

**RAPC 455/21**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 JUNE 2021**

**YEAR END PROGRESS REPORT 2020/21**

**Report by:** David Stone, Corporate Services Manager and Nigel Stone, Head of Resources

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To present the final progress against the 2020/21 objectives from the 2018-2021 Business Plan.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.1 The Authority has produced a Business Plan for the period 2018-2021 which details the main activity of the Authority during that time and, more specifically, further detail on outcomes for the current year. The Business Plan sets out how we will deliver the Authority's two purposes and duty during these timeframes.
- 2.2 The Authority's Business Plan objectives/outcomes were derived from the Partnership Plan for the New Forest (2015-2020) which was approved by the Authority in June 2015 and ratified by all the other partner organisations involved.
- 2.3 This report comprises the final update on progress against the actions in 2020/21 Work Programme being this year's annual programme of work under the Business Plan.
- 2.4 Members will recall that a new format for the Work Programme (**Annex 1**) was agreed at the Authority meeting on 28 March 2019 whereby 'business as usual' items have been removed from the tables, leaving a smaller number of clearly defined and concise actions to be monitored during the year.

**3. Progress reporting**

- 3.1 Under the new format agreed by the Authority, the Work Programme tables do not include a column for officers to provide a progress narrative against each of the actions shown as 'green' or 'complete'; however, these narratives will still be available through the Chief Executive's reports which provide a more flexible, detailed and up-to-date account of what been done and achieved.

3.2 Members of the Committee can of course question officers in first instance at the meeting, however should they wish to receive further detailed information or clarifications on a specific issue(s) whilst at the meeting, please contact David Stone or an appropriate member of the Executive Leadership Team beforehand and they will endeavour to bring such responses along with them.

#### **4. Performance Indicators**

4.1 The report also contains the performance indicators for the current year (p6-9). This includes the 'family' (national) indicators, agreed by all English National Park Authorities, and a set of 'local' indicators set internally. Due to the complexity of the family indicators, the data provided is always the most up-to-date available but often not that for the most recent year as that data has usually either not been collected, collated or checked at this point. The local indicators have been refined by Officers to both better reflect priorities and avoid repetition with figures which already appear in the main objectives; they have a mix of annual and quarterly reporting timeframes. Targets have been set that are "achievable but challenging"; therefore it is highly unlikely that all areas will be 'green'.

#### **5. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and following discussion, agree any necessary management action.**

#### **Papers:**

RAPC 455/21                      Cover paper  
RAPC 455/21 Annex 1:      Year End Work Programme Progress Report 2020/21

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#### **Equality and Diversity Implications:**

A number of the work programmes and indicators are directly focussed around improving equality and diversity, for example, our work with the Mosaic project, all-ability cycling and by monitoring attendance of under-represented groups at our events.



## **Year End Progress Report 2020/21**

## OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The National Park Authority was established in April 2005 and took on its full statutory powers and responsibilities in April 2006. The Authority will champion the New Forest National Park, working in partnership through co-ordinated and innovative policies and actions, focusing on achieving the two National Park purposes to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;
- promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

National Park Authorities also have a duty, in taking the purposes forward, to:

- seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

### 2020/21 Objectives

We will work towards achieving the Vision for the Park through our strategic themes and four main programmes of work that reflect the National Park purposes and duty. These programmes and their outcomes, set out below, will provide the focus for all our future work and will ensure that there are clear and common goals across the organisation.

- **Protect**

We will help to improve the large-scale landscapes and habitats that are characteristic of the New Forest.

- **Enjoy**

We will work to champion the National Park as a place of inspiration, where everyone is able to enjoy, understand and value its special qualities.

