

Committee: AUDIT AND REVIEW

Date: 8 November 2022

Report: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE CORPORATE PLAN 2022/23

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To assess progress towards achieving the objectives in the 2022/23 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. Setting meaningful objectives is a critical part of the Authority's corporate management. The 39 objectives contained in the Corporate Plan for 2022/23 were approved by Members at the Authority meeting in December 2021, and formed the basis for setting the subsequent budget 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 guide the assessment of progress.

### **Overall progress**

7. **Appendix 1** shows progress on all the objectives. Overall:

- 34 (87%) are either 'achieved' or 'on-course';
  - 3 (8%) may be narrowly missed;
  - 2 (5%) will not be achieved.
8. Of the 13 objectives that relate to the Authority's six priorities (highlighted in bold in Appendix 1), 9 are 'on-course' or have already been 'achieved'. Notable achievements so far this year include:
- Agreeing grants worth over £870,000 to support farmers and landowners through the *Farming in Protected Landscapes* programme (1);
  - 89% of rights of way are in good condition. Works carried out this year include a new boardwalk constructed at Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough; and footbridge repairs at Linton Falls (7);
  - Almost 2,000 people have attended Authority-run activities (8);
  - The Catchment Sensitive Farming programme has been extended to cover the whole of the National Park, with over 100 farms visited so far this year (20);
  - Continuing to dealing with planning applications within government target times (28).
9. There are three priority objectives that we expect to be narrowly missed. Two of these priority habitats (17) and, priority species (19) are longstanding issues. As Members are aware, an initial draft of a new Nature Recovery Plan was agreed in June, and will be used to set new objectives for 2023 onwards. The third relates to the Local Plan (29). Whilst lots of good progress has been made on developing new policies, the sheer volume of work required to assess and map all the potential allocated sites, and to create or revise development boundaries for 100 settlements has delayed the intended start of the consultation
10. Of the remaining objectives, significant achievements so far this year include:
- Educational and skills based activities delivered to almost 2,400 children (11);
  - Income for maintaining the 3 Peaks route is already at £28,000 (13);
  - Coast-to-Coast Path officially designated as a National Trail (15);
  - A further 3 apprentices and 2 trainees have been taken on, taking the cumulative total to 26 over the last 5 years (30);
  - Customer Service Excellence accreditation has been retained (35).

### **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. The Authority's starting budget for 2022-23 was 30% higher than last year – reflecting a number of significant externally funded programmes – and has grown since. Overall, good progress is being made in delivering this greatly-increased programme of work, and the majority of the Authority's objectives are on course to be achieved.

Gary Smith  
Deputy Chief Executive

20 October 2022

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

Objective	Target by March 2023	Progress	Status
1. <b><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, including the FiPL programme.</i></b>	£1.3 million in FiPL grants	Grants worth over £870,000 have been approved for projects to be completed this year.	✓
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	New annual reporting requirements to be submitted to IDA by 31 December 2022 for retention of Dark Sky Reserve status. Obtaining light meter readings problematic due to weather and volunteer time.	☑
3. <i>Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage of the ‘Westmorland Dales’ (by 2023).</i>	Complete Year 4 of programme	22 Programmes (19 Green,3 Amber). Application submitted to NLHF to extend the programme by 6 months to Oct 2023. Test Pits and Gamelands undergrounding projects completed	✓
4. <i>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.</i>	30 barns restored or re-used	2 barns restored so far this year through NE project, and expecting 4 more through various schemes. At least 30 barn conversions also likely to be completed.	✓
5. <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	10 Scheduled Monuments (3.4%) and 74 Listed Buildings (3.5%) are currently at risk.	✓
6. <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>	Lidar surveys underway	First phase of HER LIDAR survey project now underway with funding from Historic England.	✓



