

AGENDA

Executive

Monday, 11 March 2019 AT 16:00
In the Flensburg Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any interests, relating to any item on the agenda at this stage.

Public and Press

To agree that the items of business within Part A of the agenda should be dealt with in public and that the items of business within Part B of the agenda should be dealt with in private.

Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 10 December 2018 and 16 January 2019.

[Copy Minutes in Minute Book Volume 45(5)]

PART A

To be considered when the Public and Press are present

A.1	NORTH PENNINES AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN	5 - 72
	(Key Decision - KD.04/19)	
	The Corporate Director of Economic Development to submit a report seeking consideration and adoption of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-24. The Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel scrutinised the matter on 28 February 2019.	
	(Copy Report ED.11/19 herewith / Minute Excerpt to follow)	
A.2	GLOBAL HOUSE, DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF	73 - 84
	(Key Decision - KD.06/19)	
	The Town Clerk and Chief Executive to submit a report seeking Executive approval of an application for Discretionary Rate Relief for a large empty hard to let premises.	
	(Copy Report CE.02/19 herewith)	
A.3	NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS	85 - 92
	(Non Key Decision)	
	The Notice of Executive Key Decisions, published on 8 February 2019, is submitted for information.	
	(Copy Notice herewith)	
A.4	SCHEDULE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY OFFICERS	93 - 96
	(Non Key Decision)	
	A Schedule detailing decisions taken by Officers under delegated powers is attached for information.	
	(Copy Schedule herewith)	
	Background Papers - as detailed within the Schedule	

A.5 JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM 97 - 98

(Non Key Decision)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Team held on 11 February 2019 are submitted for information.

(Copy Minutes herewith)

A.6 PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 2018/19 99 - 152

(Non Key Decision)

The Policy and Communications Manager to submit a report containing the Quarter 3 2018/19 performance against the current Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. Performance against the 2018/19 Key Performance Indicators is also included.

(Copy Report PC.04/19 herewith)

A.7 DRAFT JOINT CUMBRIA PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY 153 - 196

(Non Key Decision)

The Deputy Chief Executive to submit a report providing an overview of the draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel scrutinised the matter on 21 February 2019.

(Copy Report CS.12/19 herewith / Minute Excerpt to follow)

PART B

To be considered when the Public and Press are excluded from the meeting

B.1 ASSET MANAGEMENT OF KINGSTOWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND PARKHOUSE BUSINESS PARK

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);

Members of the Executive

Councillor C W Glover (Leader)

Councillor Dr L Tickner (Deputy Leader, and Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Ms A Quilter (Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Miss L B Sherriff (Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder)

Councillor C J Southward (Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder)

Councillor A Glendinning (Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Enquiries to:

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Notes to Members:

Decisions made at this meeting, if not subject to call-in, will normally become live on 21 March 2019

Report to Executive

**Agenda
Item:**

A.1

Meeting Date: 11 March 2019
Portfolio: Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Key Decision: Yes
Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes
Public / Private: Public

Title: North Pennines AONB Management Plan
Report of: Corporate Director of Economic Development
Report Number: ED 11/19

Purpose / Summary:

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 the City Council has a statutory duty to prepare and review a management plan for each of its two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The current North Pennines AONB Management Plan ends in 2019 and has therefore been reviewed and redrafted to cover the period 2019 – 2024. The Council ultimately needs to adopt the management plan to meet its statutory duty.

Recommendations:

Following consideration of the North Pennines AONB Management Plan at Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (the minutes of the meeting accompany this report to Executive), Executive are asked to adopt the Management Plan.

Tracking

Executive:	ED 11/19 (11/3/19)
Scrutiny:	ED 09/19 – (EGSP 28/2/19)
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Every five years the North Pennines AONB Management Plan must be reviewed. The duty to produce this plan is placed on the five local planning authorities across whose boundaries the AONB lies. The plan is drawn up on their behalf by the North Pennines AONB Partnership, which receives core funding from the City Council. A City Council officer is a member of the partnership's executive group, and there is member representation on the full partnership. The management plan focusses on the purpose of designation – the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty – and deals with natural and cultural heritage, and issues around promoting enjoyment and understanding of the area's special qualities. It is not a Local Plan.
- 1.2** The North Pennines AONB covers approximately 30 square miles in the south eastern corner of the district. It includes the villages of Cumrew, Castle Carrock, Talkin and Hallbankgate, together with a number of smaller rural communities such as Forest Head, Tindale and Midgeholme. The AONB lies within the boundaries of five adjoining local authorities – Carlisle, Eden, Northumberland, Durham and Cumbria.
- 1.3** AONBs are statutory landscape designations of national importance and are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. The primary purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. In pursuing the primary purpose, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries, and of the economic and social needs of the local communities.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1** The current AONB Management Plan covers the period 2014 – 2019. The Partnership has recently reviewed and redrafted this plan to ensure that it is fit for purpose to guide the management of the nationally protected landscape for the period 2019 – 2024.
- 2.2** The purpose of the Management Plan is for the local authority to formulate their policy for the management of the AONB and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it. Whilst the Plan is not a land use planning document in the same way as the Carlisle District Local Plan, it has direct and complementary actions to the adopted Local Plan as follows:

- landscape conservation – the Management Plan has an action which relates to local authorities having robust AONB policies in their local plans to ensure that development protects the area’s special qualities and does not compromise the purpose of designation. Policy GI 2 of the Local Plan makes provision for new development in the AONB to be appropriate to its surroundings and be suitably accommodated within the landscape;
- dark night skies – the AONB is England’s darkest mainland AONB. Protecting dark skies is important for human health and well-being and for nature conservation. The Management Plan has actions for reducing light pollution, producing lighting guidance for developers and the public, and developing dark sky tourism through local businesses and communities. Local Plan Policy GI 1 seeks to protect landscapes valued for their intrinsically dark skies from the adverse impact of artificial light pollution;
- historic environment – the AONB has evidence of the activities of its communities going back thousands of years from Mesolithic camp sites to the lead mining industries of the 20th century. There are many conservation areas, scheduled monuments and listed buildings within the area. The Local Plan recognises that heritage assets play a key role in reinforcing the District’s distinctive identity as well as underpinning a strong tourism offer. The policies within the Local Plan seek to promote and protect the area’s heritage resource;
- tourism – the Management Plan highlights that the AONB is a stunning landscape of moorland, dales, upland rivers, wildlife and heritage, with strong communities. Walking, cycling, riding, dark skies and archaeological/industrial heritage are all reasons why people come to the AONB. The Plan advocates the use of planning policy to support development of an environmentally and economically sustainable visitor economy. Carlisle Local Plan recognises that tourism is vitally important to Carlisle as a generator of economic prosperity, and that tourism sectors are promoted and supported. This is reflected in Local Plan Policy EC11 which supports sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments where they respect the character of the countryside.

2.3 The vision for the management plan anticipates development taking place to a high standard, meeting community need, and contributing to the area’s quality and character. However, forces for change come in a range of forms including more obvious features like wind turbines, increased traffic, out of keeping conversion of redundant buildings and gradual loss of historic features. Tourism has the potential to be an important and positive force for the local economy but needs to be managed sensitively to ensure that it complements the special qualities of the area.

- 2.4** Many organisations, individuals and communities will have a role in implementing the Management Plan, which will be used to develop projects and facilitate cooperation with statutory agencies, landowners and managers, businesses and the local community. The Plan highlights actions and activities that will conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage, help people discover, enjoy and understand the area, and support the economy in sustainable ways. The Plan focusses on desired outcomes which will be used in the process of monitoring progress during the life of the Plan. It will be accompanied by an Implementation Plan for the AONB unit staff team.

3. RISKS

- 3.1** The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on all public bodies and statutory undertakers to 'have regard' to the purposes of AONBs. However, the statutory responsibility to produce and review AONB Management Plans rests with the relevant local planning authority. In practice the North Pennines AONB Partnership carries out this function on behalf of the five local authorities across whose boundaries the AONB lies. Failure to discharge this duty would have significant implications for the management of the AONB.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1** There has been officer involvement throughout the review of the Management Plan through the North Pennines AONB Executive Group. The member representative has been kept up to date of the process by the Partnership. Consultation has included members of the Partnership, the local communities across the five local authorities, representatives from a wide range of conservation, land management, tourism and other organisations and parish councils.
- 4.2** The consultation closed at the end of January 2019. A report has been produced on the consultation responses and published on the AONB Partnership website. The Plan has been amended in light of the consultation where relevant and appropriate. The Plan has been endorsed by the AONB Partnership and submitted to the relevant local authorities for adoption, and to Defra.
- 4.3** The Management Plan has been considered by members of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel (Report ED 09/19), the minutes from which are appended to this report.

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The North Pennines AONB Management Plan is required to be adopted by the City Council in fulfilment of its statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Plan will be instrumental in conserving and enhancing this nationally protected landscape. It will assist in the implementation of many of the actions and activities that will conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB and sustain the economy in sustainable ways.

5.2 It is a plan for the area, and many organisations, individuals and communities will have a role in implementing it. It focuses on landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural heritage. It will also assist with securing external funding for project implementation.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

6.1 The Management Plan and the Council's ongoing work with the North Pennines Partnership contributes to the Carlisle Plan priority 'Continue to improve the quality of our local environment ...'

Contact Officer: Jillian Hale

Ext: 7191

Appendices North Pennines AONB Management Plan 2019-2024
attached to report: Minutes from EGSP 28.2.19

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL – AONBs exist within the legal framework of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Act confirms the purpose and significance of AONBs, sets out the procedure for designation and creates a firm legislative basis for their protection and management. Section 89 and 90 in particular place a statutory duty on local planning authorities to prepare a management plan and to review and adopt published plans at intervals of not more than five years. Where an AONB involves more than one local authority they are required to do this 'acting jointly'.

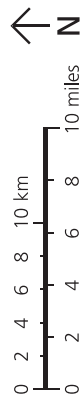
FINANCE – the North Pennines AONB Management Plan will be produced and implemented using existing resources.

EQUALITY – an Equalities Impact Assessment will be available on the North Pennines AONB website.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE – there are no information governance implications with this report.

North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2019-24





- AONB and Geopark boundary
- A road
- B road
- Minor road
- Railway & station
- Tourist Information Centre
- Pennine Way
- Sea to Sea Cycle Route (C2C)
- YHA Youth Hostel
- Hadrian's Wall

Please note that not all roads and settlements are included on this map

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Ministerial Foreword: Lord Gardiner of Kimble

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity



I am fortunate that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are part of my Ministerial responsibilities. Whether it be rolling hills, sweeping coastline or a tranquil village, spending time in an AONB can stir the heart and lift the spirit.

This is a pivotal moment for all AONBs. The Government has set its ambition in the 25 Year Environment Plan which states clearly the importance of natural beauty as part of our green future, while AONBs retain the highest status of protection for landscape through national planning policy. Leaving the EU brings with it an opportunity to develop a better system for supporting our farmers and land managers, who play such a vital role as stewards of the landscape. And the Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty led by Julian Glover — the first of its kind for generations — will make recommendations to make sure our designated landscapes can flourish in the years ahead.

In my visits to AONBs around the country, I have been struck by the passion of many people — farmers, volunteers, and hard-working staff — for the beautiful places they live and work in. In this spirit I am delighted to welcome publication of this Statutory Management Plan for the North Pennines AONB. It is significant that this plan will be delivered in partnership by those who value the North Pennines. I would like to thank all those involved in the preparation of this document, and wish you the best of success in bringing it to fruition.

Gardiner of Kimble

Chair's Foreword: Jan Simmonds

North Pennines AONB Partnership



Welcome to the North Pennines AONB Management Plan 2019-2024.

This document provides a framework for action for looking after one of England's most special and important landscapes. It is a statutory plan, and legislation states that it should be used to formulate the policy of local authorities in relation to the AONB. Important though that is, I also hope it will be a useful and practical guide for organisations and communities to help them care for, enjoy, understand and celebrate our landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Among the other important practical functions of the plan, I also hope that people will use it as part of applications for funding for projects and programmes and to help set the parameters for new agri-environment schemes.

All of us who are fortunate enough to live and work in the North Pennines know that it is special, but it can't be unchanging. Change is inevitable, and conservation in living landscapes like ours is ultimately about the beneficial management of change. But we have to all get better at sustaining our declining wildlife, conserving our landscape quality and character and being the custodians and architects of a living culture.

So whether you're reading this as a local resident, an elected representative, one of our High Nature Value farmers, a visitor or as someone from one of the many organisations that has a stake in the North Pennines, we hope you will welcome it and make a contribution to its implementation.

Jan Simmonds.

2030 Vision

There is wide recognition of the breadth of services and benefits provided for society through conserving our biodiversity, landscape and natural processes, and our cultural heritage.

There is greater connectivity of priority habitats and it is enhanced by improvements in condition and ecological function. Work to restore our moors to fully functioning wetland ecosystems is complete and they are richer in wildlife.

Declines in biodiversity have slowed, or have halted and are reversing.

Local action for climate change adaptation and mitigation (eg. through peatland restoration) means the area is playing its full part in national efforts.

Management of land allows opportunities for more natural processes to develop, over larger areas, including greater native woodland cover.

Coniferous woodlands from the 20th century have been restructured and make a more positive contribution to the landscape and biodiversity; new well-designed and appropriately located mixed woodlands provide income for land managers.

Action on pollution from abandoned metal mines has led to an increase in water quality.

High Nature Value farming prospers and farmers are well-rewarded for the public goods they produce, including more species-rich hay meadows, wading birds, pollinators and public access. The area has been at the forefront of shaping new Environmental Land Management Schemes which have sustained nature and farming.

There are closer partnerships between conservation bodies and land managers of all kinds, focused on delivering more for nature together.

The tourism industry is both environmentally responsible and economically sustainable, with a wealth of nature and culture-related things to see and do.

A greater diversity of people are easily, safely and confidently exploring the area on foot, on horseback and by bike.

The North Pennines is a much-used outdoor classroom, which inspires young and old.

The area's historic environment is increasingly better understood, conserved and celebrated.

Communities are increasingly proud of their natural and cultural heritage and are active in conserving and celebrating it.

Development takes place to a high standard, meeting community need and contributing to the area's quality and character.

The North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark is increasingly recognised at a national level as an exemplar of what Protected Landscapes can do for conservation, local communities and local economies.





Aston Moor © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

The North Pennines AONB

The designation of the North Pennines AONB was confirmed in 1988 and at 1983km², it is the second largest of the 40 AONBs in England and Wales. One of the most remote and unspoilt places in England, it lies between the National Parks of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and Northumberland with the urban centres of County Durham away to the east. The AONB crosses the boundaries of two English Regions, being in both the North East and the North West. It lies mostly within the political boundaries of Durham, Northumberland and Cumbria County Councils, and the districts of Eden and Carlisle, with 2.6km² in North Yorkshire around Tan Hill.

A UNESCO Global Geopark

UNESCO Global Geoparks are places where outstanding geological heritage is used to support sustainable development, through conservation, education, interpretation and nature tourism. Within the Global Geoparks Networks, Geopark staff and partners collaborate to share ideas, raise funds, promote each others' areas and carry out projects.

The concept of 'Geoparks' is a relatively new one, arising only in 2000 out of a LEADER II project between four European partners, with the formal support and endorsement of UNESCO. In 2015, the International Geoparks and Geosciences Programme became the first full heritage programme of UNESCO since the creation of the World Heritage Sites in 1973. The UNESCO Global Geopark status for the North Pennines is managed by the AONB Partnership Staff Unit.

Work to support the Geopark status in the North Pennines includes the creation of geological trails and interpretation, educational programmes and arts projects. Killhope Lead Mining Museum, and Nenthead Mines are also vital parts of the North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark.

Outside Europe, an Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network has arisen, alongside fledgling UNESCO Geoparks Networks in Africa and South America. By late 2017 there were 120 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 25 countries and on five continents.

We can all be proud to not only have outstanding geological heritage, but also to be at the forefront of this global family of special places where geology is being used to support sustainable development through nature tourism, education and conservation.

The nature and purpose of the plan

This is the North Pennines AONB Management Plan (2019-2024). It is the statutory plan for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the North Pennines over the next five years. It focuses on landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural heritage which combine to create a sense of place; it also addresses issues around how people can better explore, enjoy and understand the landscape and in doing so support a nature- and culture-based economy. It is a plan for the area, not a work plan for the AONB team, and many organisations, individuals and communities can have a role in implementing it. An AONB Team Plan is also available on the AONB website.

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Introduction to the North Pennines



"This country, though politically distributed among three counties, is one and the same in all its characteristic features. From it flow the Tyne, the Wear and the Tees and many branches which fall into these rivers. Along the banks of these and several other smaller streams which fall into them are dales or valleys: cultivated near the banks and for a short distance up the sides of the hills, but soon cultivation and enclosure cease, and beyond them the dark fells, covered with peat and moss and heath; and between one vale and another is a wide extent of high moorland, extending sometimes for a dozen miles. In these upland tracts are no inhabited homes but thousands of blackfaced sheep are scattered over them."

(Royal Commission into Childrent's Employment in the Mines. WR Mitchell, 1842)

This description of the North Pennines from 1842 might equally have been written today, but it would be misleading to consider the North Pennines landscape as timeless and unchanging. From prehistoric times (when the clearance of the natural North Pennines forest began) to today, when pressures ranging from changes in agricultural policy to reservoir building and wind farm development have affected the landscape, change has been continuous. Today one of the main challenges for those who love and care for the North Pennines is making sure that the pace of change, and the nature of that change, don't damage the essential character of the area as, in the eyes of many, the last wild place in England.

Remote, 'wild' and tranquil

Much of the North Pennines is remote, 'wild' countryside and it is precisely this sense of wildness and remoteness which gives much of the area its character. There are still truly dark skies here, and a relative freedom in places from human noise and modern visual intrusions; it has been recognised by CPRE as one of England's most tranquil places. There are few places in England where you

can walk all day without crossing a road, but it is still possible here. In spring and summer, high heather moors and blanket bogs are alive with the evocative calls of wading birds, black grouse dance on their leks and merlin race through the air.

People and place

The rise and fall of the lead and other mineral mining industries has shaped much of today's landscape, not only in the physical remains that can be seen, but also in the pattern of local settlements. Weardale, Teesdale, and the South Tyne, Nent and Allen Valleys in particular, are some of the best places to see the remains of the lead mining industry and to see the 'miner-farmer landscapes' which grew out of it. In 1861, 27,000 people lived in the North Pennines orefield, but today the population is estimated to be around 12,000 people, less than half of what it was during the lead mining heyday.

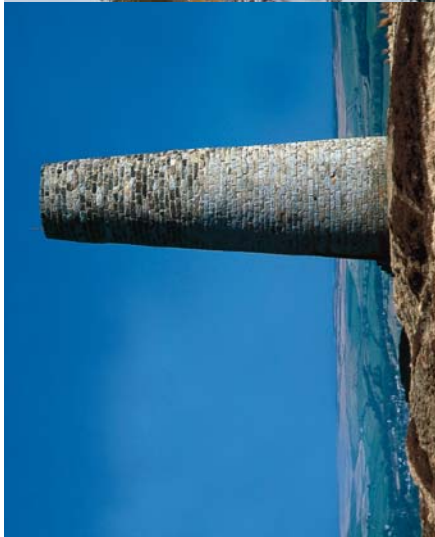
The majority of the AONB population lives in the North Pennine dales, where settlements include small towns such as Alston and Allendale, together with relatively compact villages, isolated hamlets and a wide scatter of individual farmhouses. This landscape became enclosed by the miner-farmers from the 16th century, but beneath the surface of today's pattern of fields, villages and moorland there is evidence for settlement and landscape change over the past 10,000 years. People have continually contributed to the development of the landscape through Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, medieval and post-medieval times, and continue to do so today.

Landscape pattern

In the dales, dry stone walls impose strong pattern on the landscape, where buildings on the valley sides are picked out by clumps of trees. Buildings and settlements are an integral part of the landscape, with most being built of local stone, reflecting the



Lunedale in June © Natural England/Charlie Hedley



This chimney near Allendale provides a reminder of the lead mining history of the North Pennines © NPAP



Blanchland © NPAP/Shane Harris



Dry stone walls near Milburn © Natural England/Charlie Hedley



High Force from the Pennine Way National Trail © Shane Harris

underlying geology, complementing the stone field walls and reflecting the surrounding countryside. Wading birds feed in the in-bye grassland, rushy pastures and hay meadows. These hay meadows are of international importance and are awash with wild flowers, many of them very rare.

Tyne, Tees and Wear

The world famous rivers, Tyne, Tees and Wear have their birthplace high up in the fells. They tumble, rock strewn, along the dales, clothed in woodland in their middle and lower reaches. Where the rivers cross the erosion-resistant dolerite of the Whin Sill, dramatic waterfalls are formed, such as those at High Force, Low Force and Cauldron Snout, in Upper Teesdale. In these rivers can be found the elusive otter, the water vole (Britain's fastest declining mammal) and Atlantic salmon.

Northern rocks

The world renowned geology of the area has given rise to dramatic landscape features, most famously High Force and the sweeping valley of High Cup Gill, on the Pennine Way above Dufton, and our geodiversity also includes a world famous mineral wealth. The North Pennines AONB is also a UNESCO Global Geopark in recognition of its world class geology and local effort to use it for tourism and education.

Woods

Though not extensive, the native woods of the North Pennines are themselves important examples of woodland types. They are distinctive features of the landscape, following the course of rivers or clinging to narrow gills. The North Pennine woodlands are also one of the last places in England where you can find red squirrels.

Wildlife and habitats

The North Pennines has a remarkably high concentration of nationally and internationally important conservation sites and areas. Fifty percent of the AONB is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are also two National Nature Reserves (NNR), five Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive, and a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive. Moor House-Upper Teesdale NNR, Britain's largest terrestrial NNR, supports more than 20 species of Europe-wide conservation importance and in this context it is the most important reserve in the country. But even here, biodiversity is in decline and we can and must do better for nature.

Land and livelihood

Farming plays an important role in the lives of local communities and in managing the landscape. Grouse moor management continues to be the other dominant landuse, contributing to the local economy; those

moorland managers engaged with conservation bodies in restoring bare peat and blocking grips are enhancing our moors and the services they provide for society. Many farmers are diversifying into new activities and many more are taking advantage of schemes which support environmentally friendly practices. Responsible tourism is an increasingly important aspect of the local economy, and the area offers a warm welcome for those who come to see its wildlife and wild places, to uncover its history and visit its many attractions.

Explore

You can read in this publication about the many important habitats and species of the North Pennines – the blanket bog, hay meadows and the oak/ash woodlands, the Teesdale Flora, the wading birds and the black grouse. But better still you can go out and explore them for yourself. This is perfect country for walking, cycling, horse-riding, wildlife-watching and following in the footsteps of artists and writers who have been inspired by this wild land. There are many footpaths and bridleways to explore, including the PennineWay National Trail, the C2C National Cycle Route, the Pennine Cycleway and the National Byway. Derwent and other reservoirs offer opportunities for sailing, fishing, canoeing and even water skiing. The North Pennines is also the only AONB with its own ski slopes, though the trend towards warmer winters means that snow is less reliable than it once was.

Forces for change

There are considerable forces for change at work in the North Pennines landscape. These come in many forms, including more obvious features like wind energy development, communications masts, increasing traffic, changes in agriculture, mineral developments and military use of the area. There is also the gradual erosion of rural character that accompanies unsympathetic management of roads, out-of-keeping conversion of traditional buildings and the gradual loss of historic features. Tourism has the potential to be an important and positive force in the local economy, but needs to be managed sensitively to ensure that it complements the special qualities of the area. Some forces for change are positive, such as the Government's encouragement to land managers to end rotational burning of blanket bog, or the clear public demand for the land to deliver increased public goods; how farmers and land managers will be rewarded for delivering these public goods is at the heart of discussions around post-Brexit agricultural support. Future climate change will also place new pressures on the area's character and natural beauty. Change is, of course, inevitable and often desirable. Development which meets local and national need should take place in accordance with local and national policy and it is entirely possible to do this without compromising the special qualities of the North Pennines.

Background to the Management Plan



Dark skies at High Force © Gary Lintern

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland cover approximately 1/5th of the land surface. The distinctive character and natural beauty of AONBs make them some of the most special and cherished places in England. AONBs are living, working landscapes that contribute some £16bn every year to the national economy. Although home to less than half a million people (under 2% of England's population), over two thirds of England's population live within half an hour's drive of an AONB and around 150million people visit English AONBs every year, spending in excess of £2 bn.

Together with National Parks, AONBs represent our most outstanding landscapes; unique and irreplaceable national assets, each with such distinctive character and natural beauty that they are recognised internationally as part of the global Protected Areas Family to be managed in the interest of everyone – local residents, businesses, visitors, and the wider public — and protected for future generations.

The legal framework

AONBs exist within a legal framework which has been progressively strengthened since the first AONBs came into existence after the Second World War.

The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act first established the AONB designation, provided AONBs with protection under planning law against inappropriate development and gave local authorities permissive powers to take action for 'preserving and enhancing natural beauty' in them (S.88).

The Countryside Act 1968 placed a responsibility on local authorities, the statutory conservation bodies, and civil servants,

in exercising their functions under the 1949 Act (as amended by subsequent legislation) to 'have due regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and to the economic and social interests of rural areas' (S.37). Within AONBs, this means a responsibility to acknowledge and, where appropriate to promote, farming, forestry and the rural economy wherever this can be done without compromising the primary purpose of conserving natural beauty.

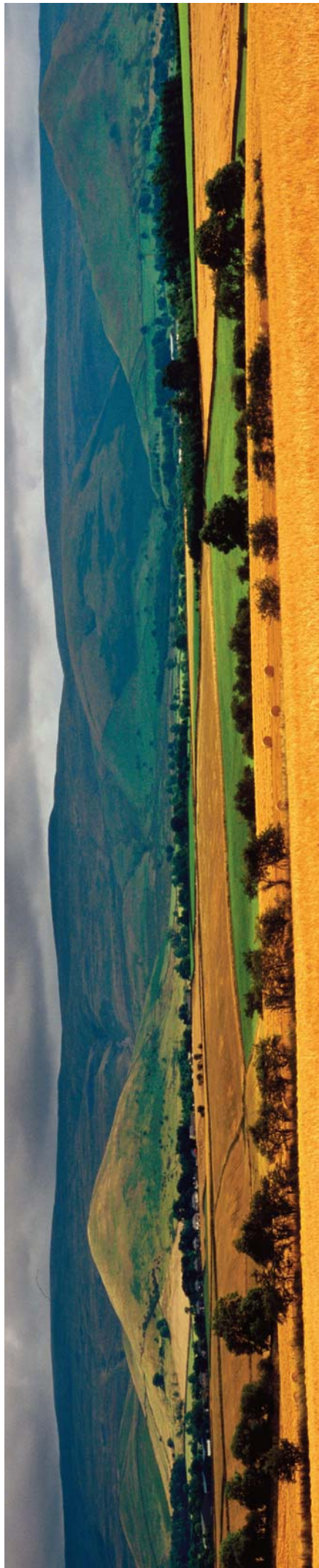
The Environment Act 1995 introduced the phrase 'conserve and enhance' in place of 'protect and enhance' in relation to duties of local authorities, the Environment Agency and other bodies. No statutory duties were placed on local authorities actively to manage AONBs in any particular way.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) subsumes and strengthens the AONB provisions of the 1949 Act. It confirms the purpose and significance of AONBs, clarifies the procedure for their designation, and created a firm legislative basis for their designation, protection and management.

In particular:

Section 82 reaffirms the primary purpose of AONBs: to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Section 83 establishes the procedure for designating or revising the boundaries of an AONB, including Natural England's duty to consult with local authorities and to facilitate public engagement.

Section 84 confirms the powers of local authorities to take 'all such action as appears to them expedient' to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of an AONB, and sets consultation and advice on development planning and on public access on the same basis as National Parks in the 1949 Act.



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Section 85 places a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to 'have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty' of AONBs when coming to any decisions or carrying out activities relating to or affecting land within these areas. 'Relevant authorities' include all public bodies (including county, borough, district, parish and community councils, joint planning boards and other statutory committees); statutory undertakers (such as energy and water utilities, licensed telecommunications companies, nationalised companies such as Network Rail and other bodies established under statute responsible for railways, roads and canals); government ministers and civil servants. Activities and developments outside the boundaries of AONBs that have an impact within the designated area are also covered by the 'duty of regard'.

Sections 86 to 88 allow for the establishment in an AONB of a Conservation Board to which the AONB functions of the local authority (including development planning) can be transferred. Conservation Boards have the additional but secondary function of seeking to increase public understanding and enjoyment of the AONB's special qualities. They also have an obligation to 'seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities' in co-operation with local authorities and other public bodies.

Sections 89 and 90 create a statutory duty on all AONB partnerships (local authorities and Conservation Boards) to prepare a Management Plan 'which formulates their policy for the management of their area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of their functions in relation to it', and thereafter to review adopted and published plans at intervals of not more than five years. Where an AONB involves more than one local authority they are required to do this 'acting jointly'.

Section 92 makes clear that the conservation of natural beauty includes the conservation of 'flora, fauna and geological and physiological features'.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC)

Section 99 formally clarifies in law that the fact that an area consists of or includes land used for agriculture or woodlands, or as a park, or 'any other area whose flora, fauna or physiological features are partly the product of human intervention in the landscape' does not prevent it from being treated, for legal purposes 'as being an area of natural beauty (or of outstanding natural beauty).'

Schedule 7 asserts that an AONB joint committee of two or more local authorities, or a conservation board, can constitute a 'designated body' for the performance of functions allocated to Defra.

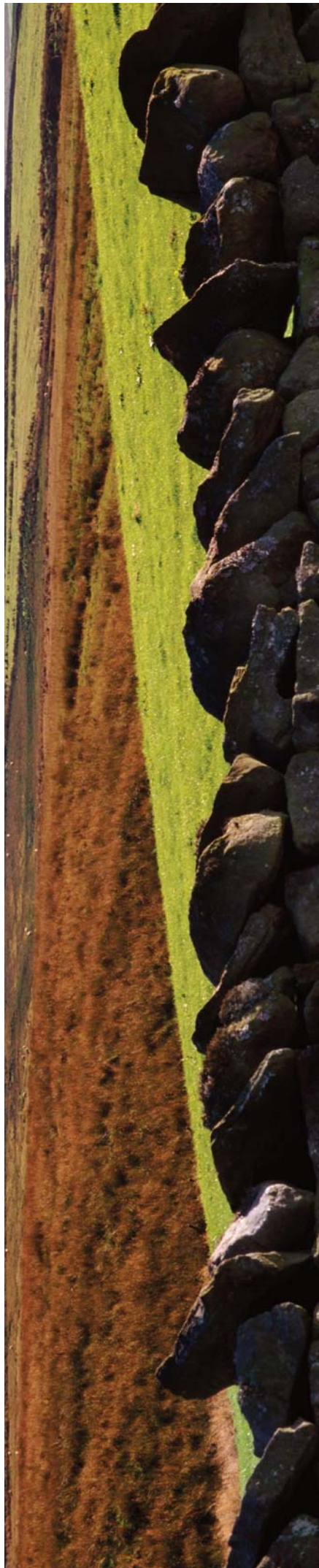
Responsibility for AONBs

The formal legal responsibility for both development control and for management of AONBs (including the duty to prepare an AONB Management Plan) lies with the local authorities in whose area(s) the AONB exists, except in two instances (the Chilterns and the Cotswolds AONB) where this is the responsibility of a statutory Conservation Board.

In addition, the duty of all public bodies and statutory undertakers to 'have regard' places an obligation on a wide range of organisations not just to consider any detrimental impacts of their policies and activities outside as well as within the boundaries of any AONB, but positively to consider how they might benefit the AONBs special qualities.

Statutory guidance for the production of AONB Management Plans is contained in CA232 and CA2213.

These make it clear that preparation needs actively to engage and gain the support of all key stakeholders, who will assist in its delivery. The AONB Management Plan is a place-based plan derived through local consensus. It seeks to define the approach to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB through the application of local solutions to local challenges that also respect the national and international importance of the AONB. It is a plan not for the partnership but for the AONB as a whole.



The meaning of 'natural beauty'

The term 'natural beauty' first gained currency in a legislative context in the 1907 Act, which gave legal status to the National Trust ('for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty'). It has been the basis for the designation of both AONBs and National Parks since the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in which, however, the term was not defined.

In June 2000 the Government confirmed that AONBs and National Parks are of equal status with regard to landscape quality and that they share the same level of protection. In the same year, the CRoW Act formally stated that natural beauty includes conservation of 'flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features' (S.92).

Natural beauty goes well beyond scenic or aesthetic value. The natural beauty of an AONB is to do with the relationship between people and place. It encompasses everything — 'natural' and human — that makes an area distinctive. It includes the area's geology and landform, its climate and soils, its wildlife and ecology. It includes the rich history of human settlement and landuse over the centuries, its archaeology and buildings, its cultural associations, and the people who live in it, past and present.

History of AONB designation and milestone documents

AONBs emerged from the mood of civic renewal which characterised the decades following the end of the Second World War — the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was one amongst many — including health, education, agriculture and development planning — which established the basis for a 'new Britain'.

The need to designate special areas of the countryside against inappropriate development, to celebrate and conserve their distinctive features, encourage sustainable agriculture and foster local economic well-being was recognised well before the Dower (1945) and Hobhouse (1947) reports which led to the establishment of AONBs and National Parks.

Since their establishment by the 1949 Act there has been continuous development in the policy and legislative context of AONBs, shaped by a number of key policy documents including:

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty — A Policy Statement (Countryside Commission & Countryside Council for Wales, 1991)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty — A Guide for Members of Joint Advisory Committees (Countryside Commission & Countryside Council for Wales, 1994)
- Protecting our finest countryside: Advice to Government (Countryside Commission, 1998)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans: A Guide (Countryside Agency, 2001)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A Guide for AONB partnership members (Countryside Agency, 2001)
- Guidance for the Review of AONB Management Plans (Countryside Agency, 2006)
- Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England (Natural England, 2011)
- Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Natural England Designations Strategy (Natural England, 2012)

Seventy years after the 1949 Act, the production and implementation of revised AONB Management Plans will help to ensure that AONBs are leaders in developing and promoting the intentions of the 1949 Act in a rapidly changing modern context.



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Planning and AONBs

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty enjoy the same levels of protection from development as those of UK National Parks. Responsibility for planning policy in AONBs lies with the relevant local authority (in National Parks it lies with the National Park Authority). This means that while AONB Management Plans themselves do not form part of any local development plan they are, nevertheless, vitally important documents in the planning system. They are:

- the basis for identifying the special qualities of the area, those aspects of the AONB which are critical in contributing to its natural beauty and potentially influential in development planning policy; and
- a 'material consideration' in the determination of individual planning applications and at appeal.

These special qualities can't be seen in isolation from each other and are more than a bullet-point list, but include scenic beauty, a strong sense of relative wildness, remoteness and tranquillity, wide-open moorlands, species-rich grasslands (especially upland hay meadows), truly dark night skies, world-class mining and geological heritage and a wealth of breeding wading birds. All these qualities are amplified throughout this plan and in combination they produce a unique sense of place. The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2018) states:

- The 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' at paragraph 11. Paragraph 11b(i) states that strategic policies should as a minimum provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and others uses, ... unless the application of policies in the NPPF that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area. Footnote 6 states that the policies referred to are those in the NPPF relating to ... an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and
- NPPF paragraph 172 requires that in any decision great weight should be given to 'conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty' in AONBs which (together with National Parks) 'have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.' Paragraph 172 also states that 'The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas'.

The intention is that NPPF provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. The NPPF must be taken into account in preparing the local development plan and is a material consideration in planning decisions. **Local Plans** and **Neighbourhood Development Plans** provide more detailed policies in relation to the North Pennines.

Two documents produced by the AONB Partnership in association with local planning authorities – **North Pennines Planning Guidelines** and the **North Pennines Building Design Guide** – provide a much finer grain of detail to help guide development in, or having an impact upon, the AONB. The documents have been adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents in Eden and Carlisle, and as material considerations in the planning system in Durham and Northumberland. A guidance document on the design, construction and permitting of moorland tracks is also available to aid development proposals and planning decisions which support the purpose of AONB designation.

Major development

Government policy (NPPF paragraph 172) states that 'Planning permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of: a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy; b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.'

NPPF paragraph 11 asserts a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'; however, this is limited where 'specific policies [including AONB Policies] indicate development should be restricted'.



AONB 'setting'

The term 'setting' is used to refer to areas outside the AONB where development and other activities may affect land within an AONB. Its extent will vary depending upon the issues considered but some can be mapped, for example, the impact of development on views into and out of the AONB. Section 85 of the CROW Act 2000 requires public bodies to consider whether any activities outside the AONB may affect land in an AONB, and Planning Practice Guidance (Natural Environment: 003) emphasises that this duty is relevant in considering development proposals that are situated outside the AONB boundary. Not all activities will be detrimental; conservation practices and economic ties outside the AONB can support the purpose of AONB designation.

The international context

English AONBs are part of the international Protected Area Family. As cultural landscapes, produced through the interaction of humans with nature over time, they have a special significance (together with UK National Parks) as being recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as 'Category V — Protected Landscapes'.

Category V protected landscapes are defined by IUCN as: 'A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.' IUCN emphasises their importance as cultural landscapes — in distinction to Category I (Strict Nature Reserves and Wilderness Areas) and Category II National Parks (which for IUCN are large natural or near-natural areas, unlike UK national parks).

Until recently, the AONB designation was regarded (together with that of UK National Parks) as an anomaly in the international protected area system which prioritised 'naturalness' as a criterion of value. In the last quarter-century, however, they have come to be recognised, particularly within Europe, as leaders in the move towards area-based sustainable development. AONBs in particular, as 'working' landscapes, lead the way in pioneering new approaches to integrated countryside management based on voluntary partnerships engaging and working with local communities to secure common goals.

The new, multidisciplinary, multifunctional concept of landscape is encapsulated in the European Landscape Convention (ELC). Adopted by the Council of Europe in 2000 (it is not an EU directive and will remain unaffected by Brexit) and applicable to the UK since March 2007. ELC promotes a definition of landscape which usefully underpins the rationale for AONBs: 'An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors', a rich concept that encompasses but goes beyond sectoral (geomorphological, ecological, archaeological, historical or aesthetic) approaches. ELC makes it clear that people are at the heart of all landscapes (the commonplace and 'degraded' as well as the eminent) each of which has its own distinctive character and meaning to those who inhabit or visit it.

The ELC places obligations on signatory states to recognise landscape 'as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity.' Obligations include a requirement to identify the diversity and range of landscapes, the important features of each, and to engage with local communities, private bodies and public authorities in their planning and management. This includes raising awareness and understanding of the character, value and functions of landscape and the way these are changing. There is also a requirement to provide training in landscape-related skills. AONBs and their managing organisations are a very significant contributor to delivering on the UK's obligations under ELC.

The NAAONB and the purpose of the AONB Family

The National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) is a charity that provides a strong collective voice for the UK's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). Its objectives are to:

- promote the conservation and enhancement of AONBs
- advance the education, understanding and appreciation by the public of AONBs; and
- promote the efficiency and effectiveness of those promoting or representing AONBs, other protected areas and those areas for which designation might be pursued.

It does this by taking a collaborative and partnership-based approach to working with its membership and other organisations at a national level to achieve shared goals.



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Charity members are involved in the planning and management of around 8,000 square miles of outstanding and cherished landscapes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes most of the AONB partnerships, as well as some of those Local Authorities with statutory responsibility for AONBs, together with a number of voluntary bodies, businesses, and individuals with an interest in the future of these iconic landscapes.

The NAAONB's vision is that the natural beauty of AONBs is valued and secure. The charity's mission is to support and develop a network of ambitious AONB partnerships with a strong collective voice. Through the NAAONB, the following high-level objectives have been adopted as the common national purpose of the AONB Family:

- conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future
- support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty
- promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and encourage people to take action for their conservation; and
- value, sustain, and promote the benefits that the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation's health and well-being.