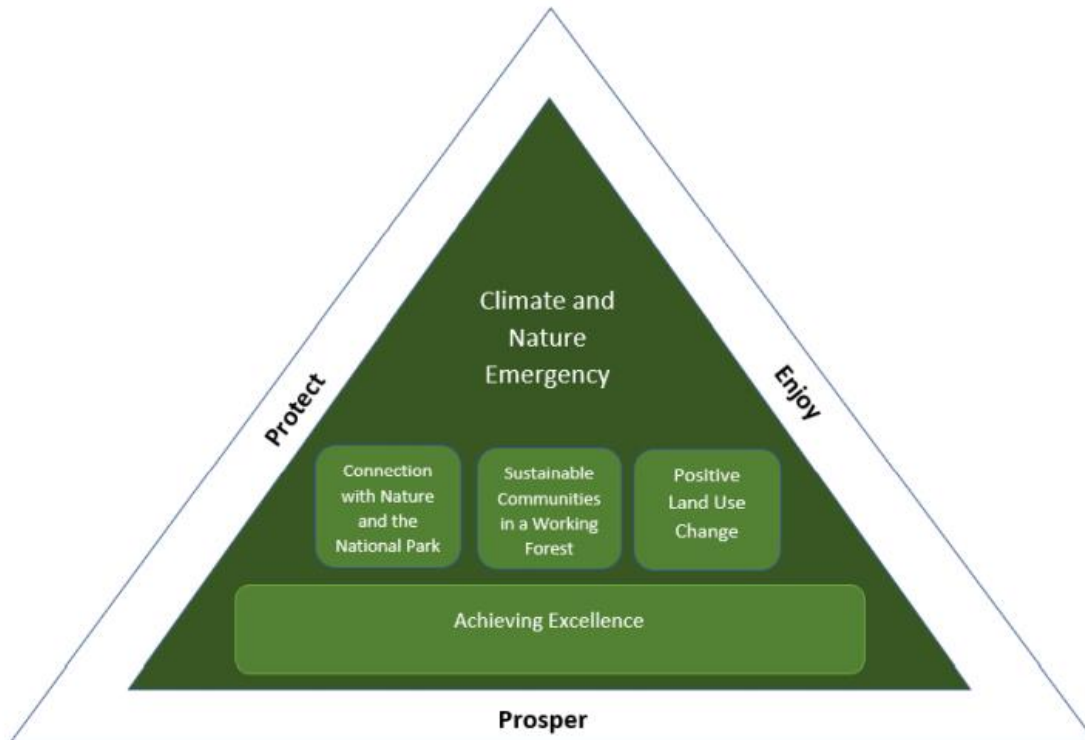
- **Prosper**

We will work to support a way of life in the National Park that continues to centre around strong and distinctive communities with a clear cultural identity and a vibrant local economy.

- **Achieving Excellence**

We will work to champion the highest quality of service for local people and visitors and work closely with organisations and communities in championing the National Park.

Following a full review of priorities for this final year of our current Business Plan, the structure of the 2020/21 Work Programme was changed as shown in the diagram below:



The core headings, within the green part of the diagram, more closely align our objectives/actions with the Strategic Themes and to the section headings from the Glover Review.





## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Family Indicators

	YE Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	YE	DoT	Comment
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<b>Conservation of the Natural Environment</b>								
Area of SSSI land in the National Park	32,190ha							
Area of SSSI land in NPA Management	None							
% of SSSI land in 'favourable' condition	53%	n/a			<b>53%</b>	↑	English NPA's average = 31%	
% of SSSI land in 'recovering' condition	43%	n/a			<b>43%</b>	↑	English NPA's average = 62%	
Total length of regularly monitored water courses	271km							
% length of regularly monitored water courses with 'high' or 'good' ecological status	22%	n/a			<b>22%</b>	↑	No updated data in 2020	
% length of regularly monitored water courses with 'moderate' ecological status	78%	n/a			<b>78%</b>	↑	No updated data in 2020	

<b>Conservation of the Cultural Heritage</b>								
No. of Conservation Areas	20							
No. of Listed Buildings	630							
No. of Listed Buildings at risk	2							Lowest % at risk of all English NPA's
Average No. of Listed Buildings at risk rescued during the last 3 years	1	n/a			<b>1</b>	↑		
No. scheduled ancient monuments	186							
No. scheduled ancient monuments at risk	5							Lowest % at risk of all English NPA's
Average No. scheduled ancient monuments at 'high' or 'medium' risk rescued during the last 3 years	1	n/a			<b>1</b>	↑		

<b>Family Indicators</b>	<b>YE Target</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>YE</b>	<b>DoT</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Recreation Management</b>							
Total length of footpaths and other rights of way	326km						
% of total length of footpaths and other rights of way, that were easy to use by members of the public	65%	n/a			<b>75%</b>		Ease of use surveys completed in 2020/21 to update old data
Estimated total number of visitors to the National Park (STEAM survey data)	4.14m (2019)						
Total No. of volunteer days organised or supported by the NPA	100	n/a			<b>55</b>		Number impacted by pandemic restrictions
No. of those days attended by 'under represented' groups	2	n/a			<b>0</b>		This issue will be considered within our New Forest Voices workstream
% of those days attended by 'under represented' groups	2%	n/a			<b>0%</b>		

