

NFNPA 523/17

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 23 MARCH 2017

REVIEW OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2010-2030

Report by: Nigel Matthews, Head of Recreation Management and Learning

1 The need for a review

- 1.1 The Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group (Forestry Commission, Verderers of the New Forest, Natural England, New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council and New Forest National Park Authority) would like to progress a review of the New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030.
- 1.2 At the time it was published, it was envisaged that the strategy as a whole would be reviewed every five years, involving wide public consultation. Much has been achieved since 2010 and many of the actions are still very relevant, but some new developments now need to be taken into account and some actions need to be updated.
- 1.3 Through the review, we hope to confirm support for the underlying rationale within the Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) and to agree the ways in which recreation should be managed and which organisations will lead on delivery tasks. The long-term aim for the RMS is a win-win-win scenario, where benefits for the Forest, the recreational experience and, where appropriate, the local economy, are achieved together:
 - We want to put the conservation of the New Forest first; by doing this it will be protected for future generations to enjoy.
 - We want to improve the visitor facilities in places that are best suited to accommodating recreational use.
 - We also want to use public funds effectively and to enable local businesses to continue to thrive.

2 The proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is that the National Park Authority should lead the consultation, on behalf of and with the support of the other members of the RMS Steering Group. The exact timing and details of engagement are to be confirmed, but we expect to start by talking with the other ten organisations and groups represented on the Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group and with the New Forest Access Forum. The public consultation would be in two stages, starting with an initial 'call for views', probably in June. The second stage would give people opportunity to comment on proposed text for an update to the strategy.
- 2.2 This is a significant piece of work that will help the Steering Group prioritise and progress the actions that will bring the greatest benefits to the Forest and those who enjoy it.

Recommendation

That the Authority accepts the proposal that it leads a public 'call for views' consultation to inform an update of the New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030 in partnership with the other organisations on the Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group

Equality Impact Assessment:

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

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