Audience for the Plan

One audience for this Plan is the local authorities of the North Pennines, as it is upon them that the duty is placed to produce the Plan (and to conserve and enhance the AONB, a duty also placed on all public bodies). The AONB Partnership discharges the Plan-making function on the authorities' collective behalf.

Another important audience is the Government agencies, statutory undertakers, utilities and public bodies which must, in accordance with Section 85 of the CROW Act 2000, have 'due regard' to the purposes of AONB designation in the carrying out of their functions. The objectives and actions in this Plan should guide them in the fulfillment of their duty under the Act.

A third and equally important audience is the wide range of local organisations and individuals with a concern for the future well-being of the North Pennines — be they land owners, land managers, local businesses, local residents or visitors.

It is hoped that this Plan will provide them with the inspiration and guidance to bring forward innovative ideas for the conservation and enhancement of the AONB and lead to greater awareness and understanding of the designation. Crucially, it is not the Plan for the AONB Partnership or the work programme for its Staff Team; it is the Plan for the conservation and enhancement of the AONB and all those with an interest in the area can be involved in its implementation.

The Plan is not intended to be a panacea for all the perceived problems which local communities might face, nor is it intended to duplicate or replace other statutory plans which affect the area. It is, however, the only document with a focus on the whole of the AONB and the only one which is primarily focused on the purpose of AONB designation — the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty.

In addition to this Plan, the North Pennines National Character Area Profile, the production of which was led by Natural England, is a good source of baseline data:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5682293?category=587130>

Delivering the last Management Plan



The last AONB Management Plan covered the period 2014-2019 and though it is not yet complete there have been some significant achievements by all of those with a role in delivering the Plan's actions:

Through its **Peatland Programme** the AONB Partnership oversaw major programmes of grip blocking and bare peat restoration. New cross-border collaboration is expanding this work, which involves close collaboration between conservation organisations and moorland owners and managers. Programmes underway include the Pennine PeatLIFE project, an INTERREG project ('Carbon Connects') and work to deliver a Defra-funded programme of peat restoration. The AONB peatland programme has now worked with partners to restore over 25,000 ha of peatland in the North Pennines.

The North Pennines has 40% of the UK total of species rich hay meadows. The AONB Partnership's **Nectarworks** and **Plugging the Gaps** projects made a significant contribution to the conservation and enhancement of these special habitats, and of species verges and banks, whilst working with over 1,000 schoolchildren.

WildWatch — the Partnership's community wildlife recording and education project — created 20,000 new wildlife records, delivered 140 training events and spawned three local wildlife groups. It grew into a new citizen science project focused on invertebrates: Cold-Blooded and Spineless. This new project takes up where Wildwatch left off, inspiring people to discover and conserve our natural heritage, with a focus on invertebrates.

With many partners, the **Allen Valleys (HLF) Landscape Partnership Scheme** was completed, restoring buildings, planting woods, conserving rivers, conserving wading birds and red squirrels and creating opportunities to explore and enjoy the countryside (and much more). A new scheme, for the Fellfoot area of east Cumbria, has passed Stage 1 with over £2 m put aside for making it happen.

The AONB Partnership's community archaeology project, **Altogether Archaeology**, not only helped people to discover the secrets of their past landscape, but went on to spawn a new heritage charity with the same name. The LiDAR Landscapes project supported over 100 volunteers to discover over 400 new archaeological sites and features, whilst the OREsome North Pennines project worked with volunteers to understand, conserve and celebrate the geology, archaeology and ecology of eight former mine sites.

Educational activities at Bowlees Visitor Centre © NHP

Plug planting wildflowers © NHP



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Many different organisations ran hundreds of **events and activities**, supporting the local economy and contributing much to people's enjoyment of the North Pennines. Alongside many new walking, cycling and riding initiatives, more people had more fun for longer in the AONB. A wide range of heritage interpretation was developed, including award-winning work at Allen Smelt Mill.

Attractions such as Killhope Lead Mining Museum, continued to thrive and make new investments in their future. The AONB Partnership further developed its Bowlees Visitor Centre into an important economic, environmental and social asset. Bowlees won North East Small Visitor Attraction of the Year in 2016.

Thousands of **schoolchildren explored the North Pennines**, making films, carrying out climate change research, planting trees and more.

In 2015 UNESCO founded its first new heritage programme since World Heritage Sites in 1972. The North Pennines, a 'Global Geopark' since 2004, became an official **UNESCO Global Geopark** — one of only four UNESCO designations in the North East and Cumbria — providing a strong platform on which to promote tourism, education and conservation. The UNESCO status was successfully recertified in 2014.

Potentially England's largest programme of **natural flood management**, in Weardale, took its first steps. This is led by the Environment Agency, with the other Defra agencies, the AONB Partnership and Wear Rivers Trust.

The area's four **Rivers Trusts** – Eden, Tees, Tyne and Wear – all expanded their conservation activities, doing important work on in-stream and riparian management, natural flood management, invasive species control, surveys and minewater remediation. For example, in 2018 Tyne Rivers Trust delivered green engineering solutions at seven sites in the North Pennines to reduce diffuse metal pollution, including installing log revetments, check weirs and silt traps

Sixteen Dark Skies Discovery Sites were nationally designated and in Allenheads the North Pennines Observatory was created. Many different organisations engaged with the first two North Pennines Stargazing Festivals, engaging thousands of people with their dark night skies and extending the visitor season well into the shoulder months.

The **Allen Smelt Mill** volunteers were shortlisted for a 2018 Heritage Angels award.

The Alston community secured a **Townscape Heritage Initiative** grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to set about improving the built environment of the centre of England's highest Market Town. Nine year-long **traineeships** were created in the AONB team.

Several groups that began life with AONB Partnership and other support are now fully-functioning independent organisations, hosting training and conservation events, including Allen Valleys Enterprise Ltd, The North Pennines Astronomy Society, the North Pennines Smallholders and Allen Valleys Local History Group.

The Nenthead community came together to win major HLF support for the redevelopment of **Nenthead Chapel** as a community facility.

Durham Wildlife Trust's '**Natural History of Upper Teesdale**' will be the standard reference work on the area's natural heritage for years to come.

The Coal Authority and Environment Agency have led major **minewater pollution remediation work at Barneycraig**, where the AONB Partnership and Allen Valleys Enterprises are restoring the nearby mineshaft as a bunk barn.

Hen harriers bred twice at Moor House-Upper Teesdale and once at Gelsdale during the last five years (and though each nest is cause for celebration it's still far too few).

AONB projects and 'Altogether Archaeology' (2014) and 'Nectarworks' (2017) both won the **Bowland Award**, for the best project or initiative in an AONB.

The North Pennines featured in national **destination marketing** campaigns from Visit County Durham and Northumberland Tourism.



Altogether Archaeology © NPAP



Helicopter dropping heather brush for peat restoration © NPAP

What's new? The context for the next few years

The operating context for the new Management Plan includes:

- Leaving the European Union means a time of considerable uncertainty. It provides an opportunity to rethink agricultural support towards a focus on public money for public goods, with results-based payments focused in the main on outcomes rather than prescriptions. This could deliver more for nature and more for the tax payer, and build trust and collaboration between farmers and conservationists. However, it will mean the end of EU-funded programmes such as LIFE, INTERREG and LEADER, all of which have been used to benefit conservation, education, nature-based tourism and rural businesses in the area. Replacing these sources of funding will be crucial.
- Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the continued development of Local Plans across the area's local authorities. The NPPF is clear on the 'great weight' that should be attached to the purpose of designation by decision makers in the planning process. Local Plans must include robust policies aimed at conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the North Pennines AONB.
- The Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment. Though an ambitious document, and likely to set strategy and delivery for the foreseeable future, it will need to be backed up by strong legislation to make some of its more forward thinking and challenging elements a reality. This Management Plan, for example through the 'Top ten conservation priorities', promotes action across all of the relevant areas of the 25 Year Plan.
- The continued relevance of '**Making Space for Nature**' (The Lawton Report) which highlighted the importance of enhanced ecological networks across the landscape and taking an approach to management which was summed up by the phrase, 'bigger, better, more, more joined-up' – this is an underpinning principle of the conservation work of the AONB Partnership and other bodies.
- The continued decline in our biodiversity — locally, nationally and globally — and the urgent need to arrest and turnaround that decline. The seriousness of this situation cannot be overstated.

- The Government's Climate Change Committee report, 'Land Use: Reducing Emissions and Preparing for Climate Change' (2018). This highlighted the need for new land use policy that promotes 'transformational landuses'. It highlighted in particular the multiple benefits that can be accrued from 'afforestation and forestry management; restoration of peatlands; low-carbon farming practices; improving soil and water quality; reducing flood risks and improving the condition of semi-natural habitats.' All of these feature in the plan – delivering them at the required scale is a challenge to which everyone must rise.
- The 2018 'People's Manifesto for Wildlife' and the associated public march as a prominent example of growing public interest in and concern for our biodiversity and a demand that its conservation should be a high priority in society.
- An increasing emphasis on a whole **ecosystem approach** to landscape management and on the safeguarding of ecosystem services. Allied to this is the Natural Capital agenda – the stock of species, habitats and natural systems from which flow ecosystem services and benefits. To be able to engage with this agenda without commodifying nature will be vital to securing the resources needed to halt the declines in biodiversity, support landscape quality and character and bring further benefits for society.
- A growing understanding that the way in which **climate change** will manifest itself is unpredictable, making it hard to plan for. There is an increasing need to manage land in ways that helps mitigate and adapt to climate change, creating resilient environments and communities.
- An increasing emphasis on **food and energy security**.
- Likely **continued austerity** in the public sector, limiting public investment in nature.
- The **Glover Review of Designated Landscapes** in England, which may bring new purposes or governance models for AONBs, or may address deficiencies in legislation, amongst other possible changes aimed at enhancing these areas.

What has nature ever done for us?

Natural capital, ecosystem services and the ecosystems approach

With all of the talk about strategies and plans, ecosystem services and natural capital, it's important to remember that nature has an intrinsic value – that it can't all be defined in terms of what it does for us and that it has a value independent of us, yet of which we are the stewards. But the landscape of the North Pennines is not only beautiful and rich in wildlife, important though these things are. Our natural assets, properly cared for, provide services and benefits on which society is dependent.

Natural capital

We recognise several different kinds of 'capital' in society: economic capital, the most familiar to people, is the stock of resources (equipment, premises, money etc.) used to carry on a business, whilst social capital is the working relationships and trust available in our communities that make change possible. 'Natural capital' refers to the stock of physical and natural assets that support services and benefits for society. It includes biodiversity, habitats, landscapes, geological resources and natural processes. So, peatlands are a natural capital asset, that provide water storage services, that bring the benefit of flood risk mitigation. These 'natural services' also depend on economic and social capital, but at their root is the natural capital that makes their delivery possible. By conserving and restoring peatlands, we are doing something intrinsically valuable for nature, but also supporting services and benefits for society including carbon storage and sequestration, water colour and sediment load reduction rivers and flood risk management.

Our natural capital has been seen as limitless and free, and something which has little or no value to business — and usually as a constraint. However, natural capital is clearly not limitless and the OECD acknowledged in 2012 that 40% of global GDP is dependent on it. We have failed to take account of our impacts on natural capital to the point where we may have depleted it beyond its capability to support us into the future. We are 'overdrawn at the bank of nature' and unless we start reinvesting quickly, significantly and in the right places, the declines will continue and the many services nature provides for us will be all but lost.

The Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (NUCLNP) has produced natural capital investment cases for peatland and woodland. Importantly these proposals are not about funding the status quo, paying for people to sit on a store of carbon; they make the financial case (and solely in terms of carbon at this point) for restoring peatland and creating new woodland. The work is aimed at generating investment in nature, and not about placing a cash value on it so it can be traded away in development.

At the scale of the NUCLNP (Northumberland and Yorkshire Dales National Parks and the AONBs of the North Pennines, Nidderdale and Forest of Bowland), restoring 130,000 ha of degraded peat would provide £460 m worth of avoided carbon emissions over 40 years (and many other benefits not yet monetised). The net benefit to society of creating 35,000 ha of new woodland (in the right places) in these uplands could be at least £30 m before any timber and fuel value (EFTEC and Northern Upland Chain LNP Natural Capital Investment Plan, 2014).

Investing in natural capital — the IUCN UK Peatland Code

The IUCN UK Peatland Code is a voluntary standard for peatland restoration projects in the UK, supported by sponsorship on the basis of valuing the services and benefits they provide for society. The Peatland Code is still (2018) being trialled but it aims to give potential corporate investors in peatland restoration confidence that their financial contribution is making a measurable and verifiable difference to UK peatlands, and enables them to report this to their stakeholders and shareholders.

Investment generated through the UK Peatland Code will provide the income required to restore peatlands in order that they then deliver significant environmental outcomes over relatively short timeframes. This investment will turn around many years of degradation.

The North Pennines AONB Partnership is trialling the Peatland Code in six of its restoration projects and will look to expand this during the life of the Management Plan. For more information about the UK Peatland Code visit: www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org.



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Ecosystem services and benefits

If we look after our stock of natural capital assets, a range of valuable services and benefits will flow from them. These services include nutrient cycling, pollination, carbon storage, biomass, erosion protection and water purification, from which we receive the benefits of clean air and water, flood risk reduction, recreation, food, employment opportunities and a source of physical and spiritual well-being. We should never have to ask, 'What has nature ever done for us'?

Taking an ecosystems approach

This Plan identifies some of the services and benefits that flow from our natural assets and brings forward desired outcomes and actions to secure their future.

The plan takes an ecosystems approach:

- it is place-based, focusing on the whole North Pennines (and where necessary beyond, identifying the need for some partnership projects and programmes that will spread out either into the surrounding lowlands or along the Northern Upland Chain);
- it combines action for biodiversity and landscape conservation with an understanding of the public benefits this brings; and
- it is not focused on species, habitats and issues in isolation – rather it promotes an integrated approach to large-scale conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, seeking to understand the effects of management and development on nature and people.

This approach attempts to understand, and work within, the acceptable limits of environmental change, in order to meet community need without compromising the natural assets that will support us in the future. It requires a joined-up commitment to delivering the outcomes and the Vision, to drive better and

more integrated policy and action on the ground across local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, NGOs and the community.

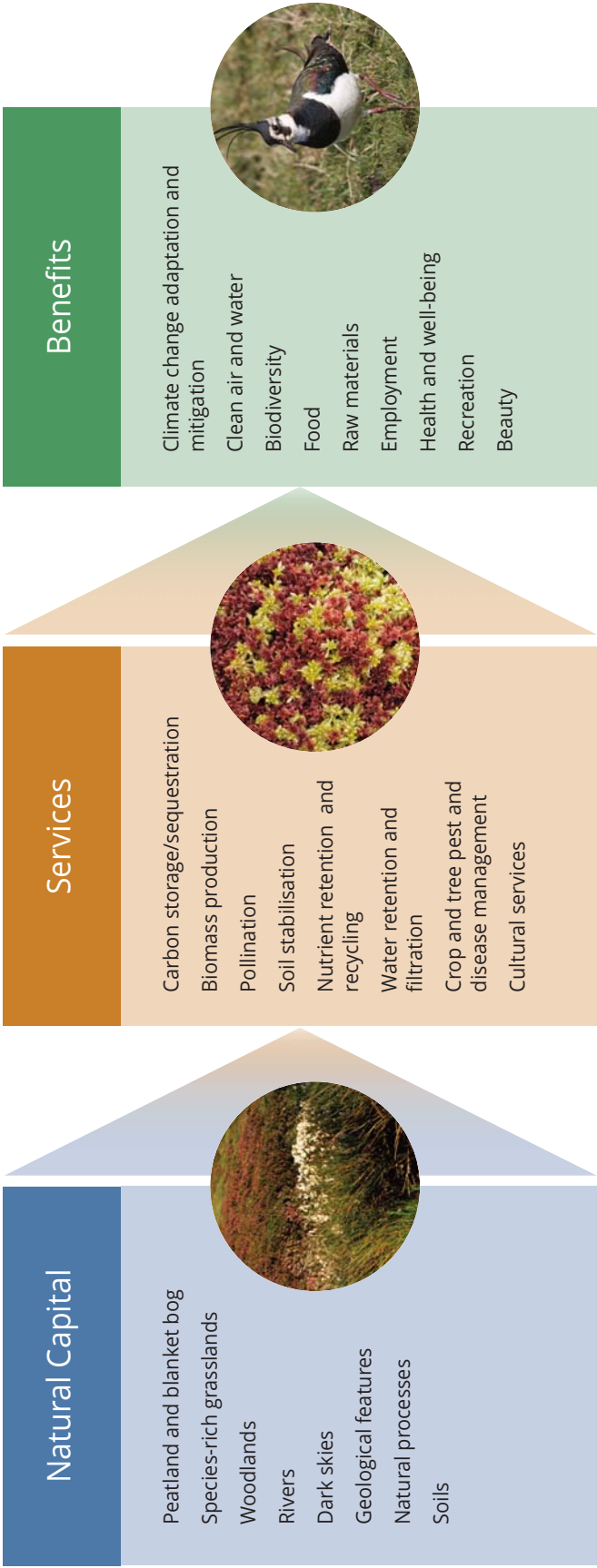
The cost of not investing – a peatland example

Investing in our natural capital supports many services and benefits. It may seem costly to some, but neglecting them will make matters much worse — trying to replicate lost natural assets and all they provide for us is much greater than the cost of maintaining them in good ecological condition. A 2013 study suggested that conserving nature costs 100 to 1,000 times less than trying to restore it once it is lost or damaged and the services it provides are compromised; it makes economic sense, as well as environmental and social sense, to look after it.

Degraded peat soils in England are releasing 3 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere each year – the equivalent of the annual emissions from 330,000 households and similar to the emissions from the UK chemicals industry. Without investment in peatland restoration, these emissions will continue to increase. Water quality and colour will continue to worsen and the costs

Natural Capital, Services and Benefits

This diagram helps to illustrate the flows of services and benefits we get from looking after our natural assets. The matrix on the following page looks at this in a little more detail. It is not an exhaustive list.



Look after nature and nature looks after us

of dealing with it will rise; we will be less able to cope with the expected more frequent and severe floods caused by climate change; there are likely to be greater losses and higher insurance costs. Valuable habitat for wildlife will be lost and more grazing land for animals will turn to bare soil.

The table below sets out (left hand side) the special environmental qualities of the North Pennines

(including some elements of our natural capital), that have been identified and agreed in the previous statutory AONB Management Plans through lengthy consultation; it also identifies the area's BD2020 priority habitats against the relevant special quality.

The top row is a list of the main ecosystem services and benefits that we can derive from these special qualities of our upland landscape. It suggests how conserving these special qualities will help to sustain our ecosystem services and their benefits into the future.

	Services Benefits							
Special Quality / BD2020 Habitat Peatland Upland dry heath, blanket bog Hay meadows and species-rich grasslands, including arctic alpine flora Upland hay meadows, upland calcareous grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pasture, lowland dry acid grassland, Calaminarian grassland Upland woodland Yew woodland, upland oak/ash woodland Upland rivers Geological heritage, including soils Bare rock and scree, limestone pavement Upland birds Cultural heritage and the built environment Scenic beauty, remoteness, wildness and tranquillity, including dark skies	Carbon storage/sequestration and air quality management	Climate change adaptation/mitigation, clean air, health and well-being	Nutrient dispersal and cycling including soil health, biodiversity, food, clean air and water	Pollination Food and agricultural products, biodiversity	Biomass Habitats, biodiversity, food, energy, raw materials, jobs	Water storage and filtration Flood risk management, clean water for people and wildlife, biodiversity	Erosion prevention/hazard protection Soil health, flood risk mitigation, clean water, agriculture	Cultural services Tourism, recreation, jobs, mental and physical health and well-being, tranquillity

Some common principles

There are some common principles that underpin all the different strands of this Management Plan. The acceptance of these principles is a key part of adopting and delivering this plan; they should aid policy formulation and decision-making in relation to the AONB across a wide range of organisations, notably local authorities and public bodies with duties in relation to the AONB under S.85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

The following principles run through all the strands of this Management Plan:

An Ecosystems Approach – that our landscape provides us with vital natural services that we need to sustain. We will collectively identify the most important of these services and bring forward shared objectives and actions to ensure that they can be provided into the future.

Ecological Networks on a landscape scale – that an integrated approach to conservation at the largest scale possible will provide the most benefit, supporting habitats that are bigger, better managed, more numerous and better connected. We will focus on the whole North Pennines landscape, and where necessary, beyond, identifying the need for some partnership projects and programmes that will spread out either into the surrounding lowlands or along the Northern Upland Chain.

Upland biodiversity is declining – the State of Nature Report (2014 figures to be updated for the final Plan) shows that of 886 upland species for which we have information, 65% have declined and 34% have declined strongly. Nationally, more species have become extinct in the uplands (15) than in any other habitat: 137 upland species, including 131 plants, are on recent national Red Lists. In the North Pennines we have 47 of the NERC Section 41 priority species. Many species need further research, some can be sustained by conserving, expanding and connecting habitats and bringing areas with good connectivity into better management. Some species are likely to need specific intervention, including specialist habitat management or preventing persecution. Net gain for biodiversity should be a feature of new development.

Climate change – that human-influenced climate change is real. Projects and initiatives should have as small a carbon footprint as possible and maximise opportunities for carbon sequestration. Small-scale renewable energy schemes will be encouraged and local people's effort to reduce the amount of energy and resources they use will be supported. Projects which seek land management solutions to problems of a changing climate will be encouraged, as will research which helps us better understand our changing climate.

Landscape change – that change in the landscape is inevitable, and often to be welcomed, but that change needs to be managed carefully to ensure that it is beneficial to the conservation of the area's high quality environment. The principles of the European Landscape Convention provide a good basis for approaching the evolution, conservation and enhancement of our landscape.

Economy and environment – that somewhere rich in natural beauty and with a strong sense of place and that is rich in wildlife is a tremendous economic and social asset that provides many services for society. An economy is developing which is predicated upon keeping this place special and that, in a nationally Protected Landscape in particular, development must be environmentally sustainable as well as economically and socially sustainable.

Nature and heritage conservation – that opportunities to conserve and enhance landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and the historic environment should be sought in all projects and developments. There is a need to integrate the conservation of these environmental assets and not see them in isolation from each other, for instance through ensuring that nature conservation work is informed by HERs. There is an assumption in this Plan that actions will not bring about one environmental benefit at the expense of another, eg. new woodlands will not be planted on areas with existing biodiversity importance or historic significance, or wind turbines would not be erected where they would damage the character of the landscape.



© Natural England / Charlie Hedley

Supporting sustainable land management – that almost all of the AONB is in private ownership and that landowners and land managers have played the largest role in creating today's North Pennines – the world's natural beauty are something of a misnomer; supporting High Nature Value Farming and land-based farm incomes, and ensuring sustainable moorland management are vital factors in keeping the area special.

Outcomes, not prescriptions – a focus on outcomes, the results of actions, will deliver more for nature than a one-size-fits-all approach, but extra care must be taken with our most precious natural assets.

Working together – that strong and meaningful collaborations between landowners, conservation bodies, local authorities and local people are the only way to ensure that nature has a bright future; generating consensus takes time and effort but is always worth it; not least because collaborative approaches add immense value to often very limited budgets. Reversing the declines in biodiversity and building more resilient ecological networks will require some new ways of working which all will need to embrace.

Open to all – that there should be equality of opportunity for everyone to enjoy what this area has to offer – there are barriers to remove to make this possible, from limited public transport, to the need for better information or better infrastructure. The most accessible option, in relation to physical and intellectual access to the AONB, is the one that should be chosen where this does not compromise natural beauty.

Community and conservation – that local people should be encouraged and supported to devise projects and initiatives that conserve and celebrate natural beauty, or become involved in those led by others. In order to thrive and remain viable, communities need affordable housing, and access to employment, services and facilities and there will be a need for new development so that communities can continue to thrive and evolve.

Learning and discovering – that in all of the conservation work in the AONB, there are likely to be opportunities for interpretation of, and educational activities based on, the special features being conserved. Education and interpretation are not 'cherries on the cake' but an integral part of the ingredients of what protected area management should be about. There is much to learn from each other and from elsewhere and taking time to share ideas, experience, expertise and ambition should not be regarded as a 'nice to have' but should be seen as essential.

Costs and benefits – that conserving and enhancing natural beauty, helping people explore, enjoy and understand the North Pennines and supporting land-based industries, is a public good and appropriate resources need to be found for some of it. Equally, this Plan will cover a period of what are likely to be hard times for public funds and there is a need to diversify conservation income streams further and build new sources of support. The loss of EU funding for conservation must be replaced by new resources.

Geology and landscape

The special character of the North Pennines landscape has its foundation in the underlying rocks and the geological processes which have shaped it over hundreds of millions of years of Earth history. Tropical seas, deltas, rainforests, molten rock, deserts and ice sheets have all played a part in creating the bare bones of the landscape. People arrived in the North Pennines a few thousand years ago, heralding a new stage in the evolution of the area—a landscape that is continually evolving through natural processes and human activity.



*Schematic diagram of the North Pennine escarpment showing the underlying geology and its influence on the landscape
Elizabeth Pickett © NERC*

Foundations of the landscape

The deep roots of the North Pennines are slates and volcanic rocks—akin to the rocks of the Lake District. They are mostly buried and are only exposed in part of Teesdale, and along the North Pennine escarpment, where they form a line of striking conical hills. Nearly 500 million years ago these rocks were muds and volcanic ash at the edge of a wide ocean. The ocean closed about 420 million years ago as the continents on either side collided. The muds and ashes were squashed, crumpled and altered to form the hard slaty rocks we see today.





Layers of limestone, shale, sandstone and coal forming terraced hillsides in the Nent Valley © NPAP/KGibson



Limestone pavement near North Stainmore © NPAP/ElizabethPickett



Dolerite columns of the Whin Sill at High Cup Nick © Natural England/Steve Westwood



Crags of Whin Sill dolerite at Holwick Scars in Upper Teesdale © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett

Weardale Granite and the Alston Block

About 400 million years ago, a huge mass of molten rock rose up into the slates and volcanic rocks. It cooled and crystallised underground to form the Weardale Granite, a hidden but fundamental geological feature of the North Pennines. Granite is less dense than most other rocks in the Earth's crust and is relatively buoyant. Because of this, the area above the granite – much of the North Pennines – has remained higher than surrounding areas for millions of years, and is known by geologists as the 'Alston Block'. The North Pennines is an upland area today because of the effect of the Weardale Granite.

Tropical seas and swamps

About 350 to 300 million years ago – in the Carboniferous Period of Earth history – the North Pennines was near the equator and was periodically covered by shallow tropical seas. Skeletons of sea creatures accumulated as limy ooze on the sea floor. Rivers washed mud and sand into the sea, building up vast deltas on which swampy forests grew. In time, the limy ooze became limestone, the mud and sand became shale and sandstone, and the forests turned to coal. Periodically, the sea flooded in, drowning the deltas and depositing limestone again. This cycle happened many times, building up repeating layers of limestone, shale, sandstone and thin coal seams, known as 'cyclothem's'.

Limestone and sandstone are resistant to erosion, whereas the softer shales wear away easily. This contrast produces the distinctive terraced hillsides and flat hilltops of the North Pennines. Limestone also has its own special features. It dissolves gradually in rainwater creating 'karst' features such as sinkholes and limestone pavements.

Sandstone and limestone have been quarried in the North Pennines for centuries, and the use of local sandstone gives distinctive character to the area's settlements and dry stone walls.

The Whin Sill

Stretching of the Earth's crust 295 million years ago caused molten rock at over 1000°C to rise up and be injected between layers of sandstone, limestone and

Formation of 'cyclothem's' as a result of changing sea levels and build-up of river deltas in the Carboniferous Period © Elizabeth Pickett

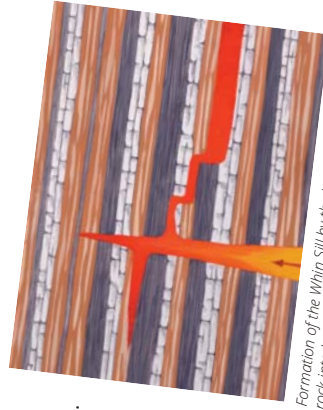


shale. The molten rock cooled and solidified underground to form a roughly a flat-lying sheet of rock, known as a 'sill'. This is made of hard black dolerite or, as it is known locally, whinstone. While molten, its great heat baked and altered surrounding rocks, creating the unique 'Sugar Limestone' of Upper Teesdale. As the sill cooled it contracted, producing vertical cracks along which the dolerite breaks into rough columns. These columns can be seen in Whin Sill cliffs and quarry faces. After millions of years of erosion, the Whin Sill is now exposed at the surface where its cliffs form dramatic landscape features in Upper Teesdale and along the North Pennine escarpment.

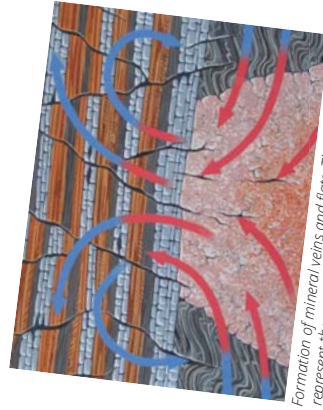
Mineral riches

The North Pennines is world-famous for its remarkable mineral veins and deposits, known collectively as the Northern Pennine Orefield. The veins of lead ore and other minerals formed about 290 million years ago when mineral-rich waters, warmed by heat from the buried Weardale Granite, flowed through cracks and fractures deep underground. As the fluids cooled, their dissolved minerals crystallised within the fractures, forming mineral veins. Sometimes the fluids reacted with limestone on the sides of the fractures, altering the rock and forming mineral deposits known as 'flats'. Mining for lead ore in the North Pennines probably goes back at least to Roman times, but it had its heyday in the 18th and 19th centuries when the area's lead mines were of world importance. Other commercially mined minerals include sphalerite (zinc ore), iron ores, fluorite (also known as fluorspar), and barium minerals such as baryte and witherite.

Mining for these minerals has had a profound effect on the landscape. Although the mines have all closed, the landscape is imprinted with the legacy of the area's mining past – from shafts, hushes, spoilheaps and chimneys to the patterns of settlement and 'miner-farmer' landscapes.



Formation of the Whin Sill by the injection of molten rock into layers of limestone, shale and sandstone © Elizabeth Pickett



Formation of mineral veins and flats. The arrows represent the movement of mineral-rich waters, heated by the buried Weardale Granite © Elizabeth Pickett



A drumlin in Upper Teesdale © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett



Red Triassic sandstone used in buildings in Dufton © NPAP/Shane Harris



Rookhope arch—the remains of a smelt mill flue system © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett

Deserts and floods

The Eden Valley is underlain by red sandstones which give the villages at the foot of the North Pennine escarpment their distinctive character. These rocks formed between 290 and 210 million years ago, in the Permian and Triassic periods of Earth history, when the North Pennines baked in a hot desert environment just north of the equator. Sands from desert dunes, flash floods and rivers hardened into red sandstones. These rocks lie next to the much older slates and volcanic rocks of the distinctive 'pikes' and are separated from them by faults – cracks in the Earth's crust along which there has been movement.

Ice age

From over 200 million years ago, we have little tangible evidence for what was happening in the North Pennines. We know that Britain drifted north to its present position, and that about two million years ago world climate cooled dramatically, heralding the start of a series of ice ages.

The landscape of the North Pennines owes much of its character to the action of ice and meltwater. About 20,000 years ago northern Britain lay frozen under a huge blanket of ice. A kilometre-thick ice sheet covered the North Pennines and streamed over the landscape, smoothing and scouring the hills and valleys. It dumped a mixture of clay, gravel and boulders known as 'till' and created streamlined mounds of glacial debris called drumlins. Some of the highest land in the North Pennines may have poked above the ice at times during the ice age. These hilltops would have been frozen wastes of frost-shattered rock.

After the ice

About 15,000 years ago the arctic conditions started to give way to a milder, wetter climate. The ice began to melt, leaving a landscape of bare rock, unstable slopes and piles of glacial debris. Torrential meltwaters carved drainage channels and deposited sand and gravel in the valleys. Amidst this rapidly changing landscape, arctic

Ancient Scots pine tree stump emerging from peat at the edge of Smiddyslaw Reservoir © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett



plants, grasses and dwarf shrubs began to colonise the bare land. These were eventually replaced by woodland – part of the great wildwood which once covered much of Britain. Sparse birch and Scots pine dominated the higher parts of the North Pennines. About 7,500 years ago, rainfall increased and blanket bog began to form on the waterlogged uplands. In these areas woodland cover decreased, leaving tree stumps buried and preserved in peat.

People and the landscape

Ever since people first came to the North Pennines, perhaps 10,000 years ago, human activity has profoundly influenced the landscape. The first settlers came to forage for wild resources in heavily wooded valleys, very different from today's meadows and grassland. From about 5,000 years ago, early farmers began felling trees to create agricultural clearings, and the wildwood has been progressively cleared from this point.

Through the following millennia, many different peoples – Celts, Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Normans – left their mark in settlements, fortifications, field systems, graves and mines. But it is in the last few hundred years that people have had the greatest impact on the North Pennines landscape. Centuries of exploitation of the area's rich mineral resources have not only left a rich heritage of mining remains, but have influenced the pattern of settlement and agriculture and even the shape of the fells and dales themselves.

Today's landscape

Today's North Pennines landscape is the product of millions of years of geological processes and just a few thousand years of human activity. All these have lent a hand in creating both the shape of the countryside and the intricate 'quilt' of landuse and settlement draped over it.

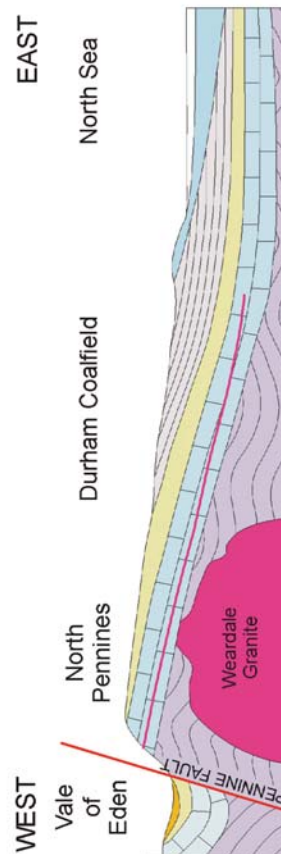
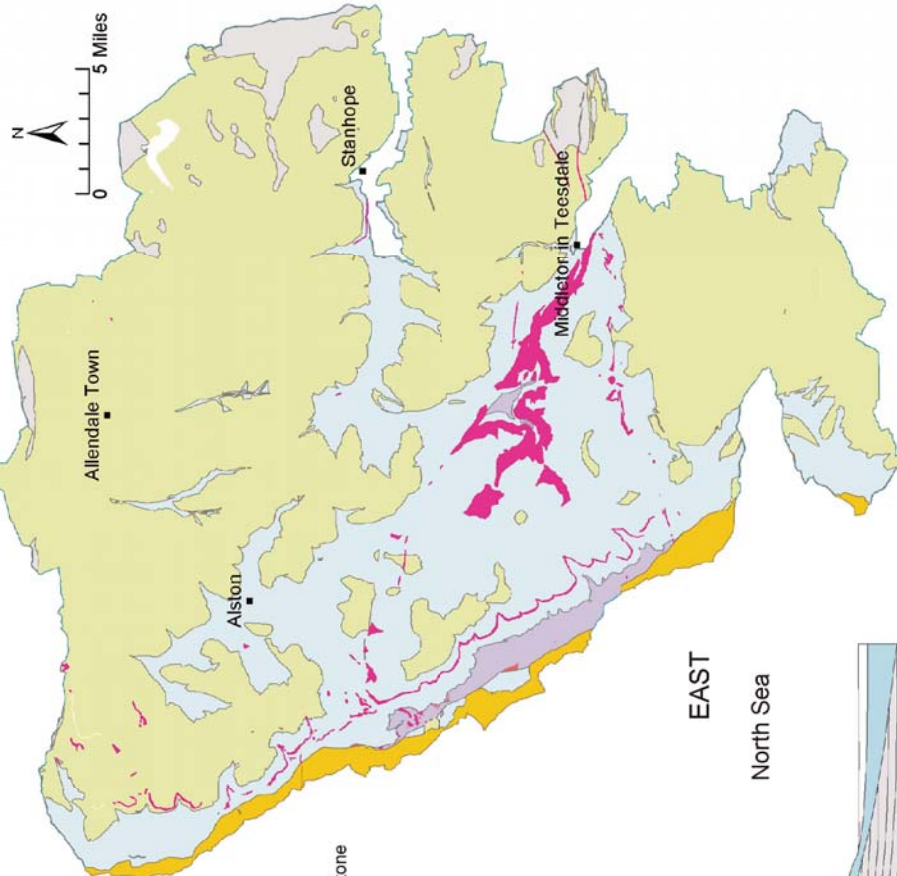
Most people live in the dales which cut through the wild moorland landscape. Villages, farms and dry stone walls built of local stone reflect the underlying geology of the area. The imprint of lead and other mining activity is still strong, with chimneys, hushes, adits, mineshafts and other features providing a reminder of our industrial past.

Looking after and celebrating our geodiversity

Action for the conservation and celebration of our geological heritage is included in the North Pennines Geodiversity Action Plan 2018-2022 and is available at www.northpenninesaonb.org.uk. It will be updated during the life of the AONB Management Plan.

A SIMPLIFIED GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE NORTH PENNINES AONB

- KEY**
- Permian
mainly limestones and dolomites with sands at the base (illustrated in cross section only)
 - Permo-Triassic
mainly red sandstones, mudstones and some breccias
 - Westphalian - the Coal Measures
shales, siltstones, sandstones and coal seams
 - Namurian
alternations of thin limestones, shales and thick sandstones with thin coal seams, includes the Great Limestone
 - Dinantian
alternations of limestone, shale, sandstone and coal with conglomerates, shales and sandstones at the base
 - Devonian
mainly conglomerates
 - Ordovician and Silurian
mainly slates, impure sandstones and volcanic rocks
 - Igneous intrusions
Dolerite, part of the Whin Sill suite of intrusions and the Cleveland-Armthwaite Dyke, and the Weardale Granite



Diagrammatic Cross-section. Vertical scale greatly exaggerated

N.B. For clarity, faults and minerals veins are omitted from this map.