**Promoting Understanding**

**Ban the disposable barbecue campaign**

As the first Covid-19 lockdown ended unprecedented numbers of visitors came to the New Forest, many for the first time, to enjoy the warm, dry weather, the risk of a big wildfire was very high. We launched a campaign as part of a new, nine-point New Forest code to protect the National Park, partnering with Forestry England and the Fire Service to explain the reasons behind the disposable BBQ ban. The campaign appeared on BBC Breakfast news, Radio 2 and local news and radio, a petition was raised in the House of Commons by our local MP, more than 50 national, local and independent retailers removed disposable barbecues from sale and rangers spoke with visitors. Our digital campaigns with strong imagery reached 1.7m people, with 180,000 engagements and 115,000 post clicks. All the open countryside of the New Forest is now being made barbecue-free, with barbecue facilities on Crown Land being removed and neighbouring councils joining the campaign for 2021 – and so far, we've avoided that uncontrolled and damaging fire.

	<b>YE Target</b>	Q1	Q2	Q3	YE	<b>DoT</b>	<b>Comment</b>	
<b>Development Control</b>								
No. of planning applications received to date		820						100 more than previous year
% of planning applications by type dealt with in a timely manner:								
Major applications determined within 13 weeks	60%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>	↑		
Minor applications determined within 8 weeks	65%	100%	94%	95%	<b>95%</b>	↑		
Other applications determined within 8 weeks	80%	98%	95%	96%	<b>95%</b>	↑		
% of planning applications approved	85%	88%	90%	91%	<b>90%</b>	↑		
Additional time for those missing deadlines	28 days	18 days	120 days	29 days	<b>86 days</b>	↓	Skewed by 3 lengthy cases, average otherwise was 40 days	

<b>Local Indicators</b>	<b>YE Target</b>	Q1	Q2	Q3	YE	<b>DoT</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Protect</b>							
Number of planning decisions delegated to officers as a % of all decisions	90%	94%	92%	91%	<b>92%</b>	↑	
Appeals allowed against refusal of planning permission by the Authority (% of appeals)	35%	56%	33%	43%	<b>45%</b>	↓	Overall 20 / 44 allowed – 6 against officer recommendation
% of enforcement cases dealt with in a timely manner:							
acknowledge complaints within 3 working days	90%	79%	82%	84%	<b>84%</b>	↓	
carry out initial investigation within 15 working days	90%	91%	84%	83%	<b>83%</b>	↓	
check compliance with enforcement notices within 5 working days of the expiry of the compliance period	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>	↑	
initiate action for non-compliance with an enforcement notice within 15 working days	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>	↑	



<b>Local Indicators</b>	<b>YE Target</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>YE</b>	<b>DoT</b>	<b>Comment</b>	
<b>Enjoy</b>								
Combined social media audience	108,000	97,944	101,746	105,545	<b>110,576</b>	↑	Significant increase due to pandemic	
% change in New Forest Tour and Beach Bus passenger numbers	Fall Likely	<b>25% lower than 2019</b>					↓	Shorter and more difficult season due to pandemic restrictions.
Number of promoting understanding face-to-face contacts (education, events, rangers, talks, concierge, training)	8,000	824	4,139	6,011	<b>7,540</b>	↔	Figures still much reduced due to pandemic restrictions.	
<b>Prosper</b>								
Partner funding committed to projects supported by the Authority	£0.5m	£0.58m	£0.58m	£0.58m	£1.03m	↑		
<b>Achieving Excellence</b>								
Information requests processed within statutory deadline	100%	91%	95%	96%	<b>97%</b>	↔	Overall = 72/74	
Complaints processed within 20 working days	100%	100%	100%	94%	<b>95%</b>	↔	Overall = 20/21	
Member participation in attending committees	82%	80%	80%	86%	<b>85%</b>	↑		
Undisputed invoices paid within 30 days	98%	99%	99%	98%	<b>98%</b>	↑		
No of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE	6	n/a			<b>3.6</b>	↑		
No of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE, not including long-term sickness absence	4	n/a			<b>1.2</b>	↑		
% CO <sub>2</sub> reduction from National Park Authority operations per FTE	-3%	n/a			<b>TBC</b>		Further data required and consideration of pandemic impact on these statistics.	
Total CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from National Park Authority operations (tonnes)	82	n/a			<b>TBC</b>			
Business miles claimed in private vehicles per FTE (% change)	-2%	n/a			<b>TBC</b>			
Pool vehicles mileage per FTE (% change)	+2%	n/a			<b>TBC</b>			