Management Plan Review 2015

Consultation Feedback Report

February 2016
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Northumberland National Park Management Plan

The Northumberland National Park Management Plan is the single most important document for the National Park Authority. It is a plan for everyone with a stake in the National Park and sets out a shared vision and aspirations for the National Park over the next twenty years; outlining aims and objectives which will help to achieve that vision. Section 66 of the Environment Act 1995 requires the National Park Authority to review the Management Plan every five years, therefore the most recently adopted Management Plan which covers the period 2009 – 2014, is now out of date.

A review of the Management Plan is being undertaken which will update it to cover the five year period 2016 – 2021. The Authority undertook this review in collaboration with and on behalf of the Management Plan Partnership. The review was subject to a public consultation exercise with communities, individuals and organisations with links to or an interest in the National Park. This public consultation was in compliance with the NNPA Statement of Community Involvement, adopted in 2010. This Consultation Feedback Report summarises the analysis of the representations received and the outcomes of the consultation exercise, including the next steps for the Review process.

1.2 Early Consultation and Preparation of the Consultation Draft document

Consultation with partner organisations was undertaken early in the review process to ensure that the approach was suitable and that the identified actions would be achievable. This was delivered by means of a workshop held on 19th June 2015 and through electronic communications. The preparation of the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document was informed by an updated GAP analysis (measuring performance against the current aims and objectives), the State of the National Park report, changes affecting activity within the National Park since 2009 and an analysis of wider factors that were considered likely to influence change within the National Park over the next five years. This paper was also circulated to internal staff for comment over a three week period from 10th – 31st July 2015. The response from this early informal consultation with partner organisations and staff helped to inform a final version of the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document to be used for public consultation.

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Some of the issues raised at the Management Plan Partnership workshop, and discussed among NNPA members and staff at internal meetings included:

- **The importance of the Partnership approach.** The achievement of the objectives within the Management Plan will require the commitment and efforts of each of the key partners, as well as a range of other organisations and individuals.

- **The need for the Management Plan to reflect and adapt to national government priorities and changes to legislation.** The final version of the consultation draft document identifies wider policy challenges and opportunities for the future and these are reflected in the revisions made. It was recognised however that this should not be the dominant driver of the review, as stakeholder consultation and responding to local needs is of equal importance.

- **The role of Higher Level Schemes (HLS) in the delivery of the Management Plan objectives.** It is recognised that The Sill and the International Dark Sky Park status in particular provide key opportunities to help achieve the National Park statutory purposes as set out in Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995. This is reflected in the consultation draft document where these schemes are to be integral to achieving various objectives within the plan.

- **The Management Plan needs to reflect the local economic situation.** It was acknowledged that tourism is the greatest contributor to the local economy within the National Park; however employment in the agriculture and forestry industries is also highly concentrated.

- **The extent to which affordable housing can be addressed through the Management Plan.** Aim 4 of the Management Plan sets objectives relating to sustaining local communities within the National Park, a vital element of which will be the strategy of supplying housing. It is important that local needs are responded to and this has been emphasised in a new means of achieving objective 4.2.1. The question was also raised of whether sustaining the rural economy can be achieved through attracting a younger working population. This issue will be addressed in more detail within the National Park’s Local Plan.

- **The importance of monitoring the Management Plan and the continued use of Annual Action Plans.** It is important that the Management Plan be regularly monitored to ensure the document is kept ‘live’ and to identify areas of good performance as well as where performance needs to be improved.

- **Whether or not the Action Area approach was still relevant** – the public consultation response relating to this is mentioned in section 3.2.2

- **The importance of interlinking key priorities** such as ‘Working with Local Communities’ & ‘Sustainable Rural Development’.

- **The need to help provide a range of utilities, facilities and services for local communities** throughout the National Park.
### 1.3 Expectations for the Review

Given the regular monitoring of the current Management Plan (2009 – 2014) objectives through Annual Action Plans, it was agreed by the Management Plan Partnership that the current Management Plan was still a fresh document and remained largely fit for purpose. Consequently, the decision was made that the vision, aims and outcomes of the document were still relevant in terms of achieving the statutory purposes of the National Park. It was agreed that focusing the review on updating only the objectives and means of achievement would be the most efficient approach to bring the document up to date for the next five years.

Two separate assessments of the Consultation Draft document were also required to be undertaken as part of the review process. This included a Sustainability Appraisal to assess the environmental, economic or social effects of each proposal within the plan; and an Appropriate Assessment screening to ensure that any proposed policies will not, either individually or cumulatively, have a significant effect on the integrity of European designated sites. The reports for both of these assessments were also to be subject to consultation.

### 2. Consultation Methodology

#### 2.1 Aims of the Consultation

The purpose of the public consultation was firstly to test the review approach, and secondly to gather views on the updated objectives and means of achievement contained within the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document.

The broad questions asked were:

- Whether the current Management Plan (2009-2014) was supported for the review.
- Which elements of the current Management Plan were considered most relevant.
- Which elements of the current Management Plan were considered least relevant.
- Whether there were any elements that were considered to be missing and that therefore should be included.
- Whether there were any new changes, challenges or opportunities that the Management Plan should address.
- Whether the updated list of objectives and means of achieving them were agreed with.

It was also anticipated that the response from the Management Plan Review consultation would go some way to framing the main issues to take forward in the Northumberland National Park Local Plan review, due to commence in 2016.
2.2 Consultation Methods Used and Target Audiences

2.2.1. Approach to event organisation

Consultation events were organised so as to reach as many of the target audiences as possible with the aim of achieving a broad range of responses to the consultation exercise. A total of fourteen events, in thirteen separate locations, were organised within the six-week consultation period (from 11th September until 23rd October 2015). These events were held in various locations within and surrounding the National Park, five of which took the form of a public drop-in event, four events were aimed at Parish Councils with Members present and there were a further five public information events / market stalls.

- **Public drop-in events**
  These events provided a drop in period of six hours to offer attendees flexibility in attending at a convenient time. This was considered less restrictive than a one or two-hour meeting slot and was intended to create a less formal environment in which individuals were likely to feel more comfortable in voicing their opinions.

  Locations used for the drop-in events included village/community halls and libraries, with the set up generally including:

  - pop up banners showing various special qualities of the National Park and a large map of the Park for reference.
  - displays demonstrating the Management Plan review process and case studies to showcase key achievements of the Authority and Partner organisations over the previous Management Plan period.
  - freebies including Northumberland National Park branded pens and post-it pads.

  Target Groups – Residents, Landowners, Businesses, Rural Networks, Farmers, Key Partners, Young People (Youth Cabinet, Young Farmers), Business Networks, Neighbouring Local Authorities, The Sill project partners, Kielder Partnership, Confor, Rural Research Networks (Newcastle/Northumbria Universities).

- **Parish Council Events**
  These events were targeted at Parish Councillors, enabling locally focussed discussions with NNPA Members present. Similarly these were designed as drop-in type events to offer attendees flexibility. Although targeted primarily at Parish Councillors, these events were open to other members of the community/public to attend.

  Target Groups – Parish Councillors, Residents, Farmers, Business owners
• Public Information Events / Market Stalls
A week of the consultation period involved National Park Authority officers, and Authority Members when possible, having a presence in a public setting in five large towns within Northumberland County: Morpeth, Hexham, Berwick upon Tweed, Alnwick and Ashington. The purposes of these events were to provide information to the public and enable discussions about the Management Plan review, as well as helping to raise the profile of the National Park. The events were delivered by means of a market stall set up in accessible central locations.

Target Groups – Residents, Businesses, National Park visitors / prospective visitors.

Staff present at the consultation events included Forward Planning Officers and Community Enterprise Officers. These officers were able to inform event attendees of the Management Plan and its role within the National Park including the achievements of the National Park Authority and its partner organisations over the previous plan period. The consultation also enabled established networks to be drawn upon and/or expanded.

Northumberland Youth Cabinet event

The Northumberland Youth Cabinet, an elected body of 13 – 19 year olds which represents the young people across Northumberland, was one of the key target audiences for the Management Plan review consultation. An event was held on the 22nd September 2015 where members of the Youth Cabinet discussed the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document with NNPA Engagement Officers. As a result of this event, the Youth Cabinet provided a representation summarising the issues raised. This representation has been analysed along with other responses from the consultation and is summarised in section three of this report.

2.2.2 Means of providing feedback

Consultees were invited to provide comments in a number of different ways.

• In person - Speaking directly with a member of staff at a consultation event.
• Completing and returning a questionnaire / online survey – A questionnaire\(^2\) was specifically designed to achieve the aims and objectives of the consultation. The questionnaire was also made available to complete online on the National Park’s website.
• Postal / email / telephone correspondence – Specific contact details were provided on leaflets, the Management Plan review webpage, the questionnaire and pre-consultation letters/emails sent out, to enable respondents to provide comments by letter, email or over the phone.

\(^2\)See Appendix 1 – Copy of questionnaire
2.2.3 Timeline of Consultation Events and Locations

Table 1 below lists each of the consultation events including the date and time, location and type of event. These locations are also mapped out in figure 1.

Table 1: Dates and Locations of consultation events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
<th>Map Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd September 1p.m. – 9p.m.</td>
<td>Cheviot Centre Wooler</td>
<td>Public Drop-in Event followed by Parish Council Event</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th September 1p.m. – 7p.m.</td>
<td>Haltwhistle Library</td>
<td>Public Drop-in Event</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th September 9a.m. – 3.30p.m.</td>
<td>Morpeth Market</td>
<td>Public Information Event</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th September 9a.m. – 4.30p.m.</td>
<td>Hexham Market</td>
<td>Public Information Event</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th September 9a.m. – 4p.m.</td>
<td>Berwick Market</td>
<td>Public Information Event</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st October 9a.m. – 4p.m.</td>
<td>Alnwick Market</td>
<td>Public Information Event</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd October 10a.m. – 4p.m.</td>
<td>Wansbeck Square Ashington</td>
<td>Public Information Event</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th October 6p.m. – 9p.m.</td>
<td>Harbottle Village Hall</td>
<td>Parish Council Event</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th October 1p.m. – 7p.m.</td>
<td>Bellingham Town Hall</td>
<td>Public Drop-in Event</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th October 6p.m. – 9p.m.</td>
<td>Elsdon Village Hall</td>
<td>Parish Council Event</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th October 1p.m. – 7p.m.</td>
<td>Jubilee Hall Rothbury</td>
<td>Public Drop-in Event</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th October 6p.m. – 9p.m.</td>
<td>Tarset Village Hall, Lanehead</td>
<td>Parish Council Event</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st October 1p.m. – 7p.m.</td>
<td>Bardon Mill and Henshaw Village Hall</td>
<td>Public Drop-in Event</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Publicity Strategy

2.3.1 Prior to consultation

In the weeks leading up to the consultation period letters and emails were sent to residents, statutory consultees/other organisations and Parish Councils. An update of the Authority’s consultee database was undertaken prior to sending the correspondence. Where email addresses were provided, copies of the Management Plan Review Consultation Draft documents (including the draft Sustainability Appraisal Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report) were also sent electronically. In total over one thousand consultees were written to, approximately eight hundred of which were Northumberland National Park residents.

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3 Source: Google Maps
A generic leaflet and poster\textsuperscript{4} detailing all event locations, as well as location specific posters, were placed in locations in and around where the events were to take place; including pubs, cafes, shops and tourist information centres. Hard copies of the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document were made available in libraries, village halls and NNPA headquarters for the duration of the consultation period. Large print, audio and translated formats of the document were also made available on request.

The public consultation was also publicised in the local press through appropriate advertisements in the Northumberland Gazette and Hexham Courant newspapers.

\textit{2.3.2 During Consultation}

The consultation was also publicised online through social media, and on a Management Plan Review webpage on the National Park’s website. Updates were regularly posted on the NNPA Twitter and Facebook pages\textsuperscript{5} before and during the consultation period. Links to the online survey were frequently shared in an attempt to maximise responses, as was the option to enter into a prize draw on completion of the questionnaire/survey.

The use of sign-in sheets at the consultation events also allowed the Authority to capture contacts details of attendees and these details were then used to send a follow-up reminder of the opportunity to complete the questionnaire/survey.

\textbf{3. Outcomes of Consultation}

\textbf{3.1 Levels of Response}

The number of attendees at each consultation event was recorded by means of a sign in sheet, with the exception of the public information events (marked * in table 2 below) where an individual was recorded as a consultee if a discussion with whom was had regarding the Management Plan review and/or a questionnaire or leaflet was taken.

\textsuperscript{4}See Appendix 2 – Copy of consultation poster/s
\textsuperscript{5}See Appendix 3 – Screenshots of social media publicity
Table 2: Number of attendees at each consultation event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultation Event</th>
<th>Number of attendees (approx)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wooler</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haltwhistle</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morpeth*</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hexham*</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwick*</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alnwick*</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashington*</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbottle</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsdon</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothbury</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanehead</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bardon Mill</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>141</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to responses received from those attending consultation events approximately thirteen respondents submitted a response via the online survey questionnaire. Feedback from these responses was largely supportive of the review approach and was in agreement with the updated objectives and means of achievement contained within the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document.

