Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 12**

16 December 2025

Joint working with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT)

Purpose of the report

1. To provide a more detailed update on the work done in the National Park by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and the key areas of joint working between the Trust and the National Park Authority.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's strategy for 2025-28 (in the **Annex**), and the ongoing and planned joint working between the Trust and the National Park Authority.

Strategic Framework

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

    - **Corporate Plan objective 28**
      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 across the extended National Park area.

Background

4. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust ('the Trust') was set up in 1996, largely at the instigation of the Authority. It was intended to provide a vehicle for bringing funds into the National Park area that the Authority – as a local government body – was not able to access. The Chief Executive of the Trust, Michael Devlin, is a member of the National Park Management Plan Partnership. The Trust will be directly involved in the delivery of several of the objectives in the updated Management Plan 2025-30.

5. A Memorandum of Understanding was adopted by the two organisations in September 2015. It requires the two organisations to review jointly the effectiveness of the programme of work carried out the previous year. This is then reported to the Trustees of the Trust and to the Members of the Authority

6. The 2024-25 review was reported to the Authority in June. It outlined the wide-ranging programme of co-operative work. At that meeting Members indicated that they would welcome a further briefing on the work of the Trust.

Consideration

7. The Trust's current strategy – for 2025-28 is attached as an **annex** to this report. Michael Devlin will be attending the meeting to provide Members with a presentation on the Trust's work.

Financial implications

8. No direct implications but the Trust and the Authority frequently co-operate in the development of external funding bids to fund particular aspects of each organisation's work. The Trust also manages a fund that allows individuals to make donations to work programmes and projects being undertaken by the National Park Authority.

Legal Implications

9. None. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place between the two organisations and is reviewed from time to time.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. The work of both organisations includes a range of complementary activities aimed at broadening access to the National Park, tackling health inequalities, and increasing engagement with under-served communities.

Conclusion

11. The Authority's long-standing partnership with the Trust is probably the most important. Whilst the Trust is entirely independent of the Authority, both bodies share very similar aims and objectives. Since its establishment, the Trust has brought in millions of pounds of investment - providing significant benefits for the environment, economy and communities of the National Park.

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

Annex

Joint Action Plan 2024/25: Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

1	**Dales Woodland Restoration**

	• As part of the Heart of the Pennines Forest project:
	  o started a further 6 new woodland schemes in the Cumbrian area of the park;
	  o continued 3 community tree growing schemes;
	  o supported 3 trainees who all gained employment in the forestry sector

	• Supported the creation of 21ha of new native woodland with funding from the Woodland Trust's Grow Back Greener programme;
	• Supported 77 landowners to plant field trees and new hedgerows;
	• Provided resources and training for community and outreach groups and engaged 314 individuals in woodland through 30 events;
	• As part of YDMT Grants, supported the planting of 32,000 trees and shrubs, as well as 85 landscape trees;
	• Continued to work with the Forest Plastics Working Group (FPWG) to reduce the use of fossil fuel-based plastic in all woodlands and hedgerow schemes, including the removal of 32,400 redundant tree tubes from the National Park;
2	**Dales Meadow Restoration**
	• Co-ordinated and funded the restoration of 18 hectares of meadow;
	• Provided meadow management training for 10 farmers;
	• Involved 178 people in meadow and pollinator related activities and training;
	• Developed a proposal for a major project to restore and create species-rich grasslands across the National Park, and support nature-friendly farming
3	**Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected**
	• Restored a further 23 ha of species-rich grassland, and brought 31 ha into enhanced management
	• Held 8 training/demonstration events for farmers & contractors;
	• Completed year 4 of the 'Uplands for Education' project, providing education activities for school children in Darlington, Northallerton and Bedale;
	• Continued preparations for works to reduce pollution from lead-mining sites on Barney Beck in Swaledale;
	• Ran a farming film and photography festival in Swaledale, engaging farmers, communities and visitors with farming through the seasons.
	• Completed year 4 of 'Uplands for All', providing training opportunities and recreational activity days for people from under-represented groups.
4	**Our Upland Commons**
	• Completed the Ingleborough Cave Archaeology project to assess a number of cave sites and previous archaeological finds.

5	**Learning and Engagement**
	• Provided curriculum-linked educational activities to 935 young people in primary and secondary education;
	• Provided over 1,850 people from under-served groups with activity days to experience the Park, through programmes such as 'Discover and Connect' (1,650) and 'People and the Dales' (207);
	• Supported the 8 existing 'Ambassador Schools' and extended the programme to one further school to help them embed National Park outdoor learning and environmental education in their curriculum;
	• With Lancaster University ran a 'Green Careers Day' in the National Park;
	• Through 'Championing National Parks for Everyone', recruited and supported 13 community champions to establish greater engagement with under-served communities and groups in activities and projects in the National Park.
	• Through Green Futures: o enabled 233 young people to take part in environmental/social activities; o recruited 7 Rural Apprentices and placed them with local organisations;
	• Gave 7 YDMT small grants to community groups and young people;
	• Ran the NCS-funded Green Routes programme of activity for 265 16- and 17-year-olds living in North Yorkshire, Bradford or Burnley, including establishing a youth forum and 2 'Big Dales' out activity days;
	• Ran 3 joint skills-sharing sessions with local organisations involved in learning and engagement activities.
8	**Volunteers**
	• Provided 5,565 volunteer days, 26% coming from under-represented groups;
	• Provided opportunities for 165 volunteer days for young people (age 11–29) through Young Rangers and 'Upskill-Down Dale'.
9	**Access**
	• Secured additional funding for access work on the Coast-to-Coast Path;
	• Completed access development work for the 'Three Dales' Landscape Recovery scheme;
	• As part of the NLHF-funded Access to Eden project, began work to create a 1.5km 'miles without stiles' route at Smardale.
10	**Other projects in development**
	• Worked with local partners through the 'Three Counties' programme steering group and secured over £100,000 to support the pre-development phase planning work, in support of a potential resubmission of Stage 1 NLHF bid
	• Secured NLHF funding for the 3-year 'House Birds Project' working with local communities to provide homes for birds that nest in buildings (e.g. Swifts)