

PERFORMANCE SECTION

Delivering our aim and objectives

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 year 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 2007-2008**: setting out what the Authority achieved in its second operational year
- **action in 2008-09 and beyond**: the activities planned for the Authority's third year, with quarterly milestones for completing them, and, where appropriate, how these activities will be taken forward in later years.

A Champion the New Forest National Park, working in partnership through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions

Interim Management Plan Objective: to work together in partnership to promote and achieve the Vision for the New Forest through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions

Developing the Authority

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:
- governance arrangements that enable members to set policy, guide the Authority's work and review progress
- ways of working that enable staff to serve their customers well
- 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

A1 Developing the Authority

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
Continuing development		
We continued to develop the policies and practices which are essential for a fully working Authority, such as policies for Human Resources, Health and Safety, sponsorship, and ICT acceptable use, and we refreshed and implemented a programme for member development	Complete policies and practices as necessary in all corporate areas	Dec 2008
Delays in some aspects of the Authority's development led to the postponement of the peer review of our effectiveness in September 2007	Obtain a peer-review of the operational effectiveness of the Authority once the development process is complete	Sept 2008
	Implement any recommendations	March 2009
We introduced additional governance policies and systems to ensure proper management of the Authority's resources, including a strategy for the systematic management of risk, and improvements in the operational monitoring and management of performance We conducted a market test of our financial service arrangements, with the aim of securing value for money and improvements in service standards. Partial implementation started in January 2008 and was completed on a pilot basis in May 2008	Operate new financial and governance procedures effectively, with a view to achieving a satisfactory report from the District Auditor for the financial year 2008-2009, and the years following	June 2009
	Up-date business continuity planning and risk management	Sept 2008
	Introduce a full framework for performance management, involving staff across the organisation to deliver continuous performance improvement, within the Government's new performance framework	June 2008
	Market-test provision of legal services	Sept 2008

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We achieved a satisfactory 3-year funding settlement from Defra, which continued to recognise some of the funding pressures of the new organisation. This was incorporated into our financial strategy for 2008-2009 – 2010-2011</p>	<p>Adopt a strategy for external funding</p> <p>Review the match between expenditure patterns and long term financial projections</p> <p>If necessary, prepare for longer term discussions on funding levels with Defra</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p> <p>Sept 2009</p>
Staff		
<p>We</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ achieved a full complement of staff ▪ developed and introduced a pilot staff appraisal scheme, and ▪ established a training plan from the training needs gathered during the pilot of the appraisal scheme <p>The Appraisal Scheme was evaluated following feedback from staff, modified and rolled out for its second year in April 2008</p> <p>The workforce strategy which was not completed in 2007-2008</p>	<p>Develop a workforce strategy, covering staff development, retention and succession planning</p> <p>Investigate establishing a career development scheme</p> <p>Review the success of recruitment methods, implementing changes where required, and meeting best practice standards</p> <p>Review the job evaluation scheme to ensure it reflects the structure and skill sets in the Authority</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p>
<p>We held a second Culture and Values Day to review our progress as a new organisation and further embed the Authority's values</p>	<p>Develop team knowledge and skills through a series of learning activities</p>	<p>June 2008</p>
<p>We prepared a large number of draft HR policies, in consultation with staff, which are nearing completion</p> <p>We granted recognition to Unison</p>	<p>Complete the preparation and implementation of HR policies after appropriate consultation</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We analysed results from the first staff survey and produced an action plan in consultation with staff, to tackle the issues it identified and the outcome of the second Culture and Values Day</p> <p>We implemented the action plan and made a start on initiatives to support staff well-being</p>	<p>Evaluate the success of the action plan, make amendments and continue to progress initiatives</p> <p>Conduct a second staff survey. Evaluate the outcome and report back to staff</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We began work towards achieving Investors in People (IiP) status. We analysed the Authority's strengths and limitations and created an action plan</p>	<p>Implement the plan for achieving IiP status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hold a pre-assessment to monitor progress - develop a Competence Framework for staff to support the Staff Appraisal Scheme - achieve IiP accreditation 	<p>Dec 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p> <p>Dec 2009</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
Accommodation		
<p>Work continued with Defra and Natural England to locate permanent headquarters although the timetable was set back as a result of unsuccessful negotiations on one premises</p> <p>We obtained extensions to the lease for three years, and planning permission for one year, so that we are able to continue to occupy our interim headquarters at South Efford House</p>	<p>Work with Defra to acquire permanent headquarters for the Authority, aiming to occupy new offices as soon as possible</p> <p>Obtain a further extension of the temporary planning permission for occupation of South Efford House, until the move to new offices</p>	<p>Sept 2010</p> <p>Dec 2008</p>
ICT		
<p>An IT Customer Service satisfaction survey was completed by the Society of IT Managers (Socitm)</p> <p>The Authority's IT Services team designed and built a bespoke time management system. A trial of this system began in February 2008</p> <p>An analysis of the requirements for the Authority's contact database was presented to Management Board in January 2008</p> <p>Implementation of an electronic records and document management system (ERDMS) was delayed so that the Authority's needs could be re-appraised</p>	<p>Agree a Customer Service action plan to follow on from the survey</p> <p>Conduct the next Socitm survey</p> <p>Implement the first phase of the corporate time recording management system</p> <p>Begin the second phase, investigating the potential for building in leave monitoring</p> <p>Continue development of the contact and address database, with the goal of making this the primary source of addresses in the Authority outside the Planning system</p> <p>Continue specification of an ERDMS until all directorates are ready to use it as their primary document store, then implement records management</p> <p>Implement a new ICT-supported planning policy system</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>Sept 2009</p> <p>June 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p> <p>Dec 2009</p> <p>Sept 2008</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
Communications		
<p>We implemented the revised Communications Strategy, with actions carried out across the full range of communications work including: media, corporate identity, publications, web, marketing, special events, information and internal communications</p> <p>We evaluated the success of the Strategy using the agreed indicators and measures and adjusted actions in the light of the evaluation</p>	<p>Review the Communications Strategy in the light of the new National Park Plan after it is published in spring 2009</p>	<p>Sept 2009</p>
Knowledge management		
<p>We acquired and developed extensive new evidence bases in preparing the new Management Plan, Local Development Framework, Recreation Management Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan, Cultural Heritage Strategy and other key Authority documents</p>	<p>Develop a policy for maintaining, developing and sharing the Authority's information resources for its own and others' use</p>	<p>Dec 2008</p>
Corporate sustainability		
<p>We carried out an initial review of the Authority's environmental impacts. We then developed a Corporate Sustainability Action Plan and began to implement it</p>	<p>Continue to implement and review the Action Plan as part of the Authority's Environmental Management System, moving towards accreditation to a recognised standard</p> <p>Carry out a peer review of the Authority's corporate sustainability work</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>March 2009</p>

