

Committee: AUDIT AND REVIEW

Date: 9 November 2021

Report: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CORPORATE PLAN 2021/22

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2021/22 Corporate Plan.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider and note the update on the Authority's performance in the first half of the year.

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**
34. Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources....

Background

4. This report sets out the progress made towards achieving the 40 **objectives** set out in the Corporate Plan for 2021/22.
5. Members will be well aware that things are not yet 'back to normal' and for a handful of objectives we have set lower targets for the current year (notably for those that involve face-to-face contact with the public).

Overall progress

6. Of the 40 objectives:
 - 32 (80%) are either 'achieved' or 'on-course';
 - 8 (20%) may be narrowly missed;
7. **Appendix 1** shows progress on all the objectives.

8. Of the 17 objectives that relate to the Authority's four priority programmes (highlighted in green in Appendix 1), 14 are 'on-course' or have already been 'achieved'. Notable achievements so far this year include:
- Launching the *Farming in Protected Landscapes* programme (1);
 - Carrying out significant repairs on two popular footpaths and 4 footbridges (7);
 - Working with Natural England on taking forward proposals for the Coast to Coast Trail (8);
 - Providing educational activities to over 1,200 school children (11);
 - Implementing a wide range of activity as part of the first full year of the *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected* programme (18);
 - Extending the national 'Payment by Results' trial on 18 farms in Wensleydale (21);
 - Developing proposals for at least another 40 ha of new native woodland, taking the total to 500 ha since 2018 (24);
 - Dealing with planning applications within government target times despite continuing very high levels of application numbers (29).
9. The three priority objectives that we expect to be narrowly missed are the same three as were reported last year: priority habitats in 'good condition' (17); stability of priority species (19); and 'woodland in active management' (23). The latter relates primarily to grant schemes run by the Forestry Commission, and may yet get back on track. However, the former two cannot now realistically be achieved – and will, in any event, be replaced by objectives from the forthcoming new 'Nature Recovery Plan' that Members agreed should be produced by March next year.
10. Of the remaining objectives, significant achievements so far this year include:
- providing 2,000 volunteer days (9);
 - granting planning permission for 91 dwellings – exceeding the target for the whole year (26);
 - visitor surveys showing that 21% are first-time visitors to the National Park (32);
 - employing another 7 apprentices, taking the total in the last 4 years to 19 (33);
 - completing extensive public consultation on key policy options for the new Local Plan (34);
 - raising a projected additional £2 million above the initial budget projection for the year (35);
 - achieving our highest ever rating on the Customer Service Excellence accreditation (36).
11. The five other objectives that may be narrowly missed relate to the HER enhancement project (3); barn restoration and re-use (6); volunteers from under-represented groups (13); Sustainable Development Fund (28) and the growth in the value of tourism (30). Of these, only the one relating to barns is likely to still be a problem in 12 months' time.

Detailed progress

12. 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 during the year to make progress on the objectives. It was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee in May.
13. **Appendix 2** lists all the actions for this year that:
 - a) have 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.
14. The Senior Management Team is currently reviewing all the actions to identify any where additional resources might now be required to ensure they are achieved this year. These will be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee in December.

Conclusion

15. The Authority's objectives for this year took into account the lingering effects of Covid-19 on a few aspects of our work – but largely represent a return to 'normal' levels of activity.
16. To some extent the year to date has been marked by the securing of two significant new streams of funding (Farming in Protected Landscapes, Grow Back Greener), the impacts of which will largely be felt in future years. In the meantime, significant progress has still been made in many areas of the Authority's (and our partners') work over the last 6 months.

