

Date: 28 March 2023

Report: MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION
AND MEMBER CHAMPION'S REPORT

Purpose

1. To provide feedback from meetings attended by Members as representatives of the National Park Authority since the last Authority meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Members consider and note the reports from the Authority's representatives and the Member Champion,

Background

3. Members represent the Authority on a wide variety of Partnerships and, in order to keep Members and Officers updated on this representation, formal reports are brought to each full Authority meeting.
4. Member Champions are also engaged in a wide range of activities. Champions take turns in bringing annual reports to the Authority meetings – a report is attached from the Member Champion for Sustainable Development.
5. These formal reports provide the opportunity to update members on the work of the various partnerships we are involved, a chance to question Member representatives and Champions and a means by which we can continually assess the value of these partnerships and Champion roles.
6. The **Appendices** include:
 - 1) A list of Partnership Meetings attended in the last quarter;
 - 2) Reports from the relevant Partnership meetings; and
 - 3) The report of the Member Champion for Sustainable Development.

Clare Tamea
Committees Officer
11 March 2023

Appendix 1

List of Partnership Meetings 14 December 2022 – 28 March 2023

Title	Member	Date	Attended	Report
Dales Woodland Forum	Member Champion for Natural Environment	20/12/23	Yes	See attached report
Local Government North Yorkshire & York	Chair	17/03/23	No	
Local Government York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Board	Richard Good	06/03/23	No	
National Parks England	Chair	26/01/23	Yes	See Chair's report
Yorkshire Dales Bio-diversity Forum	Member Champion for the Natural Environment	17/01/23	Yes	See attached report
Yorkshire Dales National Park Tourism Partnership	Member Champion for Promoting Understanding	No recent meetings	N/A	See attached report
York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	Yvonne Peacock	23/02/23	Yes	See attached report

Report of the Biodiversity Forum.

The Biodiversity Forum met on 17th January in Ingleton. The meeting focused on the development of the Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) and the Priority Species List.

Comments on the current draft of the NRP are being incorporated and the next draft will be circulated shortly. The next step will be to agree quantitative targets for each section of the plan. Progress is being made in habitat mapping, to indicate current and indicative 2040 distribution and condition. Suggestions were sought on how best to encourage further involvement of the land management community in the development of the plan. Discussions with ecologists from neighbouring Authorities have taken place to seek consistency across boundaries. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is producing a wildlife manifesto on what they would like to see for nature recovery and discussions will be arranged with YDNPA officers to seek alignment where appropriate. Consideration is being given to the submission of a bid to Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) for a series of short videos on good examples of nature recovery to support the NRP. The NRP is scheduled to be tabled at the 27 June Authority meeting.

The draft of the Priority Species List has been circulated to several taxonomic recording organisations for comments and the finalised list will be circulated shortly. The next step is to seek resources to carry out specific actions for these species. The Category 1 Priority Species (those requiring bespoke management) will be included in the Yorkshire Dales Management Plan.

Report of the Dales Woodland Forum

The forum met virtually on 20th December. Attendance was low. Mike Appleton of Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust presented an update on the work of the Forest Plastics Working Group, including a well-attended conference held in November focused on plastic tree shelters. There has been lots of innovation for alternative shelters, with trials ongoing across the Dales and Nidderdale, but current research indicates if guards have to be used then plastic shelters are still the best option – but only when recycled.

The status of the NRP was discussed. The ambition in the Dales Woodlands Strategy has been transferred directly into the NRP, including the targets to create 600ha of woodland per year (12,000 ha by 2040), and to plant 12,000 individual trees or small groups of field trees by 2040. The Woodland Opportunity Map is now complete and live on the YDNPA's website. It indicates that potential planting sites are more than sufficient to enable meeting the target figures. The important contribution of these targets in mitigating the impact of climate breakdown was highlighted. There seems to be a reluctance of Forum members to provide indicative estimates of their planting pipeline, without which it is difficult to determine if we are on track with the targets.

Mark Corner
Member Champion for the Natural Environment

Report of the meeting of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Infrastructure and Joint Assets Board (LEP)

The LEP meeting held on 23 February 2023 discussed two key sources of funding – the future capital investment programme and the Shared Prosperity Fund.

1. Future Capital Investment Programme

A report to the board set out the background. In August 2022, a Devolution Deal between the government and local authorities of York and North Yorkshire was announced. This included the proposal to establish a York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Pending the formal process for establishing the Mayoral Combined Authority, an initial funding award of £12.7 million has been made. This capital funding will support the building of new homes on brownfield land in the York and North Yorkshire region. The Yorkshire Dales National Park has practically no brownfield sites, so at this stage this funding will not be of help to us. In addition, a further £7million of funding has been confirmed to enable the area to drive green economic growth towards the ambitions to become a carbon negative region. This includes £1million of revenue funding and £6million of capital funding. This will hopefully be more in the YDNPA agenda.

The Devolution Deal also recognises York and North Yorkshire's intention to become a trailblazer in national capital investment, which will be core to delivering economically whilst also realising an ambition to become England's first carbon negative region. As such Defra has agreed to support York and North Yorkshire in the development of a Natural Capital Investment Plan and has invited an application to become involved. The Board agreed that this was good news for York and North Yorkshire and will look forward to seeing this come to fruition.

