

## PERFORMANCE SECTION

### Delivering our aim and objectives

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The Authority aims to:

- Champion the New Forest National Park, working in partnership through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions **(Section A)**
- Conserve and enhance the unique environment of the New Forest National Park and in particular the special qualities of its landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage **(Section C)**
- Encourage everyone to understand and enjoy the National Park's special qualities, while ensuring that its character is not harmed **(Section U)**
- Support the social and economic well-being of local communities in ways that sustain the New Forest National Park's special character **(Section SE)**

This section explains how the Authority intends to achieve this aim over the next two years or so through a series of objectives linked to our aims. For each objective the tables describe:

- the **rationale** for the proposed activities
- **action in 2006-2007**: setting out what the Authority achieved in its first full year
- **action in 2007-2008 and beyond**: the activities planned for the Authority's second year, with quarterly milestones for completing them, and, where appropriate, how these activities will be taken forward in later years.

<b>A Champion the New Forest National Park, working in partnership through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions</b>		
<b>Management Plan Objective:</b> to work together in partnership to promote and achieve the Vision for the New Forest through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions		
<u>Developing the Authority</u> <i>The Authority seeks to have modern and flexible ways of working that enable members and staff to respond effectively to the needs of the National Park, its partners, stakeholders and customers through:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>governance arrangements that enable members to set policy, guide the Authority's work and review progress</i></li> <li>▪ <i>ways of working that enable staff to serve their customers well</i></li> <li>▪ <i>performance management frameworks that match resources to priorities and enable staff to learn from their experience in order to improve the Authority's effectiveness and service delivery</i></li> </ul>		
<b>A1 Build the new Authority (Defra h)</b>		
<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Authority development</b>		
We completed most of the Authority's development programme and associated policies and processes and continued a programme of member development events	Obtain peer-review of the operational effectiveness of the Authority once the development process is complete	Sept 2007
We completed the governance and procedural arrangements identified as in development or still required by the Audit Commission	Operate financial and governance procedures effectively, with a view to achieving the Authority's first unqualified report from the District Auditor for the financial year 2007/2008, and the years following. Keep business continuity planning, and risk management, up-to-date	March 2008
We developed a medium-term financial strategy, and undertook an independent review, part-funded by Defra, of our funding arrangements and opportunities for generating income and drawing in 'external' funding	Take forward the report of the funding study with Defra. Develop a longer-term financial strategy that takes account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Authority's need for increased external income and a more appropriate allocation of National Park Grant; and</li> <li>- the outcome of Defra's 2007 Spending Review settlement</li> </ul>	Dec 2007

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Staff</b>		
The Authority now has a full complement of 60 <i>full time equivalent staff</i> following staff recruitment of a further [x] posts	Maintain staff levels and develop a workforce strategy covering staff development and retention and succession planning	March 2008
Work on developing the organisation's culture was put on hold to await the completion of the staff recruitment exercise (in January 2007)	Hold a second Culture and Values Day to review progress as a new organisation and embed the values further	June 2007
We prepared the first staff survey	Analyse results from the survey and produce an action plan in consultation with staff to tackle any issues identified and the outcome of the Culture and Values Day. At the end of 2007/2008 evaluate and feedback to staff on how the Authority has responded	June 2007 March 2008
We prepared a draft project plan for Investors in People accreditation	Work towards achieving IiP in 2009	Dec 2009
<b>Accommodation</b>		
We continued to work with Defra and Natural England to find or begin development of permanent headquarters for the Authority within the National Park area	Choose location of permanent headquarters  Move into permanent headquarters	June 2007

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<b>ICT</b>		
<p>We completed core systems implementation in support of Authority functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) in planning – internally and externally with public facing website information</li> <li>b) delivering the majority of Pendleton requirements</li> <li>c) providing for delivery of core Implementing Electronic Government Agenda requirements</li> <li>d) creating a GIS desktop tool and support available for specialised use by the two purposes directorates</li> <li>e) configuring corporate systems so as to be available for remote working</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing refinement of the planning and GIS systems to take place alongside a review of the potential to use the Acolaid system for policy planning</p> <p>Evaluate the effectiveness of the ICT function using an external service provider, the Society of Information Technology Management, to measure perceived service delivery and correlate with expected service delivery. Formulate, agree and implement an Action plan based upon survey indicators</p> <p>Review Time Recording system requirements, tender for and implement a corporate Time Recording system</p> <p>Analyse 'Contact' database requirements, recommend and implement a corporate solution</p> <p>Continue development of the Idox Document Management System until it is used by all directorates as their primary document store, then analyse requirements for implementation of the Idox Records Management Module</p>	<p>Sept 2007</p> <p>Sept 2007</p> <p>Dec 2007</p> <p>Dec 2007</p> <p>Mar 2008</p>

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<b>Communications</b>		
We developed the communications strategy consistently with Corporate Plan priorities and actions. A revised and updated strategy was approved in January 2007	Implement the revised strategy, carrying out agreed actions across the full range of communications work including media, corporate identity, publications, web, marketing, special events, information and internal communications  Evaluate the success of the strategy using the agreed indicators and measures; revise and update the strategy in the light of the evaluation	On-going  2008/ 2009
<b>Website</b>		
We developed the website enhancements listed in other parts of the Corporate Plan	Continue to add substance and features to the site, developing content, interactive and e-government elements  Determine the optimum level of content development support required to maintain and improve the website and provide it  Promote the website as <i>the</i> key source of information about the National Park and continue to develop and resource it accordingly	March 2008  Dec 2007  2008/ 2009
<b>Knowledge management</b>		
We developed the Authority's information resources by identifying gaps in our own and others' data and commissioning research	Continue to develop the Authority's information resources for its own and others' use	On-going
<b>Corporate sustainability</b>		
We agreed our Environmental Policy and started to baseline our environmental footprint	Develop an Environmental Management System by gathering baseline information and establishing appropriate processes, policies and plans  Implement the Environmental Management System, moving towards accreditation to a recognised standard	March 2008  2008/ 2009

