Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 10**

Committee: **Audit & Review Committee**

Date: **26 November 2024**

Report: **Corporate Plan 2024/25 – 6-month progress report**

Purpose of Report

1. To assess progress towards achieving the objectives in the 2024/25 Corporate Plan.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider and comment on the Authority's performance in the first half of the year.

Strategic Planning Framework

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

    - ***Corporate Plan objective***
    30. Plan and manage the Authority's work so as 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 across the extended National Park area.

Background

4. The 35 objectives contained in the Corporate Plan for 2024/25 were approved by Members at the Authority meeting in December 2023 and formed the basis for setting the budget and detailed action plan for this year.

5. Members will recall that most of our objectives are taken directly from the National Park Management Plan 2019-24 (NPMP) and are grouped under the NPMP's six 'ambitions for 2040'. In addition, there are a few objectives that relate to aspects of the Authority's own organisation and governance.

6. For each objective, the Corporate Plan sets out the 'milestone' that we have said we want to reach by the end of this financial year, and this is used to inform the assessment of progress.

Overall progress

7. **Appendix 1** shows progress on all the objectives. Overall:
    - 26 (74%) are either 'achieved' or 'on-course';
    - 7 (20%) may be narrowly 'missed';
    - 2 (6%) will not be achieved.

8. Of the 13 objectives that relate to the Authority's six priority programmes (highlighted in bold in Appendix 1), 9 are 'on-course' or have already been 'achieved'. Notable achievements so far this year include:
    - Committed grants worth almost £2.5m to support farmers and landowners through the *Farming in Protected Landscapes* programme (1);
    - Completed installation of new bridge at Horton-in-Ribblesdale and replaced bridge at Kex Gill, Beamsley (6);
    - Almost 5,500 people have attended participatory activities run by the Authority so far this year (7);
    - Building work has commenced on new digital access hub and new routes at Smardale and Aysgarth (8);
    - Completed year 4 of the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme, including restoring over 50 ha of species-rich grassland (18);
    - Provided advice and assistance to over 160 farmers on ways to reduce farm inputs and pollution through the Catchment Sensitive Farming project (19);
    - Granting planning permission for 45 dwellings, with a further 50 dwellings that have been approved subject to a s106 agreement (23);
    - Continuing to deal with planning applications within government target times (25);

9. There are two priority objectives that we expect to be narrowly missed:
    a) Restoration of species-rich grassland (17). Good progress has been made through Authority schemes (FiPL and Tees-Swale) but wider progress delayed pending introduction of some of the new upland options through the national Sustainable Farming Incentive and ELM higher tier schemes.
    b) Publishing the final draft Local Plan (26). Members will be aware of the significant amount of work that has been done by the Member Local Plan Working Group to try to identify suitable housing sites that will provide sufficient affordable housing. A final informal public consultation on the Group's preferred sites has just been completed, and final recommendations will come to the Authority in December. Submission of the final Plan to the Planning Inspectorate has been pushed back by 3 months.

10. There are two priority objectives that will not be achieved:
    a) Improving river water quality (19). After initial positive signs, water quality has worsened (down from 62% in good ecological status to 51%). The Environment Agency is preparing a report for the National Park Partnership identifying the reasons for the decline.

b) Ending illegal persecution of raptors (20). After positive signs of increases in the number of successful breeding Hen Harrier nests, numbers have dropped significantly this year (at least partly as a result of bad weather during the breeding season). Sadly, some local incidents of illegal killing and disturbance are still occurring.

11. Of the remaining objectives, significant achievements so far this year include:

- 12 traditional barns have repaired or restored through FiPL (4);
- Provided educational and skills-based activities for over 1,500 children (10);
- Over £20,000 raised for maintaining the 3 Peaks route (12);
- Enhancement works completed on 'Green lanes' – Cam High Road, Bainbridge; Busk Lane, Stalling Busk; Gale Lane, Low Row and Busk Lane, Marsett (13);
- Commenced flagging on White Mossy Hill leading to Nine Standards Rigg on the Coast-to-Coast path (14);
- Produced an initial set of draft objectives for the new National Park Management Plan (29);
- Retained the Customer Service Excellence accreditation (31).

Detailed progress

12. Sitting behind the objectives is a much more detailed operational document — the annual Action Plan. It sets out each of the specific things that the Authority intends to do to this year to make progress on the objectives. It was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee in May.

