

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 4

Title: Local Development Framework: Recreation & Tourism

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Purpose of the Report

To inform Forum members about preparation of the Local Development Framework, and to obtain views from Forum members on how future planning policy for the National Park should address recreation and tourism issues.

Background

Local Development Framework (LDF) background

Under the new system, the LDF will be the replacement for the Structure and Local Plans. Clearly the National Park Management Plan sets the overarching vision for the future, within which the LDF will develop the detail of spatial planning. The NPA is currently at the stage of discussing issues and options for the Core Strategy with all stakeholders. Preferred options then have to be published and consulted upon, leading eventually to submission of the final document to the Secretary of State and a public examination by an independent inspector. Detailed development control policies and any site allocations will be included in a further document to follow later.

Report

Recreation and tourism issues

What outcome do we want to see?

- ✓ To encourage people to understand and enjoy the National Park.
- ✓ Economic benefit whilst conserving and enhancing the landscape.
- ✓ To minimise the impact of visitors on the landscape, villages, residents etc.

Fundamental questions:

- Two National Park purposes are "in conflict" here – how do we balance?
- Tourism does harm the environment – how do we minimise its impact?
- How far can economic benefits justify tourism developments that may be harmful to the environment?

Key issues

- Recreation zones

Are zones useful in managing and directing recreation and tourism developments? Should we relax our approach to recreational activities, so that everyone can benefit from the Peak District as a 'playground for all', or should it be reserved for quiet enjoyment?

- Holiday accommodation

Do we need to encourage and develop more serviced and self-catering visitor accommodation, or is the market already saturated? Should holiday accommodation be promoted in the countryside to support the farming economy, or concentrated in villages for sustainability reasons?

- Camping and caravan sites

Should we allow static caravans or lodges in order to extend the season, enable sites to provide shops and leisure facilities, and permit on-site housing for key workers?

- Promoting understanding of the National Park

What more do planning policies need to say to deliver our extended second purpose?