Partnership working

*The National Park Authority is committed to developing a strong culture of partnership working to find the best possible solutions to the wide range of challenges facing the New Forest. This will involve working closely with and through our partners to achieve the purposes of the National Park. The Authority will identify a range of inclusive mechanisms to consult and involve stakeholders in the process of developing its emerging strategies, policies and programmes. We will seek to build consensus and a sense of shared ownership and commitment to achieving the vision for the National Park amongst all those who can influence its future.*

**A2 Work with and through partners to achieve the Vision for the National Park and national park purposes  
(MP 2c, 2.1, 2m, 2n and Defra f)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We developed our Statement of Community Involvement setting out the general principles and mechanisms the Authority will use to consult, involve and engage partners and stakeholders in key areas of work. The Statement was approved by the Authority in March 2007	Implement the policy in all areas of activity while keeping its effectiveness under review	On-going
We established new groups, and made links with existing groups, to develop the Management Plan and spatial planning policy, including; - new joint officer and member level working groups with the New Forest District Council for the Local Development Framework - new joint officer sustainability working group with representation of various Authority directorates and New Forest District Council - a Management Plan Key Stakeholder Steering Group	Consider opportunities for improving effectiveness of current structures in maintaining excellent levels of communication and participation with the Authority's affairs, and carefully consider the need for any new standing or project groups for the delivery of certain programmes, policy development or consensus building	On-going
We led a partnership to prepare a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a major New Forest in Common project	See C3	
We established a New Forest Local Access Forum jointly with Hampshire County Council		
We participated in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight sub-regional Improvement Partnership	Continue to participate in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight sub-regional Improvement Partnership including the Planning Partners Collaborative Project	March 2008
We maintained existing fora e.g. the New Forest Consultative Panel		

**A3 Provide a clear, up-to-date framework for the management of the New Forest National Park by working with partners to review and replace the interim Management Plan**

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<p>We designed the process for reviewing and replacing the interim National Park Management Plan</p> <p>We worked with neighbouring authorities to align development of the National Park Management Plan with development of their community strategies and spatial planning documents, and streamline associated consultations, including the joint 'Future Matters' consultation</p> <p>We prepared an interim statement of special qualities for the New Forest National Park and consulted widely on this draft list. Following the consultation, the statement of special qualities will be amended and approved by the Authority in Summer 2007</p> <p>We began public consultation as part of the New Forest National Park Management Planning process including finalising the statement of special qualities</p> <p>We involved interested stakeholders and partners in developing a Vision and strategic objectives for the National Park</p>	<p>Continue to consult widely on the Plan, including engagement of stakeholders in the development of Vision, Objectives, Policies, Programmes and Actions</p> <p>Publish a Draft Management Plan</p> <p>Publish and adopt the first statutory National Park Management Plan</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p>

Forward planning

*The Authority's role in reviewing and developing spatial planning policies will set the framework for both its regulatory decisions and the work it undertakes with partner bodies – such as county councils, district councils, the Regional Development Agency and others – to support local communities and the local economy in ways that contribute to the sustainable development of the National Park. Strong spatial planning policies are needed to prevent cumulative harm from inappropriate small-scale development*

**A4 Develop spatial planning policies to support the delivery of the national park purposes and duty, working jointly with constituent and adjacent authorities (MP 2a)**

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<p>We progressed the following components of the Local Development Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Local Development Scheme</b> was brought into effect in February 2007</li><li>- <b>Statement of Community Involvement</b> was approved in March 2007(see also A2)</li><li>- <b>Annual Monitoring Review</b> was approved in December 2006</li><li>- <b>Core Strategy DPD</b> (jointly with New Forest District Council): we consulted on Issues and Options (Future Matters) in November 2006-January 2007</li></ul>	<p>Progress the following components for the Local Development Framework:</p> <p>Monitor progress against the Scheme and keep the Scheme under review, particularly to ensure coordination with partners in joint development documents. Formally review the Scheme as part of the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>Implementation</p> <p>Prepare the next Annual Monitoring Report (See A4 below)</p> <p>Publish a new Report annually</p> <p>Develop the Core Strategy, including publication of 'Preferred Options' for consultation</p> <p>Adopt the Strategy</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p> <p>On-going with periodic reviews Dec 2007</p> <p>Sept 2007</p> <p>June 2009</p>

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD</b> (jointly with other authorities): we submitted the strategy in May 2006 (Hampshire) and in October 2006 (Wiltshire), and we defended it at Examination in January-March 2007</li> <li>- <b>Minerals Sites DPD</b>: we consulted on Issues and Options in September-October 2006</li> <li>- <b>Waste Sites DPD</b>: we consulted on Issues and Options in September-October 2006</li> <li>- <b>Development Control Policies DPD</b>: work commenced</li> <li>- <b>Sites and Designations DPD</b>: work commenced</li> <li>- <b>Design in the National Park SPD</b>: work commenced</li> </ul>	<p>Adopt the Strategy</p> <p>Implementation and monitoring</p> <p>Publish Preferred Options and submit</p> <p>Adopt</p> <p>Publish Preferred Options and submit</p> <p>Adopt</p> <p>Early consultation on Issues and Options Preferred Options Submission</p> <p>Adopt</p> <p>Continue work on a 'Sites and Designations' DPD, including early consultation on Issues and Options Preferred Options Submission</p> <p>Adopt</p> <p>Publish a draft for consultation</p> <p>Adopt</p>	<p>Sept 2007</p> <p>June-Dec 2007 Dec 2008</p> <p>June-Dec 2007 Dec 2008</p> <p>Sept 2007 June 2008 June 2009 June 2010</p> <p>March 2008 June 2008 June 2009 June 2010</p> <p>June 2007 June 2008</p>
<p>We coordinated monitoring and research work to inform the Annual Monitoring report and to provide the evidence base for developing DPDs</p>	<p>Develop systems and capacity for spatial policy research and monitoring, and in particular the content for the Annual Monitoring Report and the evidence base for new Local Development Documents</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p>
<p>We worked actively with partners in the New Forest Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in developing Sustainable Community Strategies, including joint publication of the Future Matters consultation November 2006-January 2007</p>	<p>Continue to work actively with partners in the New Forest Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and engage with other National Park and neighbouring LSPs, to help develop and deliver Sustainable Community Strategies</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Development Control

The New Forest National Park Authority is the statutory planning authority for the National Park and development control is an essential tool in achieving its objectives. The Authority aims to provide a service that:

- actively contributes to the achievement of the national park purposes and duty
- helps to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park by making clear and consistent planning decisions, which have proper regard to national, regional and local planning policies
- is helpful, responsive, customer-focused, widely accessible and gives the public a sound understanding of how it carries out its work

**A5 Provide a development control service and consultation process that helps to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park, while supporting appropriate opportunities for economic and community development (MP 2b)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We have maintained a continuing improvement towards meeting Government planning application targets through the year: Minor applications – 47% 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter; 50% 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter; 67% 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter; 71% 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter Other applications – 62% 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter; 67% 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter; 77% 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter; 87% 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Continue to work to achieve the Government's targets on planning applications:  - 65% of minor applications in eight weeks - 80% of other applications in eight weeks	On-going
	Implement a pilot of national planning application forms	March 2008
	Initiate annual Members Planning Development Control Committee performance review tour; and annual planning agents meeting	June 2007
	Develop a pro-active compliance and monitoring strategy	March 2008

Section 62 responsibilities

*Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 states that in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect any land in a national park, any relevant authority shall have regard to national park purposes. National park authorities are authorised to monitor compliance with Section 62*

**A6 Ensure that statutory and other relevant bodies' Section 62 responsibilities are fully recognised and delivered in both the South East and relevant parts of the South West regions**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We raised awareness of Section 62 responsibilities among the relevant bodies	Continue to raise awareness of Section 62 responsibilities Assess compliance with and effectiveness of Section 62	On-going

<b>C Conserve and enhance the unique environment of the New Forest National Park and in particular the special qualities of its landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage</b>		
<b>Management Plan Objective: conserve and enhance the unique environment of the New Forest, and in particular the special qualities of its landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity</b>		
<u>Commoning and farming</u> <i>Traditional grazing by livestock under the commoning system not only underpins the conservation of the National Park's landscape and wildlife but is a key part of the area's cultural heritage in its own right. Commoning is therefore essential to achieve the first purpose but it is vulnerable in the longer term and its continuation depends on sustaining all aspects of the commoning economy. The enclosed farmed landscapes also make a major contribution to the variety of the National Park landscape and natural environment</i>		
<b>C1 Develop strategies and support schemes to help sustain agriculture and promote thriving commoning activity that is in keeping with the New Forest National Park (MP 4.1b, 4.1g and Defra a)</b>		
<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We initiated a review of how existing and new National Park Authority policies affect commoning and farming as part of the Local Development Framework and Management Plan process	Complete the review of how existing and new National Park Authority policies affect commoning and farming as part of the Local Development Framework and Management Plan process  Implement the findings of the review	June-Dec 2007

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<p>We established a commoner-led review of support for commoning which will inform development of new policies and actions that improve the sustainability of commoning. This involved assessing recent studies and research to evaluate the current situation. Opportunities for commoners to discuss their views of the issues affecting Commoning with the National Park directly are under consideration</p> <p>We provided financial support for the purchase of five land rovers for use by the Agisters for the better performance of their duties', and funding for the Stallion Scheme this year</p> <p>The Commoners' Housing Scheme was transferred to the Authority in the autumn and we approved one new house. Further applications are being developed</p> <p>We are working closely with the Forestry Commission and the National Trust to trial a process and an agreed design for housing that can be built at low cost for commoners while meeting high standards and sustainability requirements</p>	<p>Gather further evidence to support the findings of the review, if necessary</p> <p>Complete the review and feed its conclusions into the Management Plan</p> <p>Implement its findings</p>	<p>June 2007</p> <p>Dec 2007</p> <p>2008/2009</p>
<p>We have continued to support a wide range of existing initiatives such as the New Forest Marque, New Forest Farmers and Producers' Markets to ensure that they met agreed targets. Using funds from the Leader+ scheme and in close partnership with New Forest District Council and the Local Action Group, the Authority has set up a small grants project of £100,000</p>	<p>As in 2006-2007</p> <p>Identify and investigate longer term funding options with potential funding partners.</p> <p>Produce a paper to review Forest Friendly Farming</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>June 2007</p>
<p>We established a farming and landowner liaison group to develop further initiatives</p>	<p>Develop initiatives to improve mutual awareness and understanding of planning related issues</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Landscape conservation

*The landscape of the New Forest National Park is the product of centuries of 'management' by the people who have lived and worked here, the cumulative result of their interactions with the environment. It is a landscape that is highly valued by the people who live and work in the Forest and by those who visit it. However, some of its special qualities are under threat and:*

- *a strategic approach is needed to help co-ordinate current and future landscape-scale conservation and enhancement programmes and projects, including a greater emphasis on landscape restoration outside the Open Forest*
- *strong spatial planning policies are needed to prevent the gradual erosion of landscape quality through the cumulative effects of small-scale changes and development*
- *opportunities for practical landscape improvement need to be pursued*

**C2 Conserve, restore or recreate landscapes, and their component parts, which reflect the special qualities of the New Forest National Park (MP 2f, 3.1a, 3.1b, 3.1d, 3.4i, 4.5e and Defra e)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
Action deferred until 2007-2008	Set up a partnership of local authorities, government agencies and key NGOs to review and assess current activity, identify gaps and agree strategic priorities for landscape conservation (including identifying opportunities outside Open Forest and the National Park boundary where these have an impact on the Park)	June 2007 - March 2008
Action deferred until 2007-2008	Establish a working group to produce a 'design standards manual' for the National Park for a range of urban / rural infrastructure and the Conservation Area Management Plans  Complete the design standards manual	Dec 2007  Dec 2008

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
<p><i>Action on sign clutter is reported under objective U3</i> We developed partnerships with local organisations to address litter problems</p> <p>With the support of Scottish and Southern Energy, more than 2 km of overhead power lines were placed underground in the area between Picket Post and Burley</p>	<p>Implement the action plan on eyesores, litter and clutter</p> <p>Continue to secure funding for more removal of overhead power lines</p>	<p>Mar 2008</p> <p>Mar 2008</p>
<p>We started the process of producing a draft landscape strategy for the whole of the New Forest including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reviewing and re-assessing recent studies into the landscape character of the Forest, contributing to an evaluation of the current status and condition of New Forest landscapes</li> <li>- identifying some of the key strategic issues and projects for conservation and enhancement</li> <li>- starting the process of informing existing spatial planning policies and supplementary guidance included in the Local Development Framework on landscape and conservation</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to prepare the draft landscape strategy</p> <p>Complete the draft strategy (as part of the input to the Management Plan) and consult stakeholders on policies, priorities and options for delivery</p> <p>Complete the review of existing policies and guidance included in the Local Development Framework</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p> <p>2008/2009</p> <p>2008/2009</p>
<p>A landscape advice service has now been established for the National Park – particularly to support land management decision-making and planning issues</p>		
	<p>Manage the tree work application service, make tree preservation orders as needed, review tree preservation orders</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Nature conservation

*Conserving and enhancing the wildlife of the National Park is central to the Authority's work and the first purpose*

- *Over half the area of the National Park is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), many of which are also Natura 2000 sites. Not only is this a key part of delivering the first purpose but it contributes to meeting the Government's PSA target on nature conservation. Planning policies, external fund-raising and other areas of the Authority's work need to complement the work of others in nature conservation*
- *There are also a large number of local sites of interest for nature conservation and other locations for specific species outside the designated areas. A Biodiversity Action Plan covering the entire National Park will be an essential tool for prioritising nature conservation action for habitats and species outside designated sites and co-ordinating the efforts of partners*

**C3 Conserve and enhance the nature conservation value of the New Forest National Park (MP 3.3a, 3.3b, 3.3d, 3.3l, 3.4c and Defra e)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
<p>We established a partnership of key stakeholders and started work on the development of a draft Biodiversity Action Plan/Strategy, including an indicative strategy for trees and woodland, for the whole of the New Forest including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- starting to assess recent research and information to evaluate the current status of habitats and species in the New Forest and evaluate existing knowledge, strategies and policies</li><li>- identifying the key strategic issues, gaps in knowledge and developing policies and projects for conservation and enhancement</li><li>- consulting stakeholders on policies, priorities and options for delivery</li></ul>	<p>Complete the overarching nature conservation strategy as part of the input to the Management Plan</p> <p>Complete the full Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p> <p>2008/2009</p>

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
<p>We worked with relevant partners to investigate external funding to support commoning and habitat restoration as part of the Special Area of Conservation Management Plan. A successful bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project-planning grant and a Project Officer was appointed to oversee the development of the project to the next stage</p> <p>We established an ecological advice service for the National Park—particularly to support decision-making and planning functions</p> <p>The Authority has become a member of the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre and the Solent Forum as funding partners</p>	<p>Development of the supporting documentation for Phase One of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund</p> <p>Phase One of the application submitted</p>	<p>March 2008</p> <p>June 2008</p>
<p>We worked with New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council and others to contribute to the production of the second round of Shoreline Management Plans for the Western Solent</p>	<p>Continue to support the preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan, to ensure National Park purposes are being delivered through the Plan</p>	<p>March 2008</p>

Supporting the continuation of cultural traditions

Local communities in the New Forest have a rich heritage of cultural events, practices and traditions. Many of these are peculiar to the Forest and have arisen from its particular environmental and social circumstances. Recording this rich cultural heritage - and supporting it in an appropriate way is important to achieving the first purpose. In particular our work will involve:

- recording and where possible safeguarding local cultural traditions which are often the less tangible aspects of cultural heritage and so may easily be lost
- securing external support to keep a range of local traditions and skills alive

**C4 Promote local cultural traditions and local products (MP 3.2a and 3.2c, Defra e and f)**

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
We started to involve local communities in producing a comprehensive register of New Forest traditions and language	This objective and the actions to support it have now been included in Objective C6 (Conservation of cultural heritage) and Objective SE1 (Sustainable development)	On-going
We promoted the Sustainable Development Fund to local communities and provide support for potential applications		
We reviewed the need for training and development in the range of skills and knowledge required for conserving the New Forest National Park landscape which led to new provision of training for land managers on some aspects of land management		

Environmental quality

Many of the New Forest National Park's special qualities and much of its economic activity are dependent on the health of its physical environment. With the expected expansion and development of adjacent urban areas and change within the Park, it is important that the Authority works in close partnership with others to protect and improve the integrity of the National Park's environmental qualities

**C5 Work with relevant authorities to minimise the impacts of air, noise, water and light pollution on the special qualities of the National Park (MP 3.4b, 3.4d, 3.4e, 3.4f, 3.4i and 3.4n)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We planned to establish an <i>Environmental Quality</i> working group of staff from organisations in the New Forest National Park, in partnership with the Environment Agency, and review evidence about the extent of pollution problems and identify possible actions to address the issues. As a similar group already exists, no further action is being taken in this Corporate Plan timescale		
With other partners, we started to investigate projects to reduce noise and visual intrusion into the New Forest National Park from the fenced main roads	Work with partners to plan and implement projects to reduce the visual intrusion and perception of noise along the fenced roads	On-going
We started to review, revise and inform existing spatial planning policies and supplementary guidance included in the Local Development Framework on environmental quality and conservation issues	Map the extent of street lighting and other sources of light pollution and initiate discussions with relevant authorities about preventing any further installations	Dec 2007

Conservation of cultural heritage

The National Park has an historic landscape that is the result of thousands of years of human activity and reflects the unique history of the area. Conserving this cultural heritage is therefore critical to achieving the first purpose. In particular:

- gaining a better understanding of the cultural landscape as a whole to improve the conservation of this heritage resource
- bringing together historic environment data and conservation of sites on privately owned land
- working to enhance the built environment, set examples of good practice, add to visitor experience and local quality of life, and conserve cultural heritage and distinctiveness

**C6 Strengthen protection, understanding and management of the historic, archaeological and cultural aspects of the National Park's landscape (MP 3.2c, 3.2e, 3.2f and Defra e)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
<p>We started work to prepare a Cultural Heritage Strategy for the New Forest, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- a review of currently available information on New Forest National Park's cultural heritage (sites, condition and level of protection)</li><li>- an evaluation of existing strategies and policies</li><li>- identifying the key strategic issues and gaps in knowledge</li><li>- establishing a staff working group and a framework for the strategy</li><li>- agreeing a programme for consultation of stakeholders</li></ul> <p>An archaeological advice service has now been established for the National Park</p>	<p>Continue preparation of the Cultural Heritage Strategy (alongside and linked to preparation of National Park Management Plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Complete identification of key strategic issues and gaps</li><li>- Stakeholder consultation (3 events)</li><li>- Preliminary work on drafting strategy</li></ul> <p>A project to map and record the language and cultural traditions of the National Park has been initiated</p> <p>Complete draft strategy, public consultation, adoption and launch</p>	<p>June 2007</p> <p>June-Dec 2007</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>March 2009</p>

<b>C7 Support high quality building and open space design in village and town centres, reflecting the distinctive character of the built environment (MP 3.2e, 4.8b, 4.8f and Defra e)</b>		
<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We managed the listed building consent service, carried out a condition survey of listed buildings and the buildings at risk register and provided a programme of support including provision of planning and technical advice to developers and owners of listed buildings	Manage the listed building consent service, carry out a condition survey on 10% of listed buildings and buildings at risk register and provide a programme of support including provision of planning and technical advice to developers and owners of listed buildings	On-going
We launched a Historic Buildings Grant Scheme to promote sustainable and sensitive building techniques for renovation of listed buildings and buildings of historic interest	Continued operation of the Historic Buildings Grant Scheme	On-going
We started preparation of the conservation areas management plan	<p>Complete the conservation areas management plan draft, public consultation, adopt and launch</p> <p>Prepare conservation area appraisals for 8 conservation areas, public consultation, adoption</p> <p>Prepare conservation area appraisals for remaining 9 conservation areas, public consultation, adoption</p>	<p>March 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>2008/2009</p>

Climate change

*The process of adapting to the impact of climate change will be an essential, on-going and long-term issue for the National Park Authority. At present, research on the potential impacts is available but is not comprehensive, nor has it been assessed for the National Park specifically. Preparation and planning for the local consequences of climate change needs to begin as early as possible.*

**C8 Co-ordinate a review of the likely impacts of climate change on the whole of the New Forest National Park and develop long term strategies to address these impacts (MP 3.4j and Defra a)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We started to prepare an action plan to help the National Park adapt to climate change including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- assessing and reviewing recent national and regional research to evaluate the current understanding of climate change impacts in the New Forest and reviewing existing strategies and policies</li><li>- identifying the key strategic issues, policy needs and projects for adapting to change</li><li>- agreeing a programme for consulting stakeholders on policies, priorities and options for delivery</li></ul>	Promote the findings of the plan to relevant audiences for further discussion through wider public consultation, education and interpretation  Arrange a workshop /conference with key agencies and NGOs to look at local adaptation  Produce a plan for adaptation in the New Forest  Join the South East Climate Change Partnership	Dec 2007  Sept 2007  March 2008  June 2007

***U Encourage everyone to understand and enjoy the National Park's special qualities, while ensuring that its character is not harmed***

**Management Plan Objective:** to encourage everyone to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the New Forest, while ensuring that its character is not harmed by recreational use

***Recreation and visitor management***

*The second purpose includes promoting opportunities for people to enjoy the National Park, although at present the Authority itself has little direct involvement in recreation management. While recreation and visitor management issues are covered in the numerous strategies and policies produced by a range of public bodies and organisations involved in the management of the New Forest, there is no distinct, co-ordinated strategy that specifically addresses these issues across the National Park and the surrounding area*

**U1 Produce a recreation and visitor management strategy for the National Park and surrounding areas (MP 2g, 5.2a, 5.2i, 5.2j, 5.2k, and 5.2l, Defra c and d)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008</b>	<b>When</b>
We began preparation of a Recreation Management Strategy by: - assessing existing policies - gathering information and issues from users and other interests - holding a preliminary member workshop - designing the project management framework	Engage consultants to assist in consultations and Strategy preparation	June 2007
	Undertake stakeholder consultations on issues and options	Dec 2007
	Prepare Draft Recreation Management Strategy	March 2008
	Consultation on Draft Strategy	June 2008
	Prepare and adopt final Strategy and action plan, establish implementation mechanisms	2008/2009
We worked with the Forestry Commission, New Forest District Council and New Forest Local Strategic Partnership in developing recreation and sustainable tourism policy, including inputting to reviews of their strategies and plans		

Traffic and transport

*A range of demand management tools and transportation related initiatives could be implemented to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic within the National Park. In addition to issues of commuter and cross-park traffic (including Heavy Goods Vehicles), approximately 85% of all visitor groups travel to the New Forest in their own private vehicles (rising to 95% of visits from neighbouring major urban areas)*

**U2 Review strategies and develop proposals to reduce the impact of traffic on the special environment of the National Park and promote alternatives to private car use, working jointly with relevant authorities (MP 2e, 5.2c, 5.2g and 5.3a-j, Defra a)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We were disappointed to discover that no review of Hampshire County Council's New Forest Transport Strategy is scheduled for several years since we believe that an early review is desirable	Make case to Hampshire County Council to bring forward its review	June 2007
We supported the continued appointment of the New Forest Transport Strategy Officer (who is now part-based at the Authority's offices)	Continue support for three-year term  Review post with partners	On-going  2008
No opportunities arose to work on encouraging bus companies to develop strategic bus services across the National Park		
We co-sponsored the New Forest District Council and New Forest Business Partnership Transport and Travel Forum in November 2006		
We supported the New Forest Tour bus which operated for the planned 100 days in the summer of 2006, carrying over 9,000 passengers	Continue to provide revenue support for the operation and development of the New Forest Tour and work with partners to ensure effective marketing  Review effectiveness and opportunities for improvement of the New Forest Tour and work towards its commercial viability beyond September 2008	On-going  Dec 2007
	Develop a new animal accident reduction strategy, in partnership with all stakeholders  Contribute to the implementation of actions arising out of the review	Dec 2007  2008

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We established a network of contacts and agreed working procedures with Hampshire County Council and Wiltshire County Council	Ensure that National Park purposes are taken into account when highway and traffic authorities are developing and implementing integrated transport schemes and highway maintenance schemes	On-going
We supported the highway authorities' introduction of measures to restrict HGV through traffic in the north of the National Park	Work with the highway authorities to monitor the outcomes of weight restrictions and to identify other possible locations for similar measures	On-going
	Help identify and contribute to research opportunities which will inform decisions about reducing traffic movements and better managing traffic flows in the National Park	Sept 2007

Understanding and awareness-raising

*This is integral to delivering the second national park purpose. A number of organisations currently provide visitor information for people using the National Park, including Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, the Forestry Commission and the Ninth Centenary Trust. At present, this activity is not co-ordinated and there are opportunities for co-ordinating effort, particularly focused on hard to reach groups and local visitors. Learning more about the National Park will improve people's enjoyment of it and encourage them to play a part in its conservation*

**U3 Improve everyone's understanding and awareness of the New Forest National Park, in particular hard to reach groups (MP 5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1c, 5.1d, 5.1j and Defra c)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We prepared a draft Interpretation Strategy to guide the delivery of the Authority's interpretation and information media	Finalise the Interpretation Strategy setting out prioritised actions for 2007-2010	June 2007
We developed, initiated design of and negotiated agreement for the installation of Awareness Panels about the National Park at a range of key sites throughout the National Park	Construct and install Awareness Panels at multiple locations, supported by appropriate training and information for hosts, to enable visitors to learn about the National Park	Sept 2007
We took advice from stakeholders on the introduction of National Park boundary markers and commissioned the design and installation processes, simultaneously agreeing action with partners to reduce overall sign clutter including commissioning a pilot audit by Hampshire County Council	Complete design, construction and installation of boundary markers at all priority sites. Boundary marker installation may extend into 2008-2009, depending upon available resources  Reduce the impact of signs through developing and implementing a plan for removal, rationalisation and replacement, incorporating common design elements, wherever possible, working in partnership with the highway authorities	Sept 2007  On-going

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008	When
<p>We jointly commissioned research into the basis for developing an association with the New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust to improve delivery of National Park messages through the New Forest Museum complex in Lyndhurst</p> <p>We had similar discussions with other service providers to determine how to add value to their facilities</p>	<p>Establish National Park information and interpretation within New Forest Museum and a presence in District Council visitor information centres</p> <p>Develop partnerships with Hampshire County Council, Forestry Commission, National Trust and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to provide appropriate interpretation at key visitor centres</p> <p>Assess the potential for creating other outlets for information, such as through shops and pubs, and via a mobile unit</p>	<p>June-Sept 2007</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>March 2008</p>
<p>We disseminated key information through developing the 'living in' and 'visiting' areas of the Authority's website; working with the Forestry Commission to enhance the scope of <i>Forest Focus</i>; and regularly contributing to New Forest District Council's <i>New Forest Today</i></p> <p>We established a protocol for future input to New Forest Tourist Association literature</p> <p>We produced and widely distributed our own <i>Pocket Guide</i> to the National Park, and revised it for 2007/2008</p>	<p>Further enhance the Authority's website to become <i>the</i> definitive source for on-line information about living in and visiting the New Forest National Park, complementing and directly linking to the NFDC/NFTA tourism site</p> <p>Lead and coordinate a web-based interpretation project as part of the 'Around the Solent' project, if the Solent Forum's Heritage Lottery Fund bid is successful</p> <p>Update our <i>Pocket Guide</i> as required and continue to input into partners' publications</p> <p>Assess with partners the feasibility of a free National Park focused news publication for visitors and local users, and if desirable, produce in 2008</p> <p>Review success of initial communications activity in raising awareness of the National Park and its special qualities</p>	<p>Sept 2007</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>June 2007</p> <p>On-going</p>

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
We identified partner organisations with whom to work in order to reach out to under-represented groups and to enable them to benefit from the National Park	<p>Work with the Black Environmental Network to establish positive links with people from ethnic minorities</p> <p>Work through education providers to promote visits from young people from local communities and nearby conurbations</p> <p>Continue to work with partner organisations to promote visits by under-represented groups from local communities and provide funding for outreach projects</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
We planned a series of walking events to test the market in 2007/2008	<p>Deliver a variety of interpretative events, some in partnership with other providers, monitor feedback, assess the benefits and develop an appropriate programme for delivery in 2008/2009</p> <p>Deliver a programme of events, informed by experience in 2007/2008</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p> <p>2008/2009</p>
We commissioned the production of a short interpretative and promotional film about the National Park	Seek ways to maximise the dissemination of the film	Dec 2007
We organised a stand at the 2006 New Forest Show, which won the award for 'best large stand'	Organise a stand at the New Forest Show in July	Sept 2007
We worked with the Forestry Commission and New Forest District Council to coordinate litter campaign activities for Spring 2007	Provide a focus for tackling litter issues across the National Park	On-going

Education

*Many individual organisations currently carry out environmental education. Co-ordination is needed to bring partners together, develop and distribute appropriate resource material and encourage a focus on issues relevant to the special qualities of the National Park. Current provision may generally be geared more to outdoor pursuits, rather than environmental issues and conservation skills*

**U4 Prepare and implement a co-ordinated programme for education about the National Park, which emphasises environmental and sustainability issues (MP 5.1d, 5.1f and 3.2d, Defra c)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
The Government's Manifesto on Learning Outside the Classroom was produced but the UK National Parks' Big Lottery Fund bid for collaborative work was unsuccessful	Use the Government's Manifesto as a focus for coordinated activities with other National Parks and local education providers	On-going
We assessed the existing provision of National Park-focused outdoor education and set up an Educators' Forum for the benefit of all key providers	Use the Educators Forum as the principal means of encouraging high quality, coordinated education with an emphasis on sustainability and the Park's special qualities  Contribute to an Education Fair to encourage schools to book sessions with members of the Forum and find other ways to support existing education providers. Review success and repeat if appropriate  Instigate joint projects with providers especially where this enables 'under-represented groups' particularly young people to engage with the National Park	On-going  March 2008  On-going
We examined the range, needs and demands of target audiences and the gaps in current education provision and used this to inform the preparation of a draft Education Strategy for the Authority	Finalise the Authority's Education Strategy setting out prioritised actions for 2007-2010	June 2007

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We developed operating procedures for off-site visits with educational groups and engaged with a variety of visiting educational groups	<p>Establish and evaluate the Authority's own education programme, including direct contact with students, teachers and youth groups</p> <p>Explore options for expanding direct contact with schools throughout the National Park and the surrounding area</p>	<p>March 2008</p> <p>March 2008</p>
We enhanced the Authority's website as a resource for teaching materials relating to 'learning about' the National Park and commissioned work to develop a 'Fun Zone'	<p>Create web-based learning resources, including fact sheets, a Teachers' Area and the Fun Zone</p> <p>Research potential for interactive web-based tutorials and virtual field trips</p>	March 2008

Countryside management

A number of organisations operate a ranger-related service within the New Forest, including the Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, Wiltshire County Council, the National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts and Sustrans. There is no formal co-ordination of these services and they do not cover the whole of the National Park

**U5 Develop a co-ordinated National Park ranger service, working with relevant partner organisations to build on existing services (MP 2d, 5.1h and 5.2b)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We developed liaison with, and researched the scope of, existing ranger services; set up briefing/information exchange events for front line staff; investigated the potential for appointing a Joint Ranger with local partner organisations; began work on preparing options for delivering coordinated ranger services and providing complementary Authority ranger support	Consider options for coordinated ranger service development  Establish a Ranger Service Management Forum  - develop mechanisms for common training and annual information exchange  Set up pilot Joint Ranger post	June 2007  June 2007 Sept 2007  Sept 2007
The option of creating a 'virtual ranger' guide on the website was not pursued but a separate children's Fun Zone area was created	A dedicated webpage to support ranger service co-ordination will be developed	Dec 2007

Recreation and visitor management

Within the New Forest National Park there is very limited interconnection of the current infrastructure of access land, Public Rights of Way and long distance routes and the network does not adequately link to settlements. (See the National Park Profile in Appendix 1 for details of the access land, Rights of Way and long distance routes)

**U6 Enhance opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, including developing an integrated network of accessible, safe and attractive footpath and cycle routes, and promote their use to local people and visitors (MP 5.2c, 5.2d and 5.3h, Defra c and d)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We investigated and set up a Small Grants Scheme for rights of way improvements	Promotion to raise uptake of the Small Grants Scheme	On-going
We assessed the condition and ease of use of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in the National Park through enhancing highway authority surveys		
We contributed to the delivery of cycle infrastructure, including the resurfacing of the Keyhaven ancient highway and cycle safety audits	Work with relevant stakeholders to progress the delivery of the Strategic Cycle Network, including the National Cycle Network (Route 2) between Hythe and Christchurch.	On-going
We commissioned research to determine the best format for providing 'easy access' information to potential users We joined the <i>Active New Forest</i> network to support healthy walks initiatives	Produce 'easy access' information in appropriate form, as informed by research  Support specific walking for health projects, such as GP exercise referrals	March 2008  On-going
	Prepare a programme for priority access improvements identified within Access Plans / Rights of Way Improvement Plans for potential funding support	Dec 2007

Action in 2006-2007	Action in 2007-2008 and beyond	When
<p>We established working links with the providers and managers of walking, cycling and riding access networks, and responded to their proposals</p>	<p>Subject to appropriate consents, support or develop proposals for sustainable new, improved and safe opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding (especially circular routes, routes linking settlements and providing access from settlements onto access land) to complement existing access:</p> <p><u>Cycling</u> – implementation of the strategic cycle network might include National Cycle Network Route 2 safety audit and signing, improvements to the Forestry Commission promoted gravel track network, and Hampshire / Wiltshire County Council bridleway networks</p> <p><u>Walking</u> – might include Solent Way improvements, new permissive access route north of Calshot, assisting highway authorities to replace stiles with gates/kissing gates</p> <p>Support proposal by Hampshire County Council to extend Castleman Trail (Poole to Ringwood multi-use route) into the National Park</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Countryside Access

*Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, approximately 16,500 ha of access land has been identified within the New Forest National Park. This includes open country, registered commons, land subject to access through other enactments and dedicated access land. Under the Act the National Park Authority is responsible for: enabling and managing access; managing exclusions or restrictions on open country; and establishing a Local Access Forum*

**U7 Improve public access through implementation of the National Park Authority's responsibilities under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (MP 2d and 5.2d, Defra b and c)**

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We set up and serviced the New Forest Access Forum as a statutory joint Local Access Forum with Hampshire County Council	Mainstream activity; no longer subject of a specific Corporate Plan objective	On-going
We assessed 'open country' sites and identified no immediate access management requirements	Mainstream activity; no longer subject of a specific Corporate Plan objective	On-going
We considered feedback from the Hampshire County Council Countryside Access Plan consultation to identify opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding access improvement	See U6	

<b>SE Support the social and economic well-being of local communities in ways that sustain the New Forest National Park's special character</b>		
Management Plan Objective: to support the social and economic well-being of local communities in ways that sustain the special character of the National Park		
<u>Sustainable Development</u> <i>There is a need to encourage sustainable ways of living in and enjoying the National Park which will help deliver National Park purposes and have a positive effect on environmental, economic and community well-being, ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come</i>		
<b>SE1 Promote sustainable development within the National Park as the basis for the social and economic well-being of local communities (Defra a and f)</b>		
<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We provided project development support to potential applicants to the Sustainable Development Fund	As in 2006-07	On-going
We assessed funding applications against the agreed appraisal criteria and with the full involvement of the decision-making Panel have ensured full allocation of the fund within the year to 25 projects. This has resulted in drawing in around £0.5 million of additional funding to the National Park in terms of match-funding	As in 2006-07	On-going
We began to develop systems, expertise and links with other organisations to enable us to carry out sound and efficient Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments, Appropriate Assessments, etc. of the Authority's formal plans and programmes	Continue to develop systems, expertise and links with other organisations to enable us to carry out sound and efficient Sustainability Appraisals, Appropriate Assessments, etc. of the Authority's formal plans and programmes, particularly the National Park Management Plan and Local Developments	On-going
	Work in partnership with others to provide advice and guidance on a range of sustainability issues including greener homes	

<i>Affordable housing</i> <i>Lack of affordable housing for local people, including the continuing loss of existing stock, is a major issue</i>		
<b>SE2 Protect the existing affordable housing stock, and help increase the number of affordable houses for rent and shared ownership (MP 4.1e, 4.6b, 4.6d)</b>		
<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We reviewed policies for affordable housing, including for commoners, and began to collect information with which to establish a register of new dwellings with agricultural ties	Consult on and approve the policies through the Local Development Framework process	
We established formal liaison with all three housing authorities to ensure a consistent cross-boundary approach to housing policies and services		
We started to participate as a partner on the New Forest District Housing Strategy Board  See C1 re the Commoners Housing Scheme	Continue to participate as an active partner on the New Forest District Housing Strategy Board	On-going
We provided planning advice on all (10) sites proposed through the Rural Housing Enablers, Registered Social Landlords, housing authorities and parish action plans, including: - producing an agreed protocol for identifying and providing advice on exception sites - monitoring the number of sites and parishes involved	As for 2006-2007	On-going

<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
In partnership with community planners in other authorities and rural housing enablers, we encouraged all parishes currently producing parish plans (and those with newly completed plans) to include a statement on local affordable housing needs and potential sites	Review success	
We invited suggestions and comment on affordable housing issues as part of the Future Matters consultation, and begun to consider potential policy options as part of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy	Continue to develop, test and consult on potential spatial planning policy options to maximise delivery of affordable housing in Local Development Documents including Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (see Section A for policy document details)	On-going

<u><i>Business, Employment and Community</i></u> <i>Traditional village businesses and services that provide a focus for community life are gradually being lost. There is scope for encouraging and supporting local projects through the Sustainable Development Fund</i>		
<b>SE3 Support existing and encourage new businesses and community services which enhance the New Forest environment while providing economic and community benefits (MP 4.7a, 4.7c, 4.7d and Defra f)</b>		
<b>Action in 2006-2007</b>	<b>Action in 2007-2008 and beyond</b>	<b>When</b>
We invited suggestions and comment on business, employment and community issues as part of the Future Matters consultation, and began to consider potential policy options as part of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy	Continue to develop, test and consult on potential spatial planning policy options to optimise policies which seek to support local businesses and services, and promote sustainable design and practices (see Section A for policy document details)	On-going
We began to work with community planners in other authorities and directly with parishes, to encourage local communities to agree village centre projects, Parish Plans and Village Design Statements which help deliver National Park purposes	As for 2006-2007	On-going
No opportunities arose to encourage local communities to agree village centre projects delivering National Park purposes, in addition to work already being carried out by others		
In partnership with others we began to prepare information and advice covering all aspects of sustainable business development on which to base the 'green business' initiative	Work in partnership with others to provide advice and support to New Forest businesses covering all aspects of sustainable business development as part of the green business initiative	Sept 2007