Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 5**

Date: 1 October 2024

Report: Setting Priorities for 2024/25 and Beyond

Purpose of the report

1. To inform Members of the work carried out as part of the 3-yearly fundamental review of the prioritisation of the Authority's work programmes; and, to seek approval for a revised set of priorities for 2025/26 onwards.

Recommendation

2. That Members adopt the revised prioritised list of 'sub-programmes' at Annex C, as the initial basis for preparing the Authority's plans and budget for 2025/26 onwards.

Strategic Planning Framework

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

   - ***Corporate Plan 2024-25***
     Objective 30: Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources….

Background

4. A robust system of prioritising the different strands of the Authority's work has been an integral and important part of our business planning for the last 20 years. The process is intended to help Members reach consensus on those areas of work that are most important to the Authority so that:

   - Our staff, partners and stakeholders are clear about where we will be directing our efforts (and where we won't); and.
   - We are able to allocate resources effectively.

5. The process of fundamentally reviewing the priority of each area of the Authority's work is carried out once every 3 years, using a model originally developed by a Member/ officer working group. The last fundamental review was done in 2021.

6. Following issues raised by a number of Members after the last review, a Policy Development Forum was held for all the Members in June to consider how the process this time could be amended to ensure that:

a. it covers the full range of potential activities that the Authority *could* undertake, not just the things we do now; and,

b. it takes account of changes in the Authority's circumstances (esp. in relation to funding) and external factors.

Context to this review

7. Every review of priorities comes with its own unique context – that influences both the nature of the review and the impact of the decisions. Currently, these include:

    - the Authority's core grant from Defra is currently less in cash terms than it was in 2010. The impacts of inflation and the extension of the National Park boundary in 2016 mean that in real terms it is worth less than 50% of what it was. As a result, the Authority is now heavily dependent on accessing funding from other sources ('earned income') in order to achieve its objectives.
    - The prognosis for future Government funding is unclear. A Budget is due on 30 October, and this will be followed by Defra's own intra-Departmental decision-making about how to allocate its overall funding settlement. It is unlikely that the Authority will know its position much before Christmas – at the earliest. However, current indications strongly suggest that a flat settlement (i.e. further small real terms cuts) is the **best** we can hope for.
    - The new Government's priorities for National Parks are also still to come into focus, although there have been robust statements about the importance of our international commitments on climate change and nature recovery. There has been no sign of any rowing back from the national targets set by the previous Government earlier this year through the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.

8. Closer to home, the latest review of our priorities takes place in the context of:

    - Significant structural change to our constituent local authority partners, and the new statutory duty on them and other public bodies to help deliver National Park Management Plans, and further National Park statutory purposes.
    - The review of the current National Park Management Plan, and the associated public consultation on what the priorities should be for the National Park (as reported to Members in April).
    - The decisions already made by Members of the Authority, and the Partnership responsible for producing the Management Plan, that priority should be given to the Plan's ambitions for climate and nature.

9. The parameters for this review were agreed with Members at the Policy Development Forum at the start of June. These were:

    - The Authority's spending 'programmes' should be broken down into smaller work areas ('sub-programmes') as the basis for the initial prioritisation. This allows Members to take a more nuanced approach than would be possible using just the existing work programmes, some of which are large and contain multiple strands of different activity (e.g. the wider 'Farm Conservation' programme includes: farm

conservation; natural flood management; and, water quality work). In total the 17 work programmes have been split into 38 sub-programmes.

- The sub-programmes now include a number of work areas where there is currently little or no direct Authority activity as well as areas that fall within the responsibility of other bodies. However, that does not mean that we could not put further resources into trying to better influence them in their delivery.
- The criteria for the initial assessment by officers should be revised to take account of the following:
    - the new national targets set by Government in the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework;
    - the priorities for the National Park identified in the public consultation on the new National Park Management Plan;
    - the extent to which different areas of work are able to access external funding;
    - the extent to which other public bodies might be expected to take the lead on different areas of work.

10. Officers used the new set of criteria (see **Annex A**) to assess the 38 sub-programmes. The primary factor in the assessment was the contribution to the delivery of the two statutory national park purposes. The assessment also took account of six other factors, which influenced but did not dominate the scoring. The sub-programmes were then grouped into three categories:
    - '**Priority'** – where we will strive for excellence;
    - **'Adequate'** – where we will maintain a decent level of service;
    - **'Limited'** – where progress will be dependent on external funding, or where we will only do the minimum necessary to meet legal duties.

11. The initial officer assessment was intended to give an *indication* of the relative contribution made by each sub-programme. The results were fed back to Members at the Policy Development Forum on 16 September. At that meeting there was a wide-ranging and informed debate as to what the priorities for the National Park Authority should be. Whilst all the sub-programmes are important, there was a clear recognition amongst the Members present that some hard choices had to be made. Overall, there was a clear consensus on the relative priority of the vast majority of the sub-programmes.

12. The results are set out in **Annex B**, which also indicates those that have changed from the current set of priorities (included for reference at **Annex C**). Note: the comparison is not exact as this year's review includes 38 sub-programmes, compared to 31 in 2021.

13. At the Policy Development Forum, there were four sub-programmes (Outreach; Planning; Volunteering; and Youth Volunteering) that generated considerable debate about whether they should be categorised as 'priorities' or 'adequate'. The consensus (just) was for Volunteering and Planning to be included in the priorities.

14. There was also a wider discussion about Water Quality. There was wide recognition that water quality was a critical issue for the future of the National Park (and one of the top priorities for the public and residents). The debate focused on the extent to which other bodies were primarily responsible for tackling this issue. Ultimately, 'Water Quality' was included in the 'adequate' category.

15. In order to inform Members' final decision, key information about each sub-programme is provided in **Annex D**. The papers summarise what each sub-programme does; the objectives it is intended to achieve; and gives some initial indication of how it might be affected by decisions about its priority. It is worth reiterating that the potential impacts are only indicative and are based on an assumption that NPA core funding stays broadly at the current level over the next 3 years, and will obviously be different if funding is actually cut (or increased).

Next steps

16. Subject to Members' views today, officers will use the final prioritised list of sub-programmes to start to develop plans for 2025/26 and beyond, including:

    - Considering whether any consequential changes might be needed to the Authority's current objectives (Report to December NPA);
    - Developing a detailed budget (February Finance & Resources Committee); and,
    - Agreeing the practical actions that will be taken to give effect to Members' decisions next year (May Finance & Resources Committee).

17. It's worth reminding Members that the decision on priorities simply provides a framework and context in which to develop our work programmes. Any fundamental decisions or changes to the resourcing of any programmes will always come back to the Authority for further discussion and final determination.

Conclusion

18. The priority-setting process is a challenging part of the Authority's corporate governance but one that has stood the Authority in good stead. Whilst all Members will have their own individual views, being able to arrive at a consensus about those areas of work that are most important to the Authority provides the necessary framework for officers to be able to deliver the Authority services. It also enables us to provide the public and our external partners with clarity about what we intend to do (or, in some cases, not do) over the next three years.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

18 September 2024

Criteria Used in Initial Assessment of Priorities

Primary Criteria:

1. **Contribution to first statutory purpose of national parks** – the extent to which the work helps to conserve or enhance the wildlife, natural beauty, and cultural heritage of the national park.

2. **Contribution to second statutory purpose** of national parks – the extent to which the work helps to promote understanding and enjoyment of the national park's special qualities.

Supporting Criteria

3. **Contribution to socio-economic wellbeing** - the impact of the work on the social or economic well-being of those living or working within the Park.

4. **Potential for External Funding** - the extent to which the programme can generate external funding for the Authority's work.

5. **Unique to the National Park Authority** - the extent to which other organisations have statutory responsibility for, or are already undertaking, similar work in the National Park.

6. **Priority for the National Park Management Plan** - results of public consultation on the priority issues for the National Park.

7. **Priority for residents** - residents' survey responses on the importance of the Authority's work programmes.

8. **Priority for Government** – the extent to which the work contributes to the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, or the emerging plans of the new Government.

Proposed Prioritisation for 2025-26 Onwards

‘Priority’ sub-programmes	
Education ↑	Rights of way
Farm Conservation	Volunteering ↑
Planning	Wildlife
Recreation & Health	Woodland ↑

‘Adequate’ sub-programmes	
Apprenticeships	National Trails ↑
Archaeology	Outreach
Barns & Walls	Planning Policy (Local Plan) ↓
Building Conservation ↑	Recreation Management
Dales Countryside Museum	Tourism
Dark Skies	Water Quality
Landscape Features ↑	Youth Volunteering
National Park Management Plan	

‘Limited’ sub-programmes	
Car Parks	Minerals
Cultural Heritage	National Park Centres
Cycling Infrastructure	Natural Flood Management
Definitive Map	Public Transport
Enforcement ↓	Sustainable Development Fund ↓
Geodiversity	Toilets
Historic Environment Record	Traffic Management
Housing	

Note: sub-programmes are listed alphabetically within each category

Current Prioritisation Annex C

‘Priority’ sub-programmes	
Farm Conservation	Recreation & Health
Planning	Rights of way
Planning Policy	Wildlife

‘Adequate’ sub-programmes	
Apprenticeships	Outreach
Archaeology	Recreation Management
Barns & Walls	Sustainable Development Fund
Dales Countryside Museum	Tourism
Dark Skies	Volunteering
Education	Woodlands
Enforcement	Youth Volunteering
NPMP/State of the Park	

‘Limited’ sub-programmes	
Building Conservation	Minerals
Car Parks	National Park Centres
Cycling Infrastructure	National Trails
Historic Environment Record	Public Transport
Landscape Features	Toilets

Note: sub-programmes are listed alphabetically within each category, and not in any ranked order.

Annex D – Sub-programme Descriptions

Apprenticeships
Archaeology
Barns & Walls
Building Conservation
Car Parks
Cultural Heritage
Cycling Infrastructure
Dales Countryside Museum
Dark Skies
Definitive Map
Education
Enforcement
Farm Conservation
Geodiversity
Historic Environment Record
Housing
Landscape Features
Minerals
National Park Centres
National Trails
Natural Flood Management
NPMP/State of the Park
Outreach
Planning
Planning Policy (Local Plan)
Public Transport
Recreation & Health
Recreation Management
Rights of way
Sustainable Development Fund
Toilets
Tourism
Traffic Management
Volunteering
Water Quality
Wildlife
Woodland
Youth Volunteering

Activities

- A permanent programme of ‘corporate’ apprenticeships, each hosted by different services (Wildlife, Heritage, Communications, Planning) across the Authority.
- A series of ‘project specific’ apprenticeships and traineeships through externally funded programmes (e.g. Landscape Partnerships).

Corporate Plan objectives

None.

Future Scenarios

High Priority

Increase the number of ‘corporate’ apprentices by providing additional budget and management time. Actively seek potential grant funding bids that present the opportunity for funding more project-specific apprenticeships.

Adequate Service

Continue to fund a handful of ‘corporate’ apprenticeships each year. Ensure that wider external funding bids (Landscape Partnerships etc) include funding to provide project-specific apprenticeships.

Limited

End the ‘corporate’ apprentice programme. Only host project-specific apprenticeships that can be wholly resourced through externally-funded projects.

No Service

Cease all activities associated with hosting apprenticeships, including those funded by external grants once the current projects end.

Activities

- Promote understanding and enjoyment of the Dale's archaeology, and engage local communities in projects to conserve their heritage;
- Take action to conserve, and manage important archaeological and historical sites and features that are neglected, including identifying funding working with other conservation bodies, Universities, and local heritage groups;
- Monitor the condition of the NP's most important archaeological and historical sites and features;

Corporate Plan objectives

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 considered 'at risk' by 2024.

Future scenarios

High priority

Take a more proactive and strategic approach to targeting Scheduled Monuments and other significant non-designated heritage assets that are at risk, exploring a full range of solutions – including more use of legal powers. Develop a better-funded and more active conservation programme – utilising partnership working with other conservation bodies, universities and local heritage groups - for monument restoration and management.

Adequate service

Continue the current approach, with significant improvements being dependent on access to external funding (e.g. NLHF Landscape Partnerships) or national agri-environment scheme agreements. Continue programme of volunteer surveys of the condition of Scheduled Monuments.

Limited

No proactive work. Cut funding for repairs or advice programme. Focus only on supporting statutory functions (e.g. commenting on planning applications); agri-environment scheme applications; and chargeable services. End the condition surveys of monuments and rely on national condition surveys.

No service

Buy in archaeological advice when needed for significant planning or agri-environment scheme applications. This option would be expensive and is unlikely to supply as comprehensive a service as can be delivered with in-house expertise.

