YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 6**

Committee: **AUDIT AND REVIEW**

Date: **14 November 2023**

Report: **PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023/24**

Purpose of Report

1. To assess progress towards achieving the objectives in the 2023/24 Corporate Plan.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider and comment on the Authority's performance in the first half of the year, and note the two additional actions that have been added to this year's Action Plan.

Strategic Planning Framework

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

   - ***Corporate Plan objective***
     30. Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area.

Background

4. The 35 objectives contained in the Corporate Plan for 2023/24 were approved by Members at the Authority meeting in December 2022, and formed the basis for setting the budget and detailed action plan for this year.

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

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

Overall progress

7. **Appendix 1** shows progress on all the objectives. Overall:
    - 28 (80%) are either 'achieved' or 'on-course';
    - 7 (20%) may be narrowly 'missed';

8. Of the 12 objectives that relate to the Authority's six priority programmes (highlighted in bold in Appendix 1), 10 are 'on-course' or have already been 'achieved'. Notable achievements so far this year include:
    - Committed grants worth almost £1.6m to support farmers and landowners through the *Farming in Protected Landscapes* programme (1);
    - Completed installation of Sleigh Gill Bridge (7);
    - More than 4,000 people have attended participatory activities run by the Authority so far this year (8);
    - A new Nature Recovery Plan has been prepared by the Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum and adopted by the Authority (17);
    - Completed year 3 of the Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme, including restoring just over 10 ha of upland hay meadows (18);
    - Provided advice and assistance to over 250 farmers on ways to reduce farm inputs and pollution through the Catchment Sensitive Farming project (19);
    - Planning permission has been granted for 54 new dwellings (23);
    - Continuing to deal with planning applications within government target times (26);

9. There are two priority objectives that we expect to be narrowly missed. The first relates to ending illegal persecution of raptors (20). Whilst the number of successful Hen Harrier nests has increased, incidents of illegal persecution are still occurring. The second relates to the Local Plan (27). Whilst good progress has been made in developing the new policies, Members will be aware of the significant amount of work that has been generated in relation to trying to identify suitable housing sites that will generate sufficient affordable housing. Further detailed work is now being carried out by the Member Local Plan Working Group but will not be completed in time for the Plan to be published in December as originally planned.

10. Of the remaining objectives, significant achievements so far this year include:
    - Installation of permanent light meters to monitor the 'Dark Sky Reserve' (2);
    - 5 traditional barns repaired or restored (4);
    - Completed restoration of Smardale Lime Kilns – a scheduled monument that was previously 'at risk' (5);
    - Provided educational and skills-based activities for over 1,500 children (11);
    - £18,500 raised for maintaining the 3 Peaks route (13);
    - 16 local business and community projects have been funded through the Sustainable Development Fund (25);

- 15% of visitors are visiting the National Park for the first time (28);
- Customer Service Excellence accreditation has been retained (31).

Detailed progress

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

12. **Appendix 2** lists all the actions for this year that:
    a) have already been achieved; or
    b) need to be changed in light of developments so far this year (in which case, a brief explanation is provided); or,
    c) need to be added to the Plan to reflect new activity and decisions made by the Authority since the original Plan was approved in May. These are shown in red.

Conclusion

13. Considerable progress has been made in the first half of the year – with a number of significant actions completed and 80% of the objectives either achieved or on course. The overall level of investment in the National Park has also continued to grow – notably with the expansion of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

Gary Smith
Deputy Chief Executive

26 October 2023

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

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status
1. During Brexit transition, support farmers and landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements and similar initiatives, including the FiPL programme.	£1 million in FiPL grants	£1.75m committed to projects this year (a 10% 'over commitment' to allow for drop outs, partly funded by surplus from admin/advice budgets). Over £500k allocated to projects in 2024/25.	✓
2. Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and retain 'Dark Skies Reserve' status.	Retain Dark Sky Reserve status	Secured Dark Sky Reserve status in December 2020. Next Annual Report to IDA will be submitted in December for retention of Dark Sky Reserve status.	✓
3. Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage of the 'Westmorland Dales' by the end of 2023.	Complete Westmorland Dales programme	Programme extended to February 2024, all projects within the programme on track for completion by end of November, including restoration of Smardale Lime Kilns.	✓
4. 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.	10 barns restored or re-used	5 barns are being restored with FIPL funding – 2 completed so far. 1 barn restored through NE project plus 2 barns in Swaledale/Arkengarthdale restored using legacy and YDMT funds.	✓
5. Help local people to restore, repair and - where possible - bring back into use nationally-important historical sites, buildings and structures so that fewer than 4% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings are 'at risk' by 2024.	12 SM at risk 80 LB at risk	10 Scheduled Monuments and 71 Listed Buildings are currently at risk. Restoration of Smardale Lime Kilns will reduce these figures further.	✓
6. Use DCM and HER 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.	Initial HER enhancement completed	136km^2 of the extension area of the NP have been mapped using LIDAR data, resulting in c. 1,500 new records on the HER. Mapping of further 36km^2 will start in November.	✓

