

**NFNPA 496/16**

## **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

### **AUTHORITY MEETING – 24 MARCH 2016**

#### **DRAFT 2016/17 WORK PROGRAMME**

**Report by:** Alison Barnes, Chief Executive and David Stone, Manager of Corporate Services

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Officers have been working on producing a draft Work Programme for 2016/17 (attached as **Annex 1**) which is the second of three annual work programmes supporting the Authority's Business Plan (2015-2018) which in turn sets out how the Authority will deliver its part of the Partnership Plan (2015-2020) for the New Forest.
2. The Work Programme outlines the planned activities undertaken during the year. However, these may be amended if circumstances change or opportunities arise which are beneficial in furthering our purposes and duty.
3. The Work Programme does not show the total activity of the Authority, items that are included in the Programme represent the key areas of delivery for the given year to be closely monitored by officers and members.
4. Particular attention has been paid to the proposed actions in the draft Work Programme to ensure that targets and goals are clearly defined and focused with links to the relevant actions in the [Partnership Plan](#) (referenced at the end of each action). Where an action does not directly support one of the Partnership Plan actions, the text is displayed in italic type.
5. As with previous work programmes, individual owners for each action have been named to ensure clear lines of accountability. Quarterly updates on progress will continue to be given to the Executive Board and Resources, Audit and Performance Committee based on a traffic light system of green – on track or completed; orange – off track but not significant; and red – significantly off track.

### **6. Short term planning**

- 6.1 In past years, the need to find significant savings in response to on-going reductions in the Defra grant has significantly influenced our work programme and reduced our ability to plan for the medium-term. However, the very positive news received in the Government's Spending Review and Autumn Statement with regard to grant funding over the next five years has provided an opportunity for the Authority to potentially refocus resources towards developing medium-term strategic plans for key areas of work and to identify how the Authority and its partnerships can work even better together to achieve more for the Forest.
- 6.2 Within the 'Aiming for Excellence' section of the work programme, we have therefore included an action to develop ways of working which can support creating space for staff, members and our partners to develop strategies for key areas of our work. Topics which could be looked at include evidence/monitoring (aiming to understand gaps in knowledge and data so that we can address these and measure the

Authority's progress), organisational development, commercial and entrepreneurial skills, green infrastructure, tranquillity and strengthening existing and developing new partnerships and exploring ways to increase direct communication with and input from local residents in the Authority's work.

- 6.3 The framework for exploring our strategic approach to key areas could include identifying key drivers, resources, information (both known and required), milestones and indicators to measure progress and levels of success. If the Authority agrees with this approach, officers will be arranging a planning session at which members' views and input on suitable topics would be greatly appreciated.
- 6.4 The Resources, Audit and Performance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 7 March 2016 and recommended the draft 2016/17 Work Programme for adoption by the Authority with several amendments agreed at the meeting (the current report and draft plan have been updated with these amendments). The Committee also noted that an annual report updating members on progress against the actions in the Partnership Plan would be considered by the Authority towards the end of the year.

**Recommendation, that Members approve the draft 2016/17 Work Programme as attached as Annex 1 to this report.**

**Paper:**

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Cover paper

**NFNPA 496/16 Annex 1:**

Draft 2016/17 Work Programme

**Contact:** David Stone, Manager of Corporate Services

Tel: 01590 646645, Email: [david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk)