

# ***Join our Conversation Consultation***

## **Summary of key issues for Local Access Forum – 12 October 2011**

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Consultation on a new Management Plan for the National Park 2012-17 took place over 12 weeks during the spring and summer. This note is a high level summary of some of the issues raised.

Before formal consultation took place, partners and stakeholders, including the Local Access Forum and recreation organisations, were involved in the creation of the draft plan via telephone interviews, two large scale engagement events, surveys and other discussions.

Full consideration is being given to all responses, and each response has been separately recorded, and proposed actions will be logged.

### **Overview**

- An electronic version of the draft plan was made available on the National Park Authority's web site alongside an electronic survey, and paper copies sent out on request
- Six sector based focus groups were held
- Other consultation events included education based learning for young people, and media, including modern social media and discussions with other key groups e.g. Local Access Forum
- 175 responses to the consultation were received, of which 30 responses were written
- 69.3 % of consultees who responded via the survey broadly agreed with the new vision and structure for the National Park Management Plan.
- 27.2% of consultees disagreed - over half of whom wanted to raise issues concerning off road vehicular access

### **Summary of key Issues**

#### **A Diverse Working and Cherished Landscape**

- Light on climate change adaptation actions
- Expectation of National Park Authority to demonstrate stance on renewables
- Scope to be more ambitious using the Peak District brand and the 'green revolution'
- Strengthen focus on non-moorland landscapes
- Purposes of the National Park need more emphasis

#### **A Welcoming and Inspiring Place**

- More focus on adventure and its ability to attract a diverse audience
- More focus on Rights of Way and the historic legacy
- The pressure of tourism on the national park, and how to address this
- Visitor transport issues and leadership on transport in light of funding difficulties
- Polarised views on vehicular access to byways

#### **Thriving and Vibrant Communities**

- Lack of clarity in response to an ageing demographic, affordable housing and jobs issues
- Potential for increased community role in managing historic buildings
- More detail required on village planning and Localism
- Lack of steer on community transport
- Resident concerns over visitor cars

- More focus needed on resident communities rather than communities external to the park
- Lack of confidence in National Park Authority Development Planning

### **An Enterprising and Sustainable Economy**

- More emphasis required on the national park's ambition for a low carbon economy and green jobs
- More detail on how payments for ecosystem services might be realised
- A working model for modern conservation farming is suggested
- Economic impact of minerals policy is not reflected in the plan
- Some concern that the plan gives emphasis to landscape conservation at the expense of a viable local economy

### **General**

- Some responses felt the plan should be shorter, more easy to understand and with more actions

### **How we are responding on recreation issues:**

- Present a sense of greater openness to adventure in the national park
- Strengthen the plan's references to the legacy of rights of way and make better links to the improvement work underway
- Working with Visit Peak District to develop a new Peak District tourism strategy that will include how we manage the issues of visitor impacts and the importance of more sustainable transport
- Talking to transport stakeholders about how to get a stronger sense of direction on addressing the future transport challenges
- The National Park Authority has already committed to review its approach to off road vehicular access and this review will inform the final Management Plan.

### **Next Steps**

- Continue key discussions with other partners in specific issues
- Develop the delivery plan with more input from partners during November/December
- Ensure that the Recreation Strategy is key to delivery on recreation and from it we will need to identify what we see as the biggest and more transformational areas for delivery
- Prepare the final version of the plan (web based), seeking partners sign-off and Authority approval in February 2012
- Launch new plan from April 2012.

**Policy Service**  
**6 October 2011**