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

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status
7. Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2023.	90%	91% of routes were easy to use in March 2023. Ease of Use Survey for 2023 nearing completion.	✓
8. Run a cohesive programme of inspirational, participatory activities that attract at least 4,000 people each year to find out more about the National Park's special qualities.	4,000 people	4,356 people attended activities in 2023/24 which informed them about the National Park's special qualities including 'Go Wild', Water Safety, Tees-Swale, DCM and Dark Skies events	☑
9. Carry out works to improve access on appropriate public rights of way and established permissive routes so that 262km (10%) are suitable for users of all ages and abilities by 2024.	262km (10%)	A further 3km of routes have been identified as accessible in 2023/24, taking the current total to 251km (9.6%) that are suitable for users of all ages and abilities.	✓
10. 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 so increase their understanding, enjoyment, health and well-being.	5,000 people [cumulative]	The NPA has so far provided activity days to 1,047 people from under-represented groups in 2023/24 bringing the cumulative total to 4,453.	✓
11. Through educational and skills-based activities, inspire 1,500 young people from in and around the National Park to explore and enhance their environment each year.	1,500 young people	So far this year the Authority has provided activities in the National Park to 1,512 school children.	☑
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.	7,000 volunteer days	Since April over 2,000 days of volunteering have been undertaken by Dales Volunteers.	✓
13. Work with organisers of large-scale events to ensure they are well run, benefit local businesses, and contribute to the maintenance of the National Park's natural capital, including funding the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks route.	Raise £25,000 for 3 Peaks	£18,500 has been raised so far this year. Code of conduct promoted through social media, the Three Peaks notification scheme, the Three Peaks App and directly with the organisers of the largest events. me	✓
14. Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.	90% compliance with TROs	97% compliance in calendar year 2022, slightly up on previous year. 2023 figures not available yet.	✓

15. Maintain and promote the Pennine Trails and other recognised long-distance routes, and campaign for the Coast-to-Coast footpath to become a National Trail by 2025.	3 legal Orders	Implementation and management work costings 2023/24 submitted to and approved by Natural England. Discussion with landowners regarding legal orders commenced.	✓
16. Promote and encourage responsible cycling, enabling the development of two 'cycle hubs', & work with local Highway Authorities & other partners to undertake the work necessary to develop one further family-friendly cycling route by 2024.	2 cycle hubs	2 'cycle hubs' developed. Consultation completed on possible multi-user route between Hawes and Garsdale. Negotiations seeking creation agreements with landowners underway.	✓

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status
17. Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of priority habitats, and support stable or increasing populations of priority species.	Publish new Nature Recovery Plan	The draft Nature Recovery Plan was endorsed at Full Authority Meeting on 26 September, and will be published by the end of the year.	✓
18. Deliver a co-ordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through the Tees-Swale: naturally connected programme, and identify other potential landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'.	Complete year 3 of Tees-Swale programme	Year 3 of Tees-Swale programme completed. A 'Landscape Restoration Grant' bid has been submitted for the Revere Dales Woodland project.	✓
19. Work with farmers and landowners to improve the condition of the Aire, Eden, Lune, Ribble, Swale, Ure and Wharfe so that at least 90% of all rivers achieve 'good ecological status' by 2027.	67%	62% of rivers are in good ecological status. Advised and supported 269 farmers/landowners in the 2022/23 year through one-to-many events and 149 1:1 visits through the CSF partnership project.	✓
20. Work with moorland managers and other stakeholders to end illegal persecution of raptors, including independent and scientifically robust monitoring, and co-ordinated hen harrier nest and roost site protection.	Local coordination of nest and roost protection	Local group continuing. Next annual monitoring report to be published in December. Some issues with the provision of nest & roost monitoring information from NE.	≈

