

# Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17

## Sustainability Appraisal Report

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Exmoor National Park Authority is required to prepare, and keep under review, a five year management plan for the National Park. The Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 has been produced in wide consultation with local communities, farmers, landowners, and partner organisations.
- 1.2. As part of preparing the management plan, the National Park Authority is encouraged to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations. Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, both now and for generations to come. This is achieved through testing the draft Plan against a set of social, economic and environmental objectives, and incorporating the requirements of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

### 2. National Park statutory purposes and duty

- 2.1 The statutory purposes of National Parks are set out under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as amended by the Environment Act 1995, these are:
  - to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage (of the National Parks); and
  - to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the National Parks) by the public.
- 2.2 The Authority's primary responsibility is to deliver the statutory purposes. In doing so, it is expected to be an exemplar in achieving sustainable development, helping rural communities in particular to thrive. In pursuing National Park purposes, National Park Authorities have a duty to *"seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park and shall for that purpose co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park"*. Within the Parks, conserving and enhancing the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage, dark skies and natural resources, and promoting public understanding and enjoyment of these should lie at the very heart of developing a strong economy and sustaining thriving local communities<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.3 Section 62 of the Environment Act also requires all relevant authorities to *"have regard to the statutory purposes in exercising or performing any functions in the*

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<sup>1</sup> UK Government Vision and Circular English National Parks and the Broads, Defra, 2010

*National Park and; if it appears that there is a conflict between those purposes, to attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area,” known as the ‘Sandford Principle’.*

### **3 The SA Framework and Methodology**

- 3.1 The draft Partnership Plan has been developed alongside the Exmoor Local Plan, which guides development within the National Park. To ensure that the two Plans are closely aligned, a joint Vision and Objectives have been developed. These were tested against sustainability criteria and were consulted on during December 2011 and January 2012. A number of amendments to the Vision and Objectives were made as a result of the sustainability appraisal, as reported in the SA consultation report<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2 The testing of the draft Partnership Plan has used an amended version of the SA framework for the Local Plan, to ensure consistency across the two Plans. The SA framework was structured around eight themes, with a set of objectives, criteria and indicators for each (see the SA framework in **Appendix 1**). The SA criteria were also updated to ensure that they incorporated the requirements of Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), using the ENPA equalities checklist (see **Appendix 2**). Each of the Priorities for Action in the Partnership Plan were then assessed against the eight themes:
- Natural Resources
  - Biodiversity
  - Landscape
  - Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment
  - Climate Change Mitigation
  - Climate Change Adaptation
  - Community and Wellbeing
  - Economy and Employment.
- 3.3 The initial stage of the SA (Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope) drew on the Scoping report for the LDF<sup>3</sup> which considered the range of plans and programmes affecting the National Park, assessed the baseline condition of the National Park, and identified significant issues. The State of the Park report, produced alongside the Partnership Plan, was also used to update the baseline and issues (see **Appendix 3**).

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<sup>2</sup> Sustainability Appraisal Report of Exmoor National Park LDF Vision and Objectives, General Policies and Options, October 2011, Clare Reid Consultancy

<sup>3</sup> Exmoor National Park LDF Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, ENPA, June 2011

## **4 Habitats Regulation Assessment**

- 4.1 The National Park Authority is also required to ensure that the Partnership Plan does not adversely affect the integrity of designated internationally important wildlife sites. On Exmoor, these are the Exmoor Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC)<sup>4</sup> and Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods SAC. The SACs are designated to protect the distinctive wildlife which can be found in these specific habitats – the combined areas of SACs cover around 12,600 ha of Exmoor. The UK Regulations<sup>5</sup> require Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken for all ‘land use’ plans, which primarily relates to Local Plans. Whilst the Partnership Plan does not constitute a ‘land use’ plan under the UK Regulations, an assessment was carried to test any potential impacts on the SACs.
- 4.2 A separate HRA was carried out by the County Ecologist at Somerset County Council undertook the assessment.

## **5 Outline of the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17**

- 5.1 The Partnership Plan was developed at the same time as the Exmoor Local Plan was being reviewed. At an early stage, it was agreed that the Partnership Plan and Local Plan (as two key documents influencing the future of Exmoor) should be closely aligned. As a consequence, a joint Vision and Objectives were developed for both Plans, although the focus for delivery of each Plan will be different, with the Partnership Plan focusing on delivery of the National Park purposes and priorities over the next five years, and the Local Plan providing a longer term statutory framework for development within the National Park. The joint Vision and Objective have been subject to a separate SA and consultation, as reported in para 3.1.
- 5.2 There were two key driving factors during the preparation of the Partnership Plan. The first was to ensure that the process involved key partners, landowners, local communities so that it secured their commitment to delivery of the Plan, and meant that the Plan was for Exmoor as a place, not just the National Park Authority. The second was to focus on priorities for action, recognising that in the current economic climate, resources for delivery will be constrained, and that some hard choices would have to be made on what the focus of effort should be. The priorities were informed from the evidence gathered in the State of the Park report on the key challenges and issues facing Exmoor, and through extensive consultation<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) 1992

<sup>5</sup> The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations, S.I. 1994 No. 2716

<sup>6</sup> Ref consultation reports.

5.3 As a consequence, the Partnership Plan has identified twelve Priorities for Action (see Figure 1), divided into three Programmes:

- **A Thriving, Living Landscape** – working with the people who own and manage land on Exmoor, focusing on priorities that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park; deliver a wide range of public benefits, and provide sustainable livelihoods for the farmers, foresters, game keepers, contractors and others engaged in managing Exmoor’s land, coast, natural resources and cultural heritage assets.
- **Connecting People and Place** – to benefit everyone who wishes to enjoy and learn about Exmoor National Park.
- **Towards a Sustainable Future** – so that communities and businesses can lead in achieving the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the people who live and work in the National Park

**Figure 1 - The twelve Priorities for Action for the Partnership Plan are to:**

- Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor’s unique landscapes**
- Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver**
- Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor’s important wildlife habitats and the species they support**
- Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor’s cultural heritage and historic environment**
- Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor’s natural resources**
- Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand**
- Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park**
- Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor’s special qualities**
- Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs**
- Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor**
- Help farmers, foresters, land managers and game keepers to produce food, timber and other produce while improving environmental quality and providing other public benefits**
- Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park.**

5.4 A more detailed action plan was developed for each Priority for Action in consultation with delivery partners, with the intention that progress against these

will be monitored throughout the Plan period overseen by a group of delivery partners, and the action plans can be reviewed and updated as necessary.

## 6 SA of the Priorities for Action

6.1 Each Priority for Action was assessed against the SA framework, and given an overall score.

<b>++</b>	strongly positive
<b>+</b>	Positive (with some opportunity for improvement)
<b>+/-</b>	Some positive elements but also potentially some negative impacts
<b>0</b>	Neutral
<b>-</b>	Negative
<b>- -</b>	Strongly negative

6.2 The detailed tables for each Priority for Action are given in **Appendix 2**. The SA summary scores for Programme A – A Thriving Living Landscape are summarized in **Figure 2** below.

## Programme A – A Thriving, Living Landscape

6.3 The Priorities for Action A1-A5 generally score well against the SA objectives and criteria. The majority of the scores are either positive or strongly positive. Four Priorities for Action include scores of +/- with some positive elements but also potentially some negative impacts.

**Figure 2 SA summary for Programme A – A Thriving, Living Landscape**

	Natural Resources	Biodiversity	Climate Change Adaptation	Climate Change Mitigation	Community and Wellbeing	Economy and Employment	Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	Landscape
Priority A1	+	++	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	++	++
Priority A2	+	++	+/-	+	+	+	+	++
Priority A3	+	++	+	+	+	+/-	+	+
Priority A4	0	0	+	+	++	+	++	+
Priority A5	++	++	++	+	++	+/-	+	+/-

### Priority A1 - Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes

6.4 Priority A1 scores +/- for three SA themes – climate change adaptation, communities and well-being, and economy and employment.

6.5 In relation to climate change adaptation and flood risk the actions are broadly positive, however there is the risk that they will lead to a focus on maintaining a landscape character that cannot survive in the long term under climate change. There is also the potential that a focus on conserving the existing landscape character could restrict adaptations within the land management and other sectors to benefit from climate change.

**Recommendation 1: the Partnership Plan should recognise the future implications of climate change on landscape character, and whilst over the 5 year period of the Plan such changes may not be significant, ongoing monitoring through the State of the Park report will be needed to identify any changes and longer term adaptations that may be required.**

- 6.6 Overall, the quality and diversity of Exmoor's landscapes benefit communities and supports well-being, particularly through the experiences that people have including tranquillity, dark night skies, and enjoying the natural beauty. However, the needs of a diverse range of communities and audiences need to be considered, including creating opportunities to engage new audiences as identified in Priority B3. There may also be some restrictions to development that would be beneficial to local communities, such as ICT or community owned renewable energy schemes, as a result of the duty to conserve natural beauty.
- 6.7 In relation to the economy and employment, Exmoor's landscape has a very positive economic impact and contributes to local employment, particularly in the tourism sector which benefits from the landscape and other special qualities that people come to visit and enjoy. However, the conservation of landscape character could also restrict economic activities for example potential restrictions on development from planning policies and guidance to protect landscape character, or limitations to game shoot infrastructure to avoid visual impacts.