Gary Smith
Deputy Chief Executive

22 October 2021

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

Objective	Target by March 2022	Progress	Status
1. <i>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, and monitor take-up.</i>	Launch 'FiPL' programme	Programme launched in June. 134 enquiries so far, 2 agreements, 9 applications and many more in the pipeline. Majority of enquiries have been contacted or visited.	✓
2. <i>Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and by 2021 obtain Dark Skies Reserve status to enhance and promote enjoyment of its night sky.</i>	Dark Sky Reserve designated	Yorkshire Dales National Park was designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve in December 2020. Programme of lighting audits for businesses now underway.	☑
3. <i>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.</i>	Start local Lidar survey of new area	Developed exhibition and visits from local schools to DCM via the NASH Story of Schools project. HER LIDAR project has been delayed until 2022/23, and is dependent on securing external funding.	≈
4. <i>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.</i>	12 SM at risk 80 LB at risk	11 Scheduled Monuments and 73 Listed Buildings are currently at risk.	✓
5. <i>Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage of the 'Ingleborough Dales' (by 2020) and the 'Westmorland Dales' (by 2023).</i>	Complete Year 3 of programme	Some delays from last year but all 21 projects have started. Excavation of the sow kiln at Pendragon Castle is complete and the 'keyhole' archaeology excavations at Little Asby are underway.	✓
6. <i>By 2022, secure significant funding to repair, restore, and, where appropriate, find adaptive new uses for traditional field barns, particularly those in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale.</i>	10 barns restored or re-used	4 barns restored through Natural England's traditional farm building pilot, and 1 through our barn repairs trial. Several more are underway. Overall objective still not secured, though.	≈

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

Objective	Target by March 2022	Progress	Status
<i>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.</i>	88%	88% were assessed easy to use in 2020. Significant repairs carried out at Brackenbottom, Horton in Ribblesdale. Bridges repaired at Starbotton, Bradley, Eskelleth, and Haw Beck.	✓
<i>8. 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 2024.</i>	Support national feasibility study	Annual maintenance programmes being delivered on the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway. Work has commenced with Natural England on taking forward the proposal for the Coast to Coast National Trail	✓
<i>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.</i>	231km (8.8%)	A further 10km of routes have been identified as accessible, taking the current total to 225km.	✓
<i>10. Provide 300 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.</i>	300 people	Activity days delivered to 170 people from under-represented groups. It is anticipated a further 250 people will attend an activity day between now and the end of March.	✓
<i>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.</i>	1,500 young people	Activities delivered in the National Park to 1,252 school children. A further 300 are booked to attend a session between now and the end of March.	✓
<i>12. 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.</i>	3,000 people	422 people have attended Go Wilds and Water Safety events in the National Park. The Dark Sky Festival will provide opportunity for at least another 2,800 people to engage in real life or virtually.	✓
<i>13. 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.</i>	1,000 days	2,000 volunteer days undertaken so far with 9% coming from under-represented groups.	≈
<i>14. 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, for example funding the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks</i>	Promote ‘3Ps’ Code of Conduct	Code of conduct promoted through social media and directly to 6 of the largest event organisers and through the event registration facility.	✓

<p>15. Promote and encourage responsible cycling by supporting world class events that showcase the National Park, enabling the development of four ‘cycle hubs’, and creating at least one further family-friendly</p>	<p>3 cycle hubs</p>	<p>2 ‘cycle hubs’ have already been developed (Reeth and Settle). Investigating possibility of family-friendly cycle route from Grassington and developing a cycle hub there.</p>	
<p>16. Maintain ‘green lanes’ and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.</p>	<p>90% compliance with TROs</p>	<p>97% compliance in calendar year 2020. Figures not available for 2021 yet but no reason to think the objective will not be achieved.</p>	

Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objective	Target by March 2022	Progress	Status
<p>17. 30% of the priority habitats outside nationally-designated wildlife sites are in good condition by 2024;</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>The 2021 Trends and Status Report shows 22% of priority habitats outside of SSSIs are in ‘good condition’ (unchanged from 2016) .</p>	
<p>18. At least one landscape-scale ‘nature recovery area’ has been created by 2021.</p>	<p>Complete year 1 of Tees-Swale programme</p>	<p>The year 1 programme for Tees Swale is being delivered. Further landscape-scale recovery areas are being developed in other areas of the YDNP.</p>	
<p>19. Work with farmers and landowners to achieve and maintain stable or increasing populations for 90% of priority species by 2026, including the UK ‘red-listed’ upland birds — for which the National Park is renowned.</p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>The 2021 Trends and Status Report shows 77% of priority species have populations that are either stable or increasing – a slight drop from 2016.</p>	
<p>20. 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.</p>	<p>62%</p>	<p>62% of rivers are in good ecological status. Through the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme advice on water and air quality and wider farm conservation measures has been provided.</p>	
<p>21. Work with farmers in Wensleydale to demonstrate the benefit of ‘high nature value’, low-input farm systems through a 5-year trial of a ‘payment by results’ approach to agri-environment funding.</p>	<p>Complete 1-year project extension</p>	<p>1-year extension well underway with Natural England and Defra. Hybrid models for PBR approach are being developed in conjunction with stakeholders.</p>	

