Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 9**

30 June 2026

Yorkshire Dales Design Guide

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek adoption of the Yorkshire Dales Design Guide.

Recommendation

2. That Members adopt the Yorkshire Dales Design Guide as a Supplementary Planning Document.

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 23:
    "Provide an efficient development management service that supports appropriate opportunities for economic and community development whilst helping to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park….".

Background

4. The current Design Guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in 2017. The Guide was prepared in tandem with the 2015-2030 Local Plan and related solely to the pre-2016 boundary of the National Park. The Guide has proved an effective tool for residents, businesses and developers in producing planning proposals, and for Members and Officers in making decisions on planning applications. The Guide is often referred to, and given significant weight, by Planning Inspectors considering appeals.

5. The production of the new Local Plan for the whole National Park prompted the need to update the Guide, to reflect new policies, the extended Park, and the National Design Guide (government guidance issued in 2021).

6. Members approved a draft Design Guide for consultation at the meeting on 31st March 2026.

The Yorkshire Dales Design Guide

7. The new Design Guide has been produced by consultants PJA. It uses much of the content of the current Guide with the following key differences:
    - The document applies to the whole National Park and links to policy in the new Local Plan.
    - Greater emphasis on National Park Management Plan priorities, including more in-depth guidance on planning for nature (including BNG), considering the landscape, Dark Skies and sustainable development (e.g. renewable energy, EV charging).
    - Case studies and images of recent good design in the Park are included.
    - Checklists point users to other sections they need to read.
    - It is a web-based interactive document. This makes for a longer document but it includes navigation links to relevant sections, bookmarks, and links to other relevant documents including Local Plan policy.

8. A consultation was carried out between 27th April and 24th May and sought the views of Members and key officers, Parish Councils and over 600 architect and planning practises working in the Park, as well as inviting public comments through the Authority website, planning email acknowledgements and social media.

9. Responses were largely positive however some respondents made detailed comments. As a result of comments from Members and others the draft version has been amended to:
    - remove contextual information that is duplicated elsewhere
    - focus more on what form of development is required rather than 'telling designers how to design'
    - include more references to accessible places to promote more inclusive design
    - improve active travel and highways advice

10. The amended Design Guide can be viewed on the Authority's website here: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2026/06/June-2026-YDNPA-Design-Guide.pdf

11. Members are advised that from 1st July new rules for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents take effect. If the Design Guide is not adopted at the meeting the process for producing the guide will need to be revisited.

Financial Implications

12. None.

Legal Implications

13. The Design Guide will be a Supplementary Planning Document and would be a material consideration in planning decisions.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

14. The Guide includes a range of advice on improving access to buildings and spaces for people with impaired mobility and for wheelchair users. The public sector Equality Act duty applies to planning decision-making. The design guidance will help developers and decision-makers to produce more inclusive development.

Climate Change Implications

15. The Guide encourages the take up of renewable energy technologies and EV charging through positive advice to residents, businesses and developers. It gives guidance on the Authority's expectations for landscape planting schemes and biodiversity enhancements.

Conclusion

16. The new Design Guide has been produced to complement the new Local Plan, address Authority priorities and Government guidance on design, and provide advice on good practice in design.

Richard Graham
Acting Director of Conservation and Community

Background Papers:
The Yorkshire Dales National Park Design Guide [2017]
National Design Guide [2021]
Draft Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2025-2030

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