



Lake District National Park

Park Strategy and Vision Committee: 10 June 2025
Draft Minutes Subject to Committee Approval

Agenda Item: 2

Park Strategy and Vision Committee

MINUTES of a meeting of the Park Strategy and Vision Committee held at the National Park Office, Murley Moss, Kendal at 10.00 am on 23 April 2025.

Present

Mr M F Carter (Chair)

Mr M P Brereton

Ms V Hughes

Mr J Jackson

Ms S Mosner

Mr R Outhwaite

Mr A Pratt

Mr D F Rathbone

Mr P Walter

Mr I C Wharton

1 vacancy

Also in attendance

Chair of the Authority: Ms T Hunt MBE

No Apologies Received

Mrs L Jones-Bulman

11/25 Apologies

No apologies were received.

12/25 Minutes

Decided: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

13/25 Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced to the Committee and members of the public that the meeting was being livestreamed and that a digital recording of the meeting would be made.

14/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of a registrable interest or disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any of the business of the Committee.

15/25 **Questions**

There were no questions relating to the business of the Committee.

16/25 **Public Participation**

There were no questions, petitions or deputations of a general nature relating to the business of the Committee.

Members raised concerns about the length of time that had been required to read all of the Committee documents and the later pack of additional documents and requested that officers consider whether it would be possible to indicate which papers required greater Member scrutiny be included in the future.

The Director of Sustainable Development indicated that the feedback would be considered by Officers when preparing future papers.

17/25 **RAISE: Cumbria Community Forest Plan**

The Team Leader for Strategy and the Environment introduced the context of the Cumbria Community Forest (CCF) and Zoe Pearson from RAISE (the local organisation delivering woodland with public benefit in partnership with the LDNPA and two Unitary Authorities) presented a short overview of the CCF.

The CCF plan was created through research, consultation and secondary evidence and was described as fitting with the Local Plan, a wide range of LDNPA aims and also Nationally – with The England's Community Forest (ECF) network and Defra recommendations.

Members were asked to adopt the Cumbria Community Forest 2025 – 2050 so that it can be included in the next Local Plan review and development of the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan 2026 – 2031.

Members discussed the existing links with forestry, woodland and community interest groups and were informed that these partnerships would continue. Members noted the absence of fire safety plans and discussed governance in terms of a robust, evidence-based consultation process.

Following Member discussions, the Director of Sustainable Development proposed an alternative recommendation that was accepted unanimously by Members.

Decided:

- a. Members approved the Cumbria Community Forest Plan 2025-2050 to provide an evidence base in the next iteration of the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan 2026-2031 and the future Local Plan Review, subject to satisfactorily addressing Members concerns.

18/25 Keswick Article 4 Direction

Following Authority approval of the Keswick Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the amendment to the Conservation Area boundary in 2022, the report recommended making a non-immediate Article 4 direction to remove certain permitted development rights within the enlarged Conservation Area as recommended in the Management Plan.

Following some Member discussion of renewables – in particular air heat source heat pumps - the Built Environment Advisor explained to members that Article 4 direction protects the specific interests of Keswick and was a better tool for conservation than the Conservation Area provisions.

Decided:

- a. Members agreed that direction be made covering the area shown in Annex 1 to remove the following permitted development rights within Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended):

Part 1 (Development within the curtilage of a dwelling house)

Class A - The enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwellinghouse

Class C - Any other alteration to the roof of a dwellinghouse

Class D - The erection or construction of a porch outside any external door of a dwellinghouse

Class E - (a) any building or enclosure, swimming or other pool required for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse as such, or the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of such a building or enclosure

Class F - Development consisting of—

(a) the provision within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse of a hard surface for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse as such; or

(b) the replacement in whole or in part of such a surface

Class G - The installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe on a dwellinghouse

Part 2 Minor Operations

Class A - The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure

Class C - The painting of the exterior of any building or work

- b. Members agreed that the Director of Sustainable Development be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the direction that do not alter its main purpose, in consultation with the Head of Development Management, prior to serving notice of the direction.

- c. That Committee agree that relevant groups and individuals should be notified of the making of the Article 4 direction, including use of representative bodies rather than individual service on all landowners.

19/25 Interpretation Strategy and Actions for the English Lake District World Heritage Site

The World Heritage Site Coordinator presented a report for the Interpretation Strategy for English Lake District World Heritage Site. This strategy addresses a recommendation to the UK Government set out in September 2023 by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

Members expressed their appreciation of the well-written report in which UNESCO values could be seen more clearly in alterations made. Members queried additional financial implications, and it was explained that some actions may require additional funding but that avenues for financial support were being considered.

Decided:

- a. Members noted the content of the Interpretation Strategy and the Action Plan
- b. Members agreed to support the delivery of the Action Plan

20/25 Active Travel Network Plan

The Lead Strategy Advisor for Recreation and Sustainable Development presented the context for the preparation of the Active Travel Network Plan in terms of health benefits and reduced travel pressure in the National Park.

The Strategy Planner presented the Active Travel Network Plan for approval - a strategic transport planning tool to guide the development of pedestrian, cycling and wheeling infrastructure across the Lake District National Park. The Network Plan prioritises new active travel routes and improvements and will be used to secure funding opportunities for new routes, as well as encouraging partnerships. Although new routes had been plotted and prioritised, no detailed design work had yet been undertaken and was subject to landowner approval and funding.

Members noted the quality of the work undertaken and were given an explanation as to how the £100,000 grant had been spent. Benefits to health and well-being were actively considered and discussion pertained to the benefits that could be obtained from encouraging buy-in from other organisations and major projects.

The Director of Sustainable Development confirmed that the LDNPA was actively working with both Unitary Authorities to ensure that Active Travel was positioned within the spending review.

Members were given responses to questions about route safety, route maintenance and costs.

They were informed that the LDNPA was working closely with Active Travel England who are in the process of developing new guidelines that will consider safety, cost and environmental impact in more detail.

Members strongly indicated that they would prefer to see routes that maximised potential benefits clearly indicated in the Active Travel Network Plan.

Prompted by the Director of Sustainable Development, Members discussed at length whether to:

- accept the Plan as a good piece of work while accepting that it doesn't cover all that Members would like to see covered, or
- to develop the Plan a little further so that Member ambitions for Active Travel could be included, or
- provide more details in the Secondary links element giving an indication of where Members feel strategic corridors are.

Members decided to adopt a pragmatic approach where the need for additions was recognised without precluding approval.

Decided:

- a. Members delegated approval to the Director of Sustainable Development of the Active Travel Network Plan (Annex 1) subject to amendments to reflect greater Members' ambitions re the network.
- b. Members delegated authority to the Director of Sustainable Development to oversee the migration of the Active Travel Network Plan to a webpage-friendly layout.

(The meeting finished at 11:50)