**Priority A2 Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver**

- 6.8 Priority A2 has some positive and negative impacts in relation to climate change adaptation and flood risk. Broadly the actions are positive, particularly improving understanding of moorland management and the impact of different approaches including on flood risk. However, there is no explicit recognition of the need to reflect longer term implications of climate change on moorland character. Whilst the impacts of climate change are not yet known, the likely effects of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers are likely to have significant impacts on moorland landscapes, wildlife and habitats, and it may not be possible to maintain the current moorland character in the long term under climate change. There may also be increase risks of wild fires if climatic conditions lead to long periods of very dry weather..

**Recommendation 2: Action A2.6 *monitor moorland condition* should include monitoring of any changes likely to arise as a result of climate change so that these can be assessed and necessary action taken.**

**Priority A3 - Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor's important wildlife habitats and the species they support**

6.9 Priority A3 has some positive and negative impacts in relation to economy and employment. There are likely to be indirect benefits through potential employment opportunities arising from actions such as managing habitats and helping people to understand and enjoy wildlife through wildlife safaris, guided walks and so on. There will also be indirect benefits to the tourism industry from maintaining Exmoor's rich wildlife that people visit to enjoy. However, there could also be potential constraints on economic opportunities arising from wildlife conservation. Expanding priority habitats could also potentially take agricultural land out of productive use, for example in relation to peatland restoration, although woodland planting would create a future economic benefit.

#### **Priority A4 – Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor's cultural heritage and historic environment**

6.10 Priority A4 has some positives and negatives in relation to climate change mitigation and energy. Protection of the historic environment will support climate change mitigation, particularly through the use of embodied energy in existing buildings and their re-use wherever possible. However the protection and conservation of heritage assets could potentially restrict the use of Renewable Energy technologies or necessary adaptations to historic buildings.

#### **Priority A5 - Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor's natural resources**

6.11 Priority A5 has some positives and negatives in relation to employment and economy. Overall, the actions should benefit the economy by providing good quality natural resources and soil conservation. There are also direct economic benefits through payments for ecosystem services such as providing clean water. However, actions to restore peatland and support local breeds could be constraining on economic activities in the short term with localised downsides (e.g. loss of earnings/ economic value), but in the long term should result in economic benefit.

6.12 In relation to landscape character, there could be benefits from actions under Priority A5, for example support for local breeds will help preserve local distinctiveness and landscape character. However, actions A5.1-A5.5 are not specifically designed to improve landscape character, and there could be conflicts with landscape depending how they are implemented.

## Programme B – Connecting People and Place

6.13 The Priorities for Action B1-B3 included a lot of scores where there were both positive and negative impacts.

**Figure 3 - SA summary for Programme B Connecting People and Place**

	Natural Resources	Biodiversity	Climate Change Adaptation	Climate Change Mitigation	Community and Wellbeing	Economy and Employment	Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	Landscape
Priority B1	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	++	+/-	+/-
Priority B2	+/-	+/-	+	++	++	+/-	+/-	+/-
Priority B3	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	++	+	+/-	+/-

### **Priority B1 – Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand.**

6.14 Priority B1 scores strongly for the economy and employment, as tourism is such an important part of the Exmoor economy and provides employment for many local people. For all the other SA themes, there will be some positive and some negative impacts. In relation to the special qualities of the National Park including landscape, cultural heritage, biodiversity and cultural heritage, there would be benefits arising from more people visiting the National Park and therefore appreciating and valuing these special qualities. However there would also be risk of damage to the special qualities arising from increased visitor pressure.

**Recommendation 3: The impact of any increase in visitor pressure on the special qualities including landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and natural resources should be monitored over the period of the Partnership Plan through the State of the Park report.**

6.15 In relation to climate change adaptation, there could be increased risks to visitors from climate change particularly in relation to flood risk, but also potential benefits to tourism from an extended season, if weather patterns change to accommodate this. Similarly, focusing on a high quality experience for visitors and sustainable tourism including walking, cycling etc could help to mitigate against climate

change, but there could also be negative impacts arising from increased emissions from transport due to increased visitors, unless they travel by more sustainable modes.

- 6.16 Local communities are likely to benefit from increase tourism in relation to economic and employment opportunities that they will bring, and the cultural and health benefits that could arise from improvements to leisure and recreational opportunities. However there may also be some impacts on community cohesion from the indirect effects of increased visitors including inflated house prices and increases in second home ownership, or congestion and loss of tranquillity during peak periods.

**Priority B2 Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park**

- 6.17 Priority B2 was strongly positive in relation to community and well-being due to the benefits that a high quality rights of way and access network would bring to local communities, encouraging healthy lifestyles including walking, cycling and active sports. Maintenance of a wide range of services and facilities will also benefit local communities and visitors alike.
- 6.18 Priority B2 was also strongly positive in relation to climate change mitigation and reducing carbon emissions as it aims to support more sustainable modes of travel and increased walking, cycling, horse-riding. Priority B2 is also positive in relation to climate change adaptation, as maintaining a good quality and varied Rights of Way and access network will help build resilience to future impacts of climate change such as the loss of or damage to paths from coastal erosion or increased winter rainfall and heavy run-off.
- 6.19 For the remaining SA themes, there were both positive and negative impacts. In relation to natural resources, there would be benefits to air quality from promoting sustainable modes of transport, but there are also potential negative impacts on natural resources e.g soil erosion from increased pressure on rights of way and access land, although the strategic activity is focused on sensitively managing impacts of recreation.
- 6.20 In relation to landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity, Priority B2 provides opportunities from increased access for people to enjoy these special qualities, but also impacts from increased recreational pressure on them leading to potential damage to heritage assets or habitats, disturbance to wildlife, and loss of tranquillity. The focus of the strategic activity is to sensitively manage impacts of recreation to avoid such impacts.
- 6.21 In relation to the economy and employment, Priority B2 provides benefits from economic opportunities arising from increased access and recreation such as the popularity of long distance trails, and also from improved, sustainable modes of transport. However, there are also potential negative impacts on landowners from

increased use of rights of way such as disturbance to stock, littering, using access land illegally and potential economic conflicts between different users. Again, the strategic activity recognises the need to manage these conflicting interests sensitively.

### **Priority B3 – Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor’s special qualities**

- 6.22 Priority B3 is strongly positive for communities and well-being, through providing events, educational activities and volunteering opportunities. It is also positive in seeking to encourage understanding and enjoyment amongst disabled people and new audiences, including black and ethnic minority communities, and young people. Priority B3 also scored positively for employment and economy, as it provides direct economic benefit for local communities through employment and activities e.g. Visitor Centres; events walks etc, as well as indirect benefits to the tourism industry through helping to raise awareness of Exmoor as an attractive destination to visit. It also scored positively for climate change adaptation, as it provides opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of climate change and the need for adaptation measures.
- 6.23 For all the other SA themes, Priority B3 has a mix of positive and negative impacts. Overall, the actions provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of Exmoor’s special qualities including natural resources, cultural heritage, landscape and biodiversity, and encourage responsible behaviour. However, there are also potential impacts on the special qualities from increased visitor pressure if the actions successfully lead to more people visiting the National Park. Similarly in relation to climate change mitigation, the actions provides opportunities to educate people and encourage responsible behaviour, however increased visitors could lead to increased transport emissions.

## Programme C – Towards a Sustainable Future

6.24 The overall scores for Priorities under Programme C are given in **Figure 4** below.

**Figure 4 – SA Summary for Programme C Towards a Sustainable Future**

	Natural Resources	Biodiversity	Climate Change Adaptation	Climate Change Mitigation	Community and Wellbeing	Economy and Employment	Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	Landscape
Priority C1	+	+/-	+	+	+	++	+/-	+/-
Priority C2	++	+	0	+	++	++	+	+/-
Priority C3	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	+
Priority C4	++	+/-	++	++	+	+	+/-	+/-

### Priority C1 – Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs

6.25 Priority C1 scores strongly positive for employment and economy as it includes actions to support improved broadband and community transport which will help the economy and access to jobs. Broadband and mobile phone coverage are very important for the large numbers of self-employed people working on Exmoor. The provision of affordable housing will also help local people of employment age to live locally and improve the labour market for local businesses.

6.26 Priority C1 scored positively for community and well-being it includes actions relating to key issues affecting local communities such as affordable housing, improved transport and telecommunications. It also promotes a stronger role for communities in planning. However, the Priority reflects current resource constraints in being reactive to community initiatives, rather than proactively addressing them, which is why it did not score as strongly positive.

6.27 Priority C1 also scored positively for climate change adaptation and flood risk, as actions to provide the planning framework will include policies to adapt to climate change including flood risk. Similarly, in relation to climate change mitigation, planning policy will require new housing to be built to high energy efficiency

standards and support appropriate renewable energy technologies. Actions to promote sustainable transport and improved broadband will also support climate change mitigation by reducing emissions. The focus on affordable housing will help to make best use of limited land supplies for housing and promote sustainable construction standards, reducing demands on natural resources including water, energy, and promote recycling, and more sustainable forms of transport will reduce emissions and improve air quality.

- 6.28 For the remaining themes of landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage there were both positive and negative impacts reflecting the fact that the planning framework will include policies to protect these assets, but community-led planning could prioritise development.

**Priority C2 – Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor**

- 6.29 Priority C2 is strongly positive for natural resources, as it seeks to build sustainable businesses around Exmoor's natural resources including wood, wool and food. Giving a value to natural resources will help with their conservation in the long term. It also seeks to support more sustainable businesses which will help reduce their resource consumption.

- 6.30 Priority C2 is also strongly positive for the two SA themes of employment and economy; and community and well-being; through encouraging economic prospects for young people, supporting apprenticeships, and encouraging entrepreneurship, innovation and utilising Exmoor's natural resources to create new economic opportunities. The emphasis on young people reflects the consultation priorities and supports equalities.

- 6.31 Priority C2 scores positively for climate change mitigation as it includes actions to support more sustainable businesses; encourages businesses to utilise natural resources; and would help increase carbon storage through woodland planting and management.

- 6.32 Traditional skills and crafts are an important part of Exmoor's economy, although these are not specifically mentioned. There are opportunities to maintain traditional skills and develop new skills to support future businesses in these industries. Wool and woodland are traditional industries that could be reinvigorated.

**Recommendation 4: add a reference to support for traditional skills and crafts**

- 6.33 Priority C2 likely to have some indirect benefits for biodiversity, through helping businesses to be more sustainable and encouraging sustainable use of natural resources.

6.34 Priority C2 has some positive and negative impacts for landscape. There are likely to be indirect benefits to landscape through increased management of natural resources e.g. woodland and sheep grazing. However, there could also be negative visual impacts from increased game shoots and inappropriate woodland management e.g. tracks/clear felling.

**Priority C3 Help farmers, foresters, land managers and game keepers to produce food, timber and other produce while improving environmental quality and providing other public benefits**

6.35 Priority C3 scores strongly positive for natural resources, as it seeks to reflect the value of Exmoor's natural resources in delivering ecosystem services. There is a danger that individual ecosystem services will be promoted at the expense of others, particularly given the market is more developed for some than others. The recognition of ecosystem services as a cross-cutting theme at the beginning of the document is important to ensure that they are considered in an integrated way.

6.36 Priority C3 is also strongly positive for the economy and employment, as it seeks to support key economic sectors of farming, forestry, gamekeeping etc. It reflects the opportunities to gain economic benefit from the ecosystem services that Exmoor provides. It also seeks to support the future economic prospects of farmers in the light of changes to EU and national policy.

6.37 Priority C3 is also likely to benefit biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape through the delivery of ecosystem services, and supporting the future of livestock farming in the National Park. However, it will depend on how these actions are delivered, and it is important that ecosystem services are supported in an integrated way so that one service is not promoted at the expense of another.

**Priority C4 Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park**

6.38 As would be expected, this Priority scored strongly positive for the SA themes of climate change adaptation and mitigation, as the aim is to help communities and businesses respond to future challenges of climate change and to move towards becoming a carbon neutral National Park. The actions could be strengthened by specific reference to local businesses as well as communities.

**Recommendation 5: Add a reference in the strategic activity to supporting businesses to adapt to climate change particularly tourism businesses. Add ETP to delivery partners**

6.39 The actions in Priority C4 supporting sustainable energy, low carbon initiatives and low carbon farming, and land management including soil conservation, will all help reduce natural resource consumption. The promotion of anaerobic digestion will also help reduce waste and avoid pollution.

- 6.40 Opportunities arising from renewable energy and sustainable land management will be beneficial for local communities and businesses, with the potential for new jobs to be created throughout the supply chain. Exmoor experiences higher levels of fuel poverty due to the large areas that are off-gas, and the nature of the existing housing stock which includes a large number of old and hard to treat properties. Communities in fuel poverty can be helped by access to renewable energy.
- 6.41 Priority C4 is likely to have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape. Land management practices and low carbon farming could enhance these assets, although it will depend how they are implemented. Similarly, the promotion of renewable energy technologies could be constrained by the need to protect the National Park's special qualities.

## **7 Alternative Options**

- 7.1 An important part of the SA process is to consider alternative options to delivering the Plan. Alternative scenarios to that used in the Partnership Plan have been considered. One is to do nothing, to leave the Park as it is and to evolve by itself and without management. The second is a localist approach, where local communities are left to set their own priorities within smaller geographical areas of the National Park.
- 7.2 Opting for the do nothing scenario would mean that some of the priorities would still be carried out, as they are driven by national or legislative requirements. However, the focus of effort on those issues that local people and partners have identified as most important would be lost. There would also be a lack of co-ordination and overall strategy towards management in the National Park, which could lead to a piecemeal approach with wasted effort.
- 7.3 A more bottom-up, localist approach would enable local communities to set their own priorities, which could be successful in areas where there are active individuals or groups who work together well, but this is likely to be patchy across the National Park and again would be likely to lead to a piecemeal approach. It could also lead to conflicts with the statutory purposes for which the National Park was designated, if local priorities cut across these.
- 7.4 The Partnership Plan ultimately seeks to take a balanced approach, recognizing the need for a co-ordinated strategy to identify priorities and guide the activities of the many different partners and individuals who are responsible for helping to deliver these. However, there are aspects of the Plan which seek to let local communities take the lead, and to build capacity to enable this to happen effectively. The whole approach to developing a Partnership Plan has also been to

bring as many people on-board as possible, recognizing that the Plan cannot be delivered by the National Park Authority alone.

## 8 Changes to the Partnership Plan arising from the SA

8.1 Amendments have been made to the Partnership Plan to reflect the SA recommendations, as detailed in Figure 5 below.

**Figure 5 – SA recommendations and changes to the Partnership Plan**

SA Recommendations	Changes to the Partnership Plan
<p>Priority A1 - Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes</p> <p>Recommendation 1: the Partnership Plan should recognise the future implications of climate change on landscape character, and whilst over the 5 year period of the Plan such changes may not be significant, ongoing monitoring through the State of the Park report will be needed to identify any changes and longer term adaptations that may be required.</p>	<p>Reference to climate change and potential future adaptations has been added to para 2.7</p>
<p>Priority A2 Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Action A2.6 <i>monitor moorland condition</i> should include monitoring of any changes likely to arise as a result of climate change so that these can be assessed and necessary action taken.</p>	<p>Action A2.6 has been amended to include monitoring of climate change implications on moorland</p>
<p>Priority B1 – Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand.</p>	<p>Additional text has been inserted in para 3.5 to reflect potential pressures on the special qualities arising from increased</p>

<p>Recommendation 3: The impact of any increase in visitor pressure on the special qualities including landscape, wildlife, cultural heritage and natural resources should be monitored over the period of the Partnership Plan through the State of the Park report.</p>	<p>tourism. Action B2.7 has been amended to include monitoring the impacts of recreation on the special qualities.</p>
<p>Priority C2 – Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor</p> <p>Recommendation 4: add a reference to support for traditional skills and crafts</p>	<p>Action C2.1 has been amended to include reference to traditional skills and crafts</p>
<p>Priority C4 Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park</p> <p>Recommendation 5: Add a reference in the strategic activity to supporting businesses to adapt to climate change particularly tourism businesses. Add ETP to delivery partners</p>	<p>The strategic activity has been amended to include supporting businesses to adapt to climate change. ETP has been added to the list of delivery partners</p>

**Appendix 1 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework: Sustainability Objectives, Criteria and Indicators**

The sustainability objectives, criteria and indicators were based on the framework developed for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Framework (LDF), to ensure consistency between the two assessments. Some of the topics were combined, and a revised set of criteria were developed to better reflect the focus on the Partnership Plan compared to the LDF.

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
<p><b>Natural Resources</b>  (including air, water, land &amp; waste)</p>	<p><b>1. To minimise air pollution (including green house gas emissions) and water pollution and ensure air and water quality is maintained or improved.</b> <i>Explanation: This objective seeks to minimise pollution from development.</i></p> <p><b>2. To promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable use of natural resources.</b> <i>Explanation: This objective seeks to concentrate and diversify development by optimising the use of previously developed land, infrastructure, under used land</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain or improve air and water quality?</li> <li>➤ Minimise emissions?</li> <li>➤ Protect water resources and encourage water conservation</li> <li>➤ Provide benefits to society from ecosystem services</li> <li>➤ Contribute to the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste?</li> <li>➤ Reduce soil erosion and protect soil quality?</li> <li>➤ Lead to significant land-take (use of land for development)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality Monitoring data – Environmental Health (WSC &amp; NDC)</li> <li>• Domestic per capita CO2 (tonnes).</li> <li>• % of river length reaching grade A/B (Very good/good) quality for chemical and biological assessment.</li> <li>• Percentage of waste generated, recycled, composted and sent to landfill.</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
	<p><i>and vacant properties.</i></p> <p><b>3. To reduce all forms of waste production and promote reuse and recycling and minimise the risk of contaminated land.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>Although the National Park is not the waste authority, it will seek to implement policies to reduce the amount of waste generated and to promote sustainable waste management</i></p>		
<p><b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p><b>4. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and to protect, conserve and enhance all habitats and species.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>These objectives seek to conserve and enhance Exmoor's biodiversity, habitats and species so that any negative impacts from development are avoided or mitigated when</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conserve and enhance the diversity of species and habitats?</li> <li>➤ Make provision for protected and important species and habitats where appropriate?</li> <li>➤ Have no adverse impact on SACs or SSSIs?</li> <li>➤ Enhance local biodiversity and the natural environment?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Area of new BAP habitat created or restored.</li> <li>● Number of SACs and SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.</li> <li>● Proportion of Local Wildlife Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented (NI197).</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
	<i>meeting the needs of communities and visitors.</i>	➤ Provide opportunities for involving local communities and visitors	
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	<p><b>5. To minimise and manage the risk of all forms of flooding.</b></p> <p><b>6. To minimise the impacts of climate change on Exmoor’s communities, habitats and heritage assets.</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> <i>These objectives seeks to manage and minimise the impacts of climate change and flood risk and help communities and habitats to adapt as appropriate.</i></p>	<p>➤ Contribute to minimising the impacts of climate change including flood risk through land management</p> <p>➤ Put local communities and habitats vulnerable to the effects of climate change at risk including doing nothing?</p> <p>➤ Maximise positive landscape change as a result of climate change and minimise negative impacts, taking along term view</p> <p>➤ Contribute towards making the landscape more resilient to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood defence grounds.</li> <li>• Land management prescriptions and projects which make a positive contribution to sustainable flood management.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and</b>	<b>7. To minimise the net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere</b>	<p>➤ Maximise Exmoor’s potential for renewable energy generation?</p> <p>➤ Improve the sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic per capita CO2 (tonnes) – measure every 5 years.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions for renewable technologies and other energy</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
<b>Energy</b>	<p><b>and to minimise Exmoor’s contribution to global climate change.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>This objective seeks to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable living, implement sustainable building practices and install renewable technology that is appropriate to the National Park’s statutory purposes to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities by the public, whilst aiming to achieve the target of becoming a carbon neutral National Park by 2025.</i></p>	<p>of Exmoor’s communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Encourage the use of sustainable building design and methods?</li> <li>➤ Encourage travel by sustainable means of transport?</li> <li>➤ Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings?</li> <li>➤ Help to conserve and enhance natural carbon stores e.g peat, soils and wood</li> <li>➤ Help to reduce emissions of nitrous oxide and methane</li> </ul>	<p>sustainability measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Housing development that incorporates energy and sustainability measures (above building regulation requirements).</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
<p><b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b></p>	<p><b>8. To promote and support thriving and inclusive communities, health and wellbeing.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>this objective focuses on securing balanced, inclusive communities (Including not just local communities but also those who visit and enjoy the National Park) where people can live healthy lives, have equality of access to community, education and health services and facilities, and have access to and enjoy cultural and recreational opportunities.</i></p> <p><b>9. To help ensure that National Park-communities have access to appropriate, good quality, sustainable, affordable housing.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>This objective seeks to provide housing to maintain balanced living and</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide for community services and mixed use community facilities?</li> <li>➤ Encourage healthy lifestyles and improve access to healthy, fresh, locally sourced food?</li> <li>➤ Improve access to the Park and to its opportunities and facilities for all?</li> <li>➤ Help to implement the installation of infrastructure for broadband and mobile technology that is sympathetic to the National Park setting?</li> <li>➤ Affect specific sub groups disproportionately compared with the whole population?</li> <li>➤ Cause changes in contacts with health and/or care services, quality of life, disability or death rates?</li> <li>➤ Likely to cause public or community concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Index of multiple deprivation and measures of health deprivation.</li> <li>• Number of cultural, leisure and sporting facilities available.</li> <li>• Number of village shops and village post offices available.</li> <li>• Creation and loss of community services and facilities.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions providing disabled access.</li> <li>• The proportion, tenure and type of affordable dwellings approved and constructed.</li> <li>• Mean and median average house prices.</li> <li>• Average house price to average household income ratio.</li> <li>• Number of households in housing need</li> <li>• Average daily traffic movements.</li> <li>• Public transport routes.</li> <li>• Amount of open access land available under the CROW Act 2000.</li> <li>• Percentage of public rights of way ‘easy to use’ (BVPI 178).</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
	<p><i>working communities and in doing so provide a sustainable mix of affordability, size and type of housing that is of good design and sustainable materials and provides for the needs of young and older people and those whose work is important to communities.</i></p> <p><b>10. Encourage travel by sustainable means of transport and provide access to services, whilst recognising the need to travel by private modes of transport in a dispersed rural area such as Exmoor.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>This objective, although aspirational in seeking to reduce travel by means of the private car, recognises that Exmoor is a dispersed rural area where currently there is a need to travel by private modes of transport in order to access</i></p>	<p>about potential health impacts of this policy change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Create safe and attractive public spaces?</li> <li>➤ Improve opportunities for inclusive community participation and foster good community relations?</li> <li>➤ Improve access to recreational space, leisure activities, learning and cultural opportunities?</li> <li>➤ Help reduce isolation</li> <li>➤ Encourages understanding and enjoyment of the NP</li> <li>➤ Provide affordable housing for local needs?</li> <li>➤ Provide for the housing needs of older, younger and disabled people?</li> <li>➤ Help to ease traffic congestion in the tourism season and provide more sustainable ways of accessing the National</li> </ul>	

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
	<i>services and facilities.</i>	Park? ➤ Safeguard public rights of way and improve opportunities for safe horse-riding, cycling and walking as an alternative to car travel? ➤ Reduce the need to travel, especially by private car? ➤ Support demand responsive, low-carbon public transport for the local community? ➤ Support improved (and low carbon) access to essential goods and services?	
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<b>11. To promote and support appropriate, sustainable economic growth, particularly of the key business sectors of tourism, agriculture and other land based industries and small businesses.</b> <b>Explanation:</b> <i>This objective seeks to support and enhance the key sectors of the Exmoor</i>	➤ Promote and support a sustainable tourism sector? ➤ Promote and support a sustainable agricultural sector and other land based industries? ➤ Promote and support, small sustainable businesses? ➤ Encourage use of local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of registered farm holdings.</li> <li>● % occupancy of beds in holiday accommodation throughout the year.</li> <li>● Tourist spending.</li> <li>● Number of planning applications for change of use from business to other use.</li> <li>● Number and area of agricultural buildings permitted.</li> <li>○ Number of farm diversification proposals permitted</li> <li>● Number of applications permitted for</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
	<p><i>economy and at the same time support the growth of small businesses. Economic development will be appropriate to the National Park setting and where possible will benefit from and help to promote the National Park's special qualities.</i></p>	<p>products and services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Help to implement the installation of infrastructure for broadband and mobile technology that is sympathetic to the National Park setting?</li> <li>➤ Support local businesses and suppliers?</li> <li>➤ Provide opportunities for employment for young people</li> <li>➤ Support skills development and training</li> </ul>	<p>development for game-bird shooting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of applications approved for equestrian development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b></p>	<p><b>12. To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment.</b>  <b>Explanation:</b> <i>This objective seeks to maintain and enhance the built and historic environment of Exmoor through allowing sympathetic and sustainable design and alteration of new and existing buildings.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conserve the character of historic landscapes, settlements and buildings?</li> <li>➤ Protect and enhance ancient monuments and other heritage assets and avoid loss of notable buildings?</li> <li>➤ Recognise the potential of the historic environment to contribute to social and economic progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of conservation area enhancement projects.</li> <li>● Number of archaeological projects (i.e. restoration).</li> <li>● Number of listed buildings: on the at risk register; subject to unauthorised alterations; subject to demolition; and successful enforcement action.</li> <li>● Number of listed building consents refused.</li> </ul>

Topic	Objectives	Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Improve access and understanding of local heritage.</li> <li>➤ Enhance the distinctiveness and diversity of the local built environment and community spaces?</li> <li>➤ Explore/celebrate local culture/heritage and community diversity</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<p><b>13. To conserve, maintain and enhance the special qualities of the Exmoor National Park’s landscape character and manage change.</b>  <b>Explanation</b> <i>This objective aims to ensure that Exmoor retains its wild, remote and tranquil setting to enable the quiet enjoyment of the National Park.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reduce or mitigate the adverse effects of agricultural and land use change on the landscape or positively enhance the landscape?</li> <li>➤ Ensure development is sited and designed with landscape in mind and reduce visual intrusion?</li> <li>➤ Reduce the impact of development within the setting of the National Park?</li> <li>➤ Avoid potential loss of local character</li> <li>➤ Reduce the impact of recreational activities on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of planning permissions (outside the National Park boundary) that enable large structures and development to be visible from the National Park boundary.</li> <li>● Agri-environment scheme uptakes.</li> <li>● Percentage change in farming businesses.</li> <li>● Loss or damage to key landscape features (woodlands, walls, hedges and hedgebanks)</li> <li>● Change in Countryside Quality based on Countryside Quality Counts data used to inform condition of Countryside Character Areas.</li> <li>● Number of lighting conditions attached to planning permissions.</li> </ul>

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Criteria – will the proposals in the Plan....</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
		the landscape? ➤ Contribute to the wild, remote and tranquil setting of Exmoor?	

**Table 1 – SA scoring system**

<b>++</b>	strongly positive
<b>+</b>	Positive (with some opportunity for improvement)
<b>+/-</b>	Some positive elements but also potentially some negative impacts
<b>0</b>	Neutral
<b>-</b>	Negative
<b>- -</b>	Strongly negative

SA Themes	Priority A1 Protect and manage the special character of Exmoor's unique landscapes	Score
<b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions: A1.2 guidance on landscape impacts of Renewable Energy A1.8 woodland planting including carbon storage A1.10 manage landscape impacts from forestry including new tracks will help conserve soils A1.11 good environmental management of shoots will protect soils and water quality A1.15 National Character Area integrated objectives including natural resources	<b>+</b>
<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions: A1.7 restoration of landscape features including hedgerows, orchards, ponds etc will benefit wildlife A1.8 woodland /forestry all have potential to benefit wildlife (new woodland planting could be on areas of wildlife interest but needs to be 'where appropriate') A1.9 redesign of conifer plantations to deliver wildlife benefits A1.13 improved public understanding of farmed landscapes & wildlife A1.15 NCA profiles & integrated objectives including for wildlife	<b>++</b>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions: A1.7 the conservation and restoration of landscape elements and features will help build resilience to future change A1.8 new woodland planting and A1.9 redesign of conifer plantations could help buffer woodlands from future climate change, but the choice of trees will need to take account of climate change and could affect landscape character if new/different species chosen.	<b>+/-</b> <i>Broadly the actions are positive but may need to reflect longer term implications of</i>

	<p>A1.14 updating the condition assessment in the LCA will highlight changes that may be occurring due to climate change  A1.15 NCA profiles including climate change adaptation  A1.16 monitoring landscape change and pressures for change will enable changes that may be due to climate change to be identified at an early stage.</p> <p>Overall, the actions in Priority A1 are broadly positive in relation to climate change adaptation, however there is the risk that they will lead to a focus on maintaining a landscape character that cannot survive in the long term under climate change. There is also the potential that a focus on conserving the existing landscape character could restrict adaptations within the land management and other sectors to benefit from climate change.</p> <p>Recommendation: the Partnership Plan should recognise the future implications of climate change on landscape character, and whilst over the 5 year period of the Plan such changes may not be significant, ongoing monitoring through the State of the Park report will be needed to identify any changes and longer term adaptations that may be required.</p>	<i>climate change on landscape character</i>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A1.2 guidance on minimising landscape impacts of Renewable Energy  A1.8 woodland planting can assist with carbon sequestration and storage  A1.15 NCA profiles and integrated objectives including for carbon storage  A1.16 monitor landscape change and the pressures for change, including climate change mitigation and energy.</p> <p>Overall the actions in Priority A1 are broadly positive in relation to climate change mitigation, however there is potential for the focus on conserving landscape character to limit mitigation measures such as the introduction of renewable energy technologies or charging points for electric vehicles.</p>	<p><b>+</b>  <i>Overall positive, but some limitations that landscape could impose on mitigation e.g. RE</i></p>
<b>Community and</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p>

<p><b>Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b></p>	<p>A1.1 the Local Plan will provide the planning framework to guide development, which will seek to balance local communities needs against National Park purposes.</p> <p>A1.2 guidance on the landscape impacts of renewable energy could make it difficult to put in place community scale renewable schemes &amp; therefore restrict community benefit from these</p> <p>A1.4 removing intrusive features and A1.5 rural roads – a focus on conserving landscape character will be welcomed by some communities, but could also hinder enhancements that communities might want to see; also potential restrictions to Rights of Way furniture that people might want due to landscape impact.</p> <p>A1.7 minimising visual impacts of broadband /mobile masts – a focus on conserving landscape character will be welcomed by some communities, but could also hinder improvements to ICT which are particularly important for isolated or deprived communities (e.g. without access to transport)</p> <p>A1.7 the conservation and restoration of landscape features will support overall landscape character which is valued by communities and supports well-being</p> <p>A1.9 redesign of conifer plantation to delivery landscape and cultural heritage benefits</p> <p>A1.12 promoting understanding of cultural services provided by landscape and opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy them. This will provide overall benefits and support wellbeing, although focusing on spiritual / aesthetic qualities (quiet enjoyment) could hinder active enjoyment which has benefits for health</p> <p>A1.13 farm open days, walks and events will help people to understand and value farmed landscapes, and will also support health.</p> <p>A1.16 monitoring public perceptions will enable changes in landscape character and people’s experiences of them to be identified</p> <p>Overall, the quality and diversity of Exmoor’s landscapes benefit communities and supports well-being, particularly through the experiences that people have including tranquillity, dark night skies, and enjoying the natural beauty. However, the needs of a diverse range of communities and audiences need to be</p>	<p><i>Exmoor’s landscape is valued by communities and supports wellbeing, but its conservation could restrict development that would benefit communities e.g. ICT, RE</i></p>
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	<p>considered, including creating opportunities to engage new audiences as identified in Priority B3. There may also be some restrictions to development that would be beneficial to local communities, such as ICT or community owned renewable energy schemes, as a result of the duty to conserve natural beauty.</p>	
<p><b>Economy and Employment</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions which all seek to conserve or enhance landscape character, and therefore support the qualities that many businesses rely on, particularly in the tourism sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1.3 conserving landscape setting of the National Park</li> <li>A1.4 removal of visually intrusive features</li> <li>A1.5 enhance character of rural roads</li> <li>A1.6 minimise visual impacts of ICT</li> <li>A1.7 conservation and restoration of landscape features</li> <li>A1.8 new woodland planting</li> <li>A1.9 redesign of conifer plantations</li> <li>A1.10 manage landscape impacts from forestry</li> <li>A1.11 minimise visual impacts of game bird shoots</li> <li>A1.12 promote understanding and appreciation of cultural services provided by landscape</li> <li>A1.13 encourage public understanding of farmed landscapes and support farm diversification</li> </ul> <p>Some actions could restrict economic activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1.1 and A1.2 potential restrictions on development from planning policies and guidance to protect landscape character</li> <li>A1.11 – environmental management of game bird shoots could limit economic benefits</li> </ul> <p>Overall Exmoor’s landscape has a very positive economic impact and contributes to local employment, particularly in the tourism sector which benefits from the landscape and other special qualities that people come to visit and enjoy.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b>  <i>Overall Exmoor’s landscape has a very positive economic impact &amp; contributes to employment, but protection of landscape potentially has a restrictive effect on economic activities</i></p>

	However, the conservation of landscape character could also restrict economic activities.	
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A1.1 planning policy in the Local Plan will seek to protect landscape character including historic landscapes (although this is not specifically mentioned)</p> <p>A1.4 remove visual intrusion</p> <p>A1.5 enhance rural roads</p> <p>A1.7 support conservation and restoration of historic parklands</p> <p>A1.12 promote understanding of cultural services</p> <p>A1.13 encourage understanding of farmed landscapes including their history and how they have changed over time.</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	The aim of this Priority is to conserve and enhance landscape character, and all the actions therefore contribute to this theme.	<b>++</b>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority A2 Maintain the open character of moorland and the range of public benefits that moorland landscapes deliver</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources (including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A2.1 integrated land management for moorland units including natural resources, carbon storage</p> <p>A2.3 support swaling will help maintain soil quality, although increased burning could also impact on air quality</p> <p>A2.4 preventing wild fires will protect soils and avoid impacts on air quality</p> <p>A2.6 monitoring moorland condition including condition of soils, water quality and quantity etc.</p>	<b>+</b>

<p><b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A2.1 integrated land management for moorland units including biodiversity  A2.2 improve understanding of moorland management including on wildlife  A2.3 support for swaling will help maintain biodiversity, although the benefits for wildlife will depend on how this is implemented – the intention is for swaling to be positive for wildlife, but there is debate and uncertainty over the approach  A2.4 preventing wild fires will protect wildlife  A2.6 monitoring moorland condition including vegetation condition, heather beetle</p>	<p><b>++</b></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A2.1 integrated land management of moorland units including flood risk  A2.2 improve understanding of moorland management and the impact of different approaches including on flood risk  A2.6 monitor moorland condition will enable any changes likely to arise as a result of climate change to be identified so that these can be assessed and necessary action taken.</p> <p>Whilst the impacts of climate change are not yet known, the likely effects of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers are likely to have significant impacts on moorland landscapes, wildlife and habitats. It may not be possible to maintain the current moorland character in the long term under climate change.</p> <p>Recommendation: the Partnership Plan should recognise the future implications of climate change on moorland landscapes and the need to adapt in future.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b>  <i>Broadly the actions are positive but may need to reflect longer term implications of climate change on moorland character</i></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A2.1 integrated land management of moorland units including carbon storage  A2.3 support for swaling will release carbon emissions &amp; potentially damage peat (releasing carbon stored)  A2.4 preventing wild fires will reduce potential carbon emissions</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>

<p><b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A2.1 bringing together moorland owners farmers and land managers together to establish integrated management programmes for moorland units</li> <li>A2.2 improving understanding of moorland management and celebrating good practice through events etc</li> <li>A2.4 preventing wild fires</li> <li>A2.5 explore future funding for Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership to continue the good work engaging with local communities and new audiences.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Economy and Employment</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A2.1 integrated land management of moorland units to support moorland farming</li> <li>A2.2 improving understanding of moorland management and the impact of different approaches on the economy</li> <li>A2.3 support for swaling will help maintain moorland farming</li> <li>A2.4 prevent wild fires will prevent potential damage to land and assets</li> <li>A2.5 ongoing funding for Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership will enable continued support for moorland farming.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A2.1 integrated land management of moorland units to support moorland farming including improved protection and understanding of cultural heritage</li> <li>A2.2 improving understanding of moorland management over the last century and celebrate good practice</li> <li>A2.5 ongoing funding for Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership will enable continued support for understanding and enjoying moorland heritage</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>+</b></p>

<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The aim of this Priority is to maintain the open character of moorland and support management practises that deliver a range of public benefits. All the actions are intended to support delivery of this theme.</p>	<p><b>++</b></p>
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<p><b>SA Themes</b></p>	<p><b>Priority A3 Maintain in good condition, extend and connect Exmoor’s important wildlife habitats and the species they support</b></p>	<p><b>Score</b></p>
<p><b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b></p>	<p>Wildlife and natural resources are closely inter-related, and most of the actions in this priority will benefit natural resources, particularly those which will improve the management and condition of existing habitats (A3.1-A3.9)</p> <p>A3.9 improve riparian habitats will help protect soils through measures to reduce siltation</p> <p>A3.12 control of knotweed will improve river habitats and watercourses</p> <p>A3.13 – A3.15 extend and connect habitats and the species they support</p> <p>A3.19-A3.24 Engaging the public in understanding wildlife on Exmoor will also will help them to understand and value the natural resources and ecosystem services provided by habitats and species.</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The aim of this Priority is to enhance biodiversity, so all the actions will contribute to this theme.</p> <p>A3.19-A3.24 engaging with public is generally positive but it could have negative impacts (for example disturbance to wildlife) if not done sensitively, the aim would to ensure that improved understanding would help to encourage responsible behaviour.</p>	<p><b>++</b></p>

<p><b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A3.1 restoring SSSIs to favourable condition  A3.7 vision for Porlock Marsh to respond to potential coastal change  A3.8 improve knowledge and understanding of coastal habitats and species  A3.10-12 control of invasive species – additional invasive species may arise as a result of climate change. It will be important to maintain a focus on controlling diseases given climate change &amp; need to reflect what future diseases might occur or what climate conditions might encourage diseases  A3.16 – include monitoring on the effects of climate change on Exmoor’s habitats and species.  A3.17 review of priority species on Exmoor will need to be set in the wider context of the impacts of climate change across Europe and globally</p> <p>There are no specific actions on the need to adapt to climate change, although many of the actions e.g. A3.13-16 will enable this.</p> <p>Focusing on specific (native) species that have particular habitat requirements could restrict future opportunities to adapt to climate change by encompassing different species and habitats. Climate change may also mean that ‘non-native’ species become more common on Exmoor.</p> <p>Recommendation: the Partnership Plan should include a recognition that the implications of climate change are likely to mean that habitats and species on Exmoor will change, and will require future adaptations to help build resilience and enable changes to occur.</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A3.1 restore SSSIs to favourable condition; A3.13 restore moor habitat; A3.3 undertake woodland management; A3.14 new woodland planting will all help mitigate climate change through carbon storage.</p>	<p><b>+</b>  <i>Overall positive but needs to reflect the uncertainty inherent in</i></p>

	A3.9 protecting riparian habitats could potentially restrict future hydro power	<i>future climate change</i>
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A3.19-A3.24 engaging with public and communities to better understand and celebrate habitats and species.</p> <p>There is a risk that these actions could result in negative impacts (for example disturbance to wildlife) if not done sensitively, the aim would be to ensure that improved understanding would help to encourage responsible behaviour</p> <p>This could be more strongly positive if the Partnership Plan leads to outreach to different audiences who don't currently enjoy the wildlife and habitats of the National Park.</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>There are likely to be indirect benefits through potential employment opportunities arising from actions such as managing habitats and helping people to understand &amp; enjoy – wildlife safaris, guided walks etc. Also indirect benefits to tourism from maintaining Exmoor's rich wildlife that people visit to enjoy.</p> <p>There could be potential constraints on economic opportunities arising from wildlife conservation / protection. Increasing habitats could also potentially take agricultural land out of productive use.</p>	<b>+/-</b> <i>Positives from employment opportunities but could be instances where there will be conflicts between wildlife &amp; economy</i>
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A3.19-24 engaging with people</p> <p>There may be some circumstances where management to support actions for biodiversity could conflict with cultural heritage interests.</p>	<b>+</b>

<b>Landscape</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>There are close linkages between landscape and wildlife, consequently many of the actions will also support landscape objectives.</p> <p>A3.14 – extending and linking habitats will provide landscape gains as well  A3.11 – controlling phytophthora can have landscape impacts through clear fell but also potential landscape and wildlife benefits</p>	<b>+</b>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority A4 Engage people in understanding, protecting and managing Exmoor’s cultural heritage and historic environment</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b>	No specific linkages identified	<b>0</b>
<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	No specific linkages identified.	<b>0</b>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A4.6 highlights the effects of sea level rise, however it does not specifically refer to climate change adaptation measures.</p>	<b>+</b>

	<p>Recommendation: amend the wording of A4.6 to include climate change ‘adaptation’ as well as ‘mitigation’ measures; clarify if these are climate change mitigation measures or measures to mitigate impacts on the historic environment</p>	
<p><b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Protection of the historic environment will support climate change mitigation, particularly through the use of embodied energy in existing buildings and their re-use wherever possible.</p> <p>However the protection and conservation of heritage assets could potentially restrict the use of Renewable Energy technologies or necessary adaptations to historic buildings.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p>
<p><b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The priority is focused on engaging people in understanding, protecting and managing heritage assets.</p> <p>A4.1-4.6 work with owners and managers of heritage assets  A4.7-4.10 encourage participation and community engagement in cultural heritage</p> <p>From an equalities perspective, the Partnership Plan needs to ensure that opportunities are available to everyone to engage in cultural heritage. There can be difficulties in enabling adaptations to historic buildings for people with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>++</b></p>
<p><b>Economy and Employment</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The historic environment provides indirect economic benefits from people visiting the National Park to enjoy heritage assets. There are also direct employment benefits from retaining traditional skills and crafts to maintain historic buildings etc.</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>

<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This action is aimed at protecting and managing Exmoor’s cultural heritage and historic environment, so all the actions will support this theme.</p> <p>No specific action on providing the planning framework for cultural heritage</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>There are close linkages between landscape character and the historic environment, so many of the actions will support this theme.</p> <p>A4.1 identify and safeguard locally important heritage assets including Principal Archaeological Landscape areas. A4.4 safeguard the character of Conservation Areas.</p>	<b>+</b>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority A5 Maintain and improve the quality of Exmoor’s natural resources</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b>	<p>This priority is focused on maintaining and improving the quality of Exmoor’s natural resources, so all the actions will support this theme.</p> <p>There are no actions relating to waste in this section, although this was not identified as a significant issue through the scoping, so it is not recommended that there needs to be additional actions.</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Biodiversity and Green</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>A5.1 measures to improve water quality and achieve good ecological status of all</p>	<b>++</b>

<b>Infrastructure</b>	water bodies will also support biodiversity A5.3 restoration of peatland habitats through the Mire project A1.6 retaining genetic diversity	
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions: A5.1 focus on river catchment management will help to manage flood risk A5.2 Holnicote flood management demonstration project A5.3 Exmoor Mires project will hold water and help manage flood risk A5.4 land management and soil conservation will enable more rain to be absorbed and slow down surface run-off.	<b>++</b>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:  A5.3 Exmoor Mires project will store carbon A5.4 soil conservation will also aid carbon storage	<b>+</b>
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:  A5.1, A5.2 A5.3, A5.5 all provide benefits to the community from improved water quality & sewage improvements, reduced flood risk; even communities outside Exmoor will benefit, e.g. from water supply, drinking water quality, and reduced flood risk. A5.6 – local breeds help to maintain local distinctiveness, and provide a sense of place	<b>++</b>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:  A5.1-4 – overall these actions should benefit the economy by providing good quality natural resources and soil conservation. There are also direct economic benefits through payments for ecosystem services such as providing clean water.	<b>+/-</b> <i>Potential economic opportunities from payments for ecosystem</i>

	A5.3 Exmoor Mires project & A5.6 local breeds – these could be constraining on economic activities in the short term with localised downsides (e.g. loss of earnings/ economic value), but in the long term should result in economic benefit.	<i>services, but may also need to compensate negative economic impacts</i>
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:  A5.2 and A5.3 Holnicote & Exmoor Mire projects both have historic environment elements to them.	<b>+</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:  A5.6 local breeds help preserve local distinctiveness and landscape character  However, actions A5.1-A5.5 are not specifically designed to improve landscape character, and there could be conflicts with landscape depending how they are implemented.	<b>+/-</b> <i>Likely to be potential benefits and potential conflicts depending how actions are implemented</i>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority B1 Promote Exmoor National Park as a special destination and develop the Exmoor brand</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources (including air,</b>	This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:  B1.2 Developing the Exmoor brand based on its strong environmental quality including natural resources, will help people to value these resources and raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by protected landscapes.	<b>+/-</b> <i>Positives from value attached to the natural resources,</i>