<p>22. Work with moorland managers and other key stakeholders to end illegal persecution of raptors, including independent and scientifically robust monitoring, and co-ordinated hen harrier nest and winter</p>	<p>Local coordination of nest and roost protection</p>	<p>The local group is continuing to agree co-ordination of nest & roost monitoring led by NE. An annual report has been drafted and will be taken to the next full meeting of the group next month.</p>	
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Resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces

Objective	Target by March 2022	Progress	Status
<p>23. Work with farmers and landowners to ensure that at least 70% of all woodland is in active management by 2023, including positive management of conifer plantations to increase suitable habitat for red squirrels and black</p>	<p>68%</p>	<p>The proportion of woodland in active management at the end of March was still 64%. This may well improve during the year but is unlikely to reach 68%.</p>	
<p>24. Support landowners to create at least a further 450 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park’s landscape by 2024.</p>	<p>257 ha</p>	<p>453 ha had already been planted by March 2021. Expecting to fund the creation of at least another 44 ha, taking the total towards 500 ha.</p>	
<p>25. Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Ribble, Lune, Swale, Ure and Wharfe catchments.</p>	<p>Projects in at least 4 catchments</p>	<p>Facilitation Fund groups continuing in the Ribble & Swale catchments. Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme work is starting in Upper Aire. Lune – further NFM actions proposed at Sedbergh.</p>	

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

Objective	Target by March 2022	Progress	Status
26. Support the completion of 400 dwellings in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices by 2024.	85 dwellings approved	Permissions for 91 dwellings have been granted so far this year.	
27. Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (18-44) to help halt the decline in their numbers	Complete year 3 of programme	Third year of programme underway. Completed housing design patterns project. Development at Langcliffe Quarry well underway. Coverdale 5G trial will go live later this year.	
28. Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 20 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.	20 new projects funded	Supported 7 projects worth £27k in grants. Applications slower than usual, probably linked to availability of new FiPL grants.	

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 2022	Progress	Status
29. 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.	79% of minor and 87% of other applications were determined within 8 weeks or agreed timescale. Numbers of applications have increased significantly this year.	
30. Improve the quality, variety and marketing of the tourism 'offer' to encourage more overnight stays and more visitors in the quieter months, so that the value of tourism grows by at least 5% in real terms by 2024.	2% growth	10% growth in 2019. Still no figures for 2020 but Welcome to Yorkshire reported a 60% economic reduction. Visitor economy likely to have bounced back this year, so may still be on course.	
31. Promote the National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination, including enhancing the locations of 4 National Park Centres to create 'visitor hubs' that promote local distinctiveness and assist destination promotion.	3 visitor hubs created	Aysgarth and Grassington visitor hubs already completed. Malham Hub car park signage scheme underway.	

Objectives – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 1

32. <i>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.</i>	14% first time visitors	Initial results from snapshot visitor survey indicates that 21% of visitors in 2021 were on their first visit.	✓
33. <i>By 2023, provide at least 20 apprenticeships that focus on the skills that are essential to maintaining the National Park's special qualities.</i>	17 Apprentices	New apprentices in the Planning Technician Team (1) and the Ranger Team (5), and Heritage Team, taking the cumulative total to 19 since 2018, as well as 2 trainees with the Tees-Swale programme.	✓
34. <i>Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2023, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.</i>	Consult on a draft Local Plan	Members have agreed the housing strategy. Completed consultation on options for barns and local occupancy. Viability study underway. Gypsy and Traveller study finished (Cumbria).	✓

An effective organisation, providing high quality services

Objective	Target by March 2022	Progress	Status
35. <i>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</i>	Income to support expenditure of £8.1m.	Current income projection for 2021/22 is now about £10m, although final spend is likely to be lower than this because some externally-funded grant streams were delayed.	✓
36. <i>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.</i>	CSE standard retained	CSE accreditation maintained in 2021/2022	☑
37. <i>Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.</i>	Unqualified External Audit opinion	Annual Governance Report to be presented at A&R Committee in November 2021; external audit still underway, but an unqualified audit opinion expected.	✓
38. <i>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</i>	Maintain IIP accreditation	IIP full re-accreditation currently being assessed. Outcome and results due November 2021	✓

Objectives – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 1

<p>39. <i>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.</i></p>	<p>Unqualified VfM opinion</p>	<p>Move to MS Teams underway, and equipment to enable blended working being distributed. Dispersed working tested to its fullest. Value for money opinion will be part of External Audit report, expected Nov.</p>	
<p>40. <i>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.</i></p>	<p>-70%</p>	<p>71% reduction since 2005. Some of the reduction seen in 2020/21 will be temporary (linked to reductions in travel during lockdowns). Planning for further reductions underway.</p>	

 achieved
  on course
  near miss
  not achieved

1	During Brexit transition, support farmers and landowners to continue to deliver a range of public benefits through national agri-environment scheme agreements and other similar initiatives, and monitor take-up.		
1.1	Work with 14 farms in the Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale to complete farm carbon audits and action plans, and publish the overall findings.	Jun	Rescheduled ¹
1.2	Launch the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' scheme	Jul	Achieved
1.3	Commission a set of natural capital accounts for the Northern Upland Chain LNP to help identify the costed public benefits of sustainable land management in the 2 National Parks and 3 AONBs (p).	Sep	Achieved
1.4	In partnership with the Farmer Network, run the 2021 Yorkshire Dales farm and estate open day programme.	Oct	Revised ²
1.7	Through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme provide at least £300,000 to local farm businesses for projects that support climate, nature, people and place	Mar	
2	Maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and by 2021 obtain Dark Skies Reserve status to enhance and promote enjoyment of its night sky.		
2.1	Provide guidance to businesses and non-residential property owners on improving lighting that benefits the climate and is dark skies friendly	Sep	Achieved
3	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.		
3.1	Work with the NASH Story of Schools project officer to develop a programme of visits from local schools and an exhibition	Oct	Achieved
3.2	Run a 'Dales Archaeology day' to promote understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park	Oct	Rescheduled ³
3.3	Complete a history of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	Oct	Rescheduled ⁴

¹ Work is largely complete and a draft report has been provided. Final report now due to be published in November.

² Ongoing issues with Covid limited opportunities for on-farm access. A promotional video is still being produced this year, and the first full open day programme will now run from Spring 2022.

³ Rescheduled to December due to staff vacancies.

⁴ Draft written. Illustrations being prepared. Will be completed by January 2022.

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.		
4.1	Agree detailed proposals for repair and stabilisation work at Myers Garth bridge, Bishopdale	Oct	Achieved
4.2	Tender and appoint contractors to undertake conservation works at Smardale Kilns (p)	Nov	Rescheduled ⁵
4.4	Prioritise works/find funding for Lammerside Castle	Dec	Postponed ⁶
5	Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage, including the ‘Westmorland Dales’ Landscape Partnership by 2023.		
5.1	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. (pp)	Dec	Rescheduled ⁷
6	By 2022 secure significant funding to repair, restore, and, where appropriate, find adaptive new uses for traditional field barns, particularly those in Swaledale, Arkengarthdale and Littondale.		
6.1	Run a trial local barn repair scheme for the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Conservation Area	Jul	Rescheduled ⁸
6.3	Work up 3 barn projects through the Westmorland Dales programme	Mar	Achieved
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.		
7.1	Carry out engineering works to 130m of public rights of way on the riverside footpath at Kirkby Lonsdale.	Dec	Achieved
7.5	In conjunction with Natural England complete the final phase of the Ingleborough Access Project including the further flagging and surfacing of a section of Sulber Nick footpath	Mar	Achieved
8	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 2024.		
8.1	Identify works required along the ‘Coast to Coast’ to meet National Trail Standards	Dec	Achieved
8.5	Support Natural England to complete a feasibility and added value scoping study of the Coast-to-Coast route	Mar	

⁵ Delayed by structural survey of the viaduct (access route to the kilns) and by the vacancy in the Historical Environment Team. This is now a priority and contractors will be appointed by March.