Activities

- Provide specialist advice and support to applicants for barn restoration and repair projects funded through agri-environment or other funding schemes.
- Fund the restoration and repair of barns in the Barns and Walls Conservation Areas

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Provide direct Authority funding for a substantial programme of barn repair and restoration, focusing on the two Barns and Walls Conservation Areas that are at risk, and seek further increases in funding through e.g. national agri-environment schemes, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and other sources. Provide specialist advice to famers, landowners and statutory agencies. Develop proposals/bids to fund adaptation of barns to enable new economic uses.

Adequate service

Continue to provide advice and assistance to support national and other local funding schemes for barn restoration, and run a small fund for repairs to barns in the two designated Conservation Areas, supplemented with money from legacies, donations and other external funding. The current annual Conservation Areas budget is insufficient for all but the smallest repair projects, and realistically has to be combined with other budgets to get any meaningful works carried out.

Limited

No direct funding for barn repair or restoration (unless fully externally-funded). Provide specialist advice only when paid for.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Help people to conserve, maintain, repair and re-use Listed Buildings and other locally-important buildings
- Carry out regular surveys of the condition of Listed Buildings
- Raise awareness of built heritage, and help local people and visitors to realise and appreciate its value and interest.

Corporate Plan objectives

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 considered 'at risk' by 2024.

Future scenarios

High priority

Take a more proactive and strategic approach to targeting Listed Buildings at risk, exploring a full range of solutions, including legal measures, to start to reduce the number at risk. Develop a more active advice and grant funding programme for traditional building owners. Be more active in applying for worthy non-designated heritage assets to be listed, and in raising public awareness of built heritage. Reinstate Buildings at Risk survey with YDNPA Volunteers.

Adequate service

Continue the current approach of providing some advice and small grants. Significant improvements would be dependent on access to external funding (e.g. NLHF) or being achieved through planning permissions/conditions. Re-instate programme of using volunteers to survey the condition of Grade 2 Listed Buildings.

Limited

Reduce funding and advice for building owners. Focus on supporting statutory functions (e.g. planning applications); agri-environment scheme applications; and chargeable services only. End the programme of regular condition surveys.

No service

Would need to buy in occasional building conservation advice for significant planning applications.

Activities

- Manage and maintain the 11 Authority car parks and associated land.

Corporate Plan objectives

None.

Future scenarios

High priority

Provide dedicated ‘grounds maintenance’ staff to keep the car parks and surrounding areas in excellent condition and regularly monitor ticket compliance. Regularly upgrade ticket machines. Carry out an annual and rolling 10-year programme of enhancements: signing, re-surfacing, and interpretation programme for each car park.

Adequate service

Carry out regular surfacing/tarmac enhancement for all car parks, rather than just tarmacking small sections as and when required. Carry out regular monitoring of ticket compliance through rangers and volunteers.

Limited

Continue to carry out only basic surface and grounds maintenance to retain compliance with Health and Safety standards. Basic ticket machine software upgrades, as required.

No service

Dispose of the car parks. Note - significant reduction in income if no service provided. Significant traffic management issues likely to arise in and around the villages where our sites are if they are not retained as car parks.

Activities

- Support farmers and landowners so that farming remains a part of the working cultural landscape of the National Park.
- Develop and enhance the cultural heritage and traditions within the National Park;
- Enhance the opportunities for both visitors and local communities to understand and enjoy the arts, folklore, music and traditions of the National Park.

Corporate Plan objectives

5. Use DCM 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 HER for the new area of the National Park by 2024.

Future scenarios

High priority

Use the collections at DCM to connect and inspire communities with the landscapes from which they came. Continue to support farmers and landowners to maintain a working cultural landscape where the cultural heritage, traditions and skills are conserved and promoted. Facilitate and fund the public to research, explore and record the historic fabric and traditions of the National Park.

Adequate service

Seek funding opportunities to run projects with cultural heritage specific projects e.g. themed oral history projects. Enable the public to research and record the historic fabric and traditions of the National Park. Continue to run the Young Archaeologists' Club programme.

Limited

Limit activities to providing advice to farmers and landowners as part of agri-environment schemes and the planning process.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Promote cycling in all its forms, including ‘Cycle the Dales’ website
- Identify and commission feasibility studies for family-friendly cycle routes
- Continue to support the development of the Garsdale-Hawes multi-user route
- Develop an Active Travel Plan for the National Park

Corporate Plan objectives

15. Promote and encourage responsible cycling, enabling the development of two ‘cycle hubs’, and working with local Highway Authorities and other partners to undertake the work necessary to develop at least one further family-friendly cycling route by 2026.

Future scenarios

High priority

Provide new resources to identify the most promising locations and undertake the legal work and negotiations necessary to create a series of ‘shovel ready’ new family-friendly cycle routes for active travel in the National Park. Develop and support bids for capital funding to implement the physical works necessary to create the routes on the ground. Continue to promote cycling through the dedicated website ‘Cycle the Dales’. Maintain the Yorkshire Dales cycleway signage and promote the touring route as a sustainable way to explore the Yorkshire Dales.

Adequate service

Identify the most promising locations for new family-friendly multi-user routes and work in partnership with other organisations (such as the County Councils, Sustrans and Cycling UK) to take forward their implementation. Continue to promote cycling through the dedicated website ‘Cycle the Dales’. Maintain the Yorkshire Dales cycleway signage and promote the route.

Limited

Continue to maintain the signage for the Yorkshire Dales cycleway (this route was developed by the YDNPA) but rely on other organisations and businesses to promote other cycling opportunities in the National Park. No development of new family-friendly routes unless funded externally.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Provide programme of permanent and temporary exhibitions and displays interpreting the wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage of the National Park
- Deliver a Museum Visitor Attraction to showcase the collection in accordance with museum accreditation including provision of access for research, family activities, projects, events and workshops
- Run a 'formal education' programme for schools, which promotes understanding of the National Park through the national curriculum, and encourages young people to learn about, explore, and conserve the Yorkshire Dales

Corporate Plan objectives

5. Use DCM 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 HER for the new area of the National Park by 2024.

Future scenarios

Priority

Increase financial investment to allow all elements of the museum accreditation (governance, new displays, exhibitions and events programme, and customer service) to be at a higher standard, with dedicated curatorial staff to allow more time to be spent on collection management.

Adequate

Continue to meet the requirements of the ACE (Arts Council England) museum accreditation, access opportunities to host collections from other museums and enable access to external funding which is specific to museums. Replace exhibitions only when damaged, or when external funding is available. Run a small number of events (funded by the 'Friends' and other external funding).

