Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 13**

25 June 2024

Joint working with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT)

Purpose of the report

1. To update on the joint working between YDNPA and YDMT during 2023/24

Recommendation

2. That Members note the report in the **Annex**.

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***
    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 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, David Sharrod, chairs the National Park Management Plan Steering Group, and the Trust is directly involved in the delivery of several objectives in the Management Plan 2019-24.

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

Joint working in 2023-24

6. The 2023-24 review is attached as an **annex** to this report. It outlines the wide-ranging programme of co-operative work that took place last year.

Financial implications

7. None

Legal Implications

8. None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

9. None

Conclusion

10. During 2023-24, the Authority and the Trust continued to work closely on a range of programmes and projects that are providing significant benefits for the environment, economy and communities of the National Park.

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

Joint Action Plan 2023/24: Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

1	**Dales Woodland Restoration**
	As part of the NLHF-funded Heart of the Pennines Forest project: o initiated a further six new woodland schemes in the Cumbrian area of the park; o created community tree growing schemes in Clapham, Malham and Swaledale;
	Created 47 ha of new native woodland with funding from the Woodland Trust's Grow Back Greener programme;
	Supported 14 landowners to plant field trees and new hedgerows;
	With funding from AmEx, supported the creation of a community woodland;
	Provided resources and training for community and outreach groups and engaged with 274 individuals in woodland activities;
	As part of YDMT Grants, supported the planting of over 72,000 trees and shrubs;
	As part of the Forestry Plastics Working Group removed a further 53,000 redundant tree guards from the landscape
2	**Dales Meadow Restoration**
	Through the Hay Time project: o Co-ordinated the restoration of 10 hectares of meadow through FIPL funding
	o Provided meadow management training for 6 farmers
	o Involved over 230 people in meadow and pollinator related activities and training
3	**Swaledale Barns Repair Project**
	Completed repair works to 4 barns as part of the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Barn Repair project.
4	**Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership**
	Completed the final year of the 5-year programme, including: o restored the Smardale Kilns scheduled monument; o oversaw the final stage of the 'Digging the Past' project; o published the Gamelands project report o developed a 'sense of place' toolkit for tourism businesses o produced leaflets to promote a further 3 cycle routes, 2 horse riding routes and 2 walking routes.
5	**Our Upland Commons**
	Supported delivery of third full year of programme, including: o Funded and managed the initial stages of the Ingleborough caving archaeology project to assess a number of cave sites and previous archaeological finds.

6	**Tees-Swale: naturally connected**
	Supported delivery of third full year of programme in Swaledale, including: o restored a further 15ha of species rich grassland; o worked with local farmers to create a further 5 ha of new native woodland; o held 8 training/demonstration events for farmers & contractors; o ran year 3 of the 'Uplands for Education' project, providing education activities for school children in Darlington, Northallerton and Bedale; o ran year 3 of the Uplands for All project, engaging new groups of young people with the natural heritage of the area;
7	**Learning and Engagement**
	Delivered curriculum-linked educational activities to over 3,200 young people in primary and secondary education
	Through programmes such as 'People and the Dales (YDMT)' and 'Discover and Connect (YDNPA)' provided over 1,100 people from under-represented groups or disadvantaged backgrounds or urban areas with activity days to experience the Park.
	Expanded the 'Ambassador School' programme to a further 3 schools
	Through Green Futures: o enabled 110 young people to take part in environmental and social activities; o recruited 4 Rural Apprentices
	Through YDMT Grants, gave 7 small grants to community groups and young people
8	**Volunteers**
	Provided 6,879 volunteer days (including 410 provided by YDMT), with 19% coming from under-represented groups;
	Ran a one-off practical conservation day to attract new people to volunteering.
	Provided opportunities for volunteer days for young people (age 11–29) through Young Rangers and Upskill-Down Dale and Young Rangers in schools.
9	**Access**
	Secured funding from Farming in Protected Landscape to create a 3-mile Tramper route Aysgarth, and purchase an additional Tramper.
10	**Other projects in development**
	Submitted an unsuccessful Stage 1 bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the Three Counties - Lune Valley Scheme;
	Developed a proposal 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)
11	**Organisation and co-operation**
	Carried out the annual review of the effectiveness of the joint programme, and reported the conclusions back to the Trustees and Authority Members;
	Continued arrangements for YDMT to manage donations/legacies for YDNPA, securing funding of £1,119.