2. North Yorkshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) was issued in April 2022. North Yorkshire County Council is the lead authority and the accountable body for the SPF in North Yorkshire, and the City of York Council is the lead authority and accountable body for the SPF in York. The LEP are taking the lead role in developing the Investment plan. The investment plan was delivered to government in August and approved in December.

Some of the year 1 activities funded by UK SPF are:

- Feasibility studies including reducing inequalities - access and transport;
- Activities to support local towns' market streets and high streets;
- Growth Hub direct support for business, increasing business engagement;
- Data Analysis Co-Design for one stop shop approach for building retrofit and farm energy Audit Pilot;
- Decarbonising community buildings and housing stock.

Yvonne Peacock
March 2023

Yorkshire Dales NP Tourism Partnership

The Dales Tourism Partnership has not met for the past year.

The purpose of the partnership was to bring together those bodies (8 local authorities and 3 Destination Management Organisations) with responsibility for tourism within the Yorkshire Dales National Park area, and the 3 AONBs with a shared boundary.

We are experiencing the combination of consequences of the demise of Welcome to Yorkshire, an ongoing national government review of the destination management organisation framework and fundamental changes to our own local unitary local authorities. Indeed, on the latter point the local government posts are now being filled.

Although there has not been a meeting we are still continuing work with our neighbouring AONBs on joint initiatives which may have tourism elements or implications.

We may be in a position to have greater clarity later in 2023/24.

Derek Twine
Member Champion, Promoting Understanding
February 2023

Sustainable Development Member Champion Report

Local Plan

Work is ongoing to get the housing site options 'Consultation No 6 - land for housing development' ready to go out on Friday 24th March. There will be 33 sites and about 70 development boundaries to consult on. Some of the housing sites are much larger than the Authority has allocated in the past and will no doubt stimulate some local comment. The fact is we are likely to need most of the sites in the new Local Plan if we are to meet our housing target without too much reliance on existing permissions or windfall sites.

Future windfall opportunities (infill and gap sites) will be accommodated within the proposed housing development boundaries, which this time around will include the service villages and local plan settlements in the extension areas. The consultation maps will also suggest areas for protection as Important Open Space.

The consultation period will be 7 weeks until the 12th May and go out to more than 300 organisations, plus, of course, all the Parish Councils. We will be relying on a Press Release to spread the word about the consultation and reach wider members of the public. In addition to publishing the 100 maps the consultation will also be supported by a consultation document to briefly explain the context behind the Local plan and our chosen housing target. There will also be some technical supporting documents providing the details regarding each site and also reasons why some other sites have not been selected for consultation.

This is still an informal consultation, so no decisions have yet been made. It is entirely possible that a few new site options might come forward for assessment. Equally some sites may be rejected. Members will ultimately decide which sites go forward into the Local Plan.

After the consultation is over, a summary of the comments received will be sent to Members and placed on the local plan webpage for information. Work will then proceed on the basis of the consultation response and any further assessments that are necessary towards making a recommendation to Members for inclusion in the Publication version of the local plan. That will be a formal stage later this year where the Authority brings the policies together with the sites and makes the plan available for formal representations.

Meanwhile officers are also slowly working through the policy detail and the wording for the justifications and numerous appendices. The Member Policy Development Forum in February was useful and is providing an input on policy matters around biodiversity net gain, agricultural development and various aspects of housing policy.

Two Local Plan papers will be going to the March Authority meeting. The first will follow up the PDF discussion with some formal policy decisions for Members to

make to guide the Local Plan. Also going to March is a revised Local Development Scheme which is essentially the timetable for the local plan process from here. Of course, once the housing sites go out to consultation later this month the Plan it will, I suspect, pick up much more public interest which may have an impact on the timetable.

Members will be invited to view the papers for 'Consultation No 6 - land for housing development' via an email on Friday 17th March. Officers will provide a link to 'drop box' where Members can download some or all of the consultation documents and background information.

Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Update

At the February Finance & Resources Committee it was agreed that the SDF budget for 2023/24 be reduced by £20k. Therefore the budget will be £155,000 and become available again from 1 April 2023.

We have already received 8 grant applications with a total value of £71,479 and we have also received a further 40 enquiries this year for 2023/24. Several of those enquiries are now being developed. This could mean that next year's budget ends up being allocated before the end of the financial year due to the increased interest in the Fund.

National Park Management Plan Objective F6 aims to use the Authority's SDF and other funding sources to support 20 new local projects each year that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to the National Park. This year the Fund has supported 16 projects. The reason for not meeting the target of 20 is because a decision was made to support 4 larger value projects in excess of £20k each by the Authority's Finance and Resources Committee on 6 December 2022. The implications of this are that we have supported fewer projects – but at the same time we managed to allocate all of the SDF budget.

The SDF quarterly summary gives more details about particular projects and is sent to all members and staff. The last update was issued on 16 December 2022. The next update is likely to be late March 2023 when we send out the Annual SDF Summary.

The Winter edition of the Dales newspaper included an SDF article focusing on the theme of climate change. Three businesses were featured. Needle House Farm, Ravenstonedale – hydro- electric system specialized reports; Dales Bike Centre, Fremington – two air source heat pumps and Gayle Mill – Energy and Carbon Audit report.

A press release is being prepared covering the Hudswell Hostel project which successfully obtained a grant from the SDF of £50,000 in December 2022. It is hoped the media coverage will raise the profile of the project and attract further funding.

Carl Lis
March 2023