Limited Programme

Visitor opening hours would be reduced from daily opening for 11 months of the year to daily opening for 6 months and winter weekends (to bring into line with National Park Visitor Centres). Seek to reduce running costs by e.g. franchising out more of the internal space to generate income (this would incur costs to re-model).

No service

There would be a financial cost in dispersing the collection if DCM ceased to be a museum.

Activities

- Ensure compliance with, and retention of, International Dark Sky reserve status
- Provide volunteering opportunities to undertake Dark Sky readings, and citizen science
- Signpost to grants (e.g. SDF, YDMT) to encourage communities and businesses to take action to reduce light pollution

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Undertake all necessary activities to ensure compliance with, and retention of, International Dark Sky reserve status. Run Dark Sky residential stays for families who wouldn't otherwise experience a night under the stars; education activities and promotion through festivals and events to raise understanding of the importance of the Dark Skies; Volunteers undertaking Dark Sky Readings, installation of fixed monitors and Citizen Science activities. Continue to ensure appropriate lighting schemes as part of any new development. Provide advice and grants to encourage local communities and businesses to take action to reduce light pollution.

Adequate service

Continue to provide guidance to communities and business to support to action to reduce light pollution, including through the planning system. End the existing grant programme unless external funding can be secured and signpost applicants to other sources of funding. Continue to use volunteers to undertake Dark Sky Readings with a combination of fixed monitors and portable readings. Deliver some limited education activities and promote thought existing festivals and events but stop running the Dark Sky residential stays.

Limited

Volunteers undertaking Dark Sky Readings only. Ensure appropriate lighting schemes as part of any new development requiring planning permission.

No service

End the service (but would mean that Dark Skies Reserve status unlikely to be retained).

Activities

- Make modification orders to change the Definitive Map;
- Divert footpaths or bridleways, and enter into creation agreement and orders where appropriate;
- Temporary closures of rights of way (e.g. for health and safety reasons);
- Keep a public register of rights of way modification and path order applications;

Corporate Plan objectives

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'.

Future scenarios

High priority

Assist North Yorkshire, Westmorland and Furness and Lancashire County Councils by conducting Map Modification Orders to reduce those on the list of outstanding orders in the national park. Providing additional resources to be able to do this whilst continuing to deal with diversions under the Highways and Town and Country Planning Acts. Conduct creation agreements and path orders (emergency and temporary) to allow for works or failures in the network.

Adequate service

Conduct public path diversion orders the Highways and Town and Country Planning Acts. Conduct creation agreements and path orders (emergency and temporary) to allow for works or failures on the network.

Limited

Conduct public path diversion orders under the Town and Country Planning Act to allow for approved new development. Request the unitary and county councils to conduct all other path orders under the Highways Act (diversions, creations, emergency and temporary).

No service

Give all responsibilities back to the unitary authorities/county council.

Activities

- Run a ‘formal education’ outdoor learning programme, which promotes understanding of the National Park through the national curriculum, and encourages young people to learn about, explore, and conserve it.
- Run ‘Crucial Crew’ sessions to educate school children about the Countryside Code.
- Implement the objectives within the Europarc Youth Manifesto relating to schools
- Create and support a network of ‘Yorkshire Dales Ambassador Schools’.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Expand the current service to increase the number of schoolchildren we can reach to bring in more schools in the surrounding urban conurbations beyond the National Park’s school catchment area. For each additional staff member, we could reach a further 1,500 children.

Adequate service

Continue the existing formal education service – providing free programme of practical and engaging learning experiences to primary, secondary and special schools whose catchment includes part the National Park, and some outside.

Limited

Return to a more reactive and *ad hoc* approach to formal educational activities – providing occasional materials or staff visits to support national curriculum activities in local schools but without any dedicated resources to provide a co-ordinated or focused approach.

No service

End all formal educational work.

Activities

- Monitor ‘high risk’ development to ensure compliance with planning conditions;
- Take enforcement action where necessary

Corporate Plan objectives

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, 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 with the service provided.

Future scenarios

High priority

Take a more proactive approach to enforcement monitoring and compliance, with regular site visits of all development types identified as higher risk, including ensuring the discharge of conditions on those developments.

Adequate service

Continue the current largely reactive service, prioritising cases where there is significant environmental or amenity harm. Some limited monitoring of ongoing development.

Limited

Deal only with the most serious enforcement complaints.

No service

Although decisions to take enforcement action on a case by case basis are discretionary, a decision not to provide any service would be a failure to deliver the Authority’s statutory function as a Planning Authority.

Activities

- Support ‘High Nature Value’ and ‘regenerative’ farming in the National Park, through Park-wide programmes of funding and advice on national agri-environment schemes;
- Run the ‘Farming in Protected Landscapes’ programme, providing grants to farmers and landowners to carry out schemes that benefit climate, nature, people, and place, and that help farms diversify and find new income streams
- Run externally-funded projects focused on clusters of farms in , including the *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected* project, and ‘Payment by results’ trials.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

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’.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue and seek to expand the existing service: complete the FiPL programme; provide a range of support to help farmers to enter national agri-environment schemes to support nature recovery and national 30x30 targets; encourage wide-scale uptake of ‘regenerative farming’ practices, and other measures to improve farm profitability and contribute to net zero.

Adequate service

Provide more limited advice/assistance to farmers entering national schemes, and promote regenerative farming. Continue any externally funded work but stop developing new approaches and projects.

Limited

Stop all advice and support for farming other than where covered by externally-funded projects.

No service

End the service once the existing contractual commitments to externally-funded projects (FiPL, Tees-Swale) are completed.

Activities

- Raise awareness of the geodiversity of the Park
- Carry out works to protect and enhance nationally and regionally important sites.

Corporate Plan objectives

None

Future scenarios

High priority

Take a proactive approach to identifying and funding activity to conserve regionally-important sites, and pressing for action to conserve nationally-important sites that are not in good condition. Promote widespread awareness of the geodiversity of the National Park by enhancing and regularly updating the 'Dales Rocks' website.

Adequate service

As part of wider landscape-scale projects (e.g. Landscape Partnerships), seek external funding for local geodiversity conservation projects, and for further updates to the 'Dales Rocks' website.

