vibrant communities; and
- an enterprising and sustainable economy.

The PDNPA is, however, seeking partners' views on its revised special qualities which the Authority feels better articulates what is special about the Peak District.

There are eight of these as follows:

- Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology
- Internationally important and locally distinctive habitats and species

- Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions
- Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions
- Landscapes that tell a story of people and industry since pre-historic time
- An inspiring space for escape, adventure, exploring and quiet reflection
- Historic features offering visible and buried reminders of past lives
- Vital benefits for millions of people that flow far beyond the landscape boundary.

In addition, the PDNPA is seeking partners' views on eight cross cutting areas of impact developed through a collaborative approach with partners and stakeholders. These are:

- **A National Park for everyone** – helping to remove physical and mental barriers for all and promoting health and well-being benefits
- **Securing the most from the Peak District National Park** – this is about securing the political and financial support necessary to conserve and enhance the Park's special qualities, by working collaboratively and pooling resources
- **Encouraging enjoyment with understanding** – which is about making the most of opportunities for everyone to enjoy the special qualities by promoting harmony and responsibility
- **Preparing for a future climate** – leading the way in helping communities, business and visitors reduce the impact of climate change on the environment and adapting to future conditions
- **Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides** – increasing knowledge and understanding of the benefits of the Park so that these remain for future generations
- **Ensuring a future for farming and land management** – aims to support the sustainability of the farming community whilst seeking to ensure that farmers and land managers conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park
- **Managing landscape conservation on a big scale** – this is about an holistic approach to landscape conservation bringing all specialists together to get the biggest impact
- **Supporting sustainable communities** – ensuring communities are sustainable now and in the future.

The final Plan will be underpinned by a delivery plan which will set out exactly what the PDNPA wants to achieve over the life of the Plan. Broad outcomes are set out in the "What we want to do" sections beneath each area of impact.

As part of the consultation, the PDNPA wants to know whether its refreshed "Special Qualities" properly summarise what makes the Peak District National Park special.

It is also seeking views as to whether the eight “Areas of Impact” are the best areas of focus for the new MP.

A suggested response is set out below:

Officer Comments

Derbyshire County Council welcomes the opportunity to shape the MP of the PDNPA for the coming five years. It has also greatly appreciated being part of the Advisory Group which has overseen the production of the consultation draft and feels, as a consequence, that the new Plan has positively shifted away from capturing what is already happening and what others are doing, which was the case in the 2011-2017 document, to a Plan which now genuinely focuses on the added value that can be brought to bear by the PDNPA working collaboratively with others.

The special qualities now better articulate what is distinctive about the Peak District, however, the Council feels that these could be further enhanced by a recognition that the Peak District is also a working landscape which has the potential to grow its economic potential for the benefit of residents, existing and new businesses and visitors via sustainable tourism. Whilst a working landscape is captured in the Areas of Impact, it is suggested that finding a way to cross reference this to the special qualities might give this aspect of the Plan greater emphasis.

With regard to the Areas of Impact, the County Council would make the following comments:

Under Area of Impact – A National Park for everyone, the aspirations of providing a transport system which provides services that support access into and around the National Park are to be welcomed.

The aims of Derbyshire’s Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026 align well with this objective and measures contained within the LTP strategy include joined up public transport information and branding, better promotion of existing opportunities (cycling, walking), promotion of school and business Travel Plans, event management to reduce car use, and support for sustainable tourism growth and car sharing clubs. In addition, the new Derbyshire Connect service being piloted in the Ashbourne area currently and the development of a Derbyshire Bus Strategy informed by this pilot may present opportunities to develop innovative models of future public transport provision despite pressures on resources.

The recognition that the National Park, as a recreational resource, can have positive impacts on health and wellbeing, particularly for the vulnerable and people from poorer backgrounds, is welcomed and fully supported. The County Council is keen to ensure that the relationship between planning and health is fully recognised in local authority development plans and has

developed a planning and health tool kit to ensure that the impacts of development plan policies on health and wellbeing are fully taken into account.

Under the Area of Impact – Enhancing the benefits that the Peak District National Park provides, the Council agrees with the aspiration to support a dynamic network of successful and growing businesses and that businesses should be encouraged to engage in good environmental practice.

The cities of Manchester and Sheffield exert a considerable influence over the National Park, with High Peak Borough and Derbyshire Dales District forming part of the Manchester and Sheffield City Regions respectively. The majority of the National Park is covered by the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), but in Derbyshire Dales the Sheffield City Region LEP overlaps with D2N2. This will continue to require close co-ordination between the LEPs in terms of business support and this should be acknowledged in the draft MP. The D2N2 LEP is supported through a number of local structures including the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP), which has representation from the private sector, as well as from the County and District/Borough Councils. This provides an opportunity for wider stakeholder engagement and input into the LEP.

The D2N2 LEP is currently refreshing its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which is likely to be published for consultation towards the end of this year. This provides an opportunity for the PDNPA to engage with the LEP and the County Council's officers to ensure that the priorities for business growth and rural diversification in the National Park, as set out in the draft MP, are fully incorporated in the SEP refresh.

Similarly, the Council would support the Area of Impact – Ensuring a future for farming and land management and wholeheartedly support measures that would initiate farm diversification, foster appropriate skills development, ensure effective succession planning and create a climate for investment in the National Park going forward. The potential to enhance the visitor economy and grow the creative industries sector are both areas where there is potential for greater collaboration.

With regard to the Area of impact - Managing landscape conservation on a big scale, it is recommended that there is potential for greater joint working and shared learning between the Peak District and Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnerships to bring about the achievement of the Plan's aspirations in this area, the potential of which is not currently being realised.

Overall, the County Council feels the Plan provides a positive framework for partnership working over the next five years and, as a key stakeholder, it looks forward to the continued joint working to support the Plan's aims and

ambitions. In addition to these headline comments, however, it is the Council's intention to submit more detailed technical comments on the MP which would be submitted by the Peak District National Park Authority's deadline of 31 July 2017. It is requested that the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities be given delegated approval to submit these in liaison with the Cabinet Member.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no explicit financial implications relating to this report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Section 66 of the Environment Act 1995 requires the Peak District National Park Authority to produce a MP that outlines the vision for the management of the National Park. It must reflect National Park purposes and be updated every five years. This consultation Plan has been developed in line with this requirement.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The PDNPA MP is a framework that encourages everyone to work together to achieve National Park purposes, to conserve and enhance the special qualities for the benefit of all. It is not a plan for an individual organisation but a Plan for the place.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Allison Thomas, extension 33300.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

9.1 The Cabinet Member authorises officers to respond to the Peak District National Park Authority with headline comments on its draft Management Plan, as set out in the report.

9.2 The Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities be given delegated authority to submit further, more detailed technical comments in the plan, in liaison with the Cabinet Member by the comments deadline.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities