

**RAPC 490/22**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 7  
NOVEMBER 2022**

**HALF-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23**

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

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To present second quarter (July-Sept) progress against the objectives from the 2022/23 Interim Work Programme agreed by members in March.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.1 Following the adoption of the renewed Partnership Plan by its constituent organisations over recent months, and the successful formal launch at the New Forest Show in July, the Authority is currently now developing a new Business Plan. This plan will set out what we need to deliver as our part of the partnership, alongside detail on how this will be achieved through specific outcomes, actions, timescales and measures of success.
- 2.2 Whilst this Business Plan process is ongoing, members agreed an Interim Work Programme in March 2022 (RAPC 476-22) and this report provides early progress against the outcomes and actions / priorities within it. As previously, many 'business as usual' items are removed from the tables, leaving a smaller number of clearly defined and concise actions to be monitored during the year.
- 2.3 Progress against these actions is measured by referring to the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status under the quarterly column – this is simply progress in the period April to June against what was originally intended. A further column of RAG statuses confirms whether the overall objectives are still expected to be achieved by the end of the financial year. An amber or red status for the quarter or year has been addressed through an 'action to regain' column aimed at mitigation or corrective action to bring the status back to green.

### **3. Progress Reporting**

- 3.1 Under the format first agreed by the Authority in 2019/20, the Interim Work Programme does not include a specific column for officers to provide a substantive progress narrative against each of the actions shown as 'green'; 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 has been done. There is however a final column in the tables for any particularly noteworthy officer comments on progress or issues.
- 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 Following several discussions with members at previous meetings, the Key Performance Indicators have been fully reviewed by officers and now have a revised presentation mirroring the RAG status of the qualitative performance monitoring. For any amber or red indicators, officers have been given the opportunity to provide some text around 'mitigation / actions to regain'.
- 4.2 Officers would welcome comment on the content and presentation of the indicators in order to further improve and refine our reporting framework.

### **5. Recommendation**

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

**Papers:**

RAPC 490/22

Cover paper

RAPC 490/22 Annex 1:

Half-Year Interim Work Programme Progress Report  
2022/23

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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 New Forest Voices project, all-ability cycling and by monitoring attendance of under-represented groups at our events.



**Half Year  
Progress Report  
2022/23**

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Quarterly Monitoring:

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Annual Target</b>	<b>Half-Year Result</b>
No. of planning applications received this year to date	N/A	315
% of planning decisions delegated to officers	90%+	93%
% of planning applications approved	85%+	94%
% of appeals allowed against refusal of permission	<35%	29%
Major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	60%+	100%
Minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks	65%+	59%
Other planning applications determined within 8 weeks	80%+	72%
Enforcement acknowledges complaints within 3 working days	90%+	83%
Carry out initial enforcement investigation within 15 working days	90%+	91%
Check compliance with enforcement notices within 5 working days	100%	100%
Initiate action for non-compliance with an enforcement notice within 15 working days	100%	N/A
No. of tree works applications received this year to date	N/A	323
No. of tree works applications determined within 8 weeks	90%+	100%
No. of planning consultations completed by the Archaeology team	N/A	30
No. of visitors to the New Forest Knowledge website	100,000	61,000
Combined social media audience	115,000+	122,486
No. of Climate Pledges received	1,000+	800
% change in New Forest Tour passenger numbers	+1-2%	+1%
Number of promoting understanding face-to-face contacts (education, events, rangers, talks, training)	8,000+	6,543
No. of New Forest 'Ambassadors'	750+	900
No. of Pedall sessions held	100+	143

% of income derived from sources other than the defra National Park Grant	25%+	33%
Information requests processed within statutory deadline	100%	97%
Complaints processed within 20 working days	100%	100%
Member participation in attending committees	82%+	81%
Undisputed invoices paid within 30 days	98%+	99%
No. of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE	6 days	6.3 days
No. of working days lost due to short-term sickness absence per FTE	4 days	2.5 days

#### Q2 Mitigation / Actions to Regain:

Development Management / Enforcement – The teams have been carrying a number of vacancies since the start of the financial year (the majority are now filled) and have also been developing the new planning IT system - which went live in October. Whilst the remaining cumulative statistics will be hampered by Q1 and Q2 performance, it is expected that performance will be at or near targets for the remainder of the year.

Information Requests – One request (out of 32) went over the deadline as it was not initially identified as a formal request by the recipient. Advice has been given to relevant staff to identify all such requests in future.

Member Attendance – Very slightly below target this year to date.

Staff Sickness – Due to a handful of long-term sickness occurrences, none of which were considered linked or showing a trend when reviewed, the overall figure has gone slightly above the target of 6 days per FTE (though still below the national average). Short-term sickness is still down at 2.5 days per FTE.

Annual Monitoring:

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Annual Target</b>
% of SSSI land in 'favourable' condition in the National Park	53%+
% of SSSI land in 'recovering' condition in the National Park	43%+
Carbon Sequestration in the National Park	TBC
Coverage of Protected Designations	TBC
% length of (regularly monitored) water courses with 'high' or 'good' ecological status	22%+
% length of (regularly monitored) water courses with 'moderate' ecological status	78%+
% of woodland 'managed'	TBC
Average No. of Listed Buildings at risk rescued during the last 3 years	1+
Average No. scheduled ancient monuments at 'high' or 'medium' risk rescued during the last 3 years	1+
% of total length of footpaths and other rights of way, that were easy to use by members of the public	75%+
Total No. of volunteer days organised or supported by the Authority	TBC
% change in CO <sub>2</sub> e from Authority operations	-5%+
% change in CO <sub>2</sub> e from within the National Park	TBC
Air Pollution in the National Park	TBC
Number of affordable housing units approved	TBC
% of business miles in Authority vehicles done in electric vehicles	30%+
% of significant (£5k+) procurements, delivered on time and on budget	95%+