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

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status

21. Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Ribble, Lune, Swale, Ure and Wharfe catchments.	York Flood Innovation project underway	'Ouse Water Environmental Management' project (York) has started. Project officers and programme manager now in place. Leeds Flood Alleviation scheme continues until 2025.	✓
22. Through Grow Back Greener and other local funding programmes, support farmers and landowners to create at least a further 225 ha of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by	170 ha	Currently 80 ha of schemes in the pipeline for *Grow Back Greener* this winter (which would take cumulative total to over 170 ha). A further 550 ha in the pipeline of other local partners.	✓

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

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status
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.	85 dwellings approved	54 units had been permitted by end September. A further 60 units approved in principle but awaiting completion of a legal agreement.	✓
24. Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (18-44) including identifying measures to reduce the proportion of under-occupied properties.	Complete 5-year programme	Local Plan will include 'permanent residency' condition to prevent new housing becoming second homes/holiday lets. NYC and W&F Councils committed to introducing Council Tax Premium.	≈
25. Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 15 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.	15 new projects funded	16 projects were funded in the first half of the year, committing £73k of funding. £83k remains to commit.	☑

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

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status

26. Provide an efficient development management service, including ensuring that 65% of minor and 80% of 'other' planning applications are being determined within eight weeks and at least 80% of applicants are satisfied.	65%/80% of applications determined on time.	88% of 'minor' applications and 91% of 'other' were determined within 8 weeks or an agreed extension of time.	✓
27. Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2024, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.	Publish final draft Local Plan	Local Plan Advisory Group considering issues around shortlisted housing sites. Likely to require some further informal public consultation, which will delay adoption of final draft Plan until March 2024.	≈
28. 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.	10% first time visitors	The 2022 YDNPA Visitor survey found that 15% of visitors interviewed were visiting the National Park for the first time.	☑
29. Improve the quality, variety and marketing of the tourism 'offer' to encourage more overnight stays and more visitors in the quieter months by 2024.	5% more overnight stays	2022 showed an 11% increase in the economic value of tourism compared to the baseline (2017). Staying visitors increased by 17% from 2021 but were still only 0.3% above 2017 levels.	≈

An effective organisation, providing high quality services

Objective	Target by March 2024	Progress	Status
30. Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area.	Expenditure of £9m.	Approved budget for 2023-24 included sufficient income to support gross expenditure of £10.8m. Latest working projection is that actual expenditure will be around £12m	✓
31. Provide high quality, efficient and effective services and communications to the public and other stakeholders, and so maintain the Customer Service Excellence standard every year.	CSE standard retained	CSE assessment was carried out during the summer, and accreditation has been maintained.	☑
32. Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.	Unqualified External Audit opinion	Annual Governance Statement and Governance Report completed to schedule. National delays in the public sector audit regime mean there are delays in External Audit.	≈

33. *Ensure that we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver the Authority's work effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People*	Maintain IIP accreditation	IIP interim review due to be undertaken in Nov 2023 and accreditation is expected to be maintained. HR policy/procedure reviews being undertaken	✓
34. *Provide facilities and IT systems, including blended working, that are fit for purpose and support the effective delivery of our services, as evidenced by the external auditor's annual 'value for money' opinion and internal audit's reporting on relevant systems.*	Unqualified VfM opinion	Internal audit completed (received 'substantial assurance'). External audit for 2021/22 has been finished but is awaiting the outcome of the Pension Fund audit. A date is awaited for 2022/23 audit.	≈
35. *By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by at least 95% compared to 2005/06, and achieve annual carbon savings from woodland planting of at least 30 times our residual annual emissions.*	Emissions -76%	By March 2023 emissions had been reduced by 71% since 2005/06. Work is underway to procure a fleet of electric vehicles in 2024.	≈

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 programme**		
1.1	As part of a partnership of protected landscapes in North Yorkshire, submit a funding bid to carry out research that will independently demonstrate the value of a transition to regenerative farming	May	Achieved
2.	**Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquility, remoteness and solitude can be found, and retain Dark Skies Reserve status**		
2.1	Submit an application to ACE for funding for a project to use creativity to connect communities in East Leeds with our Dark Sky as part of Leeds 2023.	Jun	Achieved
2.3	Install 5 permanent dark sky light meters and co-ordinate volunteers to collect dark skies data	Mar	Achieved
3.	**Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage of the 'Westmorland Dales' by the end of 2023**		
3.1	Improve opportunities for cycling in the Westmorland Dales by extending the Yorkshire Dales Cycleway through the area linking Reeth to Dent, and adding a further 30km of signed route (ppp)	Jul	Achieved
3.2	Oversee the final stage of the *Digging the Past* WDLP project – delivery of final dissemination event	Jul	Achieved
3.3	Write up and publish the Gamelands WDLP project and deliver dissemination activities	Aug	Rescheduled[1]
3.4	Through a partnership approach submit the Stage 1 bid to the NLHF for the Three Counties: Lune Valley scheme with YDMT and Forest of Bowland AONB partnership	Oct	Achieved
3.5	As part of the 'distinctly Westmorland Dales' project, work with tourism businesses to help promote the area's special qualities, including developing a sense of place toolkit.	Oct	Achieved
3.6	Produce leaflets to promote a further 3 cycle routes and 2 horse riding routes and 2 walking routes (p)	Oct	Achieved
4.	**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**		
4.1	With funding from YDMT and a legacy, oversee the restoration of 2 further barns as part of the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Barn Repair project	Oct	Achieved
4.4	Grant planning permission for at least 25 high-quality barn conversions	Mar	Achieved

[1] Report will be completed by end of November. Delayed due to officer being involved in other event.

5.	**Help local people to restore, repair and - where possible - bring back into use nationally-important historical sites, buildings and structures so that less than 4% of scheduled monuments and listed buildings are 'at risk' by 2024**		
5.1	As part of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership, complete repair of the Smardale Lime Kilns (ppp)	Aug	Achieved
5.2	Oversee repair works to buildings at Old Gang mine	Sep	Achieved
5.3	Carry out the second phase of repairs to Linton clapper bridge	Nov	Postponed[2]
6.	**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**		
6.1	Write up the outcomes of the *Our Common Cause* Brant Fell Project and update the HER	Jun	Achieved
6.2	Run the 'Wild Escape' project to engage families and school children 7-11 with nature in the Dales	Jul	Achieved
6.3	Complete the enhancement of the material from the former '*Out Of Oblivion - a landscape through time*' website, and launch its replacement (p)	Oct	Rescheduled[3]
6.6	Through '*Our Upland Commons*', fund and manage the Ingleborough caving archaeology project to assess a number of cave sites and previous archaeological finds	Feb	Revised[4]
7.	**Benefit a wide variety of users by raising the standard of all public rights of way so that 90% are 'easy to use' by 2023**		
7.4	Replace Thringill Bridge, Mallerstang and repair Skellicks Bridge, Thoralby in partnership with Parish Councils	Dec	Revised[5]
8.	**Run a cohesive programme of inspirational, participatory activities that attract at least 4,000 people each year to find out more about the National Park's special qualities.**		
8.1	Through *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected*, run a farming film and photography festival in Swaledale, engaging farmers, communities and visitors with farming through the seasons	Jun	Achieved
8.2	Provide 8 'Go Wild' activities to help families find out more about the special qualities of the National Park	Sep	Achieved
8.3	As part of '*Our Uplands Commons'*, design and install panels that tell the story of Grassington's lead mining heritage	Oct	Rescheduled[6]

[2] Quotations received from contractors were significantly beyond the available budget
[3] All the new material has been prepared but launch put back to March 2024 due to delays in the work by The Archaeology Company on the website infrastructure.
[4] Some fieldwork with Ingleborough Archaeological Group has had to be delayed, so now aiming to complete fieldwork by March with assessment of the results now taking place in 2024/25.
[5] Thoralby Parish Council had identified Skellicks Bridge as a potential project but have now discovered the bridge is in private ownership and have withdrawn support for the project.
[6] Put back to March 2024 due to increase in costs and finding additional external funding to deliver.

8.4	Run year 1 of 'Creatively Connected' to engage communities and visitors with the Tees-Swale project area through artistic activity	Mar	Postponed[7]
9.	**Carry out works to improve access on appropriate public rights of way and established permissive routes so that 262 km (10%) are suitable for users of all ages and abilities by 2024**		
9.1	As part of the NLHF *Access to Eden* project produce an access audit of potential 'miles without stiles' routes in the project area, including a sensory trail; and trial a buddy walking programme from Kirby Stephen	Jul	Achieved
9.2	Produce a feasibility report on the opportunity and cost of extending Smardale access route to Kirkby Stephen	Jul	Achieved
10.	**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**		
10.1	Work with Peak District and North York Moors NPAs and Peak District Mosaic to develop and submit second stage application for 'Championing National Parks for Everyone' to increase opportunities for people from BAME backgrounds to take part in recreational activity in the National Park (p)	Jul	Achieved
10.2	Produce material providing a 'quick guide' to the National Park for new visitors	Jul	Rescheduled[8]
10.3	Work with Dalesbus to support the development of improved public transport provision from East Leeds to the National Park	Jul	Achieved
10.8	With YDMT run year 1 of the National Citizen Service funded project, *Green Routes*, connecting young people from Bradford, North Yorkshire and Blackburn with Darwen with nature in the National Park.	Mar	
11.	**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**		
11.3	As part of *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected* run year 3 of the 'Uplands for Education' project, providing education activities for school children in Northallerton, Reeth and Bedale	Mar	Achieved
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**		
12.1	Review effectiveness, efficiency and cost of each Dales Volunteer role, to provide direction as to where to focus efforts in the future to best meet National Park Management Plan objectives	Sep	Rescheduled[9]
12.4	Run one-off practical 'Dales Action Days' to attract new people to volunteering in the National Park	Mar	Achieved

