

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007

CORPORATE PLAN REVIEW

Report by: Barry Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Summary:

This paper sets out the recommended approach for the review of the Corporate Plan for 2007/08.

The Corporate Plan was formally adopted and approved for publication by the Authority on 18 May 2006 (NFNPA 90/06). The plan set out the ambitious objectives of the Authority for the following two years.

The Authority is required to review its Corporate Plan each year. This review provides an opportunity to report on achievement of objectives and targets in the previous year and to revise objectives, action and targets for future years.

The options are either to carry out a full review and redraft of the Corporate Plan or simply to roll forward and refresh the existing two year plan for 2007/08.

Recommendation 1:

That the Authority agrees, subject to points raised in discussion, that the current Corporate Plan should be rolled forward and refreshed in its second year.

Recommendation 2:

That the Authority notes the timetable for the completion of the Corporate Plan.

Background papers:

NFNPA 90/06

New Forest National Park Authority Corporate Plan 2006 – 2007 and 2007 - 2008 (<http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/aboutus/publications.htm>).

Contact:

Barry Holland

01590 646631

Barry.Holland@NewforestNPA.gov.uk

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007

CORPORATE PLAN REVIEW

Report by: Barry Holland, Director of Corporate Services

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper sets out the suggested principles and recommended approach for the review of the Corporate Plan for 2007/08.
- 1.2 The Corporate Plan was formally adopted and approved for publication by the Authority on 18 May 2006 (NFNPA 90/06) following an intensive process of member involvement and stakeholder consultation. The plan sets out the ambitious objectives of the Authority for the following two years, recognising that it would not complete the entire programme of work in those two years.
- 1.3 The Authority is required to review its Corporate Plan each year. This review provides an opportunity to report on achievement of objectives and targets in the previous year and to revise objectives, action and targets for future years.

2 Options

- 2.1 As the original Corporate Plan was drafted to cover the first two years of the Authority's operation, the Authority has two options as to how it develops the existing Corporate Plan. It may opt to undertake a full review / redraft of the Corporate Plan or simply roll forward and update the Plan.

Option 1: A Full Review

- 2.2 A full review/redraft would comprise an in-depth review of the Authority's objectives, performance and future plans with full involvement of members and wide ranging consultation with stakeholders including partner organisations and the Statutory Body Liaison Group. It should be informed by a clear picture of future funding levels plan and the emerging National Park Management Plan and Core Strategy.

- 2.3 The results of the second Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07), which will set the financial framework for the following three years, are not due until the summer/autumn of 2007. Funding is expected to be tight across government. The first draft of the new National Park Management plan is scheduled for late 2007 and the Issues and Options underpinning the Core Strategy for autumn 2007.
- 2.4 A full review of the Corporate Plan would require significant staff input, which at this moment in time would have to displace essential work on the policy and corporate development and implementation set out within the existing Plan. It would inevitably slow progress towards achievement of the current targets. It would also be based on experience of only nine months of full operation, with significant gaps in specialist staff cover during that period.

Option 2: An Update:

- 2.5 An update would comprise a backward view of performance over the last year and a refresh of the objectives and their associated groups of actions and targets for 2007/08 and 2008/09 in the light of progress and experience in the last nine months. The priorities themselves, which were agreed following stakeholder input, would remain largely unaltered. The 2008/09 coverage would be indicative, and relatively high level, given the absence of key information referred to in paragraph 2.2.
- 2.6 Following the member and officer 4 January workshop on the risk register and local performance indicators, the intention is to develop a set of local performance indicators which would be incorporated into the updated Corporate Plan, as foreshadowed in the current version.
- 2.7 An update would require significant staff input and member involvement, and limited consultation with stakeholders, but far less than that needed for an in-depth review.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 At present, just under one year into the Authority's first two-year plan, and recognising that while much has been achieved, much remains to be done, resources need to be focused on achieving the Plan's objectives and targets rather than an in-depth review.
- 3.2 A full review of the Corporate Plan towards the end of 2007 would enable the Authority to prepare a three year Corporate Plan, for 2008/09 – 2010/11, taking account of both the expected three year Comprehensive Spending Review Settlement and the draft National Park Management Plan.

Recommendation 1:

That the Authority agrees, subject to points raised in discussion, that the current Corporate Plan should be rolled forward and refreshed in the second year.

4 Timeline

4.1 The Authority is required to publish and submit the Corporate Plan by end June 2007. In order to achieve this, the intention is to:

- i) in February, resurrect the member Task and Finish groups to review any changes to objectives, actions and targets following the officers' review;
- ii) via the Resources and Performance Committee to present a first full draft of the Plan for comment on March 15, and
- iii) a final draft of the Plan for approval on April 24.

Recommendation 2:

That the Authority notes the timetable for the completion of the Corporate Plan.