Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 7**

Audit and Review Committee

14 July 2026

Detailed Review of Authority Performance 2025-26

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with a detailed assessment of the Authority's performance in 2025/26.

Recommendation(s)

2. That Members comment on and note the Authority's performance in 2025/26.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

    - **Corporate Plan Objective 30**:
      Plan and manage the Authority's work to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms.

Background

4. Each year the Authority goes through a process of setting out what we want to achieve in the year ahead. This starts with Members setting priorities, then setting specific objectives in the Corporate Plan and a budget to support them and finally approving a detailed Action Plan for the year.

Summary of overall performance

5. Headlines from 2025/26:

    - Of the 33 objectives in our Corporate Plan, 24 (73%) were achieved or remained on course;
    - A new National Park Management Plan (2025-30) was adopted by the Authority and launched, with partner organisations;
    - The Local Plan examination was completed;

- The Coast-to-Coast path national trail was launched and formally opened in March;
- Gross expenditure was £13.4m - £3.5m ahead of the objective (albeit slightly down from 2024/25's record high). This was supported by income of £13.1m;
- £1.5 million in grants were provided to farmers and landowners through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

6. Nine objectives did not make progress to the extent we would have wished, of which 4 were 'near misses'.

Objectives

7. Good progress has been made on most of the objectives. Details were reported to the Authority in June, and are not repeated in full here but highlights included:
    - Through Dark Skies and Cheese Festivals and Arts Council England-funded projects we ran inspirational activities for over 4,700 people [7];
    - Over 1,300 activity days provided for under-served groups that enable them to access the special qualities of the National Park, and increase their understanding, enjoyment, health and well-being [9];
    - The final full year of Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected was completed, including the first phase of works to reduce pollution from historical lead-mining sites on Barney Beck in Swaledale [17];
    - Supported planting of 276 ha of native broadleaved and mixed woodland over the last 5 years, including 24 ha this year through Grow Back Greener [20];
    - 73% of 'minor' and 88% of 'other' planning applications determined within Government target times or agreed extensions [23]. See **Annex D** for more details of performance on development management.

8. Of the nine objectives that did not make progress to the extent we would have wished, three relate to long-standing issues with 'legacy' objectives from the previous National Park Management Plan. **Annex A** provides explanations for each of the objectives which haven't made the intended progress

9. To provide more analysis in the context of longer-term performance, **Annex B** shows the progress over the last 5 years for the 2025/26 objectives for which long-term monitoring data is available.

Actions

10. Many of the actions that were completed last year are linked directly to the achievement of the objectives described above. Some of the more significant other actions that were achieved in the second half or the year were:
    - Provided opportunities for 5 community groups to connect with nature through a 'night under the stars' experience;

- Funded the restoration of 5 barns through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme;
- Provided advice and funding to Ravenstonedale Parish Council to support repairs to Ravenstonedale Chapel roof;
- Completed rescue excavation work at an important metal detector find site at Austwick;
- In conjunction with North Yorkshire Council, implemented a programme of improvements to unsurfaced unclassified roads, including: Hunter Bark (Long Preston-Settle), Mastiles Lane (Kilnsey), Forest Road (Appletreewick), Cam High Road (Hawes), Busk Lane (Marsett) and the Stake Road (Stalling Busk)
- Installed a Changing Places toilet facility at Malham National Park Centre, and re-roofed toilets at Stainforth and Horton-in-Ribblesdale;
- Ran 2 pilot green social prescribing programmes in the National Park as part of the Y&NY Combined Authority-funded 'Natural Health Service for North Yorkshire' project;
- Ran activity days for 150 young people through the 'Adventures Away from Home' programme;
- Reviewed and relaunched the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum;
- Worked with the Peak District NPA to prepare data for the national Landscape Observatory AI mapping project;
- Ran the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme, providing advice to over 200 farmers on how to reduce diffuse pollution, and carried out the first phase of works to fence off the river Bain from livestock to prevent erosion
- Alongside YDMT and RSPB, implemented the first year of the Homes for House Birds project, supporting local communities to take action to conserve iconic house-nesting bird species;
- Extended and upgraded the Authority's public car park at Grassington;
- Installed PV panels on 4 toilet blocks, Grassington National Park Centre, the ranger base at Dales Countryside Museum, and the Colvend workshop;
- Completed two external audits, both with substantial assurance, which builds back full assurance on the Authority's finances.

11. A full list of all the actions, including an explanation for any that have been cancelled or postponed since the Committee reviewed progress in November is at **Annex C.** All the significant postponed actions have been included in the 2026-27 Action Plan.

12. More detailed information about performance in providing the development management service is at **Annex D**.

13. More detailed information about performance in relation to our own operational greenhouse gas emissions is at **Annex E**.

14. Members should note that this year's report does not contain the usual information comparing the Authority's performance with that of other English NPAs on a number of

'NPA Family Indicators'. The current set of indicators is under review – to take account of the data now available each year through the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, and a new set of indicators should be agreed later this year. It was, therefore, agreed not to collate the data across the family this year (although our data for most of the indicators is still reported here because it forms the basis for measuring progress on several of our objectives).

Financial Implications

15. None

Legal Implications

16. None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

17. During the year, a wide range of actions were completed that will have direct benefits in terms of widening access to the National Park and to the services provided by the National Park Authority, including for younger people and those with health conditions.

Climate Change Implications

18. Greenhouse gas emissions from the Authority's own operations were reduced by 6 tCO_2e (4%) from the previous year. During the year, new sets of solar panels, solar batteries and secondary glazing were installed, which should further reduce emissions from energy use by around 10 tCO_2e each year (7% of total emissions).

Conclusion

19. Significant progress was made on a number of objectives – notably through the Farming in Protected Landscapes grant programme, the completion of the new Coast to Coast National Trail, and the launch of a new National Park Management Plan.

20. For 2026/27 a new set of Corporate Plan objectives has been adopted that more accurately reflect the Authority's specific contribution and role in tackling some of the long-standing challenges facing the National Park, and this will form the basis for future progress reporting.

Gary Smith
Acting Chief Executive

Annex A

Objective	Target by March 2026	Progress	Status
3	30 barns repaired or re-used	24 barns repaired/restored/re-used, including 5 funded through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. Average for last 5 years is still over 30 per year.	Near Miss
5	Complete the Western Dales HER	Final phase of project being led and funded by Historic England. After previous difficulties, a highly experienced consultant has been appointed to finish the final phase of this work in 20226/27.	Not achieved
11	7,000 volunteer days	5,791 volunteer days, an increase of over 200 days compared to 2024/25 but still some way below target. 23% of days involved under-represented groups.	Not achieved
16	Restore 250ha of grassland	66 ha were restored or created through Authority funding or support – taking the cumulative total to 138 ha. Shortfall due to shut down of national SFI and CS Higher Tier schemes in 2025.	Not achieved
18	70% in good ecological status	Most recent figure (2023) is 51%. Primary responsibility of other bodies but we support through Catchment Sensitive Farming programme – advising farmers on water quality and soil health.	Not achieved
19	Local nest and roost protection	After some tentative signs of recovery, no Hen Harriers bred in the National Park in 2024 or 2025. There are still confirmed cases of illegal persecution.	Not achieved
21	85 dwellings approved	35 dwellings were approved in 25/26. However, the average over the past five years is still 83 dwellings per year because of over-achievement in some earlier years.	Near Miss
23	65%/80% of applications determined on time	73% of 'Minor' applications and 88% of 'Other' applications determined. Bi-annual Survey resulted in 71% satisfied with the service which reflects difficulties dealing with some applications due to a turnover in key staff positions.	Near Miss
33	Greenhouse gas emissions-80%	Emissions were down by 4% compared to 2024/25. Total cumulative reduction is now down 77% compared to 20025/06.	Near Miss

Authority monitoring of objectives

Red-Amber-Green rating 2025/26

This is the data we use to monitor our Corporate Plan objectives for 2025/26. Not all objectives have data series associated with them.

Expected progress is where we expect the objective to be on 31 March 2026, whether there is a year-end or later due date.

- Green (met/exceeded expected progress in 2025/26)
- Amber (slightly below expected progress in 2025/26)
- Red (below expected progress in 2025/26)

3 - Number of traditional field barns restored or repaired

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	30	24	A
24/25	30	34	G
23/24	30	36	G
22/23	30	37	G
21/22	10	40	G

4 - Listed Buildings “At Risk”

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	80 (4%)	64 (2.9%)	G
24/25	80 (4%)	60 (2.8%)	G
23/24	80 (4%)	70 (3.3%)	G
22/23	80 (4%)	74 (3.5%)	G
21/22	80 (4%)	74 (3.5%)	G

4 - Number of Scheduled Monuments “At Risk”

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	12 (4%)	10 (3.4%)	G
24/25	12 (4%)	10 (3.4%)	G
23/24	12 (4%)	10 (3.4%)	G
22/23	12 (4%)	10 (3.4%)	G
21/22	12 (4%)	10 (3.4%)	G

6 - Rights of Way - % of rights of way that are 'easy to use'

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	90% (average)	88%	G
24/25	90% (average)	92%	G
23/24	90%	89%	A
22/23	89%	91%	G
21/22	88%	90%	G

7 - Number of people attending YDNPA inspirational, participatory activities

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	4,000	4,732	G
24/25	4,000	7,941	G
23/24	4,000	7,124	G
22/23	4,000	4,008	G
21/22	3,000	3,702	G

9 - Number of people from under-represented groups attending YDNPA activity days

Year	Expected	Actual (cumulative from 2018/19)	Rating
25/26	6,000 by 2025	6,994	G
24/25	5,000 by 2024	5,655	G
23/24	5,000 by 2024	4,723	A
22/23	3,000 by 2024	3,406	G
21/22	300 (for 21/22)	2,135	G
20/21	N/A	1,549	G

10 - Number of young people taking part in YDNPA 'educational and skills based' activities

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	1,500	2,009	G
24/25	1,500	1,647	G
23/24	1,500	3,229	G
22/23	1,500	4,144	G
21/22	1,500	2,780	G

11a - Number of volunteer days organised or supported by YDNPA

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	7,000	5,791	R
24/25	7,000	5,565	R
23/24	7,000	6,879	A
22/23	7,000	7,094	G
21/22	1,000	5,005	G

11b - Number of volunteer days organised or supported by YDNPA attended by under-represented groups

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	15%	23%	G
24/25	15%	26%	G
23/24	15%	18%	G
22/23	15%	22%	G
21/22	15%	18%	G

12 - Money raised for Three Peaks project

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	£30,000	£31,000	G
24/25	£26,000	£29,455	G
23/24	£25,000	£27,282	G
22/23	£25,000	£56,000	G
21/22	-	£26,515	G

13 - compliance with TROs

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	90%	94%	G
24/25	90%	94%	G
23/24	90%	95%	G
22/23	90%	97%	G
21/22	90%	94%	G

20 - Area of new native or mixed woodland planting assisted by Authority (ha)

Year	Expected (cumulative)	Actual (cumulative)	Rating
25/26	225	276	G

Year	Expected (cumulative)	Actual (cumulative)	Rating
24/25	225	235	G
23/24	170	197	G
22/23	321	512	G
21/22	257	415	G

21 - Number of new dwellings approved

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	85	35	A
24/25	85	86	G
23/24	85	98	G
22/23	85	62	G
21/22	85	132	G

22 - Sustainable Development Fund - number of projects funded

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	10	16	G
24/25	15	19	G
23/24	15	21	G
22/23	20	16	R
21/22	20	15	R

23 - Minor planning applications determined within eight weeks

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	65%	73%	G
24/25	65%	82%	G
23/24	65%	89%	G
22/23	65%	86%	G
21/22	65%	82%	G

23 - Other planning applications determined within eight weeks

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	80%	88%	G
24/25	80%	91%	G
23/24	80%	80%	G

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
22/23	80%	93%	G
21/22	80%	89%	G

23 - Planning applicants satisfied with the service

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	80%	71%	A
24/25	80%	No survey	-
23/24	80%	76%	A
22/23	80%	No survey	-
21/22	80%	88%	G

28a - Authority gross expenditure

Year	Expected (at least)	Actual	Rating
25/26	£9.9	£13.4m	G
24/25	£9.7	£13.9m	G
23/24	£9.0	£11.5m	G
22/23	£8.5	£10.8m	G
21/22	£8.1	£9.1m	G

33 - Greenhous gas emissions reduction (since 2005/06)

Year	Expected	Actual	Rating
25/26	-80%	-77%	A
24/25	-77%	-76%	A
23/24	-76%	-74%	A
22/23	-73%	-71%	A
21/22	-70%	-70%	G

1	**Support farmers and landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements, green finance and similar initiatives**		
1.1	Run a further year of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grant programme, providing grants of at least £1.25m to local projects that support nature, climate, people and place	Mar	**Achieved**
1.2	Develop proposals to enable the launch of a new integrated farm advisory service to support farmers to take up regenerative farming practices and move into the new agri-environment schemes in 2026	Mar	**Achieved**
2.	**Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquility, remoteness and solitude can be found and retain 'Dark Skies Reserve' status**		
2.1	Provide opportunities for three community groups to connect with nature through a 'night under the stars' experience	Mar	**Achieved**
2.2	Co-ordinate data collection, prepare and submit the Dark Sky annual report to the International Dark Sky Association and maintain International Dark Sky Reserve status	Mar	**Achieved**
3.	**Secure funding each year to repair, restore, and, where appropriate, find adaptive new uses for traditional field barns, particularly those in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale.**		
3.1	Process and approve appropriate planning applications for conversions of traditional barns to other uses	Mar	**Achieved**
3.2	Through FIPL funding, restore or repair 7 traditional barns	Mar	Postponed[1]
4.	**Help local people to restore, repair and - where possible - bring back into use nationally-important historical sites, buildings and structures so that fewer than 4% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings are 'at risk' by 2025.**		
4.2	Work with Historic England to design a programme of repairs and interpretation for Dudderhouse Cairn and secure funding to implement the works in 2026 (p)	Mar	**Achieved**
4.3	Complete a review of the Cultural Heritage Strategy, setting out how the Authority will contribute to the achievement of relevant objectives from the National Park Management Plan	Dec	**Achieved**

[1] Agreements were in place with 7 building owners but due to reasons outside our control only five were completed.

4.4	Provide advice and grant aid to Ravenstonedale Parish Council to support repairs to Ravenstonedale Chapel roof	Feb	**Achieved**
4.5	Through 'Tees-Swale: naturally connected' support first phase of programme of practical measures to help reduce pollution from historical lead-mining sites on Barney Beck in Swaledale (pp)	Mar	**Achieved**
5.	**Use DCM and the Historic Environment Record to help heritage groups research, record and promote the stories of the National Park, including completing the enhancement of the HER for the new area of the National Park by 2025**		
5.4	Quaker Field Project – complete any remaining project work and complete/publish the report (pp)	Feb	Cancelled[2]
5.5	Complete rescue excavation work at metal detector find site at Austwick and seek funding for stabilisation and investigation of artefacts.	Nov	**Achieved**
5.6	Complete a further phase of survey work at Knights Close to provide Historic Environment volunteer engagement opportunities and training	Mar	Cancelled[2]
5.7	Use HER data to provide specialist advice on how to conserve important heritage features as part of the Ure Dales Landscape Recovery Scheme, led by the Yorkshire Peat Partnership	Mar	**Achieved**
6.	**Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that, on average, 90% are 'easy to use'**		
6.2	Further investigate opportunities to raise additional external funds to support management and maintenance of rights of way through a donation scheme	Dec	**Achieved**
6.9	Conduct an internal exercise to further investigate the establishment of a new approach to management of Rights of Way, based on a hierarchy of routes	Mar	**Achieved**
6.10	Develop information for landowners on their and the Authority's roles and responsibilities in management and maintenance of Rights of Way	Mar	**Achieved**
6.11	Review the 5-year Public Rights of Way maintenance report (pp)	Mar	**Achieved**

[2] Cancelled because of the need to carry out 2 phases of rescue excavation and post-excavation work on the Austwick metal detector case (Action 5.5) in order to secure conservation of the artefacts by Durham University.

7.	**Run a cohesive programme of inspirational, participatory activities that attract at least 4,000 people each year to find out more about the National Park's special qualities**		
7.4	Through an exhibition programme, incorporating projects such as Rivers for Life, Untold Stories of Women of the Dales and the Pennine Way 60th anniversary, inspire and engage visitors to the Dales Countryside Museum (DCM) with the special qualities of the National Park	Mar	**Achieved**
8.	**Increase and promote opportunity for people with a disability to access the National Park so that by 2026, 15% of visitors using the Miles without Stiles routes self-identify as having a disability or long-term health condition**		
8.2	Audit all 'Miles without Stiles' routes and a produce a costed plan for improving existing routes and developing new routes	Dec	Postponed[3]
8.3	As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) funded Access to Eden project, create a 1.5km 'Miles without Stiles' route at Smardale (p)	Dec	Postponed[4]
8.4	Complete phase 2 of the Cross Keys/Cautley project in the Western Dales by carrying out works to improve 640m of bridleway and enhancing the road verge area	Feb	Postponed[5]
8.5	Through Defra's 'Access for All' funding, deliver projects that improve accessibility in the National Park	Mar	**Achieved**
8.6	Install a Changing Places toilet at Malham National Park Centre	Mar	**Achieved**
9.	**By 2025 provide 6,000 people from under-represented groups with activity days that enable them to access the special qualities of the National Park, and increase their understanding, enjoyment, health and well-being**		
9.3	Recruit an Access to Eden Engagement Officer and begin work with the Sensory Trust to develop a sensory trail at Podgill, Kirkby Stephen	Nov	**Achieved**
9.4	Offer skills development and training for community group leaders who are working with under-served communities to enable them to build confidence in accessing and leading groups in the National Park	Nov	**Achieved**

[3] Miles without Stiles Audits took longer than expected, will be completed by July 2026.

[4] Changes to the planning application requested by the landowner resulted in additional work and time to deal with the application. Work is expected to be completed late summer 2026.

[5] Road verge works delayed allowing for new design proposals for walling and parking area to be approved

9.6	Provide Nature Prescriptions training and support for 10 healthcare providers in and around the National Park, so they feel confident prescribing nature for wellbeing, and work with York St John University to evaluate the programme	Mar	**Achieved**
9.7	Support the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to establish a Yorkshire Dales Outreach Leaders Forum	Mar	**Achieved**
9.8	Implement a programme of regular and targeted public communications to increase awareness of the health and wellbeing benefits of the National Park	Mar	**Achieved**
9.9	Develop and commence initial delivery of the Authority's future actions in response to the co-created National Parks Statement of Belonging	Mar	**Achieved**
9.10	Review the Access and Engagement section's strategies, considering the potential for an overarching strategy to replace them (e.g. People & Nature, Landscapes for Everyone)	Mar	**Achieved**
9.11	Deliver activity days for 150 young people through the 'Adventures Away from Home' programme	Mar	**Achieved**
9.12	New: Deliver 2 pilot green social prescribing programmes in the National Park as part of the YNYCA funded 'Natural Health Service for North Yorkshire' project	Mar	**Achieved**
10.	**Through educational and skills-based activities, inspire 1,500 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and enhance their environment each year**		
10.1	With UK-wide partners, develop and submit a funding bid to scale up activities which help amplify 'Youth Voice' to influence change in National Parks; and a funding bid for Generation Green 3 activity	Dec	**Achieved**
10.2	Develop a new climate change curriculum for schools and create a schools' resource pack as part of the 'Dales House Bird' project	Mar	Postponed[6]
10.3	Work with teachers to understand their CPD/Teacher training needs, delivering at least two sessions to upskill and build confidence in teachers to deliver outdoor learning	Mar	**Achieved**
10.4	Deliver curriculum-linked educational and skills-based activities to 1,500 young people through projects such as Tees-Swale, 'Uplands for Education' and activities at DCM	Mar	**Achieved**

[6] The Dales House Bird curriculum has been completed but the Climate Change Curriculum has been rescheduled to 26/27 because of change of contractor.

10.5	Through the Going Places project supported by the Art Fund and NLHF, engage young people with the DCM collections, inspire them to explore the theme of Green Spaces Shared Places and co-create an exhibition to share their voices	Mar	**Achieved**
10.6	Support the existing 'Ambassador Schools' embedding National Park outdoor learning and environmental education in their curriculum, pilot the scheme with one secondary school	Mar	**Achieved**
10.7	Recruit and support a Youth Engagement Trainee	Mar	**Achieved**
11.	**Give people from all backgrounds an opportunity to enjoy and contribute to the National Park by providing at least 7,000 volunteer days per year, with 15% coming from under-represented groups**		
11.3	Run 3 Pennine Way 60th Anniversary Activity Days for volunteers from under-served communities	Mar	**Achieved**
11.4	Review volunteer policy and practice against EDI principles, and develop a more proactive approach to increasing volunteer diversity; delivering a wide range of accessible opportunities for volunteering	Dec	**Achieved**
11.5	As part of the Authority's project managers course, provide training on how to integrate volunteer projects/groups into funding bids	Feb	Postponed[7]
11.7	Continue to implement the objectives of the Europarc Youth Manifesto, specifically working with young people to develop a proposal for a Yorkshire Dales Youth Council	Mar	**Achieved**
11.8	Provide opportunity for volunteer days for young people (age 11–29) through Young Rangers, 'Upskill-Down Dale', and 'Young Archaeologists' Club'	Mar	**Achieved**
12.	**Work with organisers of large-scale events to ensure they are well run, benefit local businesses, and contribute to maintenance of the National Park's natural capital - for example, funding the cost of maintaining the '3 Peaks' route**		
12.3	Secure £30,000 towards the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks route	Mar	**Achieved**

[7] Project Management framework being developed further and once finalised this training will take place in next round of training.

13.	**Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders**		
13.1	Continue to collect and monitor logger data, and produce the 2024/25 Annual Report on 'green lane' usage and management	Nov	**Achieved**
13.3	In conjunction with NYC, implement a programme of improvements to unsurfaced unclassified roads, including: Hunter Bark (Long Preston-Settle), Mastiles Lane (Kilnsey), Forest Road (Appletreewick), Cam High Road (Hawes), Busk Lane (Marsett) and the Stake Road (Stalling Busk)	Mar	**Achieved**
13.4	Provide the secretariat for two meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and support the advisory groups to ensure all user groups have a voice	Mar	**Achieved**
14.	**Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes and implement the Coast-to-Coast path as a National Trail through the National Park by 2025**		
14.2	Develop a programme of events to celebrate and promote the 60th anniversary of the Pennine Way in 2025, including managing the movement of the 60th Anniversary exhibition along the route	Dec	**Achieved**
14.3	Manage the engineering, inspection and maintenance of the Pennine Bridleway bridge at Far Moor Bridge, Selside	Dec	**Achieved**
14.4	Implement Phase II of the Coast-to-Coast Path White Mossy Hill project	Dec	**Achieved**
14.5	Continue legal works to establish the Coast-to-Coast Path through the National Park	Mar	**Achieved**
14.6	Liaise with Natural England in the establishment of the new Coast-to-Coast Path Partnership	Mar	**Achieved**
14.7	Support the opening celebrations of the Coast-to-Coast Path as a National Trail	Mar	**Achieved**
14.8	Following the establishment of the Coast-to-Coast Path, ensure the financial completion of the project	Mar	**Achieved**
14.9	Act as lead authority for the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails Partnership and administer the grant system of £350k to partner bodies	Mar	**Achieved**
14.10	Install the remainder of the 'Coast to Coast, National Trail' branded signs (p)	Mar	**Achieved**

15.	**Promote and encourage responsible cycling, enable the development of 2 'cycle hubs', and work with local Highway Authorities and other partners to undertake work to develop at least one further family-friendly cycling route by 2026**		
15.2	Lead and chair the Active Travel Steering Group partners to prioritise routes and develop an external funding plan for realising the new Active Travel Network	Mar	**Achieved**
15.3	Continue development of the Garsdale-Hawes multi-use route, concluding the creation agreement process with landowners, and establishing delivery timescales for the remainder of the project	Mar	**Achieved**
16.	**Work with farmers, landowners and partner organisations to restore or create 500 ha of species-rich grassland habitats by March 2027**		
16.2	Review and relaunch the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum to support implementation of the wildlife objectives in the new National Park Management Plan	Jan	**Achieved**
16.3	Publish the Authority's 'Biodiversity Report' – including information on the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain	Mar	**Achieved**
16.4	Support North Yorkshire Council, Westmorland & Furness Council and Lancashire County Council to complete the adoption and publication of the 3 Local Nature Recovery Strategies that will cover the Yorkshire Dales National Park	Dec	**Achieved**
16.5	Support 15ha of grassland restoration works through the FiPL programme and the new Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme	Mar	**Achieved**
16.6	Administer the Natural Environment funds to support local environmental enhancements in the areas around Swinden and Dry Rigg Quarries	Mar	**Achieved**
16.7	Work with the Peak District National Park Authority to collate and prepare data for the national Protected Landscape Observatory AI mapping project	Mar	**Achieved**
16.8	Begin work on the pre-development stage of the 'Jewels of the Dales' project to support restoration of rare grassland plant species and more regenerative farming practices	Mar	**Achieved**

17.	**Deliver a co-ordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through the Tees-Swale: naturally connected programme, and support other potential landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'**		
17.2	Work with partners along the Coast-to-Coast route to develop initial proposals for a long-term programme of enhancements to nature and access, and seek funding to achieve it (p)	Jan	**Achieved**
17.3	Complete the year five programme of activity as part of Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected, including restoring 10 ha of grassland, and six projects including tree planting, hedgerows and scrub	Mar	**Achieved**
17.4	Contribute to the development of the Ure Dales project by undertaking fieldwork for botanical, Red Squirrel and Black Grouse surveys and producing a report	Mar	**Achieved**
18.	**Work with farmers and landowners to improve the condition of the Aire, Eden, Lune, Ribble, Swale, Ure and Wharfe so that 70% of all rivers achieve 'good ecological status' by 2025**		
18.2	Work with farm cluster in Kilnsey to develop a sub-catchment natural flood management plan (p)	Dec	**Achieved**
18.3	Support the Ouse Wem flood innovation programme	Mar	**Achieved**
18.4	Run the Catchment Sensitive Farming partnership programme, providing advice to at least 100 farmers on how to reduce diffuse pollution	Mar	**Achieved**
18.5	With funding from the Environment Agency carry out first phase of works to fence off the river Bain from livestock to prevent erosion, reduce sediment and help vegetate the banking	Mar	**Achieved**
19.	**Work with moorland managers and other key stakeholders to end illegal persecution of raptors, including independent and scientifically robust monitoring, and co-ordinated hen harrier nest and roost site protection**		
19.3	Work with YDMT and RSPB to implement the first year of the House Birds project, supporting local communities to take action to conserve populations of 4 iconic house-nesting bird species	Mar	**Achieved**
20.	**Through Grow Back Greener and other local funding, support farmers and landowners to create at least a further 225 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by 2025**		
20.2	Complete a light touch review of the Dales Woodland Strategy	Dec	Postponed[8]
20.3	With Woodland Trust funding create 24 ha of native woodland through Grow Back Greener (p)	Mar	**Achieved**

[8] The light touch review was delayed to allow time to bring it in line with current policy, nature recovery plans and strategies and government funding. Next step is to confirm edits with the Woodland Forum, then bring to Authority in Autumn 2026.

20.4	Fund the planting of 50 field trees through a partnership with YDMT	Mar	**Achieved**
21.	**Encourage and facilitate high quality proposals for new housing in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices, so around 85 new dwellings are approved each year, including identifying measures to reduce the proportion of under-occupied properties**		
21.3	Process and approve appropriate planning applications for new housing to meet Local Plan targets	Mar	Postponed[9]
22.	**Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support at least 10 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.**		
22.1	Fund 10 sustainable development projects put forward by local businesses or community groups	Mar	**Achieved**
23.	**Provide an efficient development management service…..including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of 'other' applications are being determined within eight weeks and at least 80% of applicants are satisfied with the service**		
23.3	Complete a review of the Planning Code of Good Practice	Dec	**Achieved**
23.4	Run a training event for Parish Councils to help them contribute effectively to the planning process	Feb	**Achieved**
23.5	Determine at least 65% of 'minor' planning applications within eight weeks or the time limit agreed with the applicant	Mar	**Achieved**
23.6	Determine at least 80% of 'other' planning applications within eight weeks or the time limit agreed with the applicant	Mar	**Achieved**
23.7	Monitor implementation and ensure compliance with planning conditions for at least 50 landscape planting schemes	Mar	**Achieved**
24.	**Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2025, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan**		
24.4	Undertake and complete the Local Plan Examination	Feb	**Achieved**
24.5	Produce a draft Yorkshire Dales Design Guide (p)	Mar	**Achieved**

[9] 35 permissions were granted compared to annual target of 85. Overall average over past five years is still 83 per year because of over-achievement in some previous years.

24.6	Prepare draft development briefs for the allocated housing sites in the new Local Plan	Mar	Postponed[10]
25.	**Develop and promote events, festivals and attractions based on the National Park's special qualities and local distinctiveness so that at least 10% of visitors each year are coming for the first time**		
25.1	Review and expand the Dark Skies and Cheese Festival programmes, and explore opportunities for a nature themed festival, helping to maintain 10% first-time visits to the National Park	Feb	**Achieved**
25.2	Provide training sessions for tourism businesses on how to develop and promote special quality-based activities to their customers	Mar	**Achieved**
25.3	Liaise with Cumbria Tourism and Visit North Yorkshire to share and monitor special quality-based tourism activity within their Destination Management Plans	Mar	**Achieved**
26.	**Increase opportunities for visitors to understand and enjoy the National Park, so that by 2026 over 60% of total visitors to the 4 National Park 'Visitor Hubs' go into the Visitor Centre**		
26.1	Provide temporary displays linked to festivals and events to encourage more visitors to use the National Park Visitor Centres	Feb	**Achieved**
26.2	Re-design and re-roof Malham National Park Visitor Centre	Mar	Postponed[11]
26.3	Replace the heating in the DCM engine shed and the ramps on the train carriage	Mar	**Achieved**
26.4	Extend the car park at Grassington and upgrade to grasscrete	Mar	**Achieved**
26.5	Re-design car parks to provide greater EV and blue badge capacity and increase capacity overall	Mar	Postponed[12]
26.6	Re-roof toilets at Stainforth and Horton-in-Ribblesdale	Mar	**Achieved**
27.	**In partnership with key organisations, and in consultation with local communities and visitors, update the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) by 2025, giving priority to tackling the climate and nature emergencies**		
27.2	Put in place all necessary arrangements for monitoring and reporting progress on each of the objectives in the NPMP	Feb	**Achieved**

[10] Consultants producing the Design Guide and development briefs were asked to concentrate on finishing the Design Guide before new regulations take effect. Work is now underway on the draft development briefs.

[11] The redesign at Malham NPC is complete but some remedial works are required to the roof.

[12] Design contract not completed for all car parks (10) due to not meeting expectations outlined in the specification. Design work to continue during 2026/27

28.	**Plan and manage the Authority's work to make the most effective use of resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park**		
28.3	Refine the approach to budget-setting and in-year management processes to put more emphasis on external funding and capital grants being spent before core revenue grant gets allocated	Mar	**Achieved**
28.4	Produce the 3-year Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 to 2028/29	Mar	**Achieved**
29.	**Provide high quality, efficient and effective services and communications to the public and other stakeholders and so maintain the Customer Service Excellence standard every year**		
29.1	Review the benefits of retaining the Customer Service Excellence standard	Jul	**Achieved**
29.2	Publish and distribute two editions of the 'Dales' newspaper to all properties in the National Park	Dec	**Achieved**
29.3	Begin, and continue work to redevelop the Authority's website	Mar	**Achieved**
30.	**Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report**		
30.1	Produce draft Statutory Accounts for 2024/25 and achieve an unqualified external audit opinion	Feb	**Achieved**
30.2	Complete the internal audit and retain Substantial Assurance	Feb	**Achieved**
30.3	Complete the Annual Governance Report and publish the Annual Governance Statement	Mar	**Achieved**
31.	**Ensure we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver our work effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard**		
31.5	Review and update HR policies/procedures, including family-friendly policies (adoption, maternity, support leave, parental leave, paternity leave, and shared parental leave) and recruitment (p)	Feb	Postponed[13]
31.6	Recruit permanent Land Management Project Officer and Park Services Project Officer	Dec	**Achieved**
31.7	Review and update the Probation Policy to focus it more on assessing behaviours and attitude (without increasing overall burden)	Dec	**Achieved**