Limited

Monitor and report on the condition of geological sites (using only national data sources). Host the 'Dales Rocks' website but no further work to update it. Only undertake additional work where fully externally-funded.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Maintain and enhance the Historic Environment Record for the National Park, in line with its, now statutory, status, and use the information to respond to a wide range of statutory consultations.
- Promote the database for use by commercial organisations, the public and students, and make the data publicly available through the 'Landscape through Time' website.
- Fund research and investigation to improve public knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment of the National Park

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Take a more proactive approach to maintaining and updating the HER. Identify gaps in current knowledge and commission research to fill those gaps, in line with the recent Historic England-sponsored, audit of the HER. Ensure that the HER is kept up-to-date, with new records added in a timely manner. Make it easier for the public to access the information via enhanced on-line access and interpretation. Promote the use of the HER for commercial purposes to generate additional income.

Adequate service

Meet the new statutory requirement to maintain the HER. Update the HER regularly with new records. Complete the enhancement of the HER for the area that was added to the NP in 2016. Fund a small number of local research projects each year.

Limited

Continue to maintain the current HER at the minimum level compatible with the new statutory requirements. No funding of research unless provided from external funding.

No service

Statutory requirement, so not an option.

Activities

- Through the Local Plan process allocate suitable sites for an appropriate range of housing;
- Work with the housing authorities, registered providers, landowners, agents and Parish Councils to facilitate delivery of more affordable housing inside the National Park
- Work with the housing authorities to facilitate specialist housing needs inside and outside the National park eg. elderly care, key workers, adult care

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Contribute funding towards rural housing enablers and work proactively to identify and push local authorities to prioritise development of appropriate rural exceptions sites for affordable housing. Seek to reduce numbers of under-occupied properties, including e.g. an article 4 direction to manage change of use to holiday letting. Work with housing authorities to implement the allocated housing sites. Keep housing evidence base up-to-date (Housing market assessment, development briefs, design guide, viability studies etc).

Adequate service

Continue to monitor housing completions and effectiveness of policy. Progress an article 4 direction to manage change of use to holiday letting. Contribute funding to housing enablers and work with them to identify rural exceptions sites. Engage with the most appropriate housing partnerships.

Limited

Reactive implementation of Local Plan housing policy only. Limited ongoing monitoring of housing supply.

No service

As above – as the statutory planning authority the Authority will still have some obligations in relation to enabling appropriate housing development.

Activities

- Identify and develop funding bids for wider landscape enhancement programmes, including e.g. NLHF Landscape Partnerships.
- Designate, review and enhance Conservation Areas
- Protect important landscape trees, and encourage planting of new ones

Corporate Plan objectives

None

Future scenarios

High priority

Develop a strategic programme of significant landscape enhancement projects and funding bids. Ensure all Conservation Area appraisals are up to date, and fund an active Conservation Area enhancement programme, starting with the three that are currently at risk. Fund (and seek further funding for) a programme to plant individual and small groups of landscape trees. Provide an excellent service for statutory tree work. Provide specialist in-house landscape advice across the Authority's work.

Adequate service

Continue to identify opportunities for funding for occasional significant landscape enhancement projects and partnerships. Continue the occasional updating of Conservation Area appraisals, and provide a small fund for enhancements and for landscape trees. Provide a good service to deal with statutory tree work.

Limited

No work on Landscape Partnerships (unless fully externally funded). No work on Conservation Areas beyond the statutory minimum. Provide the basic service necessary to deal with statutory tree work.

No service

Statutory tree work and Conservation Areas are statutory duties, so we would need to buy in as necessary.

Activities

- Advise on and guide the development of mineral working and quarries, and their end-of-life restoration;
- Monitor quarry operations.

Corporate Plan objectives

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, 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 with the service provided.

Future scenarios

High priority

Provide a specialist in-house minerals planning service. Deal with applications for new development at existing sites on a 'positive and proactive' basis, providing a high-quality and timely pre-application advice service. Carry out regular monitoring visits to ensure compliance at remaining active quarry sites.

Adequate service

Provide a more limited pre-application advice service or make significant increases in charges. Reduce time spent on negotiation with applicants. Continue monitoring visits.

Limited

Continue the current programme of limited monitoring of quarry operations. Deal with minerals planning applications as and when they arise, buying in specialist advice if needed.

No service

Planning applications will still have to be dealt with as the Authority is the Mineral Planning Authority.

Activities

- Provide face-to-face advice at National Park Visitor Centres (Aysgarth Falls, Grassington, Hawes, Malham) with National Park-specific information and interpretative displays
- Financial support for partnership centres (Reeth, Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale, Kirkby Stephen)
- Provide a range of products for sale through the NPVC's and online, which relate to the national park, including the 3 peaks range which contributes to funding the 3 Peaks Ranger post.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Increase the amount of double-staffing throughout the year when the National Park Visitor Centres are open. Increase Centre Manager hours to employ a full time Centre Manager at each centre and a full time Retail Manager to extend the retail offer at the Centres and through the online shop.

Adequate service

Increase staffing so the 4 National Park Visitor Centres are open seven days a week throughout the year. Maintain signage/orientation and easy walks. Enhance the retail offer with more time to manage and coordinate processes such as stocktakes and procedures

Limited

Continue to open National Park Visitor Centres 7 days a week from April to October, and at weekends/holidays from November to March. Re-develop and invest in facilities subject to securing external funding or investment. Consider Visitor Centre and Partnership Centre approach. Maintain current retail offer.

No service

End the funding for partnership centres. Dispose of National Park Visitor Centres.

Activities

- Maintain the sections of the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails within the National Park.
- Act as lead Authority for the management of the Pennine National Trails Partnership and administer the maintenance grant from Natural England.
- Support the implementation of the new Coast-to-Coast National Trail route through the National Park.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue to manage the National Trails (Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway) partnership, involving 14 local authorities. Administer the Natural England grant award and promote use of the Trails. Implement the Coast to Coast path designated as a National Trail. Continue to undertake the existing programme of maintenance on the national trails within the National Park.

Adequate service

Manage the National Trails partnership and undertake the existing programme of maintenance (so long as grant continues to be provided by Natural England). Otherwise, maintain the Trails at a similar level to other public rights of way across the National Park i.e. on the basis of ‘priority ‘and level of use.

Limited

Continue to manage National Trails partnership and undertake the existing programme of maintenance (so long as grant continues to be provided by Natural England). Otherwise, maintenance of routes through the National Park would be handed back to the unitary authorities.

No service

End the service – handing maintenance of the routes back to the Combined Authorities and the role of lead Authority for the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway to another Authority.