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Landscape character

Landscape character types

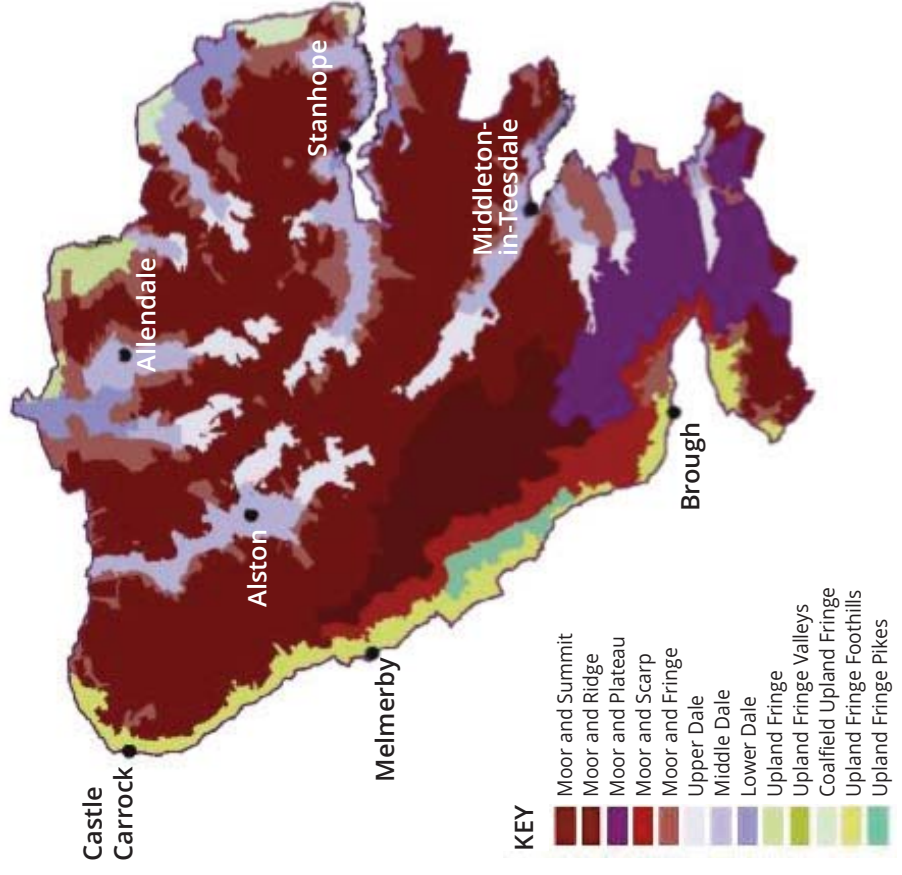
This map shows the different landscape character types in the North Pennines AONB. These landscape types do not follow political boundaries and are best seen without reference to counties, districts or even specific dales. An example of this would be the 'upperdale' landscape type found at the top of all the main dales in the North Pennines. The defining characteristic of each landscape type are shown here.

Landscape character areas

Within these broad 'landscape types' we can find specific landscape character areas, which show some more subtle differences from place to place within areas of the same broad character type. Examples of this include Upper Teesdale and Upper Weardale, within the Character Type 'upperdale'.

The AONB Partnership is undertaking a detailed landscape character assessment, with descriptions of landscape types and character areas, alongside some guidance for land managers and others on reinforcing the distinctive character of these different parts of the North Pennines.

This process does not attempt to set landscapes in stone, but aims to help us understand and reinforce their unifying characteristics and ensure that new development and landuse change is in tune with the area's character and quality.



Moorland Ridges

Broad divided ridges and high flat-topped summits • A strong horizontal grain to the topography • Grits and limestones outcrop locally in low grey crags and stone bands • The Whin Sill outcrops in some larger crags and scree slopes • Rocky, quick-flowing beck or burns in steep-sided gullies • Extensive tracts of blanket bog, with heather, cotton grass and Sphagnum mosses • Deep peat exposed in eroded hags and peat edges • Drier slopes clothed in upland heath or bilberry or acid grasslands • Extensive grazing by hardy hill sheep has created extensive areas of 'whitemoor' • Burning patterns on grouse moors create a patchwork of older and younger heather • Unfenced roads marked by snow poles with gates or cattle-grids at the moor wall • Occasional communications masts break the skyline as intrusive features • Relics of leadmining – shafts, hushes, spoil heaps, the courses of railways, reservoirs and water leats, smelt mill flues and chimneys • Few human-made structures other than occasional fences, grouse butts, cairns and sheepfolds • Panoramic long-distance views out across unbroken moorlands or adjoining dales/valleys • A remote and elemental landscape with a near wilderness quality in places.

Examples of Landscape Character Areas within Moorland Ridges Character Type include Geltsdale to Hartside, and the Teesdale/Wearsdale watershed.



Moorland Ridges - Swinhope Moor, East Allen Valley © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Moorland Plateau

High moorland plateau, the legacy of a major ice sheet in the last glacial period • Gently rolling, almost flat, terrain cut into by steep-sided gullies • Occasional small, low, flat-topped, summits of resistant sandstones such as those of Shakesborough and Goldsborough • Carboniferous rocks masked by deep peat which is exposed in eroded hags and peat edges • Continuous blanket bog of heather, cotton grass and Sphagnum mosses • Upland heath and acid grassland in drier moorland fringes • Extensive grazing by hardy hill sheep promotes a shift towards grass or sedge dominated vegetation • Burning patterns on grouse moors create a patchwork of older and younger heather. Some of the wetter bogs are too wet for heather burning in most years • Few human-made features other than occasional fences, grouse butts, cairns and sheepfolds • A remote and inaccessible landscape with few roads or tracks • A broad-scale landscape with long-distance views across open moorland to distant summits • An exposed, elemental and simple, often bleak, landscape with a near wilderness quality.

Examples of Landscape Character Areas within Moorland Plateau Character Type include Mickleton and Hunderthwaite Moors, and Cotherstone Moor.



Moorland Plateau - Cotherstone Moor © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett

Moorland Summit

Wild remote places, with a severe climate • Extensive blanket bog vegetation • Openness and apparent naturalness and an almost total lack of human-made structures and an apparent lack of human influence • Sweeping interlocking ridges and prominent gritstone caps with blockfields on high summits • Dramatic distant views • Peat hags and hidden becks • Occasional crags and cliffs support rare plants.

Within the AONB there is only one Landscape Character Area within the Moorland Summits Character Type, stretching from south east of Cow Green Reservoir to Cross Fell and towards the road at Hartside.



Moorland Summit - Cross Fell © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Moorland Fringe

Upland landscape of improved moorland fringes, intakes and allotments, between the open moors and settled dales • Varied topography including valleys and upper dale sides • The contrasting hardness of layers of limestone, sandstones and shales give the hillsides a stepped appearance • The Whin Sill outcrops locally in low crags • Shallow, infertile or waterlogged peaty soils • A pastoral landscape of wet, rushy pastures, rough grazing and enclosed moorland • Large regular fields of Parliamentary enclosures bounded by low stone walls and wire fences • Varying degrees of improvement and grazing creates a patchwork of muted and brighter greens • Isolated farms built of stone with roofs of stone flag or slate, connected by straight roads from the enclosure period. The farms and field barns of the Raby Estate in Teesdale are painted white • The landscape is generally open with few trees or woodlands • There are occasional clumps of sycamore planted as shelter trees around exposed farms, and scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts with occasional large tracts of commercial forestry on the fringes of the AONB • Relics of the leadmining industry are common – minebuildings, waste heaps, smelter flues, reservoirs and hushes • Visually open and often broad in scale with extensive views across adjacent dales and moors • A remote and tranquil landscape on the margins of settlement and agriculture, sometimes with a slightly neglected quality.

Examples of Landscape Character Areas within Moorland Fringe Character Type include Lunedale and Waskerley Moorland Fringes.



Moorland Fringe – Near Waskerley, Weardale © NPAP/Peter Sansom

Moorland Scarp

Dramatic landforms • A sweep of unimproved rough grazing contrasting with the lower landscape of the foothills and pikes • Exposures of bands of Carboniferous limestone and sandstone • A lack of enclosure • Largely treeless • Long views outwards to the Eden Valley and the Lake District and Howgill Fells.

There are three Character Areas within the Moorland Scarp Character Type: Middle Rigg – Brough, Stainmore; and Lathwaite.



Moorland Scarp – Delfkirk Scar, above Murton on the Eastern Fells © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Upper Dales

A pastoral landscape at the limits of agriculture, high in the upper reaches of the North Pennine dales • Varied valley topography, with most upper dales being relatively shallow and broad • Carboniferous rocks bare of drift or covered by glacial till • Fast-flowing rocky streams • Shallow, infertile or waterlogged soils • Wet rushy pastures, upland hay meadows and rough grazing in the moorland fringes • Few trees or woodlands, with occasional small streamside woods, sparse lines of alder and willow scrub following watercourses; occasional concentrations of regular conifer plantations several of which are in the process of being restructured • Regular patterns of generally large fields with dry stone walls often in a poor state of repair. Scattered field barns and sheep folds • Scattered small farms with occasional farm clusters and hamlets occasionally marked by wind-blown groups of sycamore or pine shelter trees • In Teesdale the tenanted farms of the Raby Estate are painted white • Relics of the lead mining industry – mine buildings, waste heaps, smelt mill flues, reservoirs and hushes. Upper dales in Weardale and the East Allen Valley display a classic miner-farmer appearance of smallholdings • Major reservoirs in several of the Durham dales • Visually open but enclosed by encircling moorland ridgelines • Remote and tranquil landscapes on the margins of settlement and agriculture, with a bleak and neglected quality.

Examples of Landscape Character Areas within the Upper Dales Character Type include Upper Weardale and the Upper South Tyne.



Upper Dales – Forest-in-Teesdale, Upper Teesdale © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Middle Dale

Broad upland valleys with moderately sloping, often gently-stepped valley sides, incised by narrow steep-sided gills • Carboniferous rocks overlain on lower slopes by till give a gently-stepped profile to the upperdale sides in places • The Whin Sill outcrops locally in prominent scars and in Teesdale creates dramatic waterfalls • Narrow floodplains of alluvium or glacial sands and gravels • Rocky fast-flowing rivers and streams • Heavy, often waterlogged clay soils with more fertile brown earths on valley floors •

Improved and semi-improved pastures and flower-rich upland hay meadows • Strong regular or sub-regular patterns of dry stone walls with occasional ash, oak and sycamore field trees • Many walls have irregular stones from field clearances and river beds • Sparsely wooded. Narrow ash and oak-birch woodlands along rivers and streams and daleside gills. Scattered plantations of pine, larch or spruce • Small villages, hamlets and farm clusters follow valley floor roads – scattered farms and field barns on the dale side • Buildings of local stone with roofs of stone flag or slate • Active and abandoned limestone and whinstone quarries prominent on some dale sides • Relics of the lead mining industry – mine buildings, waste heaps, smelt mill flues, reservoirs and hushes • A high concentration of the remains of prehistoric and medieval settlement and agriculture • Major reservoirs in some dales • Visually open but enclosed by encircling moorland ridgelines • A settled and largely tranquil upland landscape that, with its vernacular buildings, field boundaries and traditionally managed meadows and pastures, has a strong sense of both visual unity and cultural continuity.

Examples of Landscape Character Areas within the Middle Dales Character Type include Mid Teesdale and the South Tyne downstream from Alston.



Middle Dale – Teesdale, near Holwick © NPAP/Paul Fradsham

Lower Dale

Broad valleys with narrow floodplains or gorges on the valley floor • Winding, rocky fast-flowing rivers • Carboniferous rocks covered by glacial drift, river gravels or alluvium • Limestones, sandstones and shales outcrop occasionally on the sides of gorges and daleside quarries • Heavy clay soils with more fertile brown earths and alluvial soils on the dale floor • Pastoral farmland of improved and semi-improved pastures • Old field systems with sub-regular or linear patterns of hedges and walls • Relics of riggs and furrow, and cultivation terraces • Frequent hedgerow oak, ash, sycamore and wych elm, tree lined watercourses and overgrown hedgerows • Ancient ash and oak woods in gorges and denes • Old villages of vernacular sandstone buildings on the dale floor • Scattered stone farmsteads and field barns • Limestone quarries are locally prominent on the dale side • Visually enclosed by woodlands, trees and hedgerows and defined by high moorland ridgelines.

There are few examples of Landscape Character Areas within the Lower Dales Character Type, the most notable examples being the Lower Allen Valley and Lower Derwent Valley.



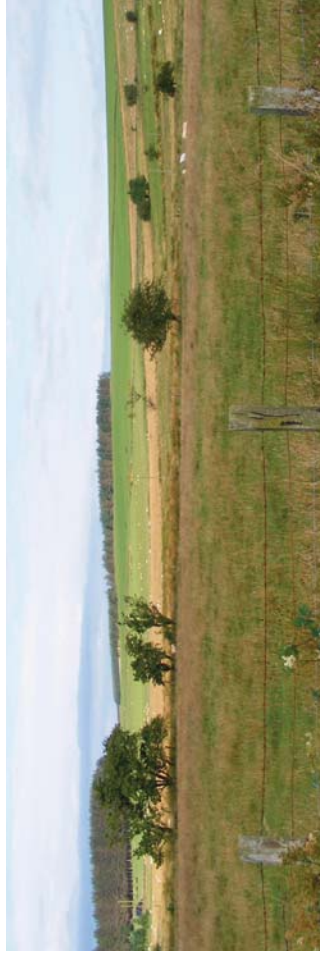
Lower Dale – Near Muggleswick in the Derwent Valley © NPAP/Peter Samsom

Upland Fringe

Broad ridges and shallow valley heads • Gently rounded topography of drift-free, thinly bedded sandstones, mudstones, shales and coals • Occasional steep bluffs and incised denes • Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils with pockets of peaty soils supporting heathland vegetation • Pastoral landuse of

improved or semi-improved pasture with some arable cropping on drier ridges • Regular grids of Parliamentary enclosures bounded by dry stone walls or overgrown hawthorn hedges • Few trees — scattered hedgerow oak, ash, rowan or birch • Sparsely wooded; scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts • Isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads • A visually open landscape with commanding views across adjacent valleys to distant ridges.

This Landscape Character Type is represented by just one Landscape Character Area (split into two parts) – The Rowley Uplands, which form higher ground above the valley of the Rowley Burn.



Upland Fringe– Hexhamshire © NPAP/Peter Samsom

Coalfield Upland Fringe

Broad ridges and shallow valley heads • Gently rounded topography of drift-free, thinly bedded sandstones, mudstones, shales and coals • Occasional steep bluffs and incised denes • Heavy, seasonally waterlogged clay soils with pockets of peaty soils supporting heathland vegetation • Pastoral landuse of improved or semi-improved pasture with some arable cropping on drier ridges • Regular grids of Parliamentary enclosures bounded by dry stone walls or overgrown hawthorn hedges • Few trees — scattered hedgerow oak, ash, rowan or birch • Sparsely wooded — scattered conifer plantations and shelterbelts • Isolated farms connected by straight enclosure roads • Occasional relics of the mining industry including waggonways • A visually open landscape with commanding views across adjacent valleys to distant ridges.

Within the AONB there are two Landscape Character Areas within the Coalfield Upland Fringe Character Type, Derwent Reservoir to Kiln Pit Hill, and Salter's Gate to Castleside, west of the A68.

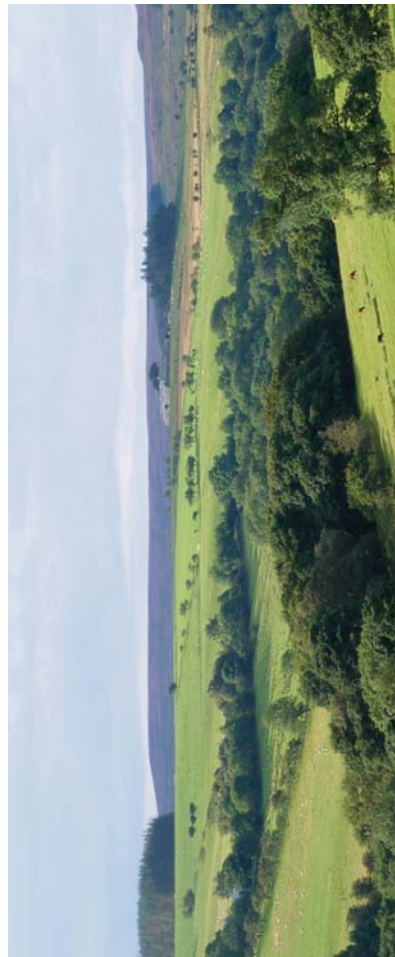


Coalfield Upland Fringe – Near Kiln Pit Hill © NPAP/Peter Samsom

Upland Fringe Valleys

Shallow valleys with occasional narrow floodplains, low bluffs and incised denes • Gently rolling topography of thinly bedded sandstones, mudstones and shales overlain by glacial drift and river terrace gravels • Heavy, seasonally waterlogged, clay soils • Pastoral farmland of improved and semi-improved pasture and meadow • Sub-regular field patterns of old enclosures bounded by overgrown hedges, wire fences and occasional dry stone walls. Occasional regular Parliamentary enclosures • Scattered, locally abundant, hedgerow and field trees — oak, ash and sycamore • Ancient oak woods in narrow denes, on riverside bluffs, and along watercourses • Scattered farms. Buildings are of local sandstone with roofs of slate or stone • Narrow winding lanes and occasional straighter enclosure roads • A well-wooded and timbered landscape creating a high degree of enclosure in places • A tranquil settled rural landscape.

This Landscape Character Type is represented by a single Character Area, the Rowley Burn Valley which takes in the valleys of the Rowley Burn and its tributary the Ham Burn west of Whitley Chapel.

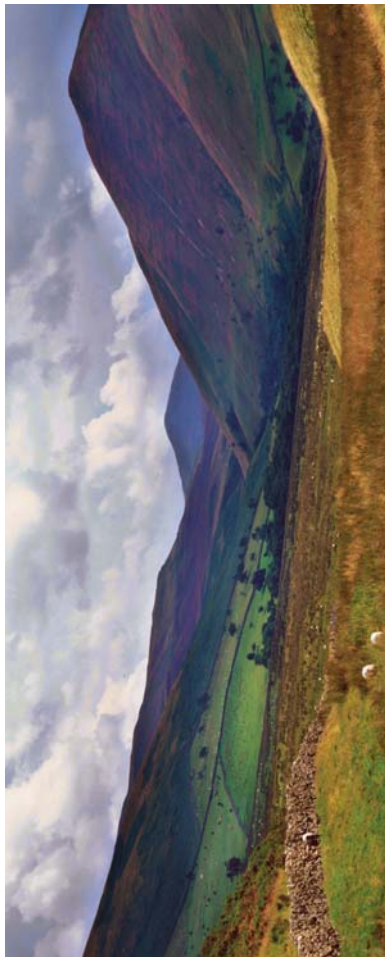


Upland Fringe Valleys – Rowley Burn, Hexhamshire © NPAP/Peter Samsom

Upland Fringe Pikes

Distinctive strip of isolated, conical hills or 'pikes' lying between the escarpment and the Eden Valley • Character is strongly controlled by rock type and geological structure (Ordovician and Silurian volcanic and slaty rocks, akin to those of the Lake District) • The pikes form a strip which is separated from the Carboniferous rocks of the escarpment and the Permo-Triassic rocks of the Eden Valley, by major and complex geological faults (fractures in the Earth's crust along which there has been movement) • There is little glacial material on the pikes, resulting in smooth grass-covered slopes with scattered small rock exposures • The steep pike sides are covered in close-cropped turf, with patches of bracken and sparse hawthorn bushes on the lower slopes • Small disused roadstone quarries on the lower pike sides • Land between and around the pikes is a mixture of rolling, improved grazing pasture, and patches of natural/semi-natural woodland and boggy ground along streams • Dry stone walls, some of which contain a mix of rock types, reflecting the pikes' position between the escarpment and the Eden Valley • Glacial meltwaters have enhanced valleys which have formed along lines of geological faults, resulting in steep-sided valleys • Scattered farms and barns, commonly on the Eden Valley side of the pikes.

There is only one Landscape Character Area within this Character Type, stretching from Murtan Pike to Burney Hill.



Upland Fringe Pikes — Knock Pike © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

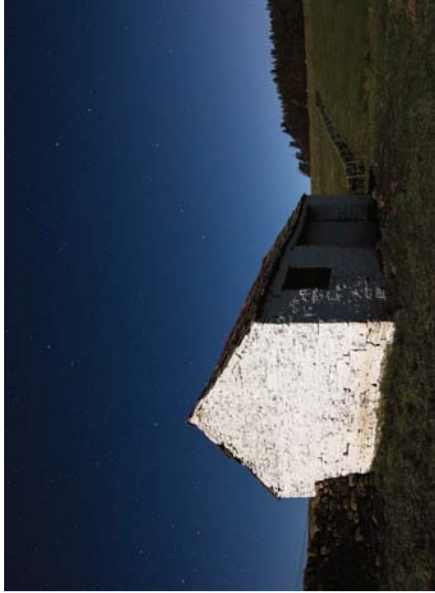
Upland Fringe Foothills

Rolling farmland with low hills • A transitional landscape, between the higher country of the Carboniferous limestones, sandstones and shales, (and in some places the older, more rounded, hills of the upland fringe pikes), and the Eden Valley to the west • Dispersed settlement pattern. Red sandstone villages reflecting underlying Permo-Triassic sandstones and served by narrow lanes • Field systems mainly the product of late enclosure and bounded mainly by stone walls with a small number of hedges • Pockets of semi-natural woodland in small valleys.

There is only one Character Area within this Character Type, stretching from near Tindale in the north, to Nateby in the south (where it is split in two by an area of moorland fringe and moorland).



Upland Fringe Foothills – Near Cumrew © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett



Bowlees Field Barn © Visit County Durham



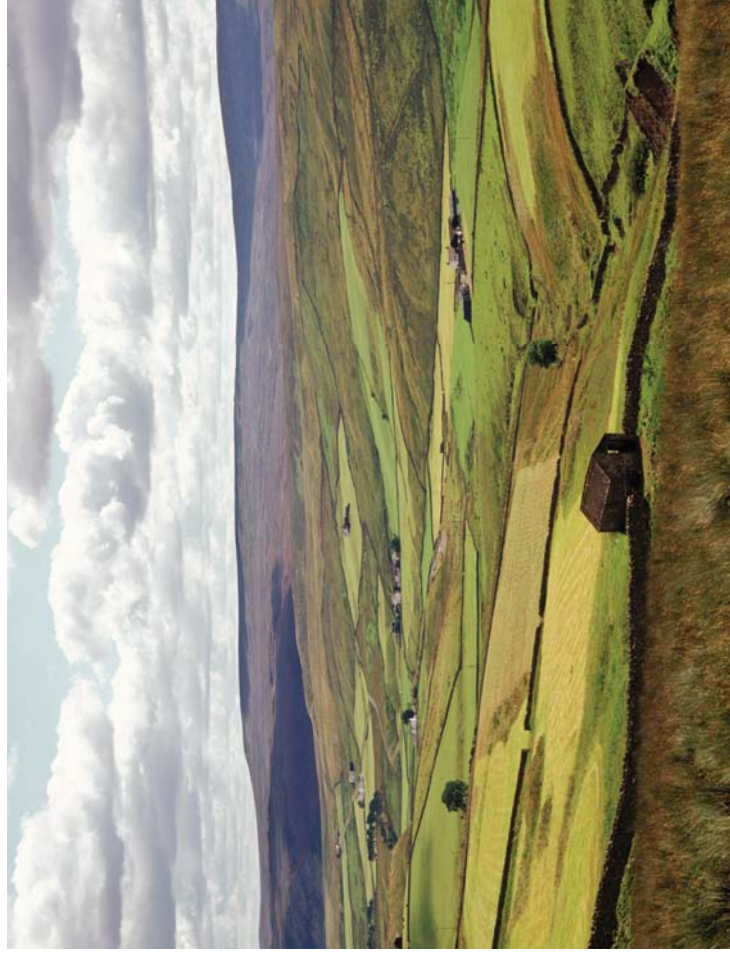
Young woodland © Steve Westberg, RSPB



Castle Carrock © Natural England/ Charlie Hedley

Action for landscape quality and character

- Local authorities should have robust AONB policies in their Local Plans to ensure that development protects the area's special qualities and does not compromise the purpose of designation, taking account of the AONB Planning Guidelines, Building Design Guide and Moorland Tracks Guidance.
- Neighbourhood Plans within the AONB and its setting should include policies which meet community need whilst supporting the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and bolstering the character of local settlements.
- Public bodies should be aware of, and fulfill, their duty of regard under S.89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000):
- Complete a more detailed landscape character assessment for the area
- Support the conservation of drystone walls, field barns, biolds and other characteristic features of the landscape, through development management and agri-environment schemes
- Sensitively expand the area of native and mixed woodland
- Establish a programme of planting individual trees as important landscape features of the future
- Underground overhead wires for landscape and visual amenity purposes as part of the Price Control Review scheme for Protected Areas, encouraging links with BT wherever possible
- Ensure that the management of roads does not detract from the rural character of the area (whilst taking essential action to promote safety)
- Ensure the conservation of the special quality of truly dark night skies in the North Pennines
- Explore and support opportunities for large-scale 'wildland' projects, and in all activities seek to move the landscape further along a 'spectrum of wildness'.



Special grasslands

The North Pennines AONB has more grassland of wildlife importance than most other areas in the country. Herb-rich grasslands are now very rare in the countryside in general, but the relatively less intensive farming practised here in recent decades has allowed more species-rich grasslands to survive. Some of these grasslands can have up to 40 species in a square metre of ground. This diversity in plant species in turn provides excellent habitat for a wide range of specialised insects and other animals, many of which depend on particular uncommon plant species or the unusual habitat conditions provided. Many of these grasslands also support characteristic birds of the area, such as lapwing, curlew and snipe. The main types of important grasslands in the AONB are described below. Grassland habitats were created by traditional management practices and require continuing management in order to survive.

Action for our grasslands

- Agri-environment schemes should target species-rich grasslands in the North Pennines
- Use appropriate levels of grazing and/or cutting to maintain or enhance biodiversity – traditional breeds can be a valuable tool in this management
- Use very little or no fertiliser on species-rich grassland
- Avoid the loss of any species-rich grassland to ploughing, reseeding or fertilisation
- Do not undertake drainage of species-rich wet grassland
- Take every opportunity to enhance/restore species-rich, or potentially species-rich, grasslands
- Control rabbits where essential
- Undertake monitoring and research on species-rich grasslands
- Take action to promote people's understanding and enjoyment of these special grasslands through events and interpretation.

Upland limestone grassland

Upland limestone grassland can occur wherever limestone is close to the surface. This type of grassland is often much richer in flowers than the surrounding grasslands and is characterised by lime-loving species such as wild thyme, common rock-rose and fairy flax.

Much of the upland limestone grassland in the AONB is characterised by blue moor-grass. In Britain this type of grassland only occurs in Northern England.





Bird's eye primrose © Shane Harris



Haymeadows in Upper Teesdale © NPAP/Rebecca Barrett

In Upper Teesdale a unique type of upland limestone grassland occurs on crumbling 'Sugar Limestone'. Not only is this grassland very flower-rich but it also includes a number of very rare arctic and alpine species such as false sedge, Teesdale violet, spring gentian, hoary rockrose, bird's-eye primrose, mountain avens, and hoary whitowgrass. Many of these plants are thought to have survived here since the last glaciation.

Another special type of limestone grassland, rich in flowers, including several of the Teesdale rarities, also occurs in the area along the banks of the Tees upstream from Wynch Bridge. In Britain, this type of grassland occurs only in northern England. Other types of upland limestone grassland are scattered around the AONB, especially in Teesdale, Weardale, South Tynedale and the Upper Eden Valley.

Action for our upland limestone grassland

- Manage grassland to maintain sward height suitable for rare plants
- Control rabbits where essential.

Upland hay meadows

Over 40% of all the UK's upland hay meadows are in the North Pennines AONB! This is now a rare habitat throughout Europe and is recognised as of European importance. Livestock are removed from these fields in late spring and the fields are cut for hay in late summer to provide fodder for grazing animals over the winter.

The best upland hay meadows are very species-rich and differ from hay meadows in the lowlands in having several characteristic 'northern' species such as wood crane's-bill, globeflower, marsh hawk's-beard, and melancholy thistle. A very special group of upland hay meadow plants are the Lady's-mantles. Nine of these Lady's-mantles occur in the AONB, six of which are rare species and three of them occur nowhere else in Britain.

Our hay meadows are also of importance for breeding birds such as curlew, redshank and lapwing, and as a feeding area for birds such as black grouse. They were once home to the enigmatic corncrake and with the right management, these special birds could return to the North Pennines each spring, as they did in the past.

The best upland hay meadows are now scattered around the dales of the AONB. Parts of the upper sections of Teesdale, Weardale and South Tynedale, as well as parts of Lunedale, Baldersdale and East Allendale, support particularly good examples.

Action for our upland hay meadows

- Species-rich meadows should be cut for hay rather than for haylage or silage, whenever the weather allows
- Cut in the summer after most of the plants have flowered and set seed
- Graze fields in autumn (and lightly in spring if this has been traditional in the field)
- Walkers should only access hay meadows using Public Rights of Way
- Manage grazing intensities on our special grasslands to enable more plants to flower and set seed
- Take every opportunity to enhance/restore species-rich, or potentially species-rich, grasslands.

Species-rich road verges and riverbanks

Grasslands along roadside verges and riverbanks would have been an integral part of farm management in the past but often are now fenced off and unmanaged. Species-rich plant communities similar to those in hay meadows or limestone grassland sometimes survive in these areas, even when the special grassland within the adjacent fields has been lost. The best examples of these habitats are also scattered around the dales of the AONB. There is good access to the riverbanks in Upper Teesdale (upstream from Newbiggin) and in Upper South Tynedale (between Alston and Garrigill), which are particularly spectacular. Flower-rich road verges are relatively widespread along the roads through the dales but many are under threat from poor management.

Action for our species-rich road verges and riverbanks

- Avoid neglect of species-rich verges; cut in late summer and remove the cuttings - some may require an annual cut, others less frequent management
- Protect species-rich riverbanks from under/over-grazing and erosion.

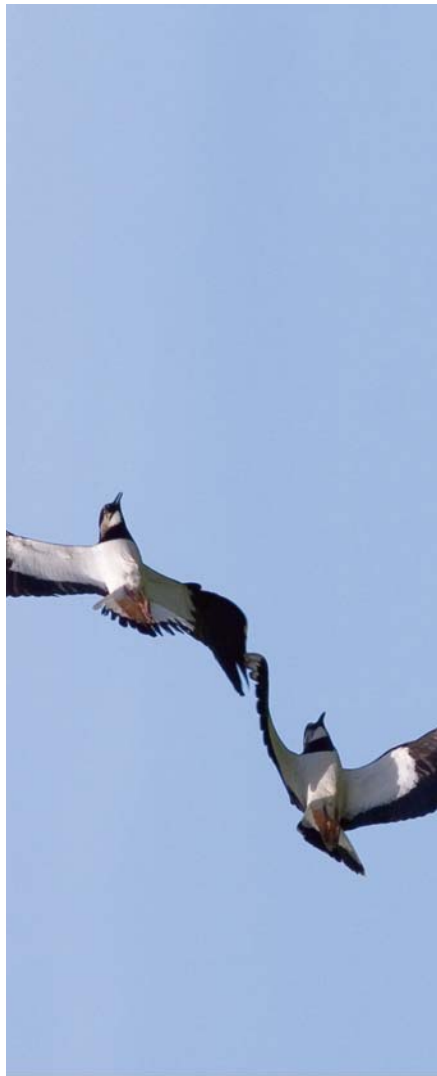
Allotments and pastures - a wader hotspot

The large fields between the moorland and the more intensively managed fields in the valley bottom provide a gradual change in habitat and are particularly valuable for black grouse and for breeding waders such as curlew, snipe and lapwing.

In the British context, the density of the breeding waders here is second only to the Outer Hebrides, and



Mountain pansies © Elizabeth Pickett



Lapwings, Brian Irving © Helm Images

this habitat, allied to ground-predator control, is part of the reason why the wading birds do so well. The North Pennines is now a stronghold for the curlew which, owing to dramatic declines, is classed as globally near-threatened. These fields are often a mosaic of vegetation height with wet areas with patches of rushes and drier areas providing an ideal range of habitat conditions for waders. The vegetation is often not very species-rich but some areas can be of botanical interest, especially where no fertiliser has been used or where lime rich water seeps to the surface from the underlying limestone.

Large numbers of breeding waders can be found in spring and summer in this type of habitat in more or less every part of the AONB below the moorland wall. The upper reaches of Upper Teesdale and the Harwood Valley have particularly high densities of breeding waders.

Action for waders in our allotments and pastures

- Retain the current balance of wet and drier areas. Re-wetting may be appropriate in certain locations
- Graze to enhance sward type and structure
- Manage rush cover across the whole field, ensuring a range of vegetation heights.

Calaminarian (or heavy metal) grassland

Due to the long history of mining for lead, zinc and other minerals in the North Pennines, there are many areas of land contaminated with heavy metals. These include spoil heaps close to old workings and flat gravely areas alongside rivers, where the metals have been deposited in floods. Unusual plant communities develop in these areas, including some plants that are specially adapted to this habitat such as spring sandwort, alpine penny-cress and thrift (more usually found in coastal grasslands).

Mountain pansies are often very plentiful in these areas and there are often specialised mosses,

liverworts and lichens on the less vegetated areas. A rare and unusual orchid, narrow-lipped helleborine, grows on contaminated soil under birch. This habitat is recognised as being of Europe-wide importance.

The best river gravel calaminarian grasslands occur in places along the South Tyne and the East and West Allen. Spoil heaps are widespread throughout the area but unfortunately on many of these the vegetation has developed so much that the specialised metal-tolerant plants have all but disappeared.

Action for our calaminarian grasslands

- Promote the conservation of calaminarian grasslands through disturbance where required (disturbance is needed in order for the specialised metal-tolerant plants to survive competition when a new layer of soil builds up on top of the contaminated soil)
- Where light grazing or cutting proves insufficient to maintain sites, more drastic management, such as topsoil stripping, may be needed for the most important sites
- Consider impacts on water quality in any management for this habitat.

Other valuable grasslands

Other types of species-rich grassland occur locally but are often less well known and understood than those mentioned above. There are occasional examples of species-rich types of vegetation that occur in other parts of the country, such as lowland meadows and pastures. These are valuable not because they are unique to this area, but because of the overall rarity of this habitat in the UK.

Steep or awkward banks within fields, being difficult to access with modern machinery, have often received little or no fertiliser and some have retained species-rich, flowery habitats. Various different types of vegetation can occur, depending on the type of soil, but where these areas have a good cover of betony or bitter-vetch, it is often worth looking for rare plants such as small-white orchid, greater butterfly-orchid and field gentian.

There are many small abandoned quarries in the North Pennines and where these have been allowed to revegetate naturally they often develop into very rich habitats. Different plant communities and habitat conditions develop on different parts of the quarry floor and sides.

These types of grasslands are scattered around the North Pennines, often in quite small patches. Good places to look include streamside banks or ghylls and any of the accessible quarries eg. Bowlees Quarry. Please be aware of hazards such as rough ground, loose rocks on cliffs and holes in quarries.

Action for our other valuable grasslands

- Encourage management of all grasslands through cutting or grazing or both — the intensity of the management needed varies depending on the precise conditions in each area
- Where this does not damage or obscure notable features of geological interest, allow vegetation in quarries to develop naturally when the quarries cease to be active.

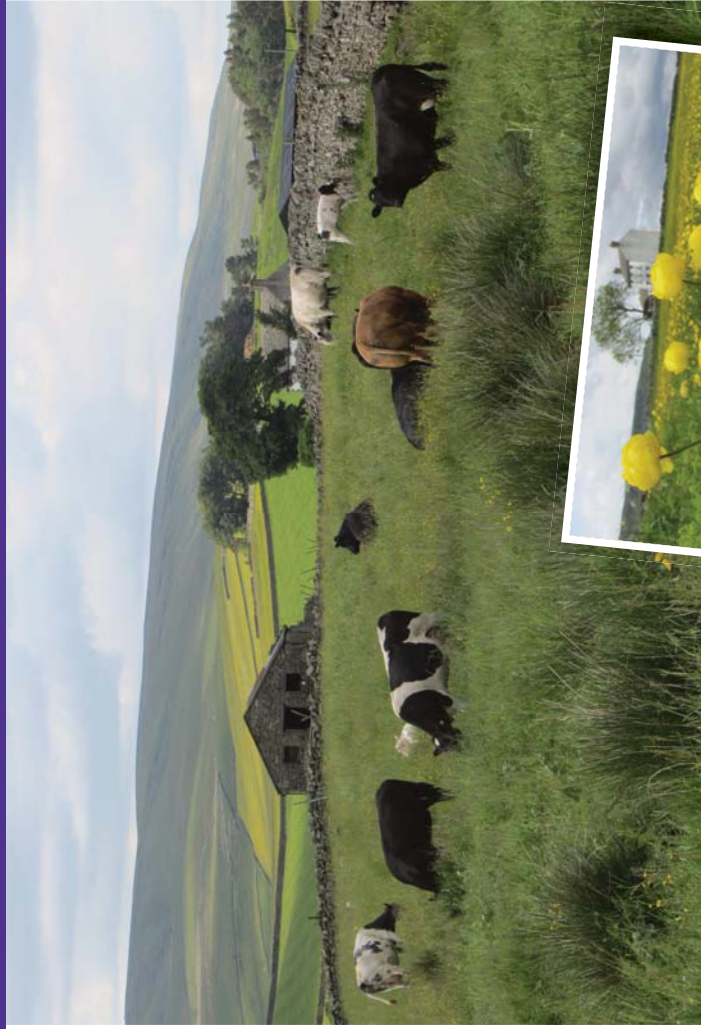
High Nature Value farming

High Nature Value farming is a term used to describe low-intensity farming systems that support high levels of biodiversity and provide other important ecosystem services such as the storage of water and carbon. The upper dales of the North Pennines provide fine examples of High Nature Value farming and are characterised by low-intensity livestock grazing, principally sheep and beef cattle. These hill farms typically comprise a number of hay meadows and pastures enclosed by stone walls close to the farmstead, one or more extensive rough pasture 'allotments' below the moor wall plus grazing rights on the adjacent heather moorland and blanket bog on the summit plateau.

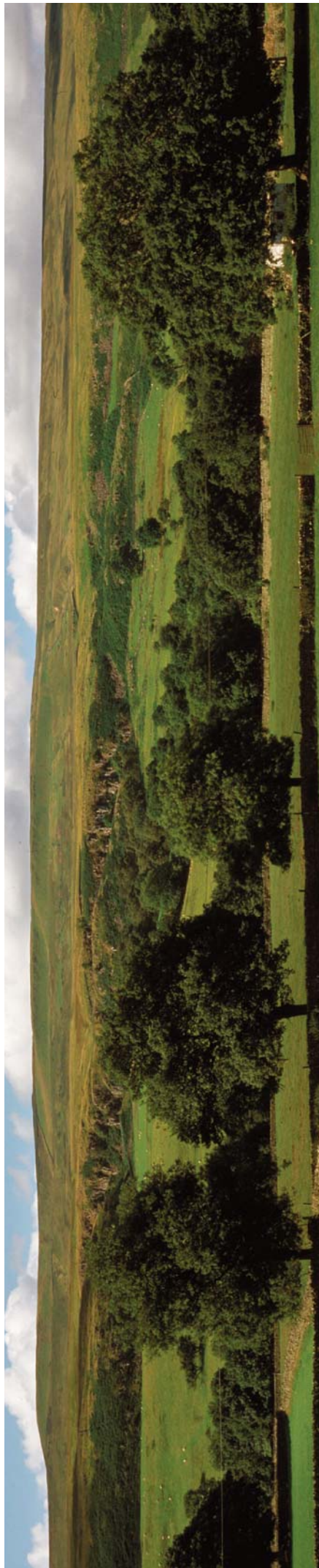
The practice of High Nature Value farming has led to the retention of important habitats and landscape features that have been largely lost elsewhere. A perfect example is the 'moorland fringe', a wide belt of pasture and 'allotment' land with a characteristically tussocky nature which acts as a 'buffer' between the moorland and more intensively managed grasslands below. This 'messy edge' is of national importance for ground-nesting birds like curlew, snipe and black grouse and its progressive loss is a principal reason for the decline of these species in other upland areas.

From a biodiversity perspective, the habitat diversity found in the upper dales is the key to their importance. Though valuable in their own right, it is the juxtaposition of grasslands managed in different ways which is so vital, enabling birds and invertebrates to move between them and exploit their resources at different times of year. The extensively-grazed rough grasslands at the moorland fringe lie next to damp, rushy pastures which themselves adjoin hay meadows rich in flowering plants. This intimate mosaic of habitats enables the survival of mobile creatures that depend on different elements of the landscape at different times. The bilberry bumblebee feeds on heather moorland in the early summer and then moves down to hay meadows when they are in flower; black grouse and grey partridge breed on the moorland fringe grasslands but depend on hay meadows later in the season; waders nest in these fields and flocks of curlews and lapwings visit the meadows to feed after the hay has been cut.

