

ITEM 7

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

14 NOVEMBER 2006

REVIEW OF NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007-2012

Report of the National Park Officer / Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

To seek Authority approval for the publication of a Consultation Draft of the National Park Management Plan 2007-2012

Legal and Equality Implications:

Environment Act 1995, section S66(1) places a duty on the National Park Authority to publish **National Park Management Plan** which formulates its policy for the management of the National Park and for the carrying out of its functions in relation to the National Park, while S66(4) requires a National Park Authority to review the NPMP at intervals of not more than five years.

Financial and Risk Implications:

The National Park Management Plan review is set as a priority for the current year and has a budget. So far, the majority of the review work has been undertaken by Authority staff and little call has been made on the funding available. The major expenditure is expected to be the publication and printing of the final Plan when it is adopted (programmed for April 2007).

Business Plan Objectives:

D/22.09 – Complete the review of the National Park Management Plan including public consultation events in April/May 2006 and engagement of statutory agencies, user groups and organisations, local residents and visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Authority:

1. APPROVES the Consultation Draft of the National Park Management Plan 2007-2012 and
2. AUTHORISES the National Park Officer to distribute the draft National Park Management Plan and enter into further discussion with partners and other organisations in order to achieve commitment to the outcomes, objectives and targets set out in the Plan.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Authority established a National Park Management Plan Steering group to work alongside officers to undertake a fundamental review of the existing Plan. The review commenced in September 2005 and, so far, the process has included:

- Member and staff workshops and preliminary discussions with key partners to identify issues and trends that the National Park Management Plan will need to address

- Preparation of a travelling exhibition and public consultation during April – August 2006.
- Follow up discussions with key partners to identify targets for the Plan
- Workshop for members on a ‘rough draft’ of the Plan and circulation of the results of the public consultation

2. CONSULTATION DRAFT AND NEXT STEPS

2.1 A copy of the Consultation Draft of the National Park Management Plan is attached to this report. If members are content to approve the Draft for circulation the following timetable will enable the Plan to be taken to adoption in April 2007:

- November / December 2006 – circulation of the Consultation Draft to key partners, Parish and Town Councils and publication on the Authority website
- Detailed discussions with partners to agree the targets where other organisations will take a lead
- 5 January 2007 – final date for responses to the Plan from consultees
- 9 January 2007 – annual member priorities workshop which will identify the National Park Management Plan targets where the National Park Authority will take the lead, consistent with the Authority’s capacity and resources.
- February/March 2007 – finishing touches to the National Park Management Plan and supporting documents.
- Completion of the Staffing Review to enable medium term financial planning by the Authority and realignment with the National Park Management Plan priorities
- 24 April 2007 – adoption of the final National Park Management Plan at the Authority meeting

Nigel Stone

National Park Officer / Chief Executive

6 November 2006

Background papers on which this report, or an important part of it are based, constitute the list of background papers required by Section 100 D (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to be open to members of the public comprise:-

‘Issues and trends’ report for public consultation

Results of the public consultation on issues and trends