

## MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 30

**Summary:** To present and discuss the consultation draft of the Management Plan for 2025-30.

**Recommendations:** That the draft plan is approved for the purposes of consultation.

**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 public sector partners have been consulted on an early draft. Comments received have been used to develop the next draft that will go to wider public consultation.

### KEY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

2. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 public sector stakeholders were invited to comment on an early draft of the plan. The deadline was set for the 9<sup>th</sup> August though extensions were granted and the final comments were received on the 28<sup>rd</sup> August. This invitation was sent to 84 contacts which included all the local authorities and their corresponding board members along with DEFRA, Natural England, Historic England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency.
3. Public sector stakeholders were also invited to a workshop on the 11th July 2024 where relevant CNL subject leads were available to discuss the plan. It was well attended with 35 people recorded as present. CNL officer feedback was that they felt it went well.
4. 14 sets of comments were received. 9 from local authorities which were collated from across multiple officers and one of them from across three authorities. Comments were also received from the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission. Three sets of comments were received internally, one from the Climate Change Committee and two from Officers.
5. The comments were compiled into a single document along with a concise narrative indicating if a change was made as a result of a comment and if not why not. This was shared with the subject leads within the CNL team and their responses to the comments along with any further changes were added. This document runs to 60 pages which is a good indicator of the extent of engagement.
6. A new version of the plan with any suggested changes resulting from this consultation highlighted was circulated to the Executive Committee and subject

leads. The consultation draft (Appendix A) also contains revisions arising from the subject lead's responses to this draft and the comments received.

### **COMMON THEMES**

7. Several common themes emerged from the comments being made, including:
  - Suggestions for revising the plan in the light of recent proposed changes to the NPPF particularly around renewable energy. A note outlining the response to this issue has been provided by the Planning Lead (Appendix B).
  - Comments around the relative strength and legal weight of the "seek to further" duty.
  - The climate action and water sections attracted the most comments reflecting wider priorities and concerns.

### **NATIONAL PROTECTED LANDSCAPES TARGETS AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK**

8. National targets and national and local monitoring indicators have now been included within an appendix along with figures where available. Local monitoring indicators being removed from the plan have been temporarily listed so that their removal is visible. National targets have also been included within the relevant policies.

### **SEA HRA**

9. The scoping report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been drafted and the statutory consultees consulted. This is the most complex stage of the process. Work on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will follow the SEA.

### **NEXT STEPS**

10. When the production schedule was first developed it was thought that it may be helpful to convene a working group to assist with aspects of the plan's production. A list of potential members was drawn up and initial contact was made. Areas included the new duty and Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. In practice these areas have been well supported with national work and working groups so a local working group is no longer considered necessary.
11. Following consideration by the Board the plan will go onto wider consultation from late October through to early December 2024. It is on schedule to be adopted by the Board in February 2025

### **SUPPORTING PAPERS**

- Appendix A - Management Plan 2025 - 2030 consultation draft
- Appendix B - NPPF and the Management Plan

October 2024