Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 6**

31 March 2026

Yorkshire Dales Design Guide

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek authorisation for public consultation on a draft Design Guide.

Recommendation

2. That Members authorise public consultation on a draft Design Guide.

Strategic Framework

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

    - **Corporate Plan Objective 23**:
    "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….".

Background

4. The current Design Guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in 2017. The Guide was prepared in tandem with the 2015-2030 Local Plan and related solely to the pre-2016 boundary of the National Park. The Guide has proved an effective tool for residents, businesses and developers in producing planning proposals, and for officers and Members in making decisions on planning applications. The Guide is often referred to, and given significant weight, by Planning Inspectors considering appeals.

5. The production of the new Local Plan for the whole National Park prompted the need to update the Guide, to reflect new policies, the extended Park, and the National Design Guide (government guidance issued in 2021).

The Yorkshire Dales Design Guide

6. The new Design Guide is being produced by consultants PJA. It uses much of the content of the current Guide with the following key differences:

- The document applies to the whole National Park and links to policy in the new Local Plan.
- Greater emphasis on Authority priorities, including more in-depth guidance on planning for nature (including BNG), considering the landscape, Dark Skies and sustainable development (e.g. renewable energy, EV charging).
- Case studies and images of recent good design in the Park will be included.
- Helpful checklists point users to other sections they need to read.
- It is a web-based interactive document. This makes for a longer document, but it includes navigation links to relevant sections, bookmarks, and links to other relevant documents including Local Plan policy.

7. The draft is unfinished and still a working document, but Members will get an idea of the content and scope by viewing the draft on the website here:

   Full Authority Meeting - 31 March 2026 - Yorkshire Dales National Park : Yorkshire Dales National Park

8. It is intended to complete drafting the Guide and then undertake consultation with the public, local planning agents/architects, as well as Members and Authority officers. The Guide will then be finalised and reported to the Authority meeting on 30th June to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in tandem with the new Local Plan. Following adoption, the Guide will be available for the public to use and will be a material consideration in decisions made on planning applications.

Financial Implications

9. None.

Legal Implications

10. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

11. None.

Climate Change Implications

12. The Guide will encourage the take up of renewable energy technologies and EV charging through positive advice to residents, businesses and developers and give guidance on the Authority's expectations for landscape planting schemes and biodiversity enhancements.

Conclusion

13. A draft updated Design Guide has been produced to complement the new Local Plan, address Authority priorities and Government guidance on design, and provide advice on good practice in design. Members are requested to authorise public consultation on the draft Guide.

Richard Graham
Head of Development Management

Background Papers:
The Yorkshire Dales National Park Design Guide [2017]
National Design Guide [2021]
Draft Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2025-2030

BLANK PAGE