[13] Recruitment policy reviewed and adopted in February 2026. Family-friendly policies postponed to take account of Employment Rights Act changes (introduced in April 2026).

31.8	Review and update the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures	Mar	Postponed[14]
32.	**Provide facilities and IT systems that are fit for purpose and support effective delivery of our services, as evidenced by the external auditor's annual 'value for money' (VfM) opinion, and high standards of health, safety and wellbeing.**		
32.4	Upgrade the IT network switches	Dec	**Achieved**
32.5	Continue with the migration of active files to SharePoint to enable a complete migration by 31 March 2027 and to enable a more effective project-based collaboration	Mar	**Achieved**
32.6	Replace the Colvend office roof	Mar	Postponed[15]
33.	**By 2030 reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by at least 95% compared to 2005/06, and achieve annual carbon savings from woodland planting that we have funded of at least 30 times our annual emissions**		
33.3	Install PV panels at Authority premises: Grassington, Horton in Ribblesdale, Buckden and Stainforth toilets; Grassington National Park Centre; DCM ranger base; Colvend workshop	Mar	**Achieved**
33.4	Install battery storage at: DCM; and Yoredale and Colvend offices	Mar	**Achieved**

[14] Postponed to September 2026 due to other policies being prioritised

[15] Planned works to complete between December and March postponed due to winter weather. Contractors booked to complete work between July and August.

Planning annual summary

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
No. of planning applications received	672	581	573
No. of planning applications:			
determined	565	467	451
withdrawn	51	54	64
other closures	2	1	0
% of applications approved	95%	93%	91%
% of decisions:			
delegated	95%	96%	95%
by Committee	5%	4%	5%
No. of technical/prior approval applications received	40		0
No. of applications to discharge conditions received	119	83	88
No. of non-material amendment applications received	17	15	21
No. of pre-application enquiries completed.	207	225	239
No. of land charge searches completed	336	304	280
No. of Appeals received	12	17	11
No of appeals			
allowed	3	2	1
dismissed	3	12	12
allowed/dismissed	0	0	0
withdrawn	0	1	0
No. of enforcement cases opened	152	83	39
No. of enforcement cases closed	163	118	60
% of applications valid on receipt	52%	55%	49%

Annex E

Scope1 - Direct emissions	$KgCO_2e$	$KgCO_2e$	$KgCO_2e$	
Burning oil	10,478	13,336	3,810	
Diesel (ad hoc use)	3,361	8,326	4,203	
Gas Oil (red diesel)	0	0	0	
LPG	263	282	336	
Natural Gas (2016 - 2018 figures amended Oct 21)	370	229	4	
Woodchip	2,900	2,332	2,511	
Petrol for hire car, plant & machinery	1,217	1,537	1,683	
Pool cars (small petrol car) - leased	4,376	4,019	420	
Pool cars (medium petrol car) - leased	7,330	6,918	982	
Pool cars (Small diesel car) - leased	0	0	0	
Landrovers (large diesel car) - leased	22,421	20,553	25,568	
Vans (small diesel van) - leased	7,083	3,985	1,330	
Retail/ Maintenance van (large diesel van) - leased	1,267	1,266	0	
Total	**61,065**	**62,782**	**40,848**	
Scope 2 - Indirect emissions from energy				
Electricity	53,239	50,600	61,328	
Total	**53,239**	**50,600**	**61,328**	
Scope 3 - Indirect emissions				
Business mileage - Officers	19,120	18,969	18,200	
Business mileage - Members	703	510	3,480	
Volunteers mileage	24,142	22,303	24,727	
Rail travel - Members + Staff	946	849	995	
Air travel	7,846	0	0	
Hotel stays / accommodation	1,192	842	867	}
Employee commuting	126,850	126,850		
Homeworking	19,040	23,733	21,472	
Waste	14,000	1,726		
Purchased goods & services	35,278			
Water Supply	1,219	949	1,342	
Water Treatment	981	954	956	
Total	**54,957**	**44,534**	**49,699**	
Total	**169,261**	**157,917**	**151,875**	

} excluded as not included in original target