

## MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Summary:** To seek the views of the Executive Committee on the development of the 2025 – 2030 Management Plan.

**Recommendations:** That the Executive Committee comments on version 1 of the plan.

**Report by:** Simon Smith – Nature Recovery Lead

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Board approved the production schedule for the 2025 – 2030 Management Plan in February 2024. In accordance with this schedule an early version is being produced for the Board to consider at its meeting in June 2024 prior to a consultation with key public bodies throughout July and early August. A draft incorporating comments from team members is attached (Appendix A), which the Executive Committee is invited to comment on. This early stage is the best time to comment on the structure, particularly the selection of key issues and outcomes.

## UPDATE ON POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

2. In April 2024 Natural England issued an updated version of the "*Draft Management Plan Guidance For Protected Landscapes in England*". It runs to 180 pages and was accompanied by a more concise "*Additional guidance note to support Protected Landscapes in developing Management Plans (2024/25)*". This guidance note lists the following "*Mandatory and essential elements to include in Protected Landscape Management Plans*":
  - Ambition, action and targets to further PL statutory purposes. (Our ambition is expressed through the outcomes and actions through the policies).
  - Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework
  - 30by30
  - Local Nature Recovery Strategies
  - Climate Change Adaptation Plans
  - Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessments
  - Interconnectedness of the above elements. It states that if the above plans strategies and targets are included in an appendix/addendum they must be viewed with the same weight as the core body of text

It also states that "*The following elements should be considered as part of the Management Plan development and implementation:*"

  - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
  - Progress reporting (this relates to after the production of the plan)

3. The National Landscape Association Climate and Nature Panel has developed a set of "*Principles for Addressing Nature Recovery in Management Plans*". These principles are:
  - Be ambitious
  - Use the Lawton principles and more
  - Contribute to Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework
  - Use Nature Recovery Plans
  - Reference Local Nature Recovery Strategies
  - Include evolving conservation practice
  - The panel has started work on a similar set of principles relating to climate change.

### **PROGRESS TO DATE**

4. Some of the changes made to the plan to date include:
  - First tentative attempts to incorporate the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, 30by30 and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
  - A check of the current content against the principles for addressing nature recovery.
  - With the benefit of the national work being undertaken by the Planning Lead, revisions have been made to accommodate the protected landscapes seek to further duty including a rewritten appendix.
  - Water has been given greater emphasis under an outcome of its own. As a consequence, natural and cultural capital is no longer valid as an outcome in its own right and has been integrated into landscape with soil going to land management.
5. Following the guidance that Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessments will still be required, the consultant who undertook this work for the 2023 – 2025 plan has been engaged.

### **NEXT STEPS**

6. The draft attached is a work in progress and it will continue to evolve as it goes to the Board in June and then on to consultation. For example, the Climate Action Lead (Technical) has only been in post for a week.
7. A list of Board Members to invite to a management Plan Working Group has been drawn up and a meeting is being scheduled for hopefully before the next Board meeting in June.
8. Key contacts for public bodies have been invited to a workshop on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 where relevant CNL area leads will be available to discuss revisions to the plan.
9. The Board strategy day scheduled for October 2024 will examine the theme of "thriving rural communities" and its outcomes can be incorporated into the wider management plan consultation scheduled for late autumn early winter.

**SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- Appendix A - Management Plan 2025 - 2030 V1

May 2024