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.l, 2m, 2n)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
The Statement of Community Involvement provided the formal basis for community involvement in spatial planning and the consideration of planning applications, and a guide for other work including the preparation of the National Park Plan	Continue to use the Statement of Community Involvement to guide community involvement in plan preparation and the consideration of planning applications, and review the continued effectiveness of the Statement through the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report (see below, section A4)	On-going, with annual reviews

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We continued joint working with partners on the development of the National Park Plan and the Local Development Framework (LDF), including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a Management Plan Key Stakeholder Steering Group ▪ extensive involvement of a wide range of local stakeholders in the 'New Forest, New Chapter' series of workshops to inform the National Park Plan, daughter documents and LDF Core Strategy ▪ a Joint Member Advisory Group with New Forest District Council to guide the preparation of both authorities' LDF core strategies ▪ a joint Sustainability Appraisal Group with internal and New Forest District Council specialist staff ▪ joint working with New Forest District Council and Natural England on Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of plans ▪ joint working with Hampshire County, Southampton City and Portsmouth City Councils on minerals and waste plan-making and representations to government on the saving of old-style development plan policies ▪ joint working with other national park authorities and the English National Park Authorities Association and the Council for National Parks on policies, plans and responses to government consultations ▪ joint working with New Forest Local Strategic Partnership and New Forest District Council On 'Joining Up the Processes' of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the two LDFs ▪ joint commissioning of research and reports with, variously, New Forest District Council, New Forest and Central Hampshire planning authorities, Environment Agency, Natural England, and the Forestry Commission ▪ stakeholder steering groups to advise on the preparation of the Recreation Management Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan and Landscape Strategy 	<p>Consider opportunities for improving the effectiveness of current structures in maintaining excellent levels of communication and participation with the Authority's work, and carefully consider the need for any new standing or project groups for the delivery of certain programmes, policy development or consensus building</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>We collaborated with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Authorities (HIOWLA) to benefit from training for future leaders and first line managers</p>	<p>Continue to participate in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight sub-regional Improvement Partnership including the Planning Partners Collaborative Project</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We supported the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre through funding under a Service Level Agreement, made a financial contribution to the development of GIS mapping of bat records, and strategic management of the Centre's activities. The partnership facilitated the annual survey programme of local wildlife sites within the Authority area and achieved 24 days survey work as well as assisting with data requests for 26 sites</p> <p>We worked with and supported the New Forest Consultative Panel, the Ninth Centenary Trust at the New Forest Centre and the New Forest Access Forum</p> <p>We worked with others such as the National Trust, Hampshire County Council and Forestry Commission to secure three joint ranger posts</p> <p>We worked with partners on the 'Life in Common' bid – see C3</p>	<p>Continue support through an updated Service Level Agreement due to be renewed in 2008. Attend Strategic Management and User Group meetings as required to facilitate the delivery of the partnership and its delivery of data services to the Authority</p> <p>See U3, U6</p> <p>See U5</p>	<p>On-going</p>

A3 Provide a clear, up-to-date framework for the management of the National Park through a new strategic plan (the New Forest National Park Plan) by working with partners to review and replace the interim Management Plan and parts of the Development Plan

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We continued to consult widely, engaging stakeholders, mainly through the programme of 'New Forest, New Chapter' workshops, in the development of a Vision, Objectives, Policies, Programmes and Actions	Continue to consult widely on the draft New Forest National Park Plan and engage stakeholders in the development of an Action Plan	On-going to March 2009
Preparation of the National Park Management Plan and Core Spatial Strategy Development Plan Document was merged into a single integrated Plan for the Park – 'The New Forest National Park Plan'	Publish a draft Plan for consultation	Sept 2008
An annex to this Plan will contain a revised new uniform set of Development Control Policies for the National Park	Adopt and publish the New Forest National Park Plan as the first statutory Management Plan for the New Forest National Park	March 2009
The statement of Special Qualities was revised following consultation and launched in June 2007	Submit the New Forest National Park Plan to government for Examination as the statutory Core Strategy (including Development Control policies) Development Plan Document	March 2009 Sept 2009
	Adopt the New Forest National Park Plan as the statutory Core Strategy Development Plan Document	March 2010

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 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We progressed the following components for the Local Development Framework (LDF):</p> <p>Local Development Scheme was formally reviewed as part of the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report and to bring it into line with the decision to produce a National Park Core Strategy rather than a joint Core Strategy with New Forest District Council</p> <p>Statement of Community Involvement: we continued to consult widely engaging stakeholders, mainly through the programme of 'New Forest, New Chapter' workshops, in the development of a Vision, Objectives, Policies, Programmes and Actions (see also A2)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report was approved and submitted to government in December 2007</p> <p>Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD): Preparation continued and the Strategy was developed through consultation with stakeholders and development of the evidence base</p> <p>Preparation of the National Park Management Plan and Core Spatial Strategy Development Plan Document was merged into a single integrated Plan for the Park – 'The New Forest National Park Plan'</p>	<p>Progress the following components for the Local Development Framework:</p> <p>Monitor progress against the revised Scheme Formally adopt the revised Scheme as part of the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>Continue to consult widely at each stage in developing the Plan and in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement</p> <p>Prepare the next Annual Monitoring Report Publish a new Report annually</p> <p>See Section A3 – New Forest National Park Plan</p>	<p>On-going Dec 2008 On-going Dec 2008 On-going</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD was prepared jointly with other authorities and adopted in June 2007 A legal challenge to adoption of the plan has since been made by Associated British Ports, claiming insufficient assessment of evidence in the Examination</p> <p>Minerals Plan DPD is being prepared jointly with other authorities and Preferred Options were published for consultation in October 2007</p> <p>Waste Management Plan DPD is being prepared jointly with other authorities and issues and options were further explored</p> <p>Building Design Guide SPD: work progressed on the preparation of a draft for consultation; a framework has been established and preparation of detailed content has begun</p>	<p>Support the defence of the Core Strategy against the High Court challenge Implementation and monitoring</p> <p>Submit to government Examination Adopt</p> <p>Publish preferred options for consultation Submit to government Examination Adopt</p> <p>Draft for consultation Adopt</p>	<p>May 2009</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Dec 2008 Sept 2009 June 2010</p> <p>Dec 2008 June 2008 Dec 2009 Sept 2010</p> <p>Sept 2008 Dec 2008</p>
<p>Detailed Designations and Policies DPD. The revised Local Development Scheme deferred work on this DPD until after completion of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>Draft for consultation Submit to government Examination Adopt</p>	<p>Feb 2010 Sept 2010 Dec 2010 Sept 2011</p>
<p>Development Control Policies DPD. Preparation, consultation and adoption of new development control policies has been integrated with the Core Strategy DPD</p>	<p>See Section A3 – New Forest National Park Plan</p>	<p>See Section A3</p>
<p>We co-ordinated 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 policy research and monitoring to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provide content for the Annual Monitoring Report ▪ inform Local Development Documents ▪ provide the evidence base and monitoring data for the New Forest National Park Plan and Local Development Framework ▪ provide data for State of the Park reporting ▪ support the Conservation and Recreation functions 	<p>On-going</p>
<p>We continued to work actively with partners in the New Forest Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to help develop and deliver its Sustainable Community Strategy</p>	<p>Continue to work with partners in the New Forest LSP</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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>Work continued to achieve the Government's targets on planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 74% of minor applications were determined within eight weeks (against a target of 65%) - 81% of other applications were determined within in eight weeks (against a target of 80%) - 55% of major applications were determined within thirteen weeks (against a target of 60%) 	<p>Continue to work to achieve the Government's targets on planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 65% of minor applications in eight weeks - 80% of other applications in eight weeks - 60% of major applications in thirteen weeks 	<p>On-going</p>
<p>We implemented a pilot of national planning application forms (1APP) in December 2007</p>	<p>Implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the mandatory requirement for new national planning application forms (1APP) - new requirements for the validation of planning applications by local planning authorities 	<p>June 2008 June 2008</p>
<p>We initiated an annual Members' Planning Development Control Committee performance review tour in April 2007 and held the annual planning agents' meeting in July 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise annual Members' Planning Development Control Committee performance review tour; and - Convene the annual planning agents' meeting 	<p>June 2008</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We started developing a pro-active compliance and monitoring strategy by monitoring compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ temporary planning permissions ▪ some pre-commencement conditions 	Develop a comprehensive pro-active compliance and monitoring programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ temporary planning permissions ▪ pre-commencement conditions ▪ Section 106 Agreements ▪ Agricultural Occupancy Conditions ▪ compliance with approved plans (through selective/sample monitoring) ▪ closer working with local parish and town councils 	Sept 2008
	Publish standing pre-application advice to assist applicants with householder and minor developments	Sept 2008
	Initiate annual customer satisfaction survey	June 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

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We continued to raise awareness of Section 62 responsibilities with mixed success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the proposed Laser Gateway from Southampton was dropped following strong representation from us, and others, on the impact on the tranquillity of the National Park- we sought leave for a judicial review of Christchurch Borough Council's decision to approve proposals to expand Bournemouth Airport because we consider that the Council did not properly consider the impact of the proposals on the National Park (as it is required to do under Section 62); the application was refused in April 2008 although the Judge indicated that it may have been a proper application for the Authority to take reflecting the Authority's statutory purposes.- we similarly asked the Secretary of State for Transport to consider further the environmental impact (on the National Park and other protected areas) of the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to allow an extension of controlled airspace over the northern and most tranquil parts of the National Park	<p>Strengthen efforts to raise awareness of Section 62 responsibilities regionally and locally</p> <p>Work with other National Park Authorities to seek mechanisms for strengthening Section 62 in the light of the Bournemouth Airport judgement</p>	<p>On-going</p>

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

Interim 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

Commoning and farming

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

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We reviewed how the Authority's policies affect commoning and farming as part of the Local Development Framework and Management Plan process and took immediate action to implement a number of recommendations	The findings of the review will be addressed in the New Forest National Park Plan	March 2009

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>Opportunities were provided for commoners to discuss their views of the issues affecting commoning and, with their support, we completed the commoner-led review of support for commoning on 27 September 2007. The review will inform the development of new policies and actions that improve the sustainability of commoning. Of the 28 recommendations, 18 have been wholly or partly implemented</p> <p>We again provided financial support for the provision of five Land Rovers for use by the Agisters as part of the management of grazing on the open forest</p> <p>In partnership with the Verderers and Commoners' Defence Association, we instigated a Defra review of the New Forest Single Payment Scheme which resulted in a tripling of subsidy payments to commoners</p>	Work with partners to identify opportunities to implement the outstanding recommendations of the review where resources are available. Review progress	March 2009
	Secure continued support for locally tailored farm advisory support services	March 2008
	With partners, agree an approach to prevent encroachments onto the Open Forest	Sept 2008
	Provide support to young commoners to develop projects of importance to the younger commoning community	March 2008
	Work with local landowners and other partners to secure affordable rental properties for young commoners	On-going
	Commission further research into how best to ensure that sufficient back-up grazing is available to commoners at an affordable price	Sept 2008
	Provide funding advice and support for the implementation of Phase 2 improvements to Beaulieu Road Sales Yard	On-going
	Continue to support the Agisters' vehicles	June 2008
	Monitor changes to national agricultural schemes and how they impact the New Forest looking to secure further external funding opportunities for the Forest	On-going

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>Further applications are being developed as part of the Commoners' Dwelling Scheme, one application was approved this year with 3 in the pipeline. We have carried out a review of the Scheme and have made some amendments to the arrangements as recommended by the Commoners' Dwelling Panel</p> <p>We worked closely with the Forestry Commission, architects, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the National Trust to trial a process and develop generic designs for a range of dwellings that can be built at low cost for commoners while meeting high standards and sustainability requirements. The first two houses built to these designs are under construction by the Forestry Commission at Anderwood and will be let by May 2008</p> <p>We have continued to provide support to 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 set up a small grants scheme of £100,000, which has now been allocated to a range of projects in the New Forest. For example, we have part-financed a new incinerator for the local hunt to use for fallen stock</p> <p>A review of Forest Friendly Farming and the Authority's involvement in it has been completed. We agreed that successful elements should be absorbed into a wider rural programme</p>	<p>Continue to support applications to the Commoners Housing Scheme</p> <p>Further work to make the designs more accessible to other commoners wanting to build their own houses</p> <p>In partnership with the Local Action Group and New Forest District Council, implement the new LEADER programme</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>From Sept 2008</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>Authority staff submitted an application for LEADER funding on behalf of the Local Action Group and New Forest District Council. The proposal (which was approved in May 2008) will provide new infrastructure and development support for farmers, foresters and rural businesses.</p> <p>We provided a grant to the Pony Publicity Group to continue their work in promoting New Forest ponies</p> <p>In partnership with New Forest District Council we provided funding for training for a range of skills for commoners through the LEADER+ Small Grants Scheme. We have produced applications for funding a large proportion of the outstanding recommendations of the Commoning review</p> <p>In addition we have financed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the distribution of information for motorists on what to do if they are in an accident involving stock on the Open Forest ▪ the setting up of a young commoners group, and ▪ a survey to identify lost lawns to be considered for restoration 	<p>The new six year LEADER programme will include financial support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the production and promotion of New Forest wood products ▪ the development and marketing of New Forest farm products and ▪ support for sustainable land, farm and forestry management 	<p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We held a meeting of the farming and landowner liaison group to identify areas of mutual interest</p>	<p>Develop training initiatives to improve mutual awareness and understanding of planning related issues between the National Farmers Union and local landowners and the Authority's Development Control Service</p> <p>Facilitate the development of projects to secure the long term sustainability of the farming and forestry sectors by providing advice through the LEADER programme</p>	<p>Sept 2008</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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We started the process of producing a Landscape Strategy for the whole of the New Forest and started contributing to the Local Development Framework (LDF), e.g. through existing spatial planning policies and supplementary guidance included in the LDF on landscape and conservation</p> <p>We set up a Landscape Strategy Steering Group comprising local authorities, government agencies and key Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)s to review and assess current activity, identify gaps and agree strategic priorities for landscape conservation. Work to prepare the draft landscape strategy has continued</p> <p>The preparation of a design manual has been deferred until the strategy has been completed</p>	<p>Complete the draft Landscape Strategy</p> <p>Consult stakeholders and the public on the draft strategy prior to adoption</p> <p>Complete the review of existing policies and guidance included in the Local Development Framework</p>	<p>Dec 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p> <p>March 2009</p>
<p>Action on sign clutter is reported under objective U3</p> <p>We developed partnerships with local organisations to address litter problems</p> <p>Scottish and Southern Energy have now placed underground nearly 10 km of overhead power lines with the support of the National Park</p>	<p>Continue to support this work and where possible secure funding for the removal of more overhead power lines</p>	<p>March 2009</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
Working with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), we have secured their data sets for tranquillity mapping and are investigating how this can be utilised as a tool in the National Park	<p>Complete investigation of the CPRE data sets and adopt their methodology if it proves to be applicable</p> <p>Establish baseline monitoring of noise levels around the National Park</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p> <p>June 2008</p>
We commissioned research to update the 1995 Survey of Recreational Horse Keeping in the New Forest	<p>Working with partners we will investigate setting up initiatives to help horse-keepers to manage their land effectively and sympathetically</p> <p>We will review whether further action to prevent undesirable landscape deterioration in the enclosed areas of the New Forest is required</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We dealt with 222 tree work applications, 37 tree preservation orders were made and existing orders reviewed (at 30 March 2008)</p> <p>We started work on a project to identify the ancient/veteran tree resource currently documented in the Park and formulate methods for future strategic management of the resource and engagement with stakeholders</p>	<p>Manage the tree work application service, make tree preservation orders as needed and review existing orders</p> <p>Implementation of actions arising out of ancient/veteran tree project</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>June 2008</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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We established a local Biodiversity Steering Group of key stakeholders and work has continued on the development of a draft Biodiversity Action Plan/Strategy. We held a workshop with key stakeholders and the Authority supported a broader conference with the British Ecological Society that examined current wildlife issues in the New Forest	Complete a draft Biodiversity Action Plan	March 2009
We undertook work to establish the evidence base for the current status of biodiversity in the National Park	Consult stakeholders and the public on the draft Biodiversity Action Plan prior to adoption	June 2009
We developed the overarching strategy for nature conservation as part of the input to the New Forest National Park Plan	Launch the Biodiversity Action Plan	Sept 2009
	Continue to enhance the current level of biological information available through partnership work with Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, researchers, local groups and recorders	On-going

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<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 and the Commoning Review. A Project Officer was appointed and a great deal of work to develop the project to the next stage was completed. However, we were disappointed to lose the support of the Commoners' Defence Association in preparation of a Landscape Partnership Heritage Lottery Bid as a result of which a decision was made not to pursue this funding stream</p>	<p>Continue to work with Partners to seek alternative sources of external funding to progress individual projects originally proposed as part of the Heritage Lottery Bid</p>	<p>March 2008</p>
<p>We worked with New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council and others to contribute to 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 2009</p>

C4 Promote local cultural traditions and local products: this objective has now been merged with C6 below

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>Together with partners, we started to investigate projects to reduce noise and visual intrusion into the New Forest National Park from the fenced main roads</p> <p>The Authority commissioned studies into the noise impacts of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proposals to change air traffic routes across the National Park, and of - the A31 and of flights arising from the expansion of Bournemouth Airport 	<p>Work with partners to plan and implement projects to reduce the visual intrusion and perception of noise along the fenced roads – especially the A31</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>We have not yet been able to map the extent of street lighting and other sources of light pollution, although we have held discussions with relevant authorities about preventing any further installations</p>	<p>The work mapping the extent of street lighting and other sources of light pollution will continue when opportunities arise and resources allow</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>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 (see Section A for details of the policy document)</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>March 2009</p>

Conservation of cultural heritage and supporting the continuation of cultural traditions

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*

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*

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We continued preparation of the Cultural Heritage Strategy (alongside and linked to preparation of the National Park Plan) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a review of currently available information on the New Forest National Park's cultural heritage (sites, condition and level of protection) - an evaluation of existing strategies and policies - identifying the key strategic issues and gaps in knowledge - establishing a staff working group and a framework for the strategy - agreeing a programme for consultation of stakeholders <p>We have obtained historic Ordnance Survey (OS) map data and started to assess recent research and information to evaluate the current status of archaeological data sets for the New Forest and evaluate existing knowledge, strategies and policies</p>	<p>Produce a draft Cultural Heritage Strategy and undertake a public consultation on the document, adopt and launch the final Strategy</p>	<p>March 2009</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We initiated archaeological field work research projects to enhance our knowledge base and to upgrade the Sites and Monuments Records (Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Building Record)</p> <p>We began identifying the key strategic issues, gaps in knowledge to develop policies and projects for conservation and enhancement of the archaeological resource</p> <p>We developed a partnership of key stakeholders to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to support survey work of the maritime archaeology to enable better knowledge and future protection of key archaeological sites on the New Forest coast</p> <p>We worked with local communities to collect oral histories to record the language and cultural traditions of the National Park</p>	<p>Review and develop the Hampshire County Council archaeological 'Flag Map' data to inform development control decision making as part of the new 1App system for planning applications</p> <p>Continue archaeological field work survey projects to enhance the Sites and Monuments Record and to make the information widely available</p> <p>Develop a project plan and documents and submit application to the Heritage Lottery Fund</p> <p>Assess the value of remote sensing surveys as the basis for future archaeological and landscape projects</p> <p>Undertake an historic rural settlement survey of Brockenhurst to complete the archaeological village survey base line data</p> <p>Develop Local Development Framework Policies that ensure the conservation of the Historic Environment</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>June 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p>

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We dealt with 55 listed building consent applications. We continued to negotiate with owners over a number of listed Buildings At Risk and provided on-going 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 on the at risk register. Continue to provide planning and technical advice to developers and owners of listed buildings.	On-going
We reviewed the operation of the Historic Buildings Grant Scheme in 2006-2007. Approval was given for its reinstatement on a modified basis in March 2008.	Reinstate Historic Buildings Grants Scheme on a targeted and reactive basis.	On-going
We consulted on and designated four new Forest fringe settlements Conservation Areas and prepared, consulted on and adopted character appraisals for them.	<p>Conservation area management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete draft, complete consultation - Adopt and launch the plan <p>Review the boundaries of and prepare character appraisals for 14 existing conservation areas, consult and adopt</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>June 2008</p> <p>April 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)

*** since this objective was developed the Authority's work has expanded to include support for mitigation measures, notably with local communities, as well as adaption**

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We supported a number of projects that raise awareness of climate change and take steps towards mitigation through the Sustainable Development Fund</p> <p>The Authority joined the South East Climate Change Partnership</p> <p>Three Green Business Workshops were held to provide advice and support for New Forest businesses on range of sustainability issues</p> <p>We participated in a Defra ministerial seminar with National Park Authorities to consider the specific role in bringing about mitigation and adaption measures in national parks</p>	<p>Arrange a workshop with key agencies and NGOs to look at local adaptation to climate change (deferred from 2006 / 2007)</p> <p>Produce a plan for adaptation in the New Forest and promote the findings of the plan to relevant audiences for further discussion and implementation (deferred from 2006 / 2007), working closely with Hampshire County Council on pilot initiatives</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with others to provide advice and support to New Forest businesses on a range of sustainability matters. Particularly, developing workshops and audits that enable businesses actively to reduce their negative environmental impact</p> <p>Provide support to communities seeking to undertake initiatives that mitigate or adapt for climate change</p> <p>Work in partnership with others to provide advice and support for households on a range of sustainability issues relating to climate change</p> <p>Promote use of wood-fuel heating systems, wood-fuel production and renewable energy systems through the LEADER programme and Sustainable Development Fund</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p> <p>March 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>From Sept 2008</p>

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

Interim Management Plan Objective: to work together in partnership to promote and achieve the Vision for the New Forest through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions

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. This year we aim to work closely with other public bodies and organisations and produce a co-ordinated strategy that complements existing strategies and policies to address the issues involved in the management of recreation across the National Park and the surrounding area

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

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We began preparation of a Recreation Management Strategy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessing existing policies - gathering information and issues from users and other interests - designing the project management framework - engaging consultants to assist in consultations and preparation of the Strategy - holding a series of consultation workshops to help shape the direction of the Strategy - setting up a Stakeholder Advisory Group and a Members Advisory Group 	Prepare a draft Recreation Management Strategy for consultation Public consultation on the draft Strategy Prepare and adopt the final Strategy and Action Plan, and establish implementation mechanisms	June 2008 June 2008 March 2009

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We discussed the case for bringing forward the review of the New Forest Transport Strategy with Hampshire County Council. The Council agreed that this would be desirable if the resources can be identified but do not regard it as a priority in the short term</p> <p>The New Forest National Park Plan, Recreation Management Strategy and Local Development Framework will between them define and clarify the Authority's aspirations for transport. A formal review of the New Forest Transport Strategy could be more effective once these strategic documents are further progressed</p>	<p>To agree a robust project plan, including timeline and resources, for reviewing the New Forest Transport Strategy with Hampshire County Council and Wiltshire County Council</p>	<p>Dec 2008</p>
<p>We are committed to funding the Transport Strategy Officer post until the end of June 2009</p> <p>We are represented on the New Forest Transport Strategy Officer Steering Group. A revised work programme, which will form the basis of the review of the post is being developed</p>	<p>Continue to support the post for the agreed three-year term</p> <p>Review the case for continuing the post beyond June 2009 with partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Dec 2008</p>
<p>We led on the development of a comprehensive marketing plan for the Tour Bus 2007 season, which resulted in customer and revenue growth despite adverse weather. However, rising bus operating costs mean that the service continues to require revenue support funding</p>	<p>Continue to provide revenue support for the operation and development of the New Forest Tour bus until the end of the 2008 season and work with partners to ensure effective marketing</p> <p>Review effectiveness and opportunities for improvement of the New Forest Tour and work towards its commercial viability beyond September 2008</p> <p>Develop options for the provision of recreational public transport (bus and rail) services in the National Park beyond 2008</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Dec 2008</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We have been consulted on a number of transport and highway schemes, and have been influential changing a number of schemes better to reflect the setting of the National Park</p> <p>We organised a Highways and Landscape Seminar in January 2007 to raise awareness of National Park purposes to local highway engineers and managers</p>	<p>Develop robust mechanisms to 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</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>We welcomed the introduction of the weight restrictions on roads in the north of the New Forest, and continued to work with partners to identify sites for similar measures</p> <p>We are reliant on Hampshire County Council and the Police to monitor the effectiveness of the restrictions but are involved in discussions on how this can best be achieved</p>	<p>Work with the highway authorities to monitor the outcomes of weight restrictions and to identify other possible locations for similar measures</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>We were involved in the development of a Transport Assessment used to inform the New Forest District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options</p>	<p>Commission research into the impact of trip generation in the National Park arising from development proposed in regional spatial strategies</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p>
	<p>Help identify and contribute to research opportunities which will inform decisions about reducing traffic movements and better managing traffic flows in the National Park to include investigations into the viability of seasonal road closures</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We developed a new Animal Accident Reduction Strategy and action plan, in partnership with stakeholders. We produced credit card sized hotlines cards and 'animal casualty here' signs to raise awareness of the danger of causing accidents on Open Forest roads</p>	<p>Implement National Park Authority-led actions to reduce animal accidents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new, simpler animal accident warning signs able to incorporate changing messages on the B3054 - distribution of emergency hotline cards to visitor and community outlets - devising new awareness raising initiatives, and - encouraging other stakeholders to play their part 	<p>On-going</p>

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 both new delivery and 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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
The Interpretation Strategy was approved by the Authority and we started to deliver the actions in it	Continue to deliver the Interpretation Strategy through the actions described below (review in 2010)	On-going
45 awareness panels were produced and installation and provision of information support began at locations around the National Park	Complete installation of awareness panels; deliver information support, and research opportunities for further panels at other sites including railway stations	Dec 2008
We designed markers, waymarker discs and trunk road signs to mark the boundary of the National Park and installed them at most planned locations	Complete the installation of boundary markers	Sept 2008
We developed a Signage Strategy for adoption by organisations with significant responsibility for road signs. Agreement was reached to remove many redundant signs, with a focus on the B3054 as a pilot route for the rationalisation of animal accident warning signs	Complete the rationalisation of signs on the B3054 and use this to agree a plan to reduce the impact of signage across the National Park with the Hampshire Highway Authority	March 2009

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>The Authority signed an agreement with the Ninth Centenary Trust and the New Forest Museum was renamed and re-branded as The New Forest Centre. The Centre will now carry the strap line 'Discover the National Park' and content is changing to reflect this. We also agreed a presence in District Council Visitor Information Centres</p> <p>A partnership between the Authority, the Forestry Commission and the RSPB ran the 'Aren't Birds Brilliant in the New Forest' project. Over 17,000 people saw live wildlife images of nesting birds of prey and learned about the Forest and its management</p> <p>Schemes were developed to implement Local Information Points and a mobile interpretation and information unit</p>	<p>Continue to develop The New Forest Centre and our partnerships with the Ninth Centenary Trust and the Visitor Information Centres to deliver National Park information and interpretation</p> <p>Repeat the 'Aren't Birds Brilliant project' and enhance it to attract a wider audience including educational groups</p> <p>Set up pilot Local Information Points in key villages, where local shops and businesses provide information about the National Park</p> <p>Develop and pilot a mobile interpretation and information unit in summer 2008 and assess its performance to deliver a longer season in 2009</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We enhanced the Authority's website with the aim that it should become the definitive source for on-line information about living in and visiting the New Forest National Park, complementing and directly linking to the tourism site operated by the New Forest District Council and the Tourism Association. Pages were added to the website containing information relating to events, The New Forest Centre, the Aren't Birds Brilliant project, ground-nesting birds and the awareness panels</p> <p>We also further developed the interactive and e-government elements</p> <p>We have determined the optimum level of content development support required to maintain and improve the website and provided it</p> <p>The 'Around the Solent' project has been broken up into smaller bids following advice from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Authority worked with partners from the Solent Forum to co-ordinate interpretation of the New Forest Coast with that of the wider Solent</p> <p>We updated and revised our Pocket Guide and continued to input into partners' publications</p>	<p>Further develop the website including improving accessibility and introducing new features. The appearance of the site will be updated as will the version of the content management system, so that it mirrors the National Parks' 'portal'</p> <p>Develop interpretation partnerships to provide appropriate interpretation at key visitor sites, including the Solent coast if funding is secured</p> <p>Continue to improve the Pocket Guide and input into partners' publications</p>	<p>March 2009</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Dec 2008</p>

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We assessed with partners the feasibility of a free news publication focused on the National Park for visitors and local users and decided to continue to develop Forest Focus with the Forestry Commission</p> <p>We reviewed the success of initial communications activity in raising awareness of the National Park and its special qualities via a joint survey with other national parks and direct feedback</p>	<p>Develop Forest Focus with the Forestry Commission, so that it becomes a fully joint publication and the main free news publication focused on the National Park for visitors and local users</p> <p>Continue to review the success of communications activity in raising awareness of the National Park and its special qualities</p>	<p>March 2009</p> <p>March 2009</p>
<p>The Black Environmental Network failed in their Lottery bid to employ local project officers, so this partnership route is no longer possible. However, we established positive direct links with the Southampton Chinese Association and agreed initial plans for a visit by them to locations in the National Park</p> <p>See provision of education travel grants in U4</p> <p>We worked with the Forest Forge drama group to engage with young people as part of the Management Plan consultation with under-represented groups from local communities</p>	<p>Arrange a visit by Chinese people from the Southampton area to the National Park</p> <p>Develop the Southampton Chinese Association link and explore opportunities to engage with other ethnic minorities in nearby communities</p> <p>Continue to work with partner organisations and other specialist groups e.g. the Mosaic Partnership to promote and enable visits by under-represented groups from local communities</p>	<p>July 2008</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>We held nine interpretative events, with a good attendance and excellent feedback</p>	<p>Widen the events programme to 15 events, including more partnership interpretative events, to allow more people from a wider variety of backgrounds to enjoy and understand the National Park</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We maximised the dissemination of the introductory film to the National Park, called <i>A Special Place</i>, by including it on the website and using it at the New Forest Show and in talks and presentations as well as producing it on DVD</p>		
<p>We organised a stand at the New Forest Show in July 2007 with a theme of 'Know your National Park', which was visited by nearly 3,000 people over the three days in spite of appalling weather conditions</p>	<p>Organise a stand at the New Forest Show in July 2008</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p>
<p>We joined in the Forest Force spring clean week and helped co-ordinate action to reduce litter and fly-tipping</p>	<p>Provide a focus for tackling litter issues across the National Park including involvement in the spring clean week and awareness raising initiatives</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Education

The Authority's Education Strategy aims to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation by young people of the special qualities of the New Forest National Park, with particular reference to the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage. Many other 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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We finalised the Authority's Education Strategy setting out priority actions for 2007-2010	Deliver the Education Strategy through the actions described below (review in 2010)	On-going
We promoted the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto through the production of a guide celebrating outdoor learning opportunities within the New Forest National Park	Continue to work with other national park educators and the New Forest Educators' Forum to champion the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto on a national and local scale	On-going
We facilitated the National Park Educators' Forum and instigated joint projects including resource development and cultural heritage training	Continue to work with the Educators' Forum as a principal means of encouraging high quality, co-ordinated education with an emphasis on sustainability and the Park's special qualities	On-going
We attended the Hampshire Outdoor Fair to promote the opportunities for learning outside the classroom in the New Forest National Park		
We facilitated a Travel Grant Scheme to enable under-represented groups from Southampton and Bournemouth to engage with the National Park	Extend the Travel Grant Scheme to other locally deprived areas including parts of the Waterside	March 2009
We established the Authority's own education programme in line with the niche identified in the Education Strategy and explored options for expanding direct contact with schools throughout the National Park and the surrounding area including working with the Extended Schools agenda	Extend provision of the Authority's own education programme, including direct contact with students, teachers and youth groups	March 2009
We created web-based learning resources, including factsheets, a Teachers' area and the Fun Zone	Investigate opportunities for developing web-based tutorials and virtual field trips	March 2009

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
Last year we: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- considered options for co-ordinated Ranger Service development- held a workshop for all Rangers and Ground Staff highlighting the role of the National Park Authority and the potential for a co-ordinated approach to Ranger services across the National Park- set up a pilot joint Community Ranger post in partnership with the National Trust based in the north of the National Park and approved a seasonal Coastal Ranger in partnership with Hampshire County Council	Explore options for setting up other Joint Ranger posts with partner organisations Complete the review of existing provision and further develop opportunities for a co-ordinated approach to Ranger Services throughout the National Park (delayed from 2007 - 2008) Develop a Ranger Service Forum and introduce mechanisms for central training, events and information exchange	April 2008 June 2008 June 2008
Designed a dedicated webpage to support ranger service co-ordination	Develop the Ranger Services webpage further	June 2008

Countryside Access

Within the New Forest National Park there is limited interconnection of the current infrastructure of access land, Public Rights of Way and long distance routes and the linear 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) and implement the National Park Authority's responsibilities under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (MP 2d and 5.2d)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
Uptake of the Small Grants Scheme increased from the previous year. Projects supported by the Scheme included improving access provision and promoting access opportunities at various locations in the Park	Promotion of the Small Grants Scheme to further raise the Scheme's profile with land managers and Parish Councils and undertake a review of the scheme with partners	On-going March 2009
We assessed the condition and ease of use of Public Rights of Way in the National Park through enhancing highway authority surveys	Produce a more accurate picture of the ease of use of the Public Rights of Way in the National Park	March 2009
We contributed to the delivery of cycle infrastructure 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, subject to environmental assessments where necessary	On-going
The commissioning of initial 'easy access' information collection exercise for pilot sites has been delayed	Collect 'easy access' information for selected sites and publish in appropriate form, as informed by research	June 2008
We supported a pilot project to enable people with mild to moderate mental health disorders to take regular outdoor exercise	Support specific health improvement projects, such as GP exercise referrals and Walking for Health programmes and consider further opportunities for new projects	Sept 2008
We supported the Local Access Forum to take forward the implementation of the Countryside Access Plan	Work with Local Access Forum and highway authorities to identify priority access improvements to address issues raised in Rights of Way Improvement Plans for potential funding support	Sept 2008

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
<p>We improved ease of access to walking, cycling and riding access networks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing gates to replace stiles at selected locations - Providing easy to use gate catches 	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Cycling</u> – implementation of the strategic cycle network including 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 - <u>Walking</u> – continue to replace stiles with gates; could include developing methods to promote walking routes without the need for on the ground signage, assisting with applying non-slip surfacing to bridle bridges 	On-going
<p>We commissioned a signing schedule for the proposed National Cycle Network between Hythe and Brockenhurst</p> <p>We commissioned a safety audit of the proposed National Cycle Network between Brockenhurst and the Hants/Dorset border</p> <p>We supported Sustrans' Connect2 lottery bid, which was awarded £50m in December 2007 and includes proposals for a cycle improvement scheme at Holmsley</p>	<p>Implement signing between Hythe and Brockenhurst</p> <p>Work with partners to progress scheme as recommended in the safety audit between Brockenhurst and Christchurch</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>We continued to support and service the New Forest Access Forum as the statutory local access forum for the New Forest and South West Hampshire. This year we recruited new members to represent land management, access to water, camping and caravanning, nature conservation, tourism and disability interests</p>	<p>Continue to support and service the New Forest Access Forum. Ensure that the Forum membership meets statutory requirements and retains a balanced representation of local interests</p>	On-going

SE Support the social and economic well-being of local communities in ways that sustain the New Forest National Park's special character

Interim 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

Sustainable Development

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

SE1 Promote sustainable development within the National Park as the basis for the social and economic well-being of local communities. (This now includes action formerly recorded under SE3 – Support existing and encourage new business and community services which enhance the New Forest environment while providing economic and community benefits)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We provided project development support to potential and successful applicants to the Sustainable Development Fund	Continue to provide project development support to potential applicants to the Sustainable Development Fund	On-going
We assessed funding applications against the agreed appraisal criteria and with the full involvement of the decision-making Panel have ensured almost full allocation of the fund within the year, supporting a total of 44 projects since the start of the Fund. This has resulted in drawing in around £700,000 of additional funding to the National Park since the start of funding in 2006	Continue to assess funding applications against the agreed appraisal criteria and ensure full allocation of the fund within the year	On-going
We continued to develop systems, expertise and links with other organisations to enable us to carry out sound and efficient Sustainability Appraisals, Strategic Environmental Assessments and 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 assessment of the sustainability, including environmental impact, of the Authority's formal plans and programmes, particularly the New Forest National Park Plan and Local Development Framework	On-going
We continued 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)	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)	March 2009

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We continued 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	Provide support to parishes in developing and implementing the projects identified in their Parish Plans	On-going
	Support existing and encourage new businesses and community services which enhance the New Forest environment while providing economic and community benefits Provide development support for communities wanting to develop sustainable community facilities through the LEADER programme	
Tourism: we worked closely with New Forest District Council to support the provision of tourism services in the area	We will continue to support green tourist initiatives and progress Europarc Charter status for the New Forest, subject to the availability of resources	March 2009

Affordable housing

Lack of affordable housing for local people, including the continuing loss of existing stock, is a major issue

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)

Action in 2007-2008	Action in 2008-2009 and beyond	When
We discussed possible future policy approaches to affordable housing with stakeholders during a series of workshops held in conjunction with preparation of the National Park Plan	Consult on revised draft affordable policies within the National Park Plan and its related development control policies.	Sept 2008
We participated in the New Forest District Housing Strategy Board	Continue to participate as an active partner on the New Forest District Housing Strategy Board	On-going
We provided pre-application planning advice on six potential exception sites for rural affordable housing schemes	Provide planning advice on sites proposed through the Rural Housing Enablers, Registered Social Landlords, housing authorities and parish action plans	On-going
We worked with the Forestry Commission on the preparation of generic affordable house designs suitable for the New Forest; and a two dwelling pilot scheme at Anderwood	Work with local housing associations to explore new ways of funding and delivering rural affordable housing within the revised policy context of the National Park Plan	March 2009