Throughout the farming year livestock are moved between the meadows, pastures, allotments and moorland. Typically hill sheep graze the higher grasslands and moorland throughout the year, being brought onto the enclosed pastures and meadows at lambing time in the spring or in the winter. Cattle graze the pastures in the summer and the meadows in the autumn; most are housed over winter. Despite the arrival of tractors, quadbikes and other trappings of modern agriculture, the traditional pattern of farming in the North Pennines has remained largely unchanged for generations. As a result, the grasslands of the upper dales abound with once-common wildlife, now sadly lost from much of the rest of the English landscape.



Above: cattle grazing in Upper Teesdale © NPAP
Right: globe flowers in Upper Teesdale © NPAP



© Natural England / Charlie Hedley

Action for High Nature Value (HNV) farming

- A results-based, outcome-focused approach to agri-environment payments should be designed and delivered as locally as possible
- Support and strengthen the farmer-led Northern Hill Farming Panel, created through the NUCNLP, to give a stronger voice to upland farmers
- Establish HNV farming demonstration sites to provide peer-to-peer and farmer-to-public training and awareness-raising opportunities
- Provide, as a priority, joint training and knowledge exchange between farmers and conservation bodies and encourage and support collaboration between all parties
- Use the 'Tees-Swale, naturally connected' project as vehicle to showcase how HNV farming and a results-based approach can deliver major benefits for nature and farmers – further action for grasslands on farms can be found in the grasslands section.

However subtle changes are taking place. Hay meadows are being grazed more intensely in the spring and artificial fertilisers are increasingly favoured. Small-scale wetlands are disliked as they impede quadbike access. Housed cattle can produce large amounts of 'muck' which is spread in large quantities on meadows. The number of truly species-rich hay meadows in the North Pennines is declining, despite significant restoration work in recent years. These changes are an inevitable consequence of progress in agricultural technology and of stretched farm incomes and can only be reversed through policy change and appropriate incentives.

Poor recognition of the value of low-intensity grasslands is a further threat. The term 'marginal land' is often used to refer to land of lower agricultural productivity. In the North Pennines this tends to be High Nature Value farmland — principally the moorland fringe. With much discussion currently focused on the future of hill farming and support for the uplands, there are new pressures to target commercial forestry towards farmland that is considered 'marginal' when in fact it is of vital importance from wildlife, landscape and cultural perspectives.



Turning hay near Garrigill © NPAP

A small number of High Nature Value farmers in the upper dales of the North Pennines AONB are the managing custodians of some of the richest wildlife habitats remaining in England. The role they and their ancestors before them have played in maintaining these habitats on behalf of the nation should be fully recognised, together with the pressures they face in making an acceptable living in a harsh environment. These communities merit targeted action to both support the low-intensity farming they practice and the wildlife that depends upon this.

Moorlands

From the high summits of Cross Fell and the windswept expanses of blanket bog on the plateau above Lunedale, to the high ridges between the eastern and northern dales, the moorland landscapes of the North Pennines are England's wildest places. They are home to some of our most charismatic wildlife and have a sense of naturalness and remoteness found in few other places in our crowded country.

Sense of wildness

This sense of wildness is more imagined than real, as even the most remote summits have been affected by human activity for centuries, be it by grazing livestock, burning or latterly the digging of drains (grips). Most of our moorland landscapes have also been shaped by management for grouse shooting. There are few human-made structures on the moors and most of those that occur, such as the redundant mine shops and smelt mill chimneys, contribute to their wild character. This, and the often dramatic weather, can make them feel like a place apart from the world below. A walk on the moors offers a sense of tranquillity and isolation that is difficult to find elsewhere in England.

Forty five percent of the AONB (almost 90,000 ha) is covered by wild expanses of peatlands, over 66% of which are SSSI. This represents over 20% of England's SSSI blanket bog. A good quality tract of blanket bog in the North Pennines contains heather, cross-leaved heath, hare's-tail cottongrass, bilberry, common cottongrass, cloudberry, deergrass, crowberry and bog asphodel, as well as many species of peat-building Sphagnum moss. In the past, some areas have been damaged by over-grazing or inappropriate burning but it is hoped that agri-environment schemes and changing approaches to management outlined in the Upland Management Group's 'Blanket Bog Land Management Guidance' will reduce both of these problems.

Peatland services

Today the uplands are increasingly valued for the services that peatlands provide for society if they are well cared for and allowed to develop as functioning wetland ecosystems. These services, notably carbon storage, flood risk amelioration and drinking water provision, are of great value to us all as we face an uncertain future with the onset of climate change.

There is more carbon stored in the peatland of the UK than in all the forests of France, Germany and the UK combined, and in the North Pennines peatlands alone there is estimated to be stored 50 years' worth of Drax Power Station emissions! Years of 'gripping' (the cutting of drains in the peat), driven by misguided Government policy, is being reversed (there were 9,600 km of grips criss-crossing our uplands, but we are a long way towards resolving this issue). Increasing amounts of bare and eroding peat are now being restored, all of which ensures that our peatlands keep serving society into the future.

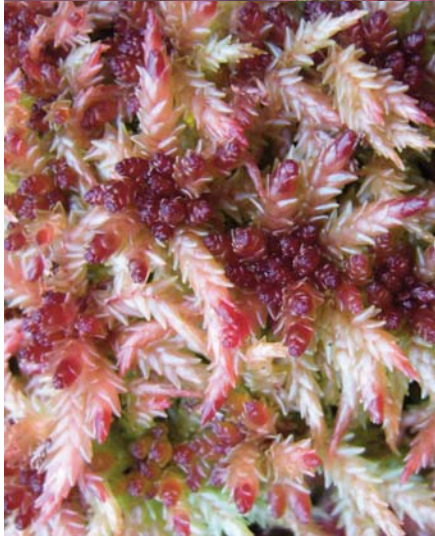




Hen harrier, Brian Irving © Helm Images



Grip blocking on the North Pennine moors © Natural England/Charlie Hadley



Sphagnum magellanicum © NPAP



Red grouse © Laurie Campbell

Historic environment

Peat preserves vital evidence for landscape change since the end of the last glaciation in the form of pollen grains and other organic remains which rarely survive in other environments. When the peat is disturbed or allowed to dry out, this evidence can be lost forever. The peat of the North Pennines has yielded 4,000-year-old horns of aurochs (extinct wild cattle) and a mysterious 18th century coffin containing a body and a bullet. Many more extraordinary finds must still lie buried within the peat, but will only survive for future discovery if we maintain our peatlands in good condition.

Heathland

The moorland habitats include 36% of England's upland heathland. Dry heath, which covers 14% of the AONB (almost 30,000 ha), is dominated by heather (ling) and bell heather and occurs on the steeper hill slopes and as mosaics with acid grasslands. Wet heath, characterised by cross-leaved heath and/or purple moorgrass, occurs in waterlogged valleys and in association with blanket bog. Although this habitat is generally poor in plant species it supports a variety of dwarf shrubs and is rich in invertebrates.

Montane heath

The highest ground in England, outside the Lake District, can be found in the North Pennines and on the highest and most exposed land is a montane heath with prostrate, weather-beaten shrubs, mosses and lichens; more typical of parts of the Scottish Highlands. Seepages at these higher elevations support a montane 'brown flush' vegetation community found nowhere else in England. This includes common yellow sedge, yellow mountain saxifrage, Alpine meadow-rue and three-flowered rush. The North Pennines has one of the largest populations in the world of the endangered marsh saxifrage, which grows in flushes on the high moors.

Acid grassland

Our upland limestone grasslands are described on pages 34 and 35 of this Plan, but there are also four main types of acid grassland in the North Pennines totaling 44,000 ha (almost 21% of the AONB), distinguished by their dominant species — mat grass, sheep's fescue, common bent, wavy hair grass and heath rush. Large areas remain because they are difficult to improve for agriculture. It is possible to restore some of the less modified acid grasslands to heathland, though this must be balanced with areas where dwarf shrubs have been lost that are still important for breeding waders.

Birds and animals

Our moorlands are also important for a variety of specialised birds. Moorland management supports abundant red grouse, which feed on the young tips of heather. Large areas are covered by the Special

Protection Area designation under the EU Birds Directive and Special Area of Conservation designation under the Habitats Directive. Eighty percent of England's black grouse, and important numbers of other 'Annex 1' species including curlew, golden plover and merlin are also found here and utilise surrounding farmland. Peregrine and hen harrier numbers are much lower than their SPA target, with both species now very rare breeders — though there are multiple factors affecting the success of individual nests; illegal persecution is still likely to be the reason why some raptor species fare so poorly across large parts of the northern uplands; building trust and collaboration is an important element of resolving this issue, alongside a robust approach to illegal activity.

Other birds breeding on or using our moors include short-eared owl, red kite (both also victims of illegal persecution), merlin, ring ouzel, dunlin, redshank, oystercatcher and meadow pipit. Adders are relatively common here, and the wetter areas of our moors are home to water voles and amphibians.

Action for our moorlands

- Continue landscape-scale work to restore bare and eroding peat and to block any remaining grips (drains), to support the services peatlands provide for society
- End rotational burning of blanket bog. Restoration of blanket bog should be primarily driven by hydrological restoration, with other interventions, such as burning and cutting, focussing on those areas where it is essential to break the dominance of heather and aid ecological recovery
- Manage grazing pressure to favour conservation (including having a better balance of sheep and cattle on the moors and managing rabbit grazing)
- Encourage a more structurally diverse transition into moorland habitat eg. through a structurally richer and more biodiverse fringe of scrub such as hawthorn, willow, alder, birch and aspen
- Ensure a collaborative approach between all parties to raise awareness of, and bring an end to, raptor persecution and to prosecute incidences of criminality
- Use responsible, proportionate and legal predator control to benefit key species eg. curlew
- Control bracken encroachment
- Ensure moorlands are entered into new agri-environment schemes based on payment for public goods
- Resist pressure for developments which erode openness and tranquillity of peatland, such as large wind turbines and poorly-sited telecom masts
- Guard against accidental fire and arson
- Cease track-building on deep peat
- Support the implementation of the IUCN UK Peatland Code and the development of new financing mechanisms for peatland restoration.

Trees and woodlands



Wild garlic © Rebecca Barrett

Human activity over the last twelve thousand years has responded to the natural history of the North Pennines to create the landscape we enjoy today. Woodland is no exception. At first, woodland clearings were made by hunter gatherers to attract large game such as deer. With the adoption of agriculture, woodland was progressively cleared and by the time of the Roman occupation in the early centuries AD woodland was only a minor component of the North Pennines landscape. After the collapse of the Roman Empire there was a period of woodland regeneration and medieval communities of the North Pennines benefitted from an extensive fringe of scrubby wood pasture around many of the North Pennine Fells. This provided habitat for red deer and black grouse and much of it was included in areas designated as hunting forest for the benefit of the local lords such as the Bishop of Durham. It also provided fuel for domestic use and for smelting iron and lead. By the time of the Black Death in the mid-14th century most of the wood pasture was cleared or grazed out and is now represented by small areas of gill woodland and juniper scrub. Some of the remaining woodland was enclosed in medieval parks and was often used as coppice woodland, as it was in Stanhope and Wolsingham parks. The last few centuries have seen the planting of many hedgerows and boundary trees as a result of the enclosure of common fields, meadows and pastures, giving the lower and middle dales a deceptively wooded look; large areas of conifer plantation have been created; coppice management has ceased. The last time many of our ancient woodlands were felled was during the timber shortages of the second world war.

Using the National Forest Inventory data (2016) there are 5,225 ha of woodland in the AONB (including 619 ha mapped as 'assumed woodland'), though there are further 1,151 ha of felled land which is likely to be replanted, giving a total of 6,376 ha. Included in the different categorisations is: 2,048 ha of broadleaved woodland, 2,155 ha of coniferous woodland, 152 ha of mixed woodland but mainly broadleaves, 143 ha of mixed woodland but mainly conifer and 523 ha mapped as 'young trees'. Included in the above is 541 ha of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), 930 ha of the broadleaved woodland is ancient and semi-natural.

Many of the ancient semi-natural woodlands occur in steep gills, which have been too difficult to clear for agriculture or graze with sheep. Others are found along river valleys, particularly the Allen and the South Tyne.

Woodland types

Principal woodland types found in the North Pennines are important in their own right for their contribution to the landscape and for the biodiversity which they support, which includes red squirrels in several locations. Isolated trees and small groups of trees are also a distinctive feature in the landscape.



Juniper scrub at Moor House-Upper Teesdale NNR © Natural England/Charlie Hedley



Red squirrel © Laurie Campbell

Upland mixed ash woods

Upland mixed ash woods occur on base rich soils and are dominated by ash and wych elm, with birch, sessile oak, hazel, rowan and bird cherry. The ground flora is herb-rich and is notable for bright displays of flowers such as bluebell, primrose, wood crane's-bill and wild garlic. Wood avens, common dog violet and wood sorrel are also regular features of the ground flora, which is often rich in ferns due to its higher humidity; it is also rich in bryophytes. The future is uncertain for our ash woods, and important stands of ash in the landscape.

Good examples of these woodlands can be found in parts of Teesdale, Weardale, the Greta Valley and the Derwent Valley. The Helbeck and Swindale Woods Special Area of Conservation near Brough is considered to be one of the best examples of this woodland type in the UK.

Upland oak woods

Upland oak woods are found on free-draining more acidic soils. As well as sessile oak, downy and silver birch are also present as canopy species, with an understorey of rowan, hazel and holly. Ground flora varies with soil type and degree of grazing, but typically includes species such as wavy hair grass, wood sorrel, wood anemone, bluebell and bilberry.

Birdlife in these woods is typical of many such woodlands in the northern and western UK, supporting migrant wood warbler, pied flycatcher, redstart and tree pipit, as well as a range of common resident species. These birds are undergoing significant national declines and in the North Pennines there are opportunities to contribute to their conservation. These woods also support a diverse community of lichens and bryophytes.

This woodland type now typically occurs as fragments, surviving in steep-sided gills, with few blocks in excess of five hectares in size. It is believed that approximately 845ha of upland oak woodland remains in the AONB with over half of this being in the Allen and South Tyne Valleys. Derwent Gorge National Nature Reserve and the Gelt Valley also have significant areas of species-rich oak woodland.

Wood pasture

Wood-pasture is the product of historic land management, often considered to have been the result of early farming practice where animals, notably pigs and cattle, were grazed in woods (perhaps even our post ice age 'wild wood') at certain times of year. Parkland is associated with wood pasture, being merely a more formalised, often planted, landscape, with grazing or browsing animals. Wood pasture is really a vegetation structure rather than a particular plant community commonly with large, open-grown or high forest trees (often pollards) at various densities, in a matrix of grazed grassland, heathland and/or woodland floras. Scrub habitats will fringe wood pastures as the variations in grazing pressure will allow regeneration of trees along with hawthorn and gorse, which in turn protect future high forest trees. They are frequently good sites for old-growth features and deadwood, supporting a wide range of specialist fungi and invertebrate species. They are also notable for red data book birds such as cuckoo, redstart and tree pipit. Oak, ash, alder and birch are often typical of the species found in our northern wood pasture, but their distribution and the species associated with them can differ dependent upon location and age. The North Pennines has little true wood pasture at scale, but examples can be found at Dufton Pike (alder carr woodland) and on the Gelt at Geltsdale (alder woodland with birch ash and oak).

Wet woodland

Wet woodlands are found on poorly drained soils across the AONB, particularly in river valleys, and are dominated by alder, birch and willows. They are an important winter food source for black grouse. Extensive floodplain and hillside wet woodland is now extremely rare and the alder-ash woodlands of the North Pennines are of national importance.



Edmundbyers



Woodland in the South Tyne valley



Derwent Gorge

Juniper scrub

Juniper is one of Britain's few native evergreen shrubs and juniper scrub is an increasingly scarce and fragmented habitat. Juniper stands occur at very scattered localities within the North Pennine dales, although the Moor House-Upper Teesdale NNR contains one of Britain's largest stands, with at least 15,000 bushes, covering around 100 ha. What remains is often even-aged, dominated by older bushes, with virtually no regeneration occurring. Juniper is also under threat from phytophthora. Managing juniper is a notoriously difficult task and it will require considerable conservation effort to maintain the nationally important juniper scrub of the North Pennines.

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites

2016 NFI data cut to the AONB boundary identifies 542 ha of plantations on ancient woodland sites. These areas offer opportunities for broadleaved woodland restoration.

Conifer plantations

Coniferous plantation woodlands make up a substantial proportion of the area's woodland cover. These plantations are widespread, but are concentrated along the upland fringes and lowland hills of Teesdale and Weardale. In the past, semi-natural woods, heath, mire and grassland communities were planted with conifers; there is scope for the removal or restructuring of this non-native stock where remnants of the original ground flora still exist. That said, it is important to take into account the value of retaining conifer plantations for livestock shelter, carbon sequestration and habitat for species such as red squirrels. Proposals for new native woodland planting should also take into account the need to minimise the potential for grey squirrels to colonise isolated red squirrel sites.

Montane forest

Montane forest habitats have been absent from the area for hundreds of years, but they are a habitat which could be restored with an approach which favoured natural processes. New ELMS may provide opportunities to bring this habitat back through natural regeneration, being mindful of the benefits and at the same time considering existing conservation interests.

There is much scope for creating new native woodlands across the AONB, which can conserve and enhance landscape character, increase biodiversity, store and sequester carbon, keep rivers cool and provide timber.

Action for our trees and woods

- Expand the area of woodland cover, with a primary focus on native broadleaves. Encourage natural regeneration wherever possible
- Plant trees following the principle of the 'right tree, in the right place', avoiding peatland, species-rich grassland, important areas for wading birds and historic features; the potential cumulative impact of each new plantation should be recognised
- Bring management back to neglected woodlands
- Restore plantation on ancient woodland sites through conversion to native broadleaves
- Promote diversity in existing conifer plantations by restructuring and restocking with native broadleaves
- Encourage markets for wood and wood products to foster woodland management
- End grazing in over-grazed woods and exclude stock from ASNW unless specifically managed as wood pasture; manage neglected wood pasture to promote structural/biodiversity
- Manage veteran trees to ensure they can complete their full life cycle and ensure recruitment of new veterans
- Control the spread of non-native species
- Promote the planting of single field trees for their future landscape and biodiversity value
- Promote hedgerow restoration where these are neglected or lost, including support through ELMS
- Understand and adapt to tree pests and diseases (including Chalara, Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora austrocedrii)
- Minimise risks to wet woodland caused by lowering of the water table through drainage and abstraction, poor water quality, some flood prevention measures and the water-borne fungal disease Phytophthora.

Rivers and wetlands

The world famous rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees all have their birthplace high in the North Pennine hills. The rivers of the North Pennines have been important to people since the first modern humans came here shortly after the retreat of the glaciers at the end of the last ice age. They have been sources of clean water, power for medieval corn mills and sometimes used for transport. They are crossed by several historic bridges. During the 18th and 19th centuries hundreds of small reservoirs were built on the moors to support the lead industry; these waterbodies now support significant populations of amphibians. Another product of this industry was the construction of streamside lead-dressing plants; vulnerable to erosion, these have resulted in a legacy of mineral pollution which exacerbates naturally high heavy metal levels in parts of the area.

Today, most of our rivers are free from hard engineering and are home to creatures including otter, water vole, brown trout and Atlantic salmon. The birdlife of our rivers includes dipper, common sandpiper, kingfisher and grey wagtail, with goosander where woodland provides opportunities for nesting.

The rivers also have a diverse range of features, such as riffles, shingle banks and pools, which each support a range of plants and animals. These channel features are complemented by bank features, such as earth or rock cliffs, stands of reeds, woodland or herb-rich grasslands.

The headwaters of rivers and streams are particularly important wildlife habitats and support species not found in other parts of river systems. Due to the upland nature of the North Pennines, we have more headwaters than other parts of England.

Our rivers also have geomorphological interest, such as the Geological Conservation Review site/geological SSSI 'The Islands (Alston Shingles) River South Tyne'.

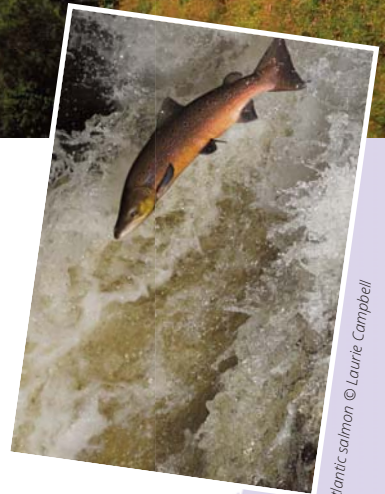
Some of the tributaries of the River Eden arise in the North Pennine fells, forming part of an internationally important river system designated as a SAC for a number of species, including salmon and white-clawed crayfish.



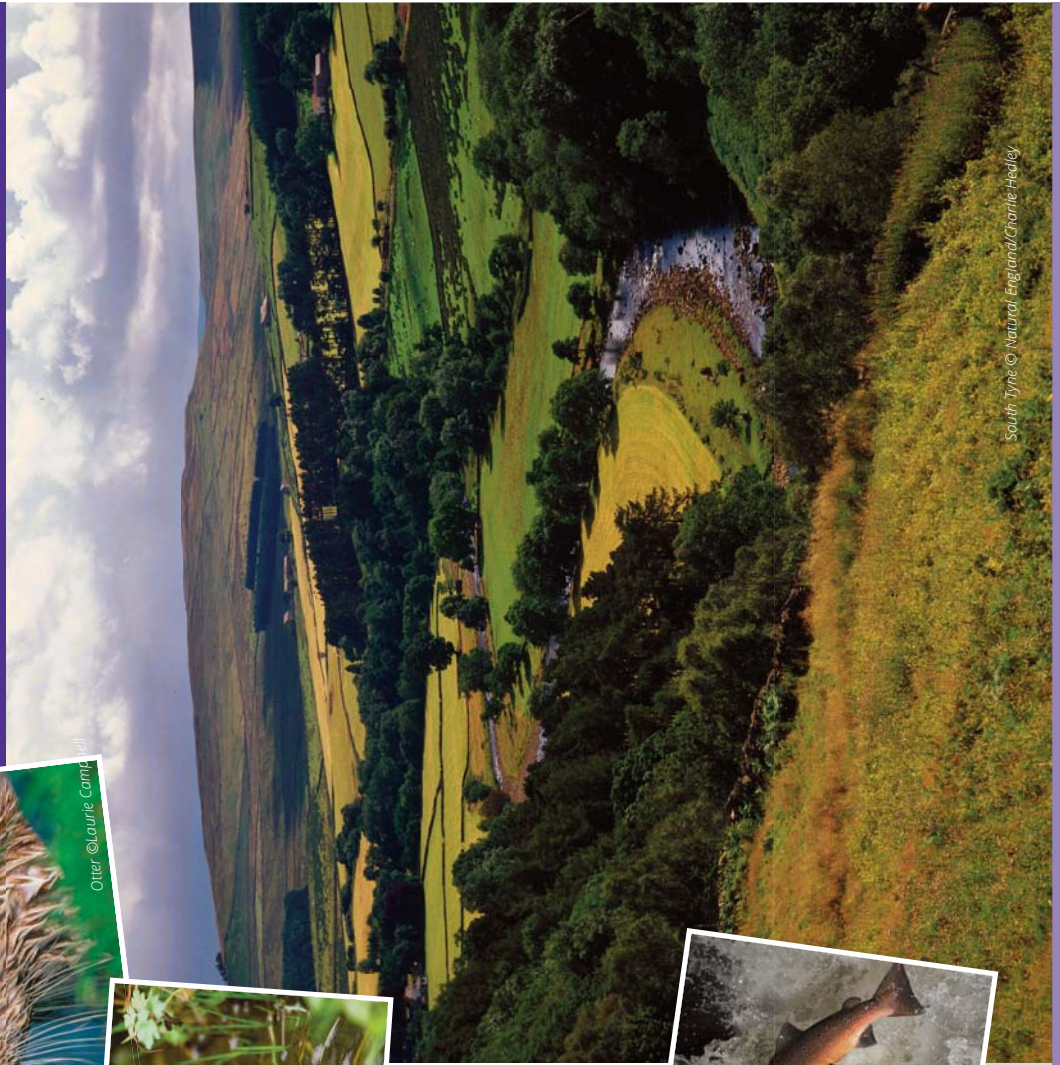
Otter © Laurie Campbell



Water vole © Laurie Campbell



Atlantic salmon © Laurie Campbell



South Tyne © Natural England/Charlie Hedley



Cyclists at Balderhead Reservoir © Natural England/Barry Stacey



Low Force © Natural England/Charlie Hedley

Riverbanks in the North Pennines often support species-rich terrestrial habitats which have largely disappeared from the adjacent agricultural landscape. Where these banks are formed on the Whin Sill or limestone the habitats can be particularly rich. Together, this range of wildlife and habitats and their generally wild and unmodified nature, makes our rivers one of the greatest natural assets of the North Pennines.

Impacts of historic mining

The continuing impact of pollution from historic mining activity on the water quality of some of our rivers is significant. The East and West Allen catchments, and that of the Nent, have relatively few invertebrates and fish. Pollution from abandoned metal mines also extends to parts of the upper Wear, South Tyne and Tees catchments.

However, they have developed a riverside flora which is tolerant of heavy metal pollutants and this is in large part the reason for the designation of the Tyne and Allen River Gravels Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Remarkable recovery

Our rivers have shown a remarkable recovery in fish populations, with the South Tyne, Wear and Tees having greatly improved stocks of salmon and sea trout and the Derwent having a regionally important brown trout fishery. The main River Tyne is now the best salmon river in England in terms of rod catches.

Wetlands

Away from the rivers, other wetland areas, notably springs and flushes, add much to the biodiversity of the North Pennines, with the base-rich flushes of Moor House–Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve being of international conservation importance. These base-rich flushes are often covered by short vegetation comprised of a rich mixture of bryophytes, sedges, grasses and wild flowers. It is in this habitat that several of the famous ‘Teesdale rarities’ are found including Teesdale sandwort, alpine bartisia and false sedge.

Reservoirs

The North Pennines provides water from its reservoirs for many surrounding towns and cities; these reservoirs have become home to a range of bird and animal life, including otters and an important breeding population of wigeon. Our reservoirs have also become popular places for fishing and sailing and their banks are popular with walkers and cyclists.

Dramatic waterfalls

Several North Pennine rivers have attractive and sometimes dramatic waterfalls, notably High Force, Low Force, Cauldron Snout, Ashgill Force and Thortegill Force. As well as being of considerable geological interest, they make an important contribution to a sense of place and are popular places to visit.

Action for our rivers and wetlands

- Support the delivery of catchment management plans and the Catchment Based Approach
- Promote the restoration of natural processes at a catchment scale
- Reduce pollution, including nutrient enrichment, toxic discharges, farm waste and pollution from abandoned metal mine workings
- Undertake programmes of natural flood management
- Encourage riparian tree planting to prevent erosion and create habitats and shade
- End inappropriate channel and bankside management, including intensive grazing up to the river edge, unsympathetic vegetation management, engineering works and culverting
- Avoid and/or reverse unsympathetic catchment landuse, including moorland drainage (gripping) schemes at headwaters, alteration of flows, water abstraction, agricultural intensification and developments within the floodplain
- Protect species-rich riparian habitats from over-grazing and accelerated erosion
- Control non-native species such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and mink
- Resist all calls for the control of fish-eating birds and otters
- Increase understanding of, and take action to address, the direct impact of historic reservoirs on migratory fish in the AONB
- Undertake schemes to remediate the impact of minewater pollution on watercourses, taking account of potential impact on landscape and on natural and cultural heritage.

Dark night skies

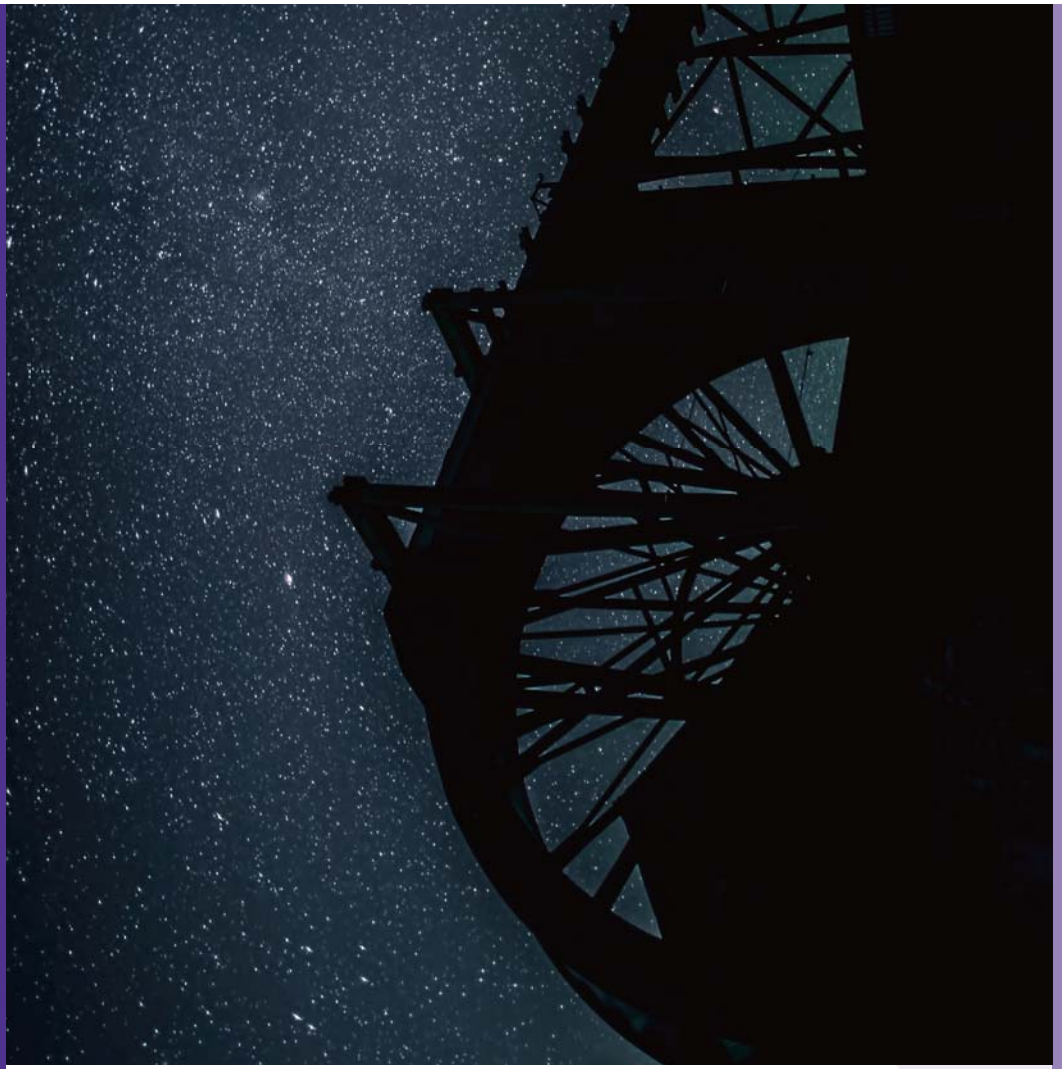
We live in an age when we know more about the universe than at any other time in our history, yet we have never been less connected to it than we are today. 60% of Europeans and 80% of North Americans have never seen the Milky Way, yet it is visible on every clear night from dark locations anywhere on Earth. So we might imagine that even fewer people in our country have seen this natural wonder. Our planet is in a spiral arm of the Milky Way, our galaxy, where billions of stars fill our night sky. Beyond our galaxy, the universe stretches away over incredible time and infinite distance and is full of wonder and beauty, but all of this fantastic spectacle is hidden from most of the population because of the seemingly endless growth in light pollution that prevents us enjoying something that is amazing, and yet completely free.

In contrast to much of England, the North Pennines has truly dark night skies – it is the country's darkest mainland AONB and only the Isles of Scilly AONB has darker skies.

Stargazing doesn't need expensive equipment – in places that have held on to their special dark night skies, the naked eye can reveal wonders that more light-polluted areas hide from us. With just a pair of binoculars in a dark place, the moon, our nearest celestial neighbour, comes to life, whilst some of the planets in our solar system become visible to us for the first time (no one forgets seeing the rings of Saturn).

Dark night skies for people and nature

Protecting our dark night skies is good for human health and well-being and good for nature too. There is a wealth of evidence linking light pollution to poor sleep patterns and the resulting health issues this can generate. With light pollution rising at 3% a year (Royal Commission on Light Pollution, 2009) this problem is worsening, with studies showing up to 44% of respondents having difficulty sleeping because of light pollution (Harris Poll, Europe Omnibus Survey, 2007). Local people stand to benefit greatly from reductions in light pollution in their streets. Similarly, light pollution can have significant impact on the ecology of many different kinds of species. The breeding patterns of species which respond to changes in day length (usually signalled by light levels) can be affected, as can the ability to navigate by moonlight, or the ability to hunt successfully in what should be dark environments which have been polluted with artificial light. The rhythms of animals' lives have evolved in tune with natural light conditions, so it should be no surprise that dramatic alterations in the balance of these conditions will have a harmful effect on our wildlife, and, by acknowledged extension, on us.



Reducing light pollution

It is possible to protect what remains of our dark night skies, and to improve night sky quality, by reducing light pollution. Over time, getting our lighting right also saves public money and saves energy too. Local Authority programmes of new LED street lighting is an important element in reducing light pollution, but only where lower 'colour temperature' lighting (2700 - 3000 kelvin) is used. These new lamps also focus light where it's needed – on the ground – whereas older ones waste a lot of light out into the night sky. *This is not about 'turning the lights off' – it is about the right lighting, in the right place and direction, on at the right time, to meet local need for safety and commerce, whilst looking after the environment and public health and well-being, and creating an educational and economic asset for the future.*

A major tourism asset

Experiencing truly dark night skies and seeing their wonders is a proven attractor to visitors. An advantage is that the peak time for dark skies watching is the autumn and winter; this activity can provide a manageable increase in visitors, with a potentially high visitor spend (partly due to the increase in potential for overnight stays) in traditional shoulder months or off-season. Partnerships that are developing between landowners, public bodies, destination management organisations and skilled and enthusiastic astronomical societies are crucial to the success of making the most of our dark skies.

The potential tourism benefits which dark night skies can bring may depend on the capacity of an area to deliver facilities, events and activities which sensitively exploit the resource. The last few years have seen a growth in work to celebrate and protect dark night skies. In October and November 2018, the second North Pennines Stargazing Festival, with almost 30 events over two weeks, attracted over 1,500 people to see the dark night skies above the North Pennines and take part in fun star-themed day time activities too. The AONB Partnership has been developing 16 designated Dark Sky Discovery Sites and working with local organisations such as the Bishop Auckland Astronomical Society to run stargazing events and activities. Local businesses, such as the Langdon Beck Hotel in Teesdale, are seeing and acting on the potential of dark sky tourism and developing their own programmes of events to add value to their enterprise. In Allenheads, the AONB Partnership has built a new observatory in partnership with community business Allen Valleys Enterprise Limited. Seeking for one of the several international dark sky designations, such as the International Dark Sky Park status secured for part of rural Northumberland, might also be considered as a way to conserve dark skies and promote off-season tourism.

Protecting our dark night skies, and restoring them where they are being lost, can lead to tangible benefits for tourism, promote our health and well-being, help wildlife and save both energy and public money, all whilst maintaining safety and security, if we have the *right light, in the right direction, at the right time.*



Stargazing in the North Pennines © Gary Lintern

Action for protecting and celebrating dark night skies

- Replace old street-lighting with fully-shielded, timer-controlled and low colour temperature (max 3000 Kelvin) LEDs
- Ensure major new developments, or those in sensitive locations, have lighting plans to reduce light pollution
- Produce lighting guidance for developers and the public and support its implementation
- Continue Dark Sky Quality monitoring
- Develop dark sky tourism through collaboration between the AONB Partnership, DMOs, local businesses and communities
- Expand the Star Tips programme of training for tourism businesses
- Expand the North Pennines Stargazing Festival and other dark skies events
- Investigate the creation of an International Dark Sky designation for the whole AONB/Geopark such as International Dark Sky Reserve.

Historic environment

The North Pennine landscape holds clues to the activities of people over the past 10,000 years, extending back to the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), when the first bands of hunters wandered into the area after the Ice Age.

Hunters and gatherers

Mesolithic people, often referred to as 'hunters and gatherers', lived a nomadic lifestyle, moving around the landscape to exploit available natural resources in a manner probably not greatly different from that of many nineteenth-century Native American communities. They have left few clues as to their presence in the North Pennines other than their flint tools and weapons, recovered from the surface of ploughed fields, in many places throughout Weardale, Teesdale and elsewhere. Recent excavations on Birkside Fell near Blanchland and at Cow Green Reservoir have recovered several hundred worked pieces of flint and chert from probable Mesolithic campsites.

The first farmers

Between 6,000 years and 4,000 years ago, during the Neolithic (New Stone Age) period, communities throughout the North Pennines gradually adopted farming alongside long-established practices of hunting, fishing and gathering. Many polished stone axes, beautiful leaf-shaped flint arrowheads and other stone tools provide evidence of Neolithic activity. Several small stone circles, like the fine example at Lunehead, probably stood within and around the AONB in late Neolithic/early Bronze Age times. These may have played a similar role to parish churches in later times, providing foci for ritual and possibly also for burial. The enigmatic rock carvings, known as 'cup-and-ring marks', of which several survive on the fringes of the AONB, also date from this period.

Round houses and round cairns

During the Bronze Age, from about 4,000 years ago, permanent farmsteads of round houses and small fields appeared in the North Pennine landscape. A good example can be seen by the Hilton Beck, Scordale, where recent survey work has recorded a complex of house

platforms, field walls and field clearance cairns extending over about 20 hectares. A Bronze Age settlement dating about 1500 BC has been excavated at Bracken Rigg in Teesdale, where a large timber roundhouse stood within an irregular enclosure of about 0.7 hectares. Much more common throughout the region are round cairns, roughly circular piles of stone built to cover burials and also as convenient repositories for stones cleared from fields. These are sometimes found in substantial cairnfields, such as at Crawley Edge above Stanhope in Weardale, where more than 40 examples are recorded. A spectacular hoard of Bronze Age objects, dating from about 1000 BC, was discovered in the 19th century within Heathery Burn Cave, Stanhope. This includes spearheads, axes, knives, tongs, bracelets and cheek pieces from a horse harness, all of bronze, together with jet rings and anklets and armlets of gold.

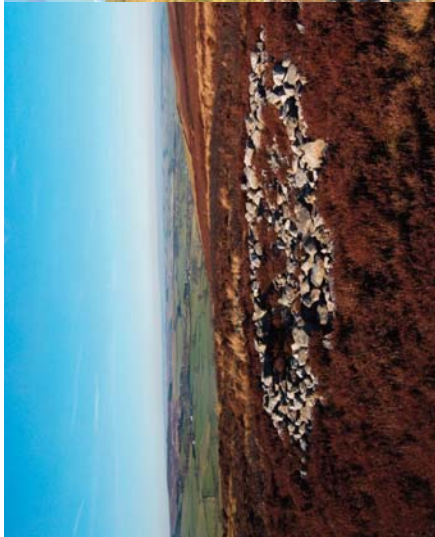
Romans and Natives

From about 800 BC, iron technology was introduced into the area, marking the onset of the Iron Age, but this seems to have had little effect on local settlement patterns. Settlement and agriculture continued to expand gradually throughout the lower slopes of the dales during the Iron Age and into Roman times. Two settlements were excavated in the 1970s at Forcegarth Pasture, Teesdale, both dating from about 250 AD: finds included Roman and native pottery, quern stones, spindle whorls, loom weights and evidence of