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

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

Objective	Target by March 2023	Progress	Status
<b>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.</b>	89%	90% of routes were easy to use in March 2022. Surveys currently being carried out (May to Nov). Boardwalk constructed at Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough. Bridge repaired at Linton Falls.	✓
<b>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.</b>	4,000 people	1,918 people attended events which informed them about the National Park's special qualities including 'Go Wild', Water Safety, and TeesSwale.	✓
<b>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.</b>	247km (9.4%)	A further 8km of routes have been identified as accessible, taking the current total to 239km (9.1%).	✓
<b>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.</b>	3,000 people [cumulative]	849 so far this year (cumulative total = 3,976)	☑
<b>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.</b>	1,500 young people	The Authority has delivered activities in the National Park for 2,397 school children.	☑
<b>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.</b>	7,000 days	2,407 volunteer days were provided with 26% of those days from participants coming from under-represented groups.	✓
<b>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, for example funding the cost of maintaining the Three Peaks</b>	Raise £25,000 for 3 Peaks	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. Current income £28k.	✓



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

## Objectives – Progress for 2022/23

## Appendix 1

14. <i>Maintain ‘green lanes’ and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.</i>	90% compliance with TROs	94% compliance in calendar year 2021. Figures for 2022 won't be available until early in 2023.	✓
15. <i>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>	C2C ‘added value’ report completed	Coast to Coast Path designated as National Trail. Implementation and management work costings submitted to Natural England.	✓
16. <i>Promote and encourage responsible cycling by supporting world class events that showcase the National Park, enabling the development of two ‘cycle hubs’, and creating at least one further family-friendly cycling route by 2024.</i>	2 cycle hubs	2 ‘cycle hubs’ have already been developed (Reeth and Settle). Consultation completed on possible multi-user route between Hawes and Garsdale.	✓

## Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England

Objective	Target by March 2023	Progress	Status
<b>17. 30% of the priority habitats outside nationally-designated wildlife sites are in good condition by 2024;</b>	24%	The 2021 Trends and Status Report reported that 19% of priority habitats outside of SSSIs were in ‘good condition’ (a decrease from 22% in 2016).	≈
<b>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’.</b>	Complete year 2 of Tees-Swale programme	Year 2 of Tees-Swale programme completed. 2 other ‘nature recovery’ areas now being developed by local partners.	✓
<b>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.</b>	82%	The 2021 Trends and Status Report showed 76% of priority species have populations that are either stable or increasing (a drop from 81% in 2016).	≈
<b>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.</b>	62%	62% of rivers are in good ecological status. Through the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme, we have visited 109 farms so far this year (65 in Yorkshire and 44 in Cumbria/Lancs).	✓



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

<b>21. 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 winter roost site protection.</b>	Local coordination of nest and roost protection	Local group continuing to agree co-ordination of nest & roost monitoring led by NE, and work jointly on an annual report and an accompanying press release.	✓
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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 2023	Progress	Status
<b>22. Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Ribble, Lune, Swale, Ure and Wharfe catchments.</b>	Projects in at least 4 catchments	Facilitation Fund groups continuing in 3 catchments. Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme underway in the Upper Aire.	✓
23. 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.	321 ha	The total created within the National Park since the target was set is now almost 650 ha. A further 80 ha is likely to be funded this year by the Authority, with a further 250 ha by partners.	☑
24. Work with farmers and landowners to ensure that at least 70% of all woodland is in active management by 2024, including positive management of conifer plantations to increase suitable habitat for red squirrels and black grouse.	67%	The proportion of woodland in active management at the end of March 2022 was 60% (down from 64% the previous year).	X



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

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

Objective	Target by March 2023	Progress	Status
<b>25. 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.</b>	85 dwellings approved	39 dwellings have been granted permission. A further 14 dwellings have been approved subject to legal agreement - bringing the total number of dwellings awaiting a legal agreement to 45.	✓
<b>26. 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</b>	Complete year 4 of programme	First phase of business development at Langcliffe Quarry has been completed. Preferred options for the Local Plan included policies designed to support younger, working age households.	✓
<b>27. 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.</b>	20 new projects funded	10 projects worth £54k in grants and equating to nearly £700k in total project values have been approved in the first half of the year.	✓

**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 2023	Progress	Status
<b>28. 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.</b>	65%/80% of applications determined on time.	83% of ‘minor’ applications and 87% of ‘other’ were determined within 8 weeks or an agreed extension of time.	✓
<b>29. 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.</b>	Full draft Local Plan prepared	‘Preferred options’ consultation was completed in August. Consultation on housing sites will start before the end of the year.	≈



achieved



on course



near miss







not achieved






## Objectives – Progress for 2022/23

## Appendix 1

30. <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	3 new apprentices (Comms, Ranger and Wildlife) and two new trainees (Tees-Swale) recruited this year. This takes the cumulative total to 21 apprentices and 5 trainees over 5 years	
31. <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	Cheese & Dark Skies festivals developed for 2022. Results of 2022 Visitor survey to report on 5 yearly changes to new visitors expected in October.	
32. <i>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.</i>	3% growth	Following the 46% reduction in the value of tourism in 2020, the economy bounced back strongly in 2021. However, it is still down (-13%) against the 2017 baseline.	
33. <i>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.</i>	4 visitor hubs created	Welcome boards, maps and signage, Malham & Grassington. Hawes welcome map orientation board complete Aysgarth boards and information complete. Remaining signage will be complete by March 2023.	

## An effective organisation, providing high quality services

Objective	Target by March 2023	Progress	Status
34. <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 £8.5m.	Generated external income to support gross expenditure of 4.7m to end of August. Current forecast by end of the year is over £11m.	
35. <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 assessment was carried out during the summer, and accreditation has been maintained.	
36. <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 Statement and Governance Report completed to schedule. External audit date still to be set.	



achieved



on course






near miss



not achieved

## Objectives – Progress for 2022/23

## Appendix 1

<p>37. <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></p>	<p>Maintain IIP accreditation</p>	<p>IIP interim review due Oct/Nov 2022. HR Policy reviews being undertaken</p>	
<p>38. <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>Awaiting a date to commence the external audit, it is still hoped to achieve an unqualified audit opinion. Internal audit booked in for autumn.</p>	
<p>39. <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>73% reduction</p>	<p>A 74% reduction was achieved in 2021/22, so ahead of target. The biggest change to be made this year will be a plan to manage down volunteer mileage.</p>	



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

<b>1</b>	<b>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 Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.</b>		
1.2	With the Dales Farmer Network, launch and support the farm and estate open day programme for 2022.	Dec	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>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.</b>		
2.5	Investigate what is required to install permanent dark sky reading apparatus	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Deliver co-ordinated programmes of activity that enhance the distinctive landscape, geology and cultural heritage of the 'Westmorland Dales' (by 2023).</b>		
3.1	Complete the project 'A Way Through (from Roman Roads to M6)'	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>1</sup>
3.2	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)	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>2</sup>
3.3	With YDMT and partners, submit expression of interest to National Heritage Lottery Fund for the <i>Three Counties - Lune Valley Scheme</i>	Sep	<b>Achieved</b>
3.5	Produce leaflets to promote a further 4 cycle routes, 2 horse riding routes and 1 walking route	Mar	Revised <sup>3</sup>
3.6	Work with tourism businesses to deliver the 'distinctly Westmorland Dales' project	Mar	Revised <sup>4</sup>
<b>4</b>	<b>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.</b>		
4.1	With funding from YDMT restore complete repair works to at least 3 further barns as part of the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Barn Repair project	Mar	Revised <sup>5</sup>
4.2	Grant planning permission for at least 25 suitable barns to be appropriately converted to new uses	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>

<sup>1</sup> Project extended until March 2023

<sup>2</sup> Put back to allow for defects to be corrected by contractors.