13. **Appendix 2** lists all the actions for this year that:

a) have already been achieved; or

b) need to be changed in light of developments so far this year (in which case, a brief explanation is provided); or,

c) need to be added to the Plan to reflect new activity and decisions made by the Authority since the original Plan was approved in May. These are shown in red.

Conclusion

14. The Authority's overall work programme has continued to grow – with expenditure projected to be around £13 m, compared to £11.4m last year. Despite the additional resource pressure, substantial progress is still being made towards the achievement of most of our objectives – with 94% of the objectives likely to be achieved or only narrowly missed.

Gary Smith
Deputy Chief Executive

11 November 2024

A distinctive living, working cultural landscape that tells the story of generations of people interacting with their environment

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
1. **Support farmers & landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements & similar initiatives, inc. the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme.**	£1.6 million in FiPL grants	Committed spend on FiPL is £2.5 million, which includes an additional £288k secured from Defra for access projects. Budget is over-committed by 8% to allow for some projects dropping out.	✓
2. Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and retain 'Dark Skies Reserve' status.	Retain Dark Sky Reserve status	New light meters installed for ongoing monitoring. Continuing to support better lighting through development management advice. Training session for PCs and businesses on 11 November.	✓
3. By 2024, secure significant funding to repair, restore, and, where appropriate, find adaptive new uses for traditional field barns, particularly those in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale.	30 barns repaired or re-used	Through FIPL-funding, 5 barns have been restored, 4 repaired, and 3 converted to new uses. Expect at least 25 barn conversions to housing to be completed this year.	✓
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 2024	12 SMs 'at risk' 80 LBs 'at risk'	Dudderhouse long cairn will be Scheduled before end of financial year. Geophysical survey of monument planned in this period. Bolton Park mine rabbit fence repair and control arranged.	✓
5. Use DCM and the Historic Environment Record to help local heritage groups to research and record the stories of the National Park area, including completing the enhancement of the HER for the new area of the National Park by 2024.	Complete enhancement of Western Dales HER	588 new entries for features in the Westmorland Dales have been added to the HER this year. Historic England about to start phase 2 of Lidar survey of the area, and will complete in 2025.	≈

☑ achieved ✓ on course ≈ near miss X *not achieved*

A friendly open and welcoming place with outstanding opportunities to enjoy its special qualities

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
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'.	88%	'Ease of Use' currently ahead of target with 79% of routes surveyed indicating an 'Ease of Use' figure of 91%. Bridges at Kex Gill, Beamsley replaced and new bridge at Horton-in-Ribblesdale installed.	✓
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.	4,000 people	5,454 people have attended events e.g. Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected, film festival. 5 exciting artists commissioned to deliver Creatively Connected, and Black Nature in Residence final exhibition took place.	☑
8. Increase opportunity for people with a disability to access the National Park so that by 2026, 15% of visitors using Miles without Stiles routes self-identify as having a disability or long-term health condition.	12%	User Survey shows 12% of visitors using Miles without Stiles Routes have disability/long term health condition. Build work has started on new digital access hub and new routes at Smardale & Aysgarth.	☑
9. By 2024 provide 5,000 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.	5,000 people [cumulative]	Cumulative total = 5,354. 631 people at activity days so far this year through Generation Green 2, Tees-Swale, Green Social Prescribing and partnerships with outdoor providers.	☑
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.	1,500 young people	1,552 young people have attended educational activities in the Park - 85% schools from outside of the National Park. Green Careers Day delivered with Lancaster University.	☑
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.	7,000 volunteer days	1,835 volunteer days provided with 375 coming from under-represented groups. Received NCS uplift for Green Routes partnership project with YDMT. Long-term staff absence means objective not achievable.	≈
12. Work with organisers of large-scale events to ensure they are well run, benefit local businesses, and contribute to the maintenance of the National Park's natural capital, e.g. funding the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks route.	Secure £26,000 for 3 Peaks route	To date £20,476 has been raised. Worked with a number of large-scale events including a public sector event 800 participants and the 3 Peaks Fell Race. Re-surfacing works started at Beecroft.	✓

13. Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.	90% compliance with TROs	The 2023 Annual report recorded 95% compliance with TROs. Enhancement works completed on Cam High Rd, Bainbridge, Busk Lane, Stalling Busk, Gale Lane, Low Row and Busk Lane, Marsett.	☑
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.	Complete signing of the C2C	Sign survey completed. Signs being produced ready for installation. Started flagging section of route at White Mossy Hill leading to 9 Standards Rigg. Legal works continuing to establish the route.	✓
15. Promote and encourage responsible cycling, enabling the development of two 'cycle hubs', & work with local Highway Authorities & other partners to undertake the work necessary to develop one further family-friendly cycling route by 2024.	2 cycle hubs	Garsdale – Hawes Member Steering Group established July 2024 (reporting to F&R Committee) to advise and assist officers developing the new route. Active Travel Plan Stakeholder conference	✓

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
16. By 2025 draw up and adopt a plan for monitoring species that are sensitive to landscape-scale changes in habitat.	Adopt the monitoring plan	A plan for monitoring species that are sensitive to landscape changes in habitat is being finalised for the Biodiversity Forum to adopt at their meeting in January 2025.	✓
17. Work with farmers, landowners and partner organisations to restore or create 500 ha of species-rich grassland habitats by March 2027	Restore 120ha of grassland	Through Tees Swale: Naturally Connected, 23ha of meadow restoration and 31ha of species-rich grassland management. A further 28 ha has been restored through FiPL.	≈
18. Deliver a co-ordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through the Tees-Swale: naturally connected programme, and identify other potential landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'.	Complete year 4 of Tees-Swale programme	In addition to the grassland restoration work (see above), projects has been carried out to support rush management, creation of 10 ha of new woodland, and creation of scrapes for wading birds.	✓
19. 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.	70% in good ecological status	Figure at March 2024 was 51%, down from 62% in 2021. Through CSF we have worked with 160 farmers & landowners advising on water separation, soil health and Natural Flood Management.	X

20. Work with moorland managers & 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.	Local coordination of nest and roost protection	The YD Bird of Prey Partnership has published Evidence Reports. Monitoring of most species is incomplete. Successful nests down this year and still incidents of illegal	X

Resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
21. Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects.	Work with the OuseWem programme	Worked with OuseWem project team to identify and introduce key landowners within the Widdale & Gayle beck target areas. Those introduced are now working with OuseWem team on current and future projects.	✓
22. Through Grow Back Greener & other local funding programmes, support farmers & landowners to create at least a further 225 ha of native broadleaved & mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by 2025.	225 ha (cumulative)	144 ha in the last two years. Currently have 10 schemes planned with a total of 54 ha through Grow Back Greener, plus 331ha from White Rose Forest and 8 ha through YDMT.	✓

Home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
23. Encourage & facilitate high quality proposals for new housing in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices, such that around 85 new dwellings are approved each year including identifying measures to reduce the	85 dwellings approved	49 dwellings approved in the first half of the year. A further 50 dwellings that have been approved subject to a s106 agreement, a large proportion of which are expected to be concluded this year.	✓
24. Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 15 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.	15 new projects funded	8 projects funded so far this year, providing £42k in grants to deliver projects worth £440k. Currently 4 further projects under consideration but unlikely to spend entire budget.	≈

Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage, which underpin a flourishing local economy

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
25. Provide an efficient development management service, including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of 'other' planning applications are being determined within eight weeks and at least 80% of applicants are satisfied.	65%/80% of applications determined on time.	73% of 'minor' applications and 88% of 'other' have been determined on time up to the end of September.	✓
26. 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.	Submission to Planning Inspectorate	Extra informal consultation on preferred sites underway. Expecting to publish the Local Plan for formal 'Regulation 19' consultation in the New Year. Submission not expected now until Summer 2025.	≈
27. 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.	10% first time visitors	Cheese festival – Oct 24. Dark Skies Festival February 2025. 10% measure via 5-year NP Visitor Survey 2027.	✓
28. 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.	58%	Awaiting results of surveys– due December 24	✓
29. 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.	Complete consultation on full draft	Following initial public consultation, 6 'Evidence Reports' published in June. Drafting Groups have produced initial set of objectives. Partnership to determine final set for consultation in December.	✓

To be a highly effective organisation that delivers quality services and is widely recognised for its expertise in National Park policy, practice and partnership-working