<p><b>water, land &amp; waste)</b></p>	<p>B1.9 Exmoor charter will encourage sustainable businesses and give them a greater interest in conserving and enhancing the special qualities  B1.5 sustainable use of coastal waters</p> <p>There could also be some negative impacts including:  Increased promotion of Exmoor as a destination could increase transport to the NP and traffic whilst here – impacting on air quality  Increased visitor numbers could impact on natural resources through increased demand for water resources, sewerage capacity etc  Potential increased land take up and use for tourism infrastructure / developments</p>	<p><i>negatives from increased pressures on natural resources from increased visitor numbers</i></p>
<p><b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B1.2 Developing the Exmoor brand based on its strong environmental quality including biodiversity, will help people to value these resources and raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by protected landscapes  B1.7 provide information and advice to help visitors experience and enjoy the NP  B1.9 Exmoor charter encouraging businesses to act sustainably and conserve and enhance the special qualities of the NP including biodiversity  B1.5 promote sustainable use of coastal waters for recreational sea angling</p> <p>There could also be negative impacts arising from increased visitor numbers including disturbance to wildlife.</p> <p>Recommendation: The impact of increased visitor numbers on biodiversity will need to be monitored through the State of the Park report.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b>  <i>Positives from value attached to biodiversity, negatives from increased pressures on wildlife and habitats from increased visitor numbers</i></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b></p>	<p>There are no specific actions relating to climate change adaptation, however, there could be potential risks to visitors from climate change and flooding e.g. caravan sites in flood zones, loss of coastal path to coastal erosion. Equally, there could also be potential benefits to tourism from an extended season, if weather patterns change to accommodate this.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b>  <i>Positives from an extended tourism season, but potential risks</i></p>

		<i>from flooding</i>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B1.1-B1.10 focusing on high quality experience and sustainable tourism including walking, cycling etc could help to mitigate against climate change</p> <p>There could also be negative impacts arising from increased emissions from transport due to increased visitors, unless they travel by more sustainable modes.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from sustainable tourism, but negative impacts from increased emissions from visitor transport</i></p>
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	<p>There would be benefits for local communities arising from this Priority, including opportunities for employment from tourism businesses, cultural and recreational improvements for leisure and health</p> <p>B1.11 Positive opportunities from understanding different audiences and encouraging new audiences</p> <p>There may also be some impacts on community cohesion from second homes, inflated house prices, influx of visitors, congestion etc.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from increased employment and recreational opportunities but also potential impacts on community cohesion</i></p>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>The focus of this Priority is to build a stronger Exmoor brand and encourage more tourism, which will provide strong economic opportunities and support employment. All the actions will contribute to this theme.</p>	<p><b>++</b></p>
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B1.2 Developing the Exmoor brand based on its strong environmental quality including cultural heritage and the historic environment, will help people to value these resources and raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by protected landscapes</p> <p>B1.7 provide information and advice to help visitors experience and enjoy the NP</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from value attached to cultural heritage, but also potential impacts on</i></p>

	<p>B1.8 supporting iconic cultural events will strengthen cultural identity and sense of place  B1.9 Exmoor charter encouraging businesses to act sustainably and conserve and enhance the special qualities of the NP including cultural heritage and the historic environment</p> <p>Overall this Priority will support protection and enjoyment of cultural heritage and the historic environment as part of what attracts people to visit Exmoor. Building a high quality experience for visitors and helping people to understand and enjoy heritage assets will encourage them to value these assets. There could also be negative impacts arising from increased visitor pressure on heritage assets.</p> <p>Recommendation: The impact of increased visitor numbers on cultural heritage will need to be monitored through the State of the Park report.</p>	<p><i>heritage assets from increased visitor numbers</i></p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B1.2 Developing the Exmoor brand based on its strong environmental quality including landscape, will help people to value these resources and raise awareness of the ecosystem services provided by protected landscapes  B1.7 provide information and advice to help visitors experience and enjoy the NP  B1.8 supporting iconic cultural events will strengthen cultural identity and sense of place  B1.9 Exmoor charter encouraging businesses to act sustainably and conserve and enhance the special qualities of the NP including landscape</p> <p>Overall this Priority will support protection and enjoyment of landscape as part of what attracts people to visit Exmoor. Building a high quality experience for visitors and helping people to understand and enjoy landscape and natural beauty will encourage them to value these assets.</p> <p>There could also be negative impacts arising from increased visitor pressure on landscape, particularly on Exmoor's wild, remote and tranquil character.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b>  <i>Positives from value attached to landscape, but also potential impacts on tranquillity from increased visitor numbers</i></p>

	Recommendation: The impact of increased visitor numbers on landscape will need to be monitored through the State of the Park report.	
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<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority B2 Maintain high quality rights of way, services and facilities to enable people to explore and experience the special qualities of the National Park</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B2.7-13 managing impacts of recreation B2.14-16 sustainable transport</p> <p>There would be benefits to air quality from promoting sustainable modes of transport. The strategic activity is focused on sensitively managing impacts of recreation, but there are still potential negative impacts on natural resources e.g soil erosion from increased pressure on rights of way and access land.</p>	<b>+/-</b>
<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B2.1-B2.5 support people enjoying and understanding wildlife and enabling people from all backgrounds and abilities to access this.</p> <p>However opening up access and RoW could increase potential disturbance to wildlife from walkers, dogs. B2.13 highlights potential conflict between water based recreation and wildlife The strategic activity is focused on sensitively managing impacts of recreation.</p>	<b>+/-</b>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>In longer term may be impacts on access and recreation from climate change and flood risk eg loss of coastal path from coastal erosion or path erosion from</p>	<b>+</b>

	increased winter rainfall and heavy run-off. Maintaining a good quality and varied RoW access network will help build resilience to future impacts of climate change as not relying on limited path network that would be lost.	
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Positive as aims to support more sustainable modes of travel and increased walking, cycling, horse-riding.</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Benefits from walking and active sports for health  Community benefits from wide range of opportunities for recreation, cultural services  B2.5 maintenance of facilities  B2.3 equalities  B2.14-16 sustainable transport</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B2.1-B2.13 Economic opportunities from recreation, rights of way – long distance trails.</p> <p>B2.14-B2.16 economic and employment benefits from improved, sustainable modes of transport</p> <p>Potential negative impacts on landowners from increased use of rights of way and potential economic conflicts between different users e.g canoes and fishing  Impacts on stock from gates being left open, disturbance to stocks, littering, using access land illegally. Need to manage these conflicts sensitively.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>positives from economic and employment opportunities arising from recreation but potential conflicts of increased access with farming, fishing etc</i></p>

<p><b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B2.1 Distinctive signage and furniture contributes to cultural heritage, some of RoW are part of culture heritage; RoW are how many cultural assets are accessed</p> <p>Possible increased impact on heritage assets from increased recreation and access</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from access to heritage assets and local distinctiveness, but potential impacts on assets</i></p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The landscape and scenic beauty is what people come to enjoy, and these actions will help people to do this and to experience and value the special qualities.</p> <p>However increased access and recreation pressure could bring potential conflicts with landscape and visual intrusion e.g. from recreation infrastructure, erosion to paths, litter etc. This will require sensitive management as the strategic activity and specific actions recognise.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from access to enjoy landscape, but potential impacts from increased recreational pressure</i></p>

<p><b>SA Themes</b></p>	<p><b>Priority B3 Inform, inspire and engage people about Exmoor's special qualities</b></p>	<p><b>Score</b></p>
<p><b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of Exmoors natural resources and influence behaviour in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Potential impacts from increased visitor pressure if successful including demand for water, increased waste etc.</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from educating people about natural resources, negatives from increased pressure on</i></p>

		<i>natural resources</i>
<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of Exmoor's wildlife and encourage responsible behaviour</p> <p>Potential impacts from increased visitor pressure if successful and encourage more people to come or to go to different places</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from educating people about biodiversity, negatives from increased pressure on biodiversity</i></p>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	<p>Provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of climate change and the need for adaptation measures</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of climate change and influence behaviour</p> <p>Potential impacts from increased transport emissions if successful and encourage more people to come</p>	<p><b>+/-</b></p> <p><i>Positives from educating people and influencing behaviour, but potential increased transport emissions</i></p>
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>B3.5 new audiences B3.6 schools B3.7 volunteering B3.8 disabled access</p>	<p><b>++</b></p>

<b>accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	<p>Generally positive for local communities</p> <p>Also positive in seeking to encourage understanding and enjoyment amongst disabled people and new audiences, including black and ethnic minority communities, and young people.</p>	
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>Generally positive through helping to raise awareness of Exmoor. Also provides direct economic benefit for local communities through employment and activities e.g. Visitor Centres; events walks etc</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>Provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of Exmoor's cultural heritage and encourage responsible behaviour. Celebrating and communicating cultural heritage, keeping traditions alive</p> <p>Potential impacts from increased visitor pressure if successful and encourage more people to come or to go to different places</p>	<b>+/-</b> <i>Positives from educating people about cultural heritage, negatives from increased pressure on heritage assets</i>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>Provide opportunities to educate people and increase understanding of Exmoor's landscape and encourage responsible behaviour</p> <p>Potential impacts from increased visitor pressure if successful and encourage more people to come or to go to different places</p>	<b>+/-</b> <i>Positives from educating people about landscape, negatives from increased pressure on landscape</i>