<sup>3</sup> Slightly amended to include an additional walking route and one fewer cycle route.

<sup>4</sup> Revised - Part Achieved – project requested extension to Oct 2023

<sup>5</sup> Specifications and contracts have been signed for 3 barns but 2 have had to be put back until 2023/24 because of issues with the contractors.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

## 6-month progress on Actions for 2022/23

## Appendix 2

4.3	Complete restoration works to at least 10 barns under the Natural England Barn Repair Grants Project	Mar	Revised <sup>6</sup>
<b>5</b>	<b>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.</b>		
5.1	Produce and adopt a detailed character appraisal for the Askrigg Conservation Area	Jun	<b>Achieved</b>
5.2	Re-launch and rename the former 'Out of Oblivion' website	Jul	Rescheduled <sup>7</sup>
5.3	Explore funding solutions for Lammerside Castle (p)	Aug	Cancelled <sup>8</sup>
5.4	Implement repairs to Smardale Kilns (pp)	Sep	Postponed <sup>9</sup>
5.5	Work with volunteers to carry out the Buildings At Risk condition survey	Oct	<b>Achieved</b>
5.9	Restore and improve the flood resilience of Linton Clapper Bridge, so that it is no longer 'at risk'.	Mar	Revised <sup>10</sup>
5.10	Restore the Well House at Grange Hall, Asby so that it is no longer 'at risk'	Feb	New
<b>6</b>	<b>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.</b>		
6.1	Complete a history of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (p)	Dec	Rescheduled <sup>11</sup>
6.2	Complete first phase of Lidar/photographic survey of the Westmorland Dales area and integrate into the HER	Feb	Rescheduled <sup>12</sup>
<b>7</b>	<b>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.</b>		
7.5	In conjunction with Natural England, complete a further 380m of surfacing works of the Sulber Nick footpath as part of the Ingleborough Access Project.	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
7.7	Conduct enhancement works on 2 'promoted walks', as part of <i>Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected</i>	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>

<sup>6</sup> Mistakenly included (was an action from 2021/22). 2 further barns will be completed this financial year, taking the final total under the scheme to 12.

<sup>7</sup> Expected completion date now December 2022

<sup>8</sup> No progress can be made because Historic England do not have an Inspectors of Ancient Monuments covering the YDNP at the moment.

<sup>9</sup> Following initial delays, the contract had to be re-specified. Contract now let and project managers in place but works will not be completed until June 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Additional repair work also being carried out to Myers Garth Bridge.

<sup>11</sup> Completion delayed due to permissions on images and printing. Expected to be completed by end of December.

<sup>12</sup> Project funded by Historic England is running slightly behind scheduled but will be completed by February.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

<b>8</b>	<b>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.</b>		
8.1	Deliver 8 'Go Wild' activities for families	Sep	<b>Achieved</b>
8.2	Launch a phenology citizen science project as part of <i>Look Wild</i> collaboration to engage people with the science of seasonal change.	Oct	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>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.</b>		
9.3	Install 'Changing Places' public toilet facilities at Hawes and Grassington	Mar	Postponed <sup>13</sup>
9.4	Deliver year one of DEFRA-funded access projects across the Park	Mar	New
<b>10</b>	<b>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.</b>		
10.1	Produce an Evaluation Framework for measuring impact of YDNPA's education, engagement and youth volunteering activities, and baseline data for Gipton and Harehills	Apr	<b>Achieved</b>
10.2	Work with Peak District and North York Moors NPAs and Peak District Mosaic to run NHLF-funded training pilots to increase opportunities for people from BAME backgrounds to take part in recreational activity in the National Park, and develop next stage application.	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>14</sup>
10.7	Subject to successful funding application through Upper Wharfedale School, run a pilot 'social prescribing' project connecting young people with the health and wellbeing benefits of the Park	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>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.</b>		
11.1	Pilot an 'Ambassador School' programme with 5 schools to help them embed National Park outdoor learning and environmental education in their curriculum.	Sep	<b>Achieved</b>
11.2	Support at least 3 farms in the National Park applying for FiPL funding to enable them to deliver educational visits for schools and under-represented groups	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Shortage of contractors available to bid for required works. In the process of extending delivery period into the start of 2023/24 to navigate this problem.