⁶ Potentially a very expensive project. HE funding has shifted into town centres. Reluctant to cancel this project. Some propping may be needed next year.

⁷ Detailed signing schedule produced, and tender documents now being completed by Cumbria County Council, with a completion date of March 2022.

⁸ July was the start date for the trial. Two barns are being repaired this year. Both will be completed by December.

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.		
10	Provide 300 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.		
10.1	Work with Peak District NPA and DEFRA to develop an application to the Green Recovery Fund to increase opportunities for people from BAME backgrounds to take part in recreational activity in the National Park	Jun	Revised ⁹
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.		
11.4	Deliver Countryside Code messaging to primary age children through the 'Crucial Crew' programme.	Mar	Achieved
12	Run a cohesive programme of inspirational, participatory activities that attract at least 3,000 people each year to find out more about the National Park's special qualities.		
12.1	Deliver a programme of 'Go Wild' activities for families visiting the National Park	Sep	Achieved
12.2	As part of the Tees-Swale programme, deliver 6 community events to engage people with the natural, cultural and built heritage of Swaledale	Sep	Rescheduled ¹⁰
13	Give people from all backgrounds an opportunity to enjoy and contribute to the National Park by providing at least 1,000 volunteer days per year, with 15% coming from under-represented groups.		
13.5	Roll out the <i>UK Wildwatch</i> programme to provide opportunities for a greater number and diversity of people to engage with, learn about and record wildlife	Mar	Achieved
14	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.		
14.1	Revise and update the Three Peaks App	Jul	Rescheduled ¹¹
15	Promote and encourage responsible cycling by supporting world class events that showcase the National Park, enabling the development of four 'cycle hubs', and creating at least one further family-friendly cycling route by 2023.		

⁹ This will now be an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and is due to be submitted in December.

¹⁰ Covid has made this delivery difficult. Plan is to link events with Dark Sky Festival in Feb 2022.

¹¹ More work than originally planned. Additional budget added to redevelop the notification scheme (14.2). Work to be completed by end of December.

Actions – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 2

15.1	Work with Sustrans to undertake a detailed assessment for a multi-user route as an alternative to part of the A65 between Kirkby Lonsdale and Ingleton	Dec	Rescheduled ¹²
16	Maintain ‘green lanes’ and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.		
16.1	Replace information on 20 access boards for the access land at Bolton Abbey Estate (p)	Oct	Rescheduled ¹³
17	Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of priority habitats so that 30% of the priority habitats outside nationally-designated wildlife sites are in good condition by 2024;		
17.1	Conclude new Service Level Agreements with the three local biological records centres (p)	May	Achieved
17.2	Publish the 2021 wildlife ‘Trends and Status’ report	Jul	Rescheduled ¹⁴
17.3	Support the establishment of a local provenance plant nursery to provide key flora for local habitat enhancement projects	Jul	Achieved
17.4	Coordinate a repeat survey of the condition of important habitats in lower Wharfedale and Littondale	Sep	Achieved
18	Support farmers and landowners to restore and manage landscape-scale mosaics of priority habitats so that at least one landscape-scale ‘nature recovery area’ has been created by 2021		
18.3	Through <i>Tees-Swale: naturally connected</i> , work with farmers to create 40 ha of native woodland in Swaledale	Mar	Postponed ¹⁵
19	Work with farmers and landowners to achieve and maintain stable or increasing populations for 90% of priority species by 2026, including the UK ‘red-listed’ upland birds — Black Grouse; Curlew; Hen Harrier; Lapwing; Merlin; Skylark; and Yellow Wagtail — for which the National Park is renowned, and those of international importance.		
19.1	With Game Conservation and Wildlife Trust coordinate and help carry out a local Black grouse survey	Aug	Achieved
19.2	Through the Northern Upland Chain LNP produce a ‘prospectus for nature recovery’ setting out high-level ambitions for the area.	Sep	Achieved

¹² Sustrans said in April 2021 they were setting up a steering group to oversee this work. However, the steering group has not yet met, so rescheduled to 2022.

¹³ Slightly delayed due to revision of board content, will be delivered by year end.

¹⁴ Delayed by pressure of other work. A draft of the report will be circulated by the end of October and the final version published by December.

¹⁵ All preparatory work and grant funding secured but then landowner requested a switch to the new England Woodland Creation Offer scheme. New grant application on hold pending application for planning permission for new access tracks so not likely to begin planting until Autumn 2023.

20	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.		
21	Work with farmers in Wensleydale to demonstrate the benefit of ‘high nature value’, low-input farm systems through a 5-year trial of a ‘payment by results’ approach to agri-environment funding.		
22	Work with moorland managers and other key stakeholders to devise and implement a local approach to end illegal persecution of raptors, including independent and scientifically robust monitoring, and co-ordinated Hen Harrier nest and winter roost site protection.		
22.1	Continue to monitor Peregrine breeding at quarry sites.	Aug	Achieved
22.2	Lead the work of the NPMP Prevention of Raptor Persecution Local action group, including preparing an annual report for 2020 and agreeing a communications strategy.	Sep	Rescheduled ¹⁶
23	Work with farmers and landowners to ensure that at least 70% of all woodland is in active management by 2023, including positive management of conifer plantations to increase suitable habitat for red squirrels and black grouse.		
24	Support landowners to create at least a further 450 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park’s landscape by 2024, with priority given to projects that strengthen habitat networks, increase carbon storage and help to reduce flooding.		
24.1	Using the Woodland Opportunity Mapping publicise the opportunities to create multi-purpose new woodlands.	Jun	Rescheduled ¹⁷
24.2	As part of the White Rose Forest, secure funding for a new post to identify and develop schemes to create new woodland in the parts of the National Park within Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse catchment.	Aug	Achieved
24.3	With support from the Woodland Trust, organise and launch a 4-year programme of support for new native woodland across the National Park	Sep	Rescheduled ¹⁸
24.4	Create at least 70ha of new native woodland supported by Forestry Commission, YDNPA, YDMT and others.	Mar	Revised ¹⁹
24.5	Create at least 90ha of new native woodland supported by the Woodland Trust.	Mar	Revised ²⁰

¹⁶ Annual report due to be published by the end of November

¹⁷ Mapping available on the website but publicity/promotion delayed to coordinate with launch of new Woodland Trust and White Rose Forest funding programmes (see 24.3)

¹⁸ Delays in receiving final contract agreement from the Woodland Trust but 2 new officers now recruited to start by end of November. Expect to publicly launch the scheme in February/March.

¹⁹ Over 90 potential schemes in the pipeline (including those being led by other organisations) but many of these won’t happen until 2022/23 because of need for surveys and time taken to complete NE/FC approval processes. Figure for this year is likely to be 40 ha.

²⁰ Delays in receiving final contract agreement from the Woodland Trust. Insufficient time now to secure 90 ha this year. Target revised down to 20 ha and the shortfall will be made up in future years.