[7] Grant bid successful but ongoing issue with claiming the ACE grant funding which looks like it's not resolvable. Project being re-developed with NP AONB for 24/25.
[8] In production and will be ready in November
[9] In development, one more section to review, will be ready in November

12.5	Run 'social prescribing' Young Rangers project with at least 1 secondary school, connecting young people with the health and well-being benefits of the National Park through volunteering	Mar	Achieved
12.7	Support existing apprentices in Communications and Wildlife, and recruit a new Cultural Heritage apprentice	Mar	Revised[10]
13.	**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**		
13.1	Deliver Phase 2 a further 150m of stone pitching at Brackenbottom	Dec	Achieved
14.	**Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders**		
14.1	Conduct a walk-over survey of Marsett Bottom and Cam High Road	Jul	Achieved
16.	**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 2024**		
16.1	Consult landowners to determine the actual line for a traffic-free, multi-user route (bridleway) from Hawes to Garsdale, and determine next steps	Jun	Achieved
16.2	Promote opportunities for horse-riding through leaflets and on-line content such as film (p)	Jun	Achieved
17.	**Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of priority habitats, and support stable or increasing populations of priority species**		
17.1	Prepare a set of ecological network maps for the Nature Recovery Plan and draft Local Plan	Jun	Achieved
17.2	Launch the Dry Rigg Natural Environment Fund (p)	Jul	Achieved
17.3	Publish new Nature Recovery Plan and species list	Sep	Achieved
17.6	Support the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Westmorland & Furness and North Yorkshire	Mar	Revised[11]
18.	**Deliver a co-ordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected*, and identify other potential landscape-scale 'nature recovery areas'**		
18.1	Support the restoration of 10 ha of species-rich grassland in Swaledale/Arkengarthdale.	Dec	Achieved
18.3	Work with local farmers to create a further 5 ha of new native woodland in Swaledale/Arkengarthdale	Mar	Achieved

[10] Options for taking on a Cultural Heritage apprentice/trainee/ intern currently under review – may be pushed back to 2024/25.
[11] LNRSs will take around 18 months to complete and work has only just started. By March 2024, we will have supported initial work to prepare the strategies.

18.4	Hold 8 training/demonstration events for farmers & contractors in Swaledale/Arkengarthdale	Mar	Achieved
22.	**Through Grow Back Greener and other local funding programmes, support farmers and landowners to create a further 225 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by 2025**		
22.1	As part of National Park Partnership's *Revere* programme, complete an initial study into the feasibility of creating new native woodland in the National Park using private finance	Jul	Achieved
24.	**Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (18-44), including identifying measures to reduce the proportion of under-occupied properties**		
24.1	Respond to the Government consultation on proposals for controls on short term holiday lets	May	Achieved
25.	**Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 15 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park**		
25.1	Provide at least £135,000 in grants to support new local projects that bring economic, social and environmental benefits for the National Park	Mar	Revised[12]
26.	**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**		
26.1	Review validation requirements and processes to improve the quality of planning applications and increase the proportion that are valid on receipt	Oct	Achieved
26.2	Run a training event for Parish Councils to help them to contribute effectively to the planning process	Oct	Achieved
26.3	Put in place all necessary measures to be able to implement the new national Biodiversity Net Gain requirements	Nov	Rescheduled[13]
26.9	Resolve at least 75 enforcement cases	Mar	Achieved
27.	**Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2024, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan**		
27.1	Complete consultation on allocated housing sites and development boundaries, and publish a summary	Jun	Achieved
27.2	Co-ordinate and publish the annual progress report on the 2019-24 National Park Management Plan	Jul	Achieved

[12] Slower uptake of grants than normal. Significant funding is available through FiPL – so don't intend to take additional action to promote SDF this year. Final spend likely to be around £100,000.