Activities

- Work with groups of farmers to develop sub-catchment natural flood management plans.
- Support the Ouse-wem flood innovation programme

Corporate Plan objectives

21. Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects

Future scenarios

High priority

Proactively target groups of farmers to develop natural flood management plans. Provide specialist advice and recommend relevant actions within the Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme and help farmers to apply for capital grants within Countryside Stewardship and Catchment Sensitive Farming for works like ‘leaky dams’. Continue to support with the OuseWem Project. Support the work of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership to block moorland drains.

Adequate service

Work with the Rivers Trusts to provide advice/assistance to farmers entering national agri-environment schemes. Continue any externally-funded work but stop developing new approaches and projects and become more reactive.

Limited

Stop all advice and support for natural flood management measures through farming, other than where covered by externally-funded projects.

No service

Only need to add text if there are any significant ramifications that wouldn’t be obvious

Activities

- Produce an updated National Park Management Plan for 2025-30
- Develop, monitor and review progress in implementing the Management Plan;
- Collate and analyse information about the condition of the National Park from existing national and local datasets, including the new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Take a more rigorous approach to identifying and setting SMART objectives, and holding other organisations to account for achieving them, including holding more regular NPMP Forums. Develop a programme of local data collection to fill gaps in national data to allow monitoring of outcomes across all of the NP's special qualities, and produce a 'live' State of the Park report through the Authority's website.

Adequate service

Continue current approach to reviewing and updating the NPMP through a local partnership (the NPMP Partnership) and with wide public consultation. Provide regular, thorough, and publicly-available updates on progress via the website. Collate information from available national datasets to help set SMART objectives where possible, and to monitor progress in achieving some key environmental outcomes.

Limited

Provide the statutory minimum of consultation (Natural England and Principal Councils only) when reviewing the Management Plan, and with 5-yearly light touch review only. Focus on the statutory purposes, with less focus on wider socio-economic objectives (which are the hardest to negotiate and monitor).

No service

Cannot entirely end the service – NPMP review every 5 years is statutory requirement – but could be done by 'buying in' support only when needed.

Activities

- Connect people from under-represented groups to the natural environment, culture and heritage of the National Park through enjoyable and informative activity days.
- Work with Dales communities and businesses to increase the knowledge and understanding of under-represented groups.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Deliver a range of projects and programmes of activity to enable people from under-represented communities to experience the health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature, cultivate a sense of care for the environment and develop a lifelong relationship which brings them back to visit, work and live in the National Park. Typical projects include: 'Reach out and Recharge' – BMW funded project to connect participants with a wide range of disability with the special qualities of the National Park.

Adequate service

Continue to develop and run a small number of projects – including bids for external funding - that can be delivered through the existing team.

Limited

Organise activities for families, and under-represented groups on an occasional and *ad hoc* basis. Only run significant outreach projects where they are fully externally funded.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Provide a comprehensive pre-application planning advice service;
- Process, negotiate and determine planning applications
- Carry out land charge searches

Corporate Plan objectives

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, 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 with the service provided.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue to operate a positive and proactive programme with a strong emphasis on customer service - providing a high-quality and timely pre-application advice service, and free informal advice through regular planning surgeries. Exceed national targets for speed of decision-making, and increase the number of smaller applications determined within 8 weeks without the need for extensions of time.

Adequate service

Provide a more limited pre-application advice service or make significant increases in charges. Spend less time on working with applicants to negotiate applications that can be approved. Meet national targets for speed of decision-making by refusing more applications. Reduce the amount of free advice and assistance (e.g. planning surgeries; advice to neighbours on planning applications).

Limited

Provide the minimum statutory service required by planning legislation. Reduce service to processing planning applications and handling appeals. No pre-application advice other than on full-cost recovery basis. No negotiation on applications.

No service

Statutory requirement so not an option.

Activities

- Maintain an up to date and compliant Local Plan for the National Park area;
- Support the Local and Combined Authorities, and others to generate appropriate socio economic development in the National Park

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Meet the national timetable for Local Plan preparation, developing an up-to-date Local Plan with bespoke policies that respond to the specific challenges facing the National Park and its communities, including e.g. the need for sites to provide affordable housing. Continue to take a positive and proactive approach to the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities. Maintain up-to-date evidence to support policy making and the work of local socio-economic partnerships.

Adequate service

Complete the current Local Plan. Maintain annual monitoring of the impact of key local plan policies as required by the national planning policy framework. Take a positive approach to the duty to cooperate but a less proactive approach to future Local Plan policy reviews.

Limited

Complete the current Local Plan but then move to a limited service. No data collection between formal Local Plan reviews. Rely on existing policy approaches. Meet the minimum ‘duty to cooperate’ with neighbouring authorities. Undertake the statutory minimum monitoring.

No service

A statutory requirement so cannot completely end this service. However, service could be bought in only for the period of Local Plan production.

Activities

- Funding to support provision of public transport services for visitors;
- Liaison with local providers and users;
- Provision of public transport and tourism information for users.

Corporate Plan objectives

None

Future scenarios

High priority

Employ a dedicated public transport officer to assess the current shortfalls in bus services for visitors to the National Park and identify solutions. Commission and support new visitor bus services to serve the National Park, as part of an integrated transport service alongside the railway. Provide and promote public transport information, and liaise with user groups and other public transport providers.

Adequate service

Gain a decent understanding of public transport policy and issues, as part of a wider suite of issues relating to climate change. Press for improvements in rail services and connections to the National Park. Provide a small number of grants each year to support those bus services that deliver the best outcomes.

Limited

Continue the current grant for Dales Bus to subsidise summer Sunday bus services only. No local liaison with users. No promotion of public transport beyond signposting to existing providers.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Improve and promote routes for families and people with limited mobility though the creation of ‘Miles without Stiles’ routes and ‘easy’ distinctively waymarked walks and ‘access for all’ publications;
- Promote opportunities and recreational activities for people to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park to benefit their health and well-being, and run activities at ‘hot spot’ sites to educate people how to visit responsibly.
- Develop a Digital Access Hub and content to enable people with disabilities or long term health conditions to better access the National Park.

Corporate Plan objectives

7. Run a cohesive programme of inspirational, participatory activities that attract at least 3,000 people each year to find out more about the Park’s special qualities

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue to develop a targeted programme of works to create and improve ‘Miles without Stiles’ routes that will benefit families, people with limited mobility and mixed ability parties. Actively promote these and other ‘easy’ walks. Improve information and welcome for people with disabilities digitally and at our visitor hubs. Commission outdoor providers to run recreational activities in the Park which are attractive to those who wouldn’t otherwise access them. Run a programme of engagement activities that are inspirational and help participants understand more about the National Park and how to visit it responsibly. Develop and deliver green social-prescribing projects.

