

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 14th March 2009

Item: 3d.

Title: PDNPA Property Review Update

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Purpose of the Report

To report progress on the National Park Authority's Property Review

Report

We are currently progressing the existing Asset Management Plan (published in 2006) recommendations and reviewing the plan itself. The challenge the Authority is faced with is a shortfall of around £200,000 per year required for property maintenance over the next 3 years which, among other things, has implications for our property portfolio and investment in this in the future.

As you know, the existing Asset Management Plan recommendations we are currently working on include assessing whether to establish a partnership to manage the Eastern Moors Estate and disposing of some of our smaller properties, such as Fire Station Field in Bakewell.

The next major Estate we intend to review is the Roaches Estate, starting this autumn, where we will apply our experience of the Eastern Moors review in examining the range of options.

In reviewing each property our aim will be to at least secure, and if possible improve, investment to better achieve National Park outcomes. Access and recreation improvements will be particularly prominent for Eastern Moors and The Roaches.

I attach a set of objectives for the Eastern Moors Estate, on which we asked prospective partners to tender business plans. You will see that we seek to achieve a number of access and recreation improvements. We are currently assessing business plans and intend to report a recommendation to the Authority's Services Committee in April/May, following public consultation.

There are a number of properties which we are likely to retain, such as the Recreational Trails and the land-based assets of the Warslow Moors Estate. We already reviewed and decided to retain the Stanage/North Lees Estate and we hope this may become part of a wider Eastern Peak District joint working partnership in time (as opposed to a disposal of an interest in the Estate). We are seeking to reinvest properly in these retained properties in pursuit of National Park Management Plan and National Park Authority outcomes.

Woodlands are not part of my remit but that of Steve Tompkins but I know that there are no plans to dispose of our woodlands (other than the existing self-funding programme of occasional disposals and acquisitions).