[13] Government has delayed introduction of BNG requirements until January 2024, and will initially only apply to 'major development'.

27.3	Publish the Annual Monitoring Report, analysing progress in implementing current Local Plan policies	Jul	Achieved
27.4	Complete investigation of all site constraints on potential housing sites	Sep	Rescheduled[14]
27.5	Investigate financial viability and infrastructure requirements of preferred allocated sites	Sep	Rescheduled[14]
27.6	Agree preferred allocated housing sites and new development boundaries	Sep	Rescheduled[14]
27.7	Prepare 'development briefs' for preferred allocated housing sites	Nov	Postponed[15]
27.8	Produce the Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impact Assessment to support the Publication Local Plan	Nov	Revised[16]
27.9	Publish the final 'publication version' of the draft Local Plan for consultation	Nov	Revised[17]
27.10	Produce the Habitat Regulations Assessment to support the Publication Local Plan	Nov	Rescheduled[16]
27.11	Agree statements of Common Ground with neighbouring Planning Authorities	Dec	Postponed[15]
27.12	Publish the draft Clapham Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation and appoint an examiner to consider the Plan and the comments.	Dec	
27.16	Hold the NPMP Annual Forum	Feb	Postponed[18]
28.	**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**		
28.1	Through food businesses and producers, run a festival based on locally distinctive cheese and other produce	Oct	Achieved
30.	**Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of our resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area**		
30.1	Produce a detailed Action Plan to help achieve the Authority's objectives in 2023/24	May	Achieved
30.2	Publish a detailed assessment of the Authority's performance in 2022/23	Jul	Achieved

[14] Final identification of housing sites is dependent on the speed of progress that we can make through the Local Plan Advisory Group (and the infrastructure consultations with partners such as Yorkshire Water and the Unitary Authorities). It is anticipated that all the detailed investigations will be completed by December. However, any changes to the assessment of the sites will need further informal public consultation prior to Members taking a final decision. So the final allocations won't be determined until March – with consequential effects on all the later actions.

[15] Cannot be completed until the final list of housing sites is confirmed.

[16] Provisional assessments will be prepared by March but cannot be finalised until we know the list of housing sites.

[17] Issues with housing sites mean that the final version of the Plan cannot be adopted until March. Consultation will then follow shortly after.

[18] Forum will be held once results of initial public consultation are known – so likely to be in April or May 2024

31.	**Provide high quality, efficient and effective services and communications to the public and other stakeholders, and so maintain the Customer Service Excellence standard every year**		
31.1	Undertake and retain the annual assessment against the CSE standard	Sep	Achieved
32.	**Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report**		
32.5	Produce the Statutory Accounts for 2022/23, and achieve an unqualified external audit opinion	Mar	Postponed[19]
33.	**Ensure that we have HR policies, procedures, terms and conditions to attract and support the right people with the right skills to deliver the work of the Authority effectively, as evidenced by accreditation under the Investors in People standard**		
33.1	Manage the implementation of the IIP action plan	Oct	Achieved
34.	**Provide facilities and IT systems that are fit for purpose and support the effective delivery of our services, as evidenced by the external auditor's annual 'value for money' opinion and internal audit's reporting on relevant systems**		
34.1	Work with departmental stakeholders to develop a structured SharePoint environment to enable staff to migrate their documents into the cloud	Jul	Rescheduled[20]
34.2	Develop costed plans for a fit for purpose Southern Ranger base	Jul	Achieved
34.3	Re-contract phone system – to include softphones to use on laptop or integrate with MS Teams, and rationalise staff mobile phones	Sep	Rescheduled[21]
34.4	Complete acquisition of plot for a potential new workshop building at Langcliffe Quarry to replace current facilities at Stonedykes Barn (p)	Sep	Rescheduled[22]

[19] Still awaiting completion of the external audit of the Statutory Accounts for 2021/22. Significant national delays and shortfall in external audit provision mean it is highly unlikely that the 2022/23 accounts will be signed off before May 2024.

[20] Underestimated the time involved and there have been some technical issues. Dedicated IT officer now leading this. To be completed by the end of March.

[21] Pre-market engagement ongoing. Options to be considered by SMT in November, with procurement completed by the end of January.

[22] Legal work taking longer than estimated and subsequent change in lead on legal work from NYC to the Authority. To be completed by the end of December.