Adequate service

Only improve routes to add to the ‘Miles without Stiles’ network as opportunities arise, or where external funding becomes available. Continue to promote routes that already exist through existing publications. Run limited engagement activities, but stop green social prescribing projects unless fully externally funded.

Limited

Continue to promote the routes that already exist but no further physical improvements to the network, other than those that are already committed through externally funded projects like Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected. Limited promotion of existing routes.

No service

End the service once existing externally-funded projects are completed.

Activities

- Meet the Authority's statutory duties under the CRoW Act, managing 'Open Access' and providing the secretariat for the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum
- Monitor and manage the use of recreational motor vehicles on sensitive green lanes
- Liaise with landowners, communities, visitors and user groups and organisers of large-scale recreational events

Corporate Plan objectives

12. Work with organisers of large-scale events to ensure they are well run, benefit local businesses, and contribute to the maintenance of the Park's natural capital, for example funding the cost of maintaining the 'Three Peaks' route.

13. Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.

Future scenarios

High priority

Provide seasonal staff on the ground to improve liaison with landowners and visitors at busy times/locations. Increase staffing to further promote National Park messages during mass-participation events. Increase monitoring of sensitive green lanes. Fund research and regularly monitor recreational use of the National Park. Provide a prescriptive service for landowners on open access restrictions – signage and information.

Adequate service

Continue to provide seasonal staff on the ground to improve liaison with landowners and visitors at busy times/locations. Monitor recreational motor vehicle compliance with TROs, and use on green lanes. Continue liaison with user groups and individuals on recreation and visitor management issues.

Limited

Monitor recreational motor vehicle compliance with TROs, and management and use on green lanes. Meet our other statutory obligations under the CRoW Act, including providing the secretariat for the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum (LAF). Continue liaison with users and individuals on recreation and visitor management issues.

No service

Not an option – basic statutory obligations under the CRoW Act would still need to be carried out.

Activities

- Maintain rights of way, including replacement of bridges and crossing points, so a wide range of people can enjoy the special qualities of the National Park
- Maintenance of the Three Peaks and other engineered routes
- Path Order applications - diversions and creation agreements

Corporate Plan objectives

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'.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue to provide an enhanced maintenance service for farmers and landowners to ensure stiles and gates are in good condition and public rights of way are waymarked and 'easy to use' by residents and visitors across the National Park. Implement the targets in the draft 5-year Maintenance Plan and take a proactive approach to securing external funding to enhance the condition of key rights of way. Maintain the surfaces of rights of way and the maintenance of bridges.

Adequate service

Focus maintenance activity on busy public rights of way. Maintenance on the remainder reduced, with only the surface maintained by the ranger service, with stiles and gates on these routes being maintained by landowners and farmers. Reduce the level of service for Diversion Orders under the Highways Act (in the interest of the public or landowner) and Town and Country Planning Act (to allow development). This would result in longer application times.

Limited

Hand some or all responsibility for rights of way maintenance back to the unitary authorities/county councils, including bridges and with rights of way work limited to 'promoted' routes only. All rights of way legal work would cease, with any work required undertaken by the county councils.

No service

End the service

Activities

- Provide grants to local businesses, organisations and communities for projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits.
- Support the Local and Combined Authorities, and others to generate appropriate socio-economic development in the National Park

Corporate Plan objectives

24. Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support at least 15 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.

Future scenarios

High priority

Significantly increase the size of the Fund to support 30-60 projects a year, including some larger and more ambitious ones to deliver environmental and socio-economic benefits in support of National park purposes. Provide comprehensive advice and assistance to applicants, including proactively promoting the fund. Identify and provide additional targeted support to particular types of project, groups or business sectors, to complement other national and local funding programmes. Be proactive in supporting the work of the local authorities to support a green economy (decarbonisation of energy supply etc), and provide services that will make the NP an attractive place to live for working age households.

Adequate service

Continue the Fund in its current form, and funding levels - supporting 15-20 projects a year. Provide a good level of advice and assistance to applicants, with some limited promotion. Support the unitary authorities with advice and evidence to support a green economy and provision of services that will make the NP an attractive place to live for working age households.

Limited

Further reduce the size of the Fund (to c£50k-100k), supporting 5-10 projects a year. Either run in a more reactive, hands-off way, or used to fund projects identified by other parts of the Authority (rather than seeking applications from the public). Leave wider-socio economic development in the NP to the unitary authorities.

No service

End the Fund. This would need to include a 12-24month period of winding down/completing all the currently approved projects.

Activities

- Manage 10 sites with toilets in car parks
- Maintain and clean public conveniences at these sites

Corporate Plan objectives

None.

Future scenarios

High priority

Each facility to have a significant level of monitoring and cleaning, on a regular, set time throughout the day. Acquire more toilets. Annual maintenance and refurbishment programme for each facility. Increase the number of ‘Changing Places’ available for people with disabilities that severely limit mobility.

Adequate service

Increase to twice-daily monitoring and cleaning regime for each existing property throughout the year. General maintenance programme and five-year refurbishment programme for each facility. Add Changing Places at sites when external funding can be secured.

Limited

Continue current summer and winter cleaning programme for each property. General basic maintenance programme and 10-year refurbishment programme for each facility. Add Changing Places at sites when full external funding can be secured.

No service

Close/dispose of all facilities. Note: the Grassington Changing Places toilet was funded through a grant, requiring the facility to remain in use and be publicly accessible for the lifetime of the asset.

Activities

- Work with Partner organisations and Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEP's) to promote tourism based on NP special qualities.
- Support businesses to share good practice, and provide opportunities for businesses to benefit from tourism based on NP special qualities
- Produce National Park visitor economy monitoring and trend data

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

High priority

Increase Tourism Officer role to 2fte to work directly with more tourism businesses to identify and deliver their training needs to help them promote regenerative tourism. Fund dedicated National Park campaigns with high quality marketing. Increase Tourism support role to 1 fte to manage database, newsletter, resources. Develop a dedicated Destination Management System (DMS) and Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) within our website.

Adequate service

Continue to focus on product development, based on the special qualities of the National Park to: provide and promote opportunities to extend the traditional visitor season (e.g. Dark Skies and Cheese festivals), and promote with dedicated web pages. Develop 'sense of place' toolkits, food toolkits and share good practice, with Dark Sky business accreditation scheme and 'Brilliant Businesses', and provide training and networking events for businesses. Promote the National Park with Visit England/ Visit Britain and with the Local Visitor Economy Partnerships. Evaluate visitor economic trends, through the STEAM Model and other research.