Objective	Target by March 2025	Progress	Status
30. Plan and manage the Authority's work so as 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 across the extended National Park area.	Expenditure of at least £9.7m	Original budget set to bring in £12.9m. At the end of September £6m had already been received.	✓
31. 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.	CSE standard retained	CSE assessment carried out during the summer, and accreditation has been maintained.	☑
32. Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.	Unqualified External Audit opinion for 2022/23	Annual Governance Report completed. 2022/23 draft Value for Money report to A&R in July. Final audit opinion due 13/12/24 and will be disclaimed due to lack of audit.	≈
33. Ensure that we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver the Authority's work effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard.	Maintain IIP accreditation	HR policies and procedures being reviewed and the full 3-yearly Investors in People assessment taking place in Oct/Nov	✓
34. Provide facilities and IT systems that are fit for purpose and support the effective delivery of our services, as evidenced by the external auditor's annual 'value for money' opinion, and high standards of health, safety and wellbeing.	Unqualified VfM opinion	Completed acquisition of a plot of land at Langcliffe Quarry for a new southern area ranger base. IT systems have been upgraded with a new phone system, and dual factor authentication.	✓
35. 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 of at least 30 times our residual annual emissions.	Emissions -77%	By March 2024 emissions reduced by 74%. EV charging points installed at all work bases. Electric Ranger Vans and Pool Vehicles procured and ordered. 45% of fleet will be electric.	≈

1	**Support farmers and landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements and similar initiatives, including the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme**		
1.1	Agree the final details for the 'Payment by Results' ELM trial, to test how a whole-farm approach to Payment by Results could be made compelling for farmers and effective for scheme delivery	Jun	Postponed[1]
1.2	With NY Combined Authority and the 5 protected landscape bodies in North Yorkshire, fund independent research into the economic and environmental benefits of a transition to regenerative farming practice	Oct	Rescheduled[2]
4.	**Help local people to restore, repair and - where possible - bring back into use nationally-important historical sites, buildings and structures so that less than 4% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings are 'at risk' by 2024**		
4.1	Re-render Ravenstonedale Chapel	Sep	Cancelled[3]
5.	**Use the Dales Countryside Museum and the Historic Environment Record to help local heritage groups to research, record and promote the stories of the National Park area, including completing the enhancement of the Historic Environment Record for the new area of the National Park by 2024**		
5.1	Launch the 'Landscape through time' website, providing information to people to understand more about the unique cultural landscape of the area (pp)	May	Achieved
5.2	Use the learning from the Family-friendly project to provide a welcome corner to meet the criteria of the Kids in Museums manifesto (p)	Aug	Achieved
5.3	Recruit a Cultural Heritage Apprentice (p)	Sep	Postponed[4]
5.4	Undertake post-excavation analysis and write up of the Quaker Field project and disseminate results (p)	Mar	Rescheduled[5]
5.5	As part of Our Upland Commons, complete the funding and management of the Ingleborough Cave Archaeology project to assess a number of cave sites and previous archaeological finds	Nov	Rescheduled[6]
6.	**Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use'.**		
6.1	Establish involvement, and if agreed, work in partnership with YDMT to undertake elements of the access development work for the Three Dales Landscape Recovery scheme	Mar	Rescheduled[7]
6.2	Complete a light touch, Member-led review of the effectiveness and cost of carrying out the delegated statutory highways duties.	Nov	Achieved

[1] Postponed due to uncertainty of Defra budget following the general election. Unsure as yet whether will go ahead in next financial year.
[2] Timetable has slipped slightly. Contract will be completed at end of November.
[3] The cost of this work is many times more than the available budget so can't be delivered. We are going to support the Parish Council with help and advice on alternative options
[4] Postponed to next financial year. In talks with a University in Lincoln to support a possible Level 7 Apprenticeship.
[5] Rescheduled due to officer time constraints as result of providing heritage support to the work of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership.
[6] Slight delay in getting results back from Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre. Will now complete in December.
[7] The work with YDMT and YWT continues during the development phase of the Three Dales Project. We are providing YDMT with information and documentation and attended business workshops and technical working group meetings. Rescheduled to March 2025, at which point we will have more information regarding next stages, guided by the YWT bid for funding.

6.3	Review the 5-year Public Rights of Way maintenance report (p)	Nov	Rescheduled[8]
6.4	Carry out engineering works to 220m of public rights of way on Buckden Pike	Dec	Achieved
6.6	Replace bridge at Kex Gill, Beamsley and install a new bridge at Horton-in-Ribblesdale	Dec	Achieved
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.**		
7.1	Through *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected*, run a farming film and photography festival in Swaledale, engaging farmers, communities and visitors with farming through the seasons	Jul	Achieved
7.2	Audit existing on-site interpretation across the National Park to evaluate its impact on the visitor experience; management and safety	Oct	Achieved
7.3	Produce a new Interpretation Strategy and good practice guidance for the YDNPA	Dec	Rescheduled[9]
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.**		
8.1	Produce leaflets for accessible town trails for Hawes and Grassington (p)	Jul	Rescheduled[10]
8.2	Through the BMW's access to nature fund, develop a new digital Access Hub to promote accessible routes and facilities in the National Park	Nov	Rescheduled[11]
8.3	As part of the NLHF-funded *Access to Eden* project, create a 1.5km 'miles without stiles' route at Smardale	Mar	Postponed[12]
8.4	Undertake a baseline survey of users on 'Miles Without Stiles' routes promoted by the YDNPA	Mar	Achieved
8.6	Install a bridleway bridge at Cautley/Cross Keys and carry out 670m of bridleway repairs.	Mar	Revised[13]
9.	**By 2024 provide 5,000 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**		
9.1	Produce a progress evaluation for the East Leeds project, including 4 case studies and 3 impact reports to measure and articulate the impact of YDNPA's education, engagement and volunteering activities	Oct	Revised[14]
9.2	Through the Co-create project, work with NPE and the other National Parks to support the development of a collective inclusion statement and vision for the National Parks	Oct	Achieved
9.4	Work with outdoor providers to offer people from under-represented groups opportunities to enjoy the landscape and improve their health and wellbeing through a more varied range of activities	Mar	Achieved
9.5	Work in partnership with the RSPB to co-develop and launch *Nature Prescriptions for North Yorkshire* –	Mar	Achieved

[8] Rescheduled to March due to delays with agreeing Delegated Highway Duties with NYC
[9] Rescheduled as original timing too ambitious as the audit of interpretation which informs this was late.
[10] Rescheduled due to being incorporated into wider digital access hub work to provide consistency.
[11] Contractor appointed and work progressing well, November was too ambitious for completion, rescheduled to March
[12] Delayed start due to bridge design changing necessitating a planning application. Surfacing work will take place by March, bridges to be installed in 2025.
[13] Bridge has been delayed but will still be installed this financial year. However, bridleway works won't now be able to be completed until summer of 2025.
[14] Have produced 6 case studies, and 5 impact reports are in production evaluating activity across the L&E programme but not specifically in the East Leeds project area.

	delivering training for and supporting 2 GP surgeries in Craven and Bedale		
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	Develop the Authority's approach to youth participation and continue to implement the objectives of the Europarc Youth Manifesto	Sep	Achieved
10.2	Work in partnership with Lancaster University to deliver a 'Green Careers' Day in the National Park	Oct	Achieved
10.3	Support the 8 existing 'Ambassador Schools' and extend the programme to one further school to help them embed National Park outdoor learning and environmental education in their curriculum	Mar	Revised[15]
10.4	Deliver curriculum-linked educational activities for 1,500 young people in formal education in the National Park and surrounding urban areas including: reaching 5 additional schools (800), delivering Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected's 'Uplands for Education' (300) and delivery at DCM (400)	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**		
11.1	Provide opportunity for 500 volunteer days for young people (age 11–29) through Young Rangers, 'Upskill-Down Dale' and 'Dales Action Days'	Mar	Revised[16]
11.3	Run 'social prescribing' Young Rangers project with Wensleydale School, connecting young people with the health and well-being benefits of the National Park through volunteering	Mar	Postponed[17]
13.	**Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders**		
13.1	Conduct a walk-over survey of Cam High Road and Highway North	Jul	Rescheduled[18]
13.2	Collect logger data and produce the 2023/24 Annual Report on 'green lane' usage and management	Nov	Achieved
13.4	In conjunction with North Yorkshire Council, continue to implement the programme of improvements to unsurfaced unclassified roads (UUR) on Cam High Road, Hawes and Busk Lane, Marsett	Dec	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 202[5]**		
14.1	Install 60m of stone pitching and cross drains to repair a severely eroded section of the Pennine Way on the summit of Pen-y-ghent	Sep	Achieved
14.2	Make 5 Creation Orders and 3 Diversion Orders to begin establishing a legal Coast to Coast route	Dec	Rescheduled[19]

[15] We have extended the programme to an additional school this year. However, this takes the total to 8 rather than 9 as 7 schools were already being supported rather than 8.
[16] Number has had to be revised down to 150 volunteer days due to long-term staff absence.
[17] Also affected by long-term sickness absence. Now planned for April–June 2025.
[18] Walk over surveys completed for Cam High Road and Marsett Bottoms. Highway North will be surveyed by end December.
[19] Rescheduled to March – creation orders currently with external solicitors for signing.

16.	**By 2025 draw up and adopt a plan for monitoring species that are sensitive to landscape-scale changes in habitat**		
16.1	With YDMT submit a funding bid for a project to work with local communities to support wildlife in villages and towns by providing homes for birds that nest in buildings (e.g. swift)	Jun	Achieved
16.3	Make ecological network mapping more readily accessible to farmers and landowners by revising and updating the 'Re-cover' webmap (p)	Sep	Achieved
16.4	Produce a draft plan for monitoring species identified in the Nature Recovery Plan	Dec	Rescheduled[20]
18.	**Deliver a coordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected*, and identify other potential landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'**		
18.1	Support the restoration of 10 ha of species-rich grassland in Swaledale/Arkengarthdale	Oct	Achieved
18.2	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	Dec	Rescheduled[21]
18.4	Work with local partners, led by YDMT, through the 'Three Counties' programme steering group to complete pre-development phase planning work, in support of a potential resubmission of Stage 1 NLHF bid	Mar	Postponed[22]
22.	**Through Grow Back Greener and other local funding programmes, support farmers and landowners to create at least a further 225 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park landscape by 2025**		
22.1	With funding from the Woodland Trust's *Grow Back Greener* programme, support the creation of 55 hectares of new native woodland	Mar	Revised[23]
23.	**Encourage and facilitate high quality proposals for new housing in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices, such that around 85 new dwellings are approved each year, including identifying measures to reduce the proportion of under-occupied properties.**		
23.2	Identify suitable 'exception sites' for affordable housing, and support the work of the Councils' Rural Housing Enablers to secure affordable housing development on those sites	Jan	Revised[24]
24.	**Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 15 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park**		
24.1	Establish and publicise the SDF grant scheme for younger people	Jul	Achieved
25.	**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…**		

[20] Rescheduled to February to allow Biodiversity Forum to meet and sign off.
[21] Rescheduled to December due to delays following initial advice from Heritage Lottery Fund
[22] Pre-development phase planning work is now scheduled for completion by August 2025
[23] Figure revised to 55ha due to withdrawal of a number of planned projects because of potential impact on wading birds
[24] Won't be able to get all of this done by January due to prioritising Local Plan publication. Will focus on prioritising sites in Richmondshire in light of shortage of allocated sites there.

25.1	Run a training event for Parish Councils to help them to contribute effectively to the planning process	Mar	Rescheduled[25]
26.	**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**		
26.1	Agree 'Statements of Common Ground' on cross-boundary matters with neighbouring Planning Authorities (p)	Jul	Rescheduled[26]
26.2	Undertake a second informal public consultation on the recommended housing site options	Jul	Achieved
26.3	Decide the preferred housing sites and development boundaries for inclusion in the publication Local Plan (p)	Sep	Rescheduled[27]
26.4	Produce the Habitat Regulations Assessment to support the Publication Local Plan (p)	Nov	Rescheduled[28]
26.5	Arrange independent inspection and a referendum on the draft Clapham Neighbourhood Plan	Nov	Rescheduled[29]
26.6	Publish the Local Plan and supporting documents for formal representations (p)	Feb	Rescheduled[30]
26.7	Prepare Local Plan and representations for Submission to the Planning Inspectorate	Mar	Postponed[31]
27.	**Develop and promote new 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**		
27.1	Work with businesses to run the annual Cheese Festival	Oct	Achieved
29.	**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**		
29.1	Collate and publish six detailed 'Evidence Reports' to inform development of an updated Management Plan	May	Achieved
29.2	Hold the NPMP Annual Forum to engage with the range of organisations that operate in the National Park	May	Achieved
29.3	Co-ordinate and publish the annual progress report on the 2019-24 National Park Management Plan	Jun	Achieved
29.4	Commission and publish a Climate Change Adaptation report for the National Park	Oct	Revised[32]
29.5	Support up to 12 young people to be directly involved in the development of the new objectives for the updated Management Plan	Oct	Achieved
29.7	Publish a full draft updated Management Plan for public consultation	Dec	Rescheduled[33]
30.	**Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of our resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area**		
30.1	Produce a detailed Action Plan to help achieve the Authority's objectives in 2023/24	May	Achieved

[25] Put back to March due to current shortfall in staff resource.
[26] Currently awaiting final signatories, expected by year end
[27] Delayed to allow for further informal public consultation (now complete). Final decisions will be taken at the December Authority meeting
[28] Advanced stage of preparation. Will be published alongside Publication Local Plan in February.
[29] Independent inspection now complete. Proposal for referendum will be coming to the December Authority meeting
[30] Delayed by additional work on housing sites (see 26.3). Now expect to publish in February
[31] Knock-on effect of delays above. Now expecting to submit the Plan next summer
[32] North Yorkshire Council and Westmorland Council will incorporate the National Park areas in to the Climate Change Adaptation reports that they are both producing.
[33] Final draft will be determined by the NPMP Partnership in December. Will be published for consultation in January.

30.2	Publish a detailed assessment of the Authority's performance in 2022/23	Jul	Achieved
30.3	Carry out a fundamental review of the Authority's priorities for the next 3 years	Sep	Achieved
30.4	Continue the development of the 'cultural shift' towards external funding, including clarifying roles and responsibilities for the 'pipeline' of projects, and refining the approach to project officer posts	Sep	Rescheduled[34]
30.5	Complete a review of the 'lessons learnt" from the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership project	Nov	Achieved
31.	**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**		
31.1	Undertake and retain the annual assessment against the CSE standard	Sep	Achieved
31.3	Produce a 5-year Communications Strategy for 2025 to 2030	Dec	Rescheduled[35]
32.	**Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report**		
32.1	Produce the draft Statutory Accounts for 2023/24.	May	Achieved
32.2	Achieve an unqualified external audit opinion for the delayed 2021/22 audit (p)	Jul	Achieved
32.3	Secure an external audit opinion for the delayed 2022/23 audit	Sep	Revised[36]
32.4	Consider benefits to Authority of co-option of younger Members	Oct	Achieved
32.5	Complete the Annual Governance Report	Nov	Achieved
32.7	Secure an audit opinion and unqualified VFM opinion for 2023/24 Accounts	Feb	New
33.	**Ensure that we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver the work of the Authority effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard**		
33.1	Implement the IIP action plan	Oct	Achieved
33.2	Review the Employee Code of Conduct	Nov	Achieved
34.	**Provide facilities and IT systems that are fit for purpose and support the effective delivery of our services, as evidenced by the external auditor's annual 'value for money' opinion, and high standards of health, safety and wellbeing.**		
34.1	Contract for a new phone system to include softphones to use on laptop or integrate with MS Teams, and rationalise staff mobile phones (p)	Jun	Achieved
34.2	Implement the works necessary to introduce card-only payments at authority car parks	Sep	Achieved

[34] Overall approach agreed. Final details of job descriptions for permanent project officer posts and process for appointment will be in place by December.
[35] Rescheduled to March as there are budget implications to be considered
[36] Due to the new backstop date being issued for this year's audit and value for money opinion, the statement of accounts is due to be finalised with a disclaimed audit by 13th December 2024.

34.3	Work with departmental stakeholders to develop a structured SharePoint environment to enable staff to migrate their documents into the cloud (p)	Nov	Rescheduled[37]
34.4	Implement two factor security authentication on Authority devices (p)	Dec	Achieved
34.5	Complete acquisition of a plot at the Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre (pp), and complete construction of a new Southern area ranger base to replace current facilities at Stonedykes Barn	Mar	Revised[38]
35.	**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 residual annual emissions.**		
35.1	Install Electric Vehicle charging points at the main Authority Buildings (p)	Jul	Achieved
35.2	Carry out a light-touch, Member-led, review of the effectiveness of the Authority's Carbon Reduction Plan	Nov	Achieved

[37] Rescheduled to March due to unplanned emergency works on the server room, email system and GIS and also difficulty finding trainers.
[38] The acquisition of a plot at the Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre has been completed and plans are in place for the new building. Construction will be well underway but may run over into the next financial year.