Representations were also provided by a number of businesses and organisations with an interest in the National Park offering a broad range of feedback on the content of the document. A breakdown of the number of responses received is provided in table 3 below.

Table 3: Number and method of responses received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means of response</th>
<th>Number of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event attendee response</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questionnaires / Online surveys submitted (including hard-copies received)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email correspondence</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone correspondence</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal staff representations</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>173</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following section sets out the details of the feedback received from the consultation.
3.2 Summary of feedback

Despite the varied numbers of attendance at the events, it can be broadly concluded that the majority of consultees were largely satisfied with the review approach and the retaining of the existing vision, aims and outcomes.

3.2.1 Questionnaire Feedback Summary

Of the responses from the questionnaire, 82% said that they supported the current Management Plan (2009-14) as the basis for the review.

Two respondents did not support the current Management Plan as the basis for the review. One was concerned that objectives relating to economic interests within the National Park were not always compatible with those concerning the natural environment; whilst the other respondent was of the opinion that the public had not been adequately consulted in the past. Nevertheless, when asked to consider the achievements since 2009, the majority of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied, with only two people who were dissatisfied and one individual who did not know.

There was a general agreement with the existing aims and outcomes. Regarding “A Welcoming Park” and “A Valued Asset”, over 85% of respondents were either in agreement or strong agreement, with only a single respondent who said they did not know whether they agreed or disagreed. Over 85% of respondents also agreed or strongly agreed with “A Distinctive Place”, however a single respondent disagreed. In relation to the aim and outcomes around “A Living Working Landscape for Now and for the Future”, again the majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed, however two individuals disagreed. There was also a majority of respondents in agreement with “Thriving Communities”, with one respondent who said that they did not know and one individual who strongly disagreed with this aim and the associated outcomes.

This feedback from the questionnaire therefore suggests that the existing Management Plan is indeed thought to be broadly fit for purpose and that the aims and outcomes are still relevant, to be included in the final Management Plan Review document.

The feedback on the updated objectives and means to achieve revealed that 71% of respondents agreed, with 33% in agreement with all of them. The objectives with the highest approval ratings related to tourism development, the retention of rural services and achieving a high standard and broad range of facilities and services within the National Park. Of the two respondents who disagreed with the updated objectives and means of achievement, one disagreed with all and the other did not specify any particular area of disapproval.

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6 See Appendix 5 for visual representation of the online survey response data
3.2.2 Themes arisen from the Consultation

The broad themes to have been raised by consultees are outlined below.

![Thematic Pie Chart]

Sustainable Rural Development

Approximately twenty of the consultation responses related to the sustaining of communities within the National Park with specific comments concerning the need to provide affordable housing and local jobs.

Several views relating to maintaining a strong local economy were expressed, with respondents emphasising the need to maintain a working age population within the National Park settlements. There was a recognised need for the support of training young people particularly within traditional industries in order to retain rural skills and cultural traditions, with mention of the advantages of apprentice schemes. Increasing the provision of jobs specifically within the forestry sector was also considered to be of importance to several respondents, as well as farming, shooting and holiday businesses.

A further matter of significant concern among a few of the National Park communities was the loss of facilities, services and infrastructure in recent years. In particular, the closure of the local pub and cafe in Elsdon was noted, as was the impact caused by the loss of the GP surgery in Harbottle. The resultant broad consensus was that infrastructure and service provision in the National Park should be a priority, with a particular need for renewable energy and broadband. It was recognised however that this should be provided in a way that does not compromise the protection and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Park.

This high quantity of responses relating to the sustaining of communities within the National Park corresponds to the findings from the State of the Park report, in that achieving Aim 4 of the Management Plan (Thriving Communities) was performed least successfully in the 2009-2014 period.
Natural Environment

Over ten responses related to the need to balance economic development with the conserving and enhancing of the natural environment with some consultees indicating that the nature and wildlife protection element needs to take a higher priority throughout the Management Plan.

Comments specifically related to the way in which government policy, such as the Biodiversity 2020 scheme, is reflected throughout the Management Plan. The means by which the health/state of the natural environment is measured within the National Park was also commented on, as well as particular mention given to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme as a means of funding and implementing natural environment policies.

Also acknowledged as a means of safeguarding biological diversity and ecosystem services, was the importance for the Management Plan to apply an Ecosystem approach as set out in the UK National Ecosystem Assessment.

These comments are closely related to issues of land management, the responses regarding which are summarised later in this report.

Achieving balance in the North and South of the Park / The Sill

The Sill project has now entered the stages of construction. This was a talking point at a few of the consultation events with various issues raised.

Among the communities in the north of the National Park, the main concern was that this is a significant investment channelled to the south of the Park and the question was frequently asked of how The Sill could benefit them and their local communities. The need to achieve a balance between the support of services and facilities across the breadth of the Park was therefore deemed very important.

Three respondents expressed particular concerns of the impact The Sill will have on surrounding infrastructure, specifically roads.

Recreation, Access and Tourism

More than fifteen comments made related to recreation, access or tourism, with a particular emphasis on Aim 1 of the Management Plan. In general, there was support for the International Dark Sky Park status and development of this to provide more employment opportunities in the tourism sector, notably through apprentice schemes, and to enhance visitor satisfaction. It was also recognised how objective 1.2.1 in particular is positive in assisting, directly and indirectly, the wider tourism strategy for the County.

Of the comments relating to access within the National Park, specific mention was made of broadening access to public rights of way and the maintenance of both footpaths and the cycle route network. Horse riding was also identified as a key activity pursued on public rights of way within the National Park and therefore the safety of bridleways was thought to be of particular importance. Reference to
improving rights of way specifically within the Otterburn Ranges was also made. A new means to achieve objective 1.2.3 has been added to ensure better accessibility to rights of way.

Further responses related to the importance of improving accessibility to increase visits to the Park with a general support for the visitor elements of outcome 1.2. There was also particular mention given to attracting young people, with emphasis on creating links with schools, colleges and local youth organisations. A distinct focus was also around facilitating visits for those living in the wider counties who do not own a car, with support for better provision of public transport and car sharing schemes, as addressed in outcomes 1.2 and 4.2.

Throughout the consultation events, many consultees offered various stories of nostalgic connections to the National Park and recognised the need for continued support for the enjoyment of the Park’s special qualities. This often showed the links between residents of more urban areas in south east Northumberland and their family holidays to parts of the National Park such as the Breamish valley.

*Land Management*

Twelve consultation responses were in relation to land management practices within the National Park with the majority concerning forestry. Broad conclusions which can be made include that there is need for more woodland and the strategy for re-planting deforested areas is in need of review, as is the National Park’s role within local timber supply. Additional comments were made relating to the protection of trees from disease and pests.

There was also further mention of how national policy and government schemes are reflected throughout the Management Plan, in particular support for the delivery of the new Countryside Stewardship scheme which has replaced the Environmental Stewardship scheme. This feedback has been particularly valuable in ensuring that the Management Plan will adeptly cover issues relating to forestry practice, given that it is not controlled through the planning system.

*Other responses*

Over ten responses provided more general comments relating to the Management Plan review approach. This included some positive feedback that the review document was well written, with the existing vision and aims generally being considered as ‘sound’.

A small number of respondents were of the opinion that publicity of the Management Plan review consultation exercises could have been more effective. However, as set out in section 2.3 of this report, the Authority used methods established in the Statement of Community Involvement to raise awareness and promote how people could get involved with the Management Plan review.
Also, the importance of reviewing the ‘Action Area’ approach to working with communities in the National Park was recognised. This corresponds to discussions had among the Management Plan Partnership and in internal meetings with Authority Members. The approach is no longer considered relevant with changes to national policy having enhanced the role that communities play, particularly through the development of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Revisions made to the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document have therefore reflected more appropriate methods of engaging communities in local decision making, supported by those consulted. This will also be taken into account during the Statement of Community Involvement Review.

A couple of responses related to the boundary of the National Park where it was suggested to consider extending this to include gateway settlements and even the Northumberland coastline.

In relation to the wording and formatting of the Consultation Draft Management Plan Review document a breadth of constructive suggestions were also offered and this feedback has been taken onboard where appropriate in revising the plan.

4. Conclusion and Next Steps

The feedback from the consultation was generally positive with comments corresponding to issues addressed by the Management Plan’s existing and updated objectives and means of achievement.

In all there were approximately one hundred and seventy responses received, including those from attendees to consultation events. Five broad themes were extracted including; Sustainable Rural Development; Natural Environment; Achieving balance in the North and South of the National Park (including the impact of The Sill); Recreation, Access and Tourism; and Land Management. This highlighted which elements of the Management Plan were considered most relevant and several specific comments suggested how new changes should be addressed through the Plan.

The responses provided during the consultation period have informed a revised draft version of the Management Plan. This version was approved by the National Park Authority on December 9th 2015. The revised draft will now be considered by the Management Plan Partnership. Following this, a final draft of the Management Plan will be adopted by the Authority at its next meeting on the 16th March 2016.

Comments made in relation to the consultation approach will be taken on board in order to improve future consultation exercises by the Authority and feedback on monitoring the Management Plan will be acted upon over the next five years.
Appendix 1 – Copy of Questionnaire

Northumberland National Park Management Plan Review - Consultation Questionnaire

We welcome your views on the update of the National Park Management Plan. It is important that the Management Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of all of those who have a stake in the National Park.

1. Do you support the current Management Plan (2009-14) as the basis for the review? (Please tick one box)
   Yes ☒ No ☐

2. If you answered no to question 1, could you please tell us why not?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. Which elements of the current Plan do you think remain most relevant?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. Which elements of the current Plan do you think remain least relevant?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

5. Do you think there are any elements that are missing and should be included?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

6. Do you think there are any new changes, challenges or opportunities that the Management Plan should address?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
7. Do you agree with the updated objectives and means of achieving them? Yes ☐ No ☐

8. If you answered yes to question 6,

Which particular updated objectives and means of achieving them do you agree with? Please provide the objective numbers, for example ‘1.1.3’ or state ‘ALL’

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________


9. If you answered no to question 6,

a) Which particular updated objectives and means of achieving them do you disagree with?
Please provide the objective numbers, for example ‘1.1.3’ or state ‘ALL’

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________


10. Please tell us how satisfied you are with the achievements since 2009? (Please tick one box)

Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Don’t know ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied ☐

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around “A Welcoming Park” (Please tick one box)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Don’t know ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around “A Distinctive Place” (Please tick one box)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Don’t know ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around “A Living, Working Landscape for Now and the Future” (Please tick one box)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Don’t know ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around “Thriving Communities” (Please tick one box)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Don’t know ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐

15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around “A Valued Asset” (Please tick one box)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Don’t know ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐
Which of the following best describes your interest in Northumberland National Park? Please tick all that apply.

I live in/around the park
I work in/around the park
I am a regular visitor to the park
I own a business in/around the park
I own land in/around the park
I am a Parish councillor in/around the park
Other
Please state _________________________

To enter the Owl-box prize draw please enter your details below;

Your name:_____________________________________________________________________________

Your address (including postcode):_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your time in completing this questionnaire. Please return to a member of staff or forward to: Forward Planning, Northumberland National Park Authority, Eastburn, South Park, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1BS or managementplan@nnpa.org.uk

We must receive your questionnaire and any other comments by Friday 23rd October 2015
Appendix 2 – Consultation Posters
Appendix 3 – Screenshots of social media publicity

N’land National Park @NorthumberlnDP · Sep 21
Join us in #Wooler on the 23rd Sept for our #Management Plan #Review drop-in - ow.ly/S5WOz

N’land National Park @NorthumberlnDP · Sep 23
Share your views of the #Northumberland National Park to help with our Management Plan Review #NlandHour - ow.ly/S60Y2

N’land National Park @NorthumberlnDP · Oct 1
We’re in #Alnwick today consulting on our Management Plan. Come along and tell us your views.
Appendix 4 – Event Photos

Drop-in Event, Wooler, 23rd September 2015

Drop-in Event, Haltwhistle, 24th September 2015

Public Information Event, Berwick-upon-Tweed, 30th September 2015
Drop-in Event, Bellingham, 8th October 2015
Appendix 5 – Online Survey Responses – Data Charts

Q1 Do you support the current Management Plan (2009-14) as the basis for the review? (Please tick one box)

Answered: 11  Skipped: 2

Yes

No

Q7 Do you agree with the updated objectives and means of achieving them?

Answered: 7  Skipped: 6

Yes

No
Q10 Please tell us how satisfied you are with the achievements since 2009 (please tick one box)

Answered: 8   Skipped: 5

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Don't know
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around "A Welcoming Park" (Please tick one box)

Answered: 7   Skipped: 6

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
Q12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around "A Distinctive Place" (Please tick one box)

Answered: 7  Skipped: 6

Q13 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around "A Living, Working Landscape for Now and for the Future" (Please tick one box)

Answered: 7  Skipped: 6
Q14 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around "Thriving Communities" (Please tick one box)

Answered: 7  Skipped: 6

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q15 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Aim and Outcomes around "A Valued Asset" (Please tick one box)

Answered: 7  Skipped: 6

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree