

AM 578-20

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

PARTNERSHIP PLAN UPDATE

Report by: Steve Avery, Executive Director

Summary

This report provides a brief update on the review of the Partnership Plan with a particular focus on the formation and work of the Task & Finish Group - set up following the last Authority meeting to investigate the feasibility of establishing a new Partnership Board. Members will also wish to note that a public survey is currently in progress to capture people's experience of the Forest during the pandemic, the results of which will help to inform the review process.

1. Task and Finish Group

- 1.1 At the last meeting it was agreed that a Member Task and Finish Group, supported by the Executive Director, be established to investigate the feasibility of, and terms of reference for, a new Partnership Board, the recommendations of which will be reported to the next Authority meeting in March 2021.
- 1.2 Members who expressed an interest in being included in the Task and Finish Group and now make up that Group include Gavin Parker, Richard Taylor, Ann Sevier, Sue Bennison, David Bence, Caroline Rackham and Victoria Mander.
- 1.3 The Task and Finish Group had its first meeting on 26 November 2020. We were pleased to be joined by the Peak District National Park Authority's Senior Strategy Officer who was able to share with the Group the Peak District's experience of setting up and running their 'Management Plan Advisory Group'.
- 1.4 Initial discussions centred on the role and purpose of the Partnership Board, its relationship with existing groups and fora, its composition and size. Members felt a key determinant for the success of any new Board would be its ability to present a shared position 'up and out' to key influencers and decision makers at both the regional and national level. High level buy-in from all the partners is seen as essential if it is to be an effective Board. It must not duplicate the work of existing groups but there will need to be provision for these groups to contribute ideas and information up to the Board. At this stage it is envisaged that the Board membership would be relatively small, with other interested parties being invited to attend on ad hoc basis dependent on the topic under consideration.
- 1.5 The Task and Finish Group is due to meet again later this month.

2. New Forest Snapshot Survey

- 2.1 Through the existing New Forest Leadership Group, it has been agreed with partners that there would be benefit in capturing people's experience of the National Park during the pandemic. Designed as an online survey, the questionnaire is relatively short and quick to complete. It seeks respondents' views on a range of topics including activities, sustainable lifestyles, nature, enjoying the outdoors and caring for the Forest.
- 2.2 Launched on 3 December 2020, the survey runs until 15 January 2021. The questionnaire can be viewed at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/partnershipplan. We are hosting the survey on behalf of the partnership plan organisations. The results of the survey will be published at the end of January 2021 on the Authority's website and will be used help inform and refine the new Partnership Plan.

3. Destination Statements

- 3.1 Following the partnership plan workshops held earlier in the year, we are working with partners to agree a series of destination statements on the key partnership plan themes and priorities for:
- Nature Recovery
 - Natural Solutions
 - Net Zero with Nature
 - Green Skills and Jobs
 - Sustainable Land Management
 - Access and Recreation Management (*largely already agreed through the earlier RMS work*)
 - Affordable Housing
 - Health and Well Being
 - Travel and Transport
 - Team New Forest
- 3.2 These statements will provide a high level overview of the main actions and principal delivery mechanisms and we should be able to share these with Members at the meeting. These statements, once agreed, will provide the framework for the initial draft of the new Partnership Plan, which will then be subject to a more formal public consultation in early 2021.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

Papers:

Contact: Steve Avery

Equality Impact Assessment:

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