<sup>14</sup> Difficulties recruiting programme manager caused delays. Rescheduled to March 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Working with 3 Farms but applications not submitted yet. Rescheduled to March 2023.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

## 6-month progress on Actions for 2022/23

## Appendix 2

11.3	Run curriculum-linked educational activities for young people in formal education in the National Park and surrounding urban areas; reaching 5 additional schools in the National Park.	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
11.5	Embed Countryside Code messaging into education and engagement delivery with young people	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
11.6	Support one farm in the National Park applying for FiPL funding to develop an interpretation plan	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>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.</b>		
13.2	Promote the Three Peaks app	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Maintain 'green lanes' and, where appropriate, manage use by recreational motor vehicles, including enforcing any restrictions imposed by Traffic Regulation Orders.</b>		
14.1	Replace information on 20 access boards for the access land at Bolton Abbey Estate (pp)	Jun	<b>Achieved</b>
14.2	Produce the 2021/22 Annual Report on 'green lane' usage and management	Nov	Rescheduled <sup>16</sup>
14.3	Conduct a walk-over survey of Ravenstonedale Moor and Long Lane, Helwith green lanes	Jul	<b>Achieved</b>
14.7	Review the Green Lanes Management Framework	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>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.</b>		
15.1	With Natural England submit the C2C wider benefits report to the Secretary of State at Defra	Jun	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Promote and encourage responsible cycling, enabling the development of two 'cycle hubs', and creating at least one further family-friendly cycling route by 2024.</b>		
16.1	Carry out public consultation on the proposal for a traffic-free, multi-user route from Hawes to Garsdale, and determine whether to proceed with the development of the proposal.	Jun	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>30% of the priority habitats outside nationally-designated wildlife sites are in good condition by 2024;</b>		
17.1	Let a contract to collate all YDNPA habitat condition data into a consistent format so that it can be made accessible to farmers and landowners through the 'Re-cover' webmap	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Data now received and report is in draft. Report due to be finished by end of November.

<sup>17</sup> Rescheduled as habitat survey data not available until December.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

<b>18</b>	<b>Deliver a co-ordinated 5-year programme of investment to support nature recovery through <i>Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected</i>, and identify other potential landscape-scale ‘nature recovery areas’.</b>		
18.1	Complete year 2 of the Tees-Swale programme of habitat restoration, including the restoration of a further 16ha of species rich grassland and the management of 20ha of Rush (p)	Dec	Revised <sup>18</sup>
<b>19</b>	<b>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.</b>		
19.1	Publish a Nature Recovery Plan for the Dales, including a revised Priority Species list	Jul	Revised <sup>19</sup>
19.2	Support the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for North Yorkshire and York	Mar	Revised <sup>20</sup>
19.3	Support the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Westmorland and Furness	Mar	Revised <sup>20</sup>
<b>22</b>	<b>Work with farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale natural flood management projects in the Aire, Eden, Ribble; Lune; Swale, Ure, and Wharfe catchments.</b>		
22.1	Work with York City Council and North Yorkshire County Council to secure full financial approval from Defra’s Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience fund for a programme of NFM measures in the SUNO catchment (p)	Jun	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>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.</b>		
23.1	With the North Pennines AONB and YDMT launch the NLHF-funded <i>Heart of the Pennines Forest</i> project	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>21</sup>
23.3	As part of the <i>Heart of the Pennines Forest</i> project initiate six new woodland schemes in the Cumbrian area of the park	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>22</sup>
<b>25</b>	<b>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.</b>		

<sup>18</sup> Delivery of targets is proving challenging. Will be 10 ha of meadow restoration and 3 ha of rush control this year.

<sup>19</sup> As agreed by the Authority in June, this year’s action has been revised to producing a draft plan and species list. A draft list of Priority Species has been agreed with the Biodiversity Forum and the final Plan will come to the Authority in June 2023.

<sup>20</sup> The legal requirement for LNRs will not come into effect until October 2023. Work this year is, therefore, focused on supporting the new unitary councils to make preparations for detailed work in 2023/24.

<sup>21</sup> YDNA project officer in post but delays in recruiting to project posts at partner organisations mean that the project will not formally launch until early next year.

<sup>22</sup> Project officer only started in September so work has slipped slightly but should still be completed by March.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved



## 6-month progress on Actions for 2022/23

## Appendix 2

25.2	Grant permission for at least 85 new dwellings, including a significant proportion of affordable housing	Mar	Revised <sup>23</sup>
<b>26</b>	<b>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.</b>		
26.1	Produce a statement on housing, including a programme of measures to reduce the proportion of under-occupied properties.	Sep	Revised <sup>24</sup>
<b>28</b>	<b>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.</b>		
28.1	Create a users' handbook for the Agile planning software system	Jul	<b>Achieved</b>
28.2	Activate the remaining elements of the Agile planning software system (p)	Dec	Rescheduled <sup>25</sup>
28.3	Carry out a performance review of the core Development Management service in light of the switch to the Agile planning software system (p)	Nov	Rescheduled <sup>26</sup>
<b>29</b>	<b>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.</b>		
29.1	Complete public consultation on the preferred options for the new Local Plan	Jul	<b>Achieved</b>
29.2	Publish the Annual Monitoring Report, analysing progress in implementing current Local Plan policies.	Jul	<b>Achieved</b>
29.3	Co-ordinate and publish the annual progress report on the 2019-24 National Park Management Plan	Jul	<b>Achieved</b>
29.4	Finalise the Landscape Sensitivity and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for the new Local Plan	Sep	<b>Achieved</b>
29.5	Carry out a public consultation on preferred housing site allocations and revised development boundaries	Oct	Rescheduled <sup>27</sup>
29.7	Prepare the full draft Local Plan for publicatio	Mar	Revised <sup>28</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Wording of action needs to be revised to match the wording of the objective ('around' vs 'at least'). 39 permissions so far, so likely to be a bit under the target (but off-set by over-achieving almost 50 in the previous year)

<sup>24</sup> Housing Statement completed and published. As noted in the Authority report in September, coordinated action on under-occupied properties is unlikely to make much progress until 2023-24 when the new unitary councils will be established.

<sup>25</sup> Implementation of the remaining elements has been held up pending an upgrade of the system being installed by the provider. This took place in October.

<sup>26</sup> Rescheduled to March due to amount of data collection required and information from other national parks as comparison.

<sup>27</sup> The sheer volume of work required to assess and map all the potential allocated housing sites, and to create or revise development boundaries for over 100 settlements has delayed the intended start of the consultation, which many now be after Christmas.

<sup>28</sup> Revised to make it clear that the action is to have resolved all significant policy issues for the publication version of the Plan, not to actually publish the Plan by March.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved



<b>30</b>	<b>By 2023 provide at least 20 apprenticeships that focus on the skills that are essential to maintaining the National Park's special qualities.</b>		
30.1	Recruit a new farming trainee and an engagement trainee, through <i>Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected</i>	May	<b>Achieved</b>
30.2	Recruit a Wildlife apprentice and support existing apprentices in Communications and Development Management	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
30.3	As part of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership support 4 apprentices and a heritage trainee.	Mar	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>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.</b>		
31.1	Through food businesses and producers, run a festival based on locally distinctive cheese and other produce.	Oct	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>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.</b>		
32.2	Review the Authority's main website to improve the user experience, and rationalise or integrate into the main website the content of other semi-dormant websites currently hosting NPA content	Dec	Rescheduled <sup>29</sup>
32.3	Publish and distribute 125,000 copies of 'The Visitor 2023' as the official guide to the National Park	Feb	Revised <sup>30</sup>
32.5	Provide secretariat for two meetings of the Yorkshire Dales Tourism Partnership	Mar	Cancelled <sup>31</sup>
<b>33</b>	<b>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.</b>		
33.1	Roll out the new 'visitor hub' signage to Aysgarth	Mar	Rescheduled <sup>32</sup>
33.2	Use 'Meet and Greet' volunteers to enhance the visitor welcome at Aysgarth Falls and Malham visitor centres	Oct	<b>Achieved</b>

<sup>29</sup> Awaiting content on 'Education'; completion date now likely to be March 2023

<sup>30</sup> Distribution of hard copies of Visitor 2023 will reduce from 125,000 to 85,000 in order to offset a £13,645 increase in print costs. The shortfall in reach will be mitigated by a social media campaign where visitors will be encouraged to download a digital copy of Visitor 2023 from the National Park Authority website.

<sup>31</sup> Tourism Partnership is made up primarily of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and District Councils covering the National Park. Meetings cancelled due to uncertainty following the demise of Welcome to Yorkshire, the effect of local government reorganisation and Destination Management Organisations' review.

<sup>32</sup> Some signs installed fully complete by March



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

<b>34</b>	<b>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.</b>		
34.1	Produce a detailed Action Plan to help achieve the Authority's objectives in 2022/23	May	<b>Achieved</b>
34.2	Publish a detailed assessment of the Authority's performance in 2021/22	Jul	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>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.</b>		
35.1	Undertake the annual assessment against the CSE standard	Sep	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.</b>		
36.1	Review and update the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy	Sep	<b>Achieved</b>
36.2	Revise the Treasury Management Strategy in line with CIPFA's new Prudential Code and Treasury Management regulations	Oct	<b>Achieved</b>
36.3	Finalise the arrangements for the YDNPA's contractual relationship with NPPL in order to implement the decision of the NPA from December 2021.	Oct	Revised <sup>33</sup>
36.4	Complete the Annual Governance Report	Nov	<b>Achieved</b>
36.5	Produce the Statutory Accounts for 2021/22, and achieve an unqualified external audit opinion	Nov	Postponed <sup>34</sup>
36.6	Review and update 'Guidance to staff on declaring personal interests / managing potential conflicts, offers of gifts and hospitality, and carrying out work outside your contract of employment'	Dec	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>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.</b>		
37.1	Organise a programme of corporate training for staff	May	<b>Achieved</b>

<sup>33</sup> Arrangements for 2022/23 now in place. NPP are currently presenting business plans on an annual basis, rather than for three years as originally envisaged in the December 2021 paper.

<sup>34</sup> Statutory accounts completed and published in July 2022, subject to audit. Our external auditor, EY, has confirmed that, due to resourcing issues, they are unable to undertake the audit of these accounts before June 2023.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved

<b>38</b>	<b>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.</b>		
38.1	Investigate and implement a solution to weatherproof the roof at Yoredale	Dec	Rescheduled <sup>35</sup>
38.6	Carry out a review of the implementation of MS365	Mar	Postponed <sup>36</sup>
38.8	Improve workshop facilities and staff parking at Stonedykes or Craven Lime Works (ppp)	Mar	Revised <sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Works now underway, due to be completed by end December 2022

<sup>36</sup> Review will be postponed until further elements of MS365 are implemented such as SharePoint, defender, collaboration tools are implemented and in use.

<sup>37</sup> Improvements were made to Stonedykes in 2021. Members approved (September F&R) acquisition of a plot for a potential new workshop building at Langcliffe Quarry, and this acquisition will be completed by March 2023.



achieved



on course



near miss



not achieved