24.8	As part of the White Rose Forest, identify at least 25 ha of potential new woodland sites in the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse catchment	Mar	
25	Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Ribble; Lune; Swale, Ure, and Wharfe catchments.		
25.1	Work with York City Council and NYCC to secure full financial approval from Defra’s Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience fund for a programme of NFM measures for the York/SUNO catchment.	Aug	Rescheduled ²¹
26	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.		
26.1	Work with Housing Associations, local housing authorities and others to identify and support appropriate proposals for around 85 new dwellings	Mar	Achieved
27	Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households (18-44) to help halt the decline in their numbers.		
27.1	Through ‘Great Place: Lakes and Dales’, develop a programme of training and advice for local authorities to promote/market the National Park to younger people as a place to live and work	Dec	Postponed ²²
28	Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources, to support 20 new local projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.		
28.1	Provide Sustainable Development Fund grants to at least 20 new local projects	Mar	Revised ²³
29	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.		
29.1	Put in place appropriate arrangements to run the Development Management service as Covid restrictions are lifted (e.g. planning surgeries, planning committee etc).	May	Achieved

²¹ Incorrect date. August is the *start* of the development phase (not the end). The timetable was always that the funding would be secured/approved in March 2022.

²² Now being taken forward through an application to the Community Renewal Fund tourism application led by RDC will be March 2022, if funding successful.

²³ Demand has been very low so far this year. Given other priorities (like the Framing in Protected Landscapes programme) it is proposed that the SDF budget be reduced for this year and we aim for 10 projects to be funded.

Actions – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 2

29.2	Activate the remaining elements of the Agile planning software system	Jun	Rescheduled ²⁴
29.3	Run an annual planning training event with Parish Councils	Jul	Achieved
29.4	Analyse the impact of new planning software on the operation of the Development Management service (p)	Nov	Rescheduled ²⁴
30	Improve the quality, variety and marketing of the tourism ‘offer’ to encourage more overnight stays and more visitors in the quieter months, so that the value of tourism grows by at least 5% in real terms by 2024.		
30.1	Promote the opportunities for farmers to develop pop-up campsites using new permitted development rights	Jun	Achieved
31	Promote the Yorkshire Dales National Park as a leading sustainable tourism destination, including enhancing the locations of 4 National Park Centres to create ‘visitor hubs’ that promote local distinctiveness and assist destination promotion for local activities, accommodation, food and itineraries.		
31.1	Enhance the signage around Malham National Park Centre to create a clear ‘visitor hub’	Jul	Rescheduled ²⁵
31.2	Produce free orientation maps for first time visitors at Grassington, Aysgarth, Malham, Reeth and Sedbergh	Jul	Achieved
31.3	Use Meet and Greet volunteers to enhance the visitor welcome at Grassington, Aysgarth Falls, and Malham visitor centres	Oct	Achieved
32	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.		
32.1	Deliver the legacy of the Moors and Dales Destination Management project, including experimenting with a virtual food-based festival & signpost to business to provide opportunities for online sales.	Oct	Achieved
32.2	Survey new visitors to Malham, Aysgarth and Grassington to better understand their motivations for visiting, their experience and how they find out information.	Oct	Achieved
33	By 2023 provide at least 20 apprenticeships that focus on the skills that are essential to maintaining the National Park’s special qualities.		
33.1	Recruit and support 2 trainees through the <i>Tees-Swale: naturally connected</i> programme	Apr	Achieved
33.2	Support existing apprentices in Wildlife, Heritage and Communications, and recruit a new Planning Technician apprentice (p)	Jul	Achieved

²⁴ Dependent on ongoing Authority-wide roll-out of MS365 so not likely to be completed until February.

²⁵ Works to the signage are underway but won’t now be completed until March.

Actions – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 2

33.3	Recruit 4 new Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership apprentices	Sep	Achieved
34	Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2023, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.		
34.1	Co-ordinate and publish the NPMP Steering Group's third annual progress report on the 2019-24 NPMP	Jun	Achieved
34.2	Carry out a 'major project review' to identify lessons from the implementation of the current policy for traditional farm buildings (L2)	Jul	Rescheduled ²⁶
34.3	Publish the Annual Monitoring Report, analysing progress in implementing current Local Plan policies.	Jul	Rescheduled ²⁷
34.4	Complete consultation on options for the new Local Plan (change of use, local occupancy, housing viability)	Oct	Achieved
34.5	Complete the housing viability and Gypsy and Traveller studies	Oct	Achieved
34.6	Hold the NPMP Annual Forum	Nov	Rescheduled ²⁸
34.9	Prepare a first full consultation draft for the new Local Plan	Mar	Revised ²⁹
35	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.		
35.1	Produce a detailed Action Plan to help achieve the Authority's objectives in 2021/22	May	Achieved
35.2	Publish a detailed assessment of the Authority's performance in 2020/21	Jul	Achieved
35.3	Carry out a fundamental review of the Authority's priorities	Sep	Achieved
36	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.		
36.1	Undertake a full reassessment against the <i>Customer Service Excellence</i> standard	Jun	Achieved
36.2	Begin the roll-out of 'blended working' arrangements, ensuring that the services provided by the Authority are enhanced or, at worst, unaffected by these changes	Jul	Achieved

²⁶ Will be reported to the November meeting of the Audit and Review Committee

²⁷ Delayed by work on the Local Plan. Will now be published by December.

²⁸ Put back to February due to ongoing changes with Covid and decision to hold via VC.

²⁹ Not necessary to consult on a full draft at this stage. Instead, the intention is to consult on a set of 'preferred options' based on the results of the extensive public consultation and studies to date.

Actions – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 2

36.3	Create and launch a new Yorkshire Dales mobile app	Aug	Rescheduled ³⁰
36.4	Review and update the Authority's social media strategy	Sep	Rescheduled ³¹
36.5	Re-launch the Parish Forums in an appropriate format	Oct	Achieved
37	Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.		
37.1	Review the Data Protection Policy	May	Achieved
37.2	Produce the Statutory Accounts for 2020/21, and achieve an unqualified external audit opinion	Sep	Rescheduled ³²
37.4	Produce an Annual Governance Report to include a review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance	Nov	Achieved
38	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.		
38.1	Produce a new 5-year People Strategy to make sure that we have the skills, experience and knowledge to deliver high quality and efficient services, including through blended working (p)	May	Achieved
38.2	Organise corporate training for staff, including 'Managing Remotely' and 'Effective use of videoconferencing'	Sep	Rescheduled ³³
39	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.		
39.1	Set a timetable and start to roll out IT solutions for future blended working plans	Jun	Achieved
39.2	Upgrade all Windows 2008 Servers (p)	Jun	Achieved
39.3	Undertake flood protection measures at the Dales Countryside Museum	Jul	Rescheduled ³⁴

³⁰ App created, final launch pending approval processes at Apple

³¹ Review completed, final sign-off by Members at December NPA meeting

³² The annual audit has been delayed due to auditor sickness, and delays in the Pension assurance work from the Pension auditors. The final accounts will be published as soon as audit is complete, and the accounts are signed off, providing the accounts are unqualified.

³³ Completion date put back to December due to the ongoing roll-out of MS Teams

³⁴ Quite a long manufacturing delay but the contractor has now been appointed, and scheduled works should be completed in December.

Actions – Progress for 2021/22

Appendix 2

39.4	Implement security software for Authority equipment , focusing on support for the move to blended working	Aug	Rescheduled ³⁵
39.5	Procure and install a suitable replacement contract for videoconferencing	Sep	Achieved
39.6	Undertake structural repairs to the roof at Yoredale	Sep	Achieved
39.7	Seek funding from the Government's <i>Changing Places</i> initiative, with a view to installing a facility at an appropriate visitor centre site	Sep	Achieved
39.13	Improve workshop facilities and staff parking at Craven Lime Works or Stonedykes (ppp)	Mar	Revised ³⁶
40	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our operations by at least 95% by 2030.		
40.1	Replace the ground source heat pump at Yoredale	Sep	Cancelled ³⁷

³⁵ Once all the Authority machines have been migrated onto the Microsoft 365 platform, the next major project for IT is to roll out a security package which will allow remote management of all the mobile computers. All machines which have been distributed are secure.

³⁶ Currently in discussion with Craven District Council, owners of the Langcliffe Quarry site. It is intended to bring a report to Members in February to determine whether to relocate from the Stonedykes ranger base to new premises at Langcliffe Quarry or not.

³⁷ Investigations revealed that major ground works would be needed to sink more ground rods into the car park as the current system is not fit for purpose; the pump will be kept until it is at end of life and will then be replaced with an air source heat pump.