SA Themes	Priority C1 Support community led initiatives that help to meet local needs	Score
<p><b>Natural Resources</b> <b>(including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C1.7-C1.8 Promoting sustainable modes of transport which will reduce emissions and contribute to air quality.</p> <p>C1.4-C1.5 supporting the delivery of affordable housing – the focus on affordable housing will help to make best use of limited land supplies for housing and promote sustainable construction standards, reducing demands on natural resources including water, energy, and promote recycling.</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C1.3 providing the planning framework will include policies to protect biodiversity and support green infrastructure including linkages to neighbouring areas. There may be opportunities for biodiversity offsetting from development, and although levels of development are likely to be limited in the National Park there could be opportunities for joint working with neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>C1.1 Community led planning might prioritise development over wildlife value of biodiversity assets, or vice versa</p>	<p><b>+/-</b> <i>Positive protection of biodiversity through the planning system but potential for community led planning to prioritise development</i></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C1.3 providing the planning framework will include policies to adapt to climate change including flood risk.</p> <p>Climate change adaptation issues for local communities are picked up under C4.</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>

<b>Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>C1.6 and C1.7 Sustainable transport approach and promotion of broadband will support climate change mitigation by reducing emissions.</p> <p>C1.4 and C1.5 planning policy will require new housing to be built to high energy efficiency standards and support appropriate renewable energy technologies.</p>	
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The priority is all about responding to local communities' needs and aspirations, and as such as broadly positive. It does not specifically cover health, although this is captured in Programme B.</p> <p>C1.6-C1.8 Support for improved broadband and community transport will help communities access services, jobs etc</p> <p>C1.4-C1.5 the focus on affordable housing will address a key need and improve opportunities for more inclusive communities.</p> <p>The priority is about responding to communities needs and aspirations, so isn't proactively promoting provision of more services etc, which is why its not a ++</p> <p>Recommendation: C1.1 could be strengthened by broadening it to support community-led planning, with community councils included as delivery partners</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>+</b></p>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C1.6-C1.8 Support for improved broadband and community transport will help the economy and access to jobs. Broadband and mobile phone coverage are very important for self-employed people.</p> <p>C1.4-C1.5 Provision of affordable housing will help local people of employment age to live locally.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>++</b></p>
<b>Cultural</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>+/-</b></p>

<b>heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>Overall, this Priority supports community cohesion which is important for cultural heritage.</p> <p>C1.1 Community led planning might prioritise development over cultural value of heritage assets, or vice versa</p>	
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C1.3 Planning policy will seek to protect landscape from inappropriate development</p> <p>C1.1 Community led planning might prioritise development over landscape, or vice versa.</p> <p>C1.4-C1.5 Landscape capacity is the main constraint on the provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>C1.6 Increased telecommunications coverage could impact on landscape and visual amenity.</p>	<b>+/-</b>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority C2 Help businesses to be more sustainable, support entrepreneurship and improve economic prospects for young people living and working on Exmoor</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources (including air, water, land &amp; waste)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The priority seeks to build sustainable businesses around Exmoor's natural resources including wood, wool and food. Giving a value to natural resources will help with their conservation in the long term.</p> <p>It also seeks to support more sustainable businesses which will help reduce their resource consumption.</p>	<b>++</b>

<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Helping businesses to be more sustainable and encouraging sustainable use of natural resources will indirectly help biodiversity e.g. through management of woodland. The actions cannot be seen in isolation, and would need to be implemented in conjunction with Priority A3.</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	<p>Not specifically covered under this priority although it is covered in C4. Helping businesses to be more sustainable would include helping them to adapt to climate change, particularly in relation to tourism businesses.</p>	<b>0</b>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Supporting more sustainable businesses; encouraging businesses to utilise natural resources; storing carbon in wood.</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Encouraging economic prospects for young people, supporting apprenticeships. Apprenticeships in outdoor recreation and volunteer placements will support health and wellbeing. Supports equalities as well with emphasis on young people.</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Encouraging economic prospects for young people, supporting apprenticeships. Supporting sustainable businesses Encouraging entrepreneurship, innovation &amp; utilising Exmoor's natural resources</p>	<b>++</b>

	to create new economic opportunities.	
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Traditional skills and crafts are an important part of Exmoor's economy, although these are not specifically mentioned. There are opportunities to maintain traditional skills and develop new skills to support future businesses in these industries. Wool and woodland are traditional industries that could be reinvigorated.</p> <p>Recommendation: add a reference to support for traditional skills and crafts</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Will be indirect benefits through increased management of natural resources e.g. woodland and sheep grazing.</p> <p>Could be negative visual impacts from increased game shoots and inappropriate woodland management e.g. tracks/clear felling.</p>	<b>+/-</b>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority C3 Help farmers, foresters, land managers and game keepers to produce food, timber and other produce while improving environmental quality and providing other public benefits</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources (including air,</b>	<p>The priority seeks to reflect the value of Exmoor's natural resources in delivering ecosystem services</p> <p>C3.1-C3.3 Actions relating to ecosystem services</p>	<b>++</b>

<p><b>water, land &amp; waste)</b></p>	<p>C3.4-C3.5 actions relating to woodland management, woodfuel etc. C3.6-C3.11 actions relating to future of farming will impact on how land is managed and the quality of natural resources including water, soil etc.</p> <p>There is a danger that individual ecosystem services will be promoted at the expense of others, particularly given the market is more developed for some than others. The recognition of ecosystem services as a cross-cutting theme at the beginning of the document is important to ensure that they are considered in an integrated way.</p>	
<p><b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The priority and actions will indirectly support biodiversity. Making value judgements about what takes precedence, need to look at ecosystem services in an integrated way so don't promote one services at the expense of another.</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C3.3 Flood management through different land management practices</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C3.3 different land management practices to store carbon C3.4 Woodland, woodfuel</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>
<p><b>Community and Wellbeing (including Housing, transport and</b></p>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Supporting production of food C3.1 Ecosystem services benefits include cultural services, recreation etc</p>	<p><b>+</b></p>

<b>accessibility, equalities and health)</b>		
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>The priority seeks to support key economic sectors of farming, forestry, gamekeeping etc. It reflects the opportunities to gain economic benefit from the ecosystem services that Exmoor provides. It also seeks to support the future economic prospects of farmers in the light of changes to EU and national policy</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Ecosystem services benefits include cultural services Farming &amp; forestry part of cultural heritage</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Positive to promote ecosystem services whilst protecting special qualities.</p>	<b>+</b>

<b>SA Themes</b>	<b>Priority C4 Make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral National Park</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Natural Resources (including air,</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C4.2 support sustainable energy planning C4.3 support low carbon initiatives C4.4 encourage community ownership of renewable energy infrastructure – this will be positive in terms of utilising natural resources, but could impact on air</p>	<b>++</b>

<b>water, land &amp; waste)</b>	<p>quality particularly if it leads to lots of additional woodfuel boilers.</p> <p>C4.6 land management include management of soils</p> <p>C4.7 low carbon farming</p> <p>C4.9 hydropower</p> <p>C4.11 support anaerobic digestion – reduce waste and pollution</p>	
<b>Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C4.6 land management including restoration of peatland</p> <p>C4.9 Hydropower and other renewable energy technologies could have both positive and negative impacts on biodiversity, depending on how it is implemented, although policies would seek to protect biodiversity</p>	<b>+/-</b>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk</b>	<p>The aim of this Priority is to help communities and businesses respond to future challenges of climate change.</p> <p>C4.5 consider adaptation issues in neighbourhood/Parish plans</p> <p>C4.6 land management to mitigate flooding</p> <p>C4.12 monitoring impacts of climate change</p> <p>Recommendation: Add a reference in the strategic activity to supporting businesses to adapt to climate change particularly tourism businesses. Add ETP to delivery partners.</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Energy</b>	<p>The aim of this Priority is to help communities and businesses respond to future challenges of climate change and to move towards becoming a carbon neutral National Park.</p> <p>All the actions will support this theme</p>	<b>++</b>
<b>Community and Wellbeing</b>	<p>The focus of this Priority is on local communities with actions to help them to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>	<b>+</b>

<b>(including Housing, transport and accessibility, equalities and health)</b>	Exmoor experiences higher levels of fuel poverty due to the large areas that are off-gas, and the nature of the existing housing stock which includes a large number of old and hard to treat properties. The introductory text recognises that communities in fuel poverty can be helped by access to renewable energy – although this is not specified in an action.	
<b>Economy and Employment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>C4.3 helping communities to raise and access funding for low carbon initiatives  C4.4, C4.9, C4.11 support for renewable energy will indirectly contribute to employment, especially if installed by local companies.  Increased use of woodfuel will support local forestry and employment across the supply chain.  C4.7 Making farms more efficient and utilising renewable energy will help them to remain viable in the future, particularly with rising fuel costs.</p>	<b>+</b>
<b>Cultural heritage and Historic Environment</b>	<p>This theme would be supported by the following Partnership Plan actions:</p> <p>Measures to mitigate climate change could be damaging to cultural heritage  Hydropower could bring traditional mills/buildings back into use</p> <p>Implications of climate change for cultural heritage is reflected in A4.</p>	<b>+/-</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>C4.6, C4.7 Land management practices including managing soils and grassland for carbon could indirectly benefit landscape</p> <p>Measures to mitigate climate change including renewable energy schemes could be damaging to landscape quality and tranquillity.</p> <p>C4.4 Community scale RE could be constrained by landscape character.</p>	<b>+/-</b>