Limited

Only undertake tourism work by trying to influence tourism bodies. Stop providing dedicated support for tourism businesses to help them promote the special qualities of the area unless externally funded.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Contribute to Local Transport Plan development and implementation;
- Influence the design and signage of traffic management schemes and traffic flow through and within the Park by responding to consultations and traffic management strategies.

Corporate Plan objectives

None

Future scenarios

High priority

Employ a dedicated Transport Officer to monitor and assess traffic flow and management throughout the Park and identify solutions. Provide funding for traffic management schemes.

Adequate service

Gain a decent understanding of traffic flow and management throughout the Park. Provide a small number of grants each year to support communities and other local bodies to develop traffic management schemes.

Limited

Respond to consultations and traffic management strategies, where directly relevant to National Park purposes.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Diversify, promote, provide and manage volunteering opportunities with the Authority, and volunteer support for Authority programmes;
- Provide a supported volunteering programme for individuals from under-represented groups

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

Future scenarios

Priority Programme

Increase resources so as to be able to provide a full volunteer sign-posting service for organisations and volunteers across the National Park. Increase the number of supported and unsupported volunteering opportunities.

Adequate Programme

Continue to provide around 7,000 volunteer days a year. Continue to develop opportunities for short-term and supported volunteering for under-represented groups.

Limited Programme

Significantly reduce or end work with Dales Volunteers, developing volunteering opportunities and supporting local volunteer groups, other than where externally funded as part of wider projects. Stop paying expenses.

No service

End the service

Activities

- Run the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) partnership programme, providing advice on how to reduce diffuse pollution, and access to grants.
- Work with the Environment Agency to complete the surveys, feasibility studies and options appraisals to improve water quality at Semerwater.

Corporate Plan objectives

19. Work with farmers and landowners to improve the condition of the Aire, Eden, Lune, Ribble, Swale, Ure and Wharfe so that at least 70% of all rivers achieve 'good ecological status' by 2025.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue the partnership with NE, working with a minimum of 160 farmers per year to provide advice and assistance to tackle diffuse pollution from agriculture. This will include: access to capital grants for farm infrastructure such as roofing over silage/slurry pits; bespoke nutrient management planning; bespoke soil husbandry advice; and, advice on the new national Sustainable Farming Incentive. Close partnership working with Rivers Trusts, the Environment Agency and others to deliver additional benefits that CSF cannot fund, such as the Semerwater Project.

Adequate service

Only provide CSF advice to the level that is fully-funded by NE (about 80% of current levels). Work with groups such as the Dales Farmer Network and the Millennium Trust to help deliver some of their objectives for water quality. Provide ad hoc/reactive advice to other farmers in response to national agri-environment scheme applications.

Limited

Provide ad hoc/reactive advice to farmers in response to national agri-environment scheme applications.

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Through the Biodiversity Forum, produce, co-ordinate and monitor plans for nature recovery in the National Park;
- Carry out habitat surveys across the Park, and carry out and co-ordinate species monitoring and research projects;
- Run the Swinden and Dry Rigg Natural Environment Funds to support environmental enhancement projects in areas affected by quarrying.
- Run the Yorkshire Dales Raptor Forum, and support the Police and Natural England to tackle illegal persecution.

Corporate Plan objectives

16. By 2025 draw up and adopt a plan for monitoring species that are sensitive to landscape-scale changes in habitat.

17. Work with farmers, landowners and partner organisations to restore or create 500 ha of species-rich grassland habitats by March 2027.

20. Work with moorland managers and other key stakeholders to end illegal persecution of raptors.

Future scenarios

High priority

Continue to develop ambitious plans for nature recovery in the National Park, including landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'. Continue the programme of habitat condition surveys to inform advice, action and development of new wildlife conservation projects. Continue the local raptor co-ordination group. Continue to support local wildlife projects with grants and specialist advice.

Adequate service

Reduce proactive nature conservation work (other than where externally funded). Reduce the scope of wildlife survey activity and focus on a few key species/habitats. Concentrate resources on supporting nature recovery through national agri-environment schemes. Stop funding community wildlife projects.

Limited

End all surveys (other than where done by volunteers) and stop funding practical nature conservation work (other than where externally-funded). Limit biodiversity advice just to significant planning and agri-environment applications.

No service

End the service (other than the running of the quarry Natural Environment Funds) – but would need to buy in specialist advice on e.g. significant planning applications.

Activities

- Provide funding and advice for new native woodland;
- Provide funding and advice for woodland management schemes
- Promote opportunities for woodland to support viable farm businesses

Corporate Plan objectives

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's landscape by 2025.

Future scenarios

High priority

Provide additional funding, advice and support to farmers and landowners in the National Park to encourage native woodland creation and better woodland management. Take a proactive approach to securing further external funding, including public and private finance, to help increase woodland cover significantly – with the right tree in the right place to deliver the most benefit.

Adequate service

Continue current externally funded programmes and posts, and seek funding for future similar programmes. Provide advice and support to help farmers/landowners get into national grant schemes. Continue existing small programme of funding for woodland management.

Limited

Withdraw from direct delivery of new woodland or woodland management schemes. Retain a small staff resource to provide advice on statutory consultations and influence/develop local policy (Dales Woodland Forum).

No service

End the service.

Activities

- Deliver Europarc Youth Manifesto commitments through running supported volunteering activity for young people to connect them with nature and support the development of skills for Green Careers.

Corporate Plan objectives

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.

12. 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

Future scenarios

High priority

Develop new programmes to support and 'upskill' young people to connect them with the National Park and enable their future employment in the 'green economy'. For example, support for activity such as the Young Drafters on the NPMP group, development of a youth forum. Continue to run Up Skill Down Dale – offering volunteering and skills development to support employment opportunity for young people. Continue to run *Dales Activity Days* giving young people from urban areas an introduction to conservation volunteering. Run several Young Rangers groups (age 11-18) across the Park providing a practical volunteering programme for young people in or on the edge of the National Park, extending provision to young people in urban areas.

Adequate service

Continue to run the current groups/projects: Up Skill Down Dale, Dales Action Days and monthly Young Ranger Activity.

Limited

Run a monthly Young Rangers Group offering conservation based activity programme for young people aged 11–16 living in or on the edge of the National Park.

No service

End the service