Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Item 5

Audit and Review Committee

26 November 2024

Performance Review of Delegated Statutory Highway Duties

Purpose of the Report

1. To report back to the Committee following the performance review of the Authority's delegated statutory highway duties.

Recommendation

2. That the proposed future actions and conclusion of the review (sections 4 and 5 of Annex) are agreed.

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 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. At Audit and Review Committee on 24 April 2024, Members determined that a 'light touch' performance review of the Authority's delegated statutory highways duties should be carried out. Terms of reference for the review were agreed by the Committee on 9 July 2024.

The review

5. The review team comprised two members and three officers:
    - Audit and Review Committee Member – Mark Corner
    - Member Champion for Recreation Management – Lizzie Bushby
    - Director of Corporate Services – Clare Burrows

- Director of Park Services – Elliott Lorimer
- Head of Park Management – Alan Hulme

6. The purpose of the review was to:
    i. Understand the effectiveness of the delivery of the delegated statutory highways duties currently performed by the Authority.
    ii. Consider whether the delegated arrangements should be uniformly applied across the three authorities in light of current and future financial commitments from those Authorities.
    iii. Carry out a 'light-touch' assessment and evaluation of the cost effectiveness of this delivery (in line with direction from Members); comparing with other National Park Authorities where appropriate.
    iv. Make recommendations on how these delegated statutory highway duties could be delivered in future within the National Park.

7. The review team's report is attached as an **Annex** which includes details of the Authority's current performance, the cost and effectiveness of the delivery of the duties, and recommendations for future actions.

Financial Implications

8. Recommended actions (outlined in the Annex) include fundraising options which could provide additional external funds to complement existing budgets for management and maintenance of public rights of way.

Legal Implications

9. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. The review group actively considered the accessibility of public rights of way in its deliberations, e.g. 'Miles without Stiles' and 'Access for All' routes.

Conclusion

11. The work of the review team will be used to guide future delivery of the delegated statutory highway duties by the Authority.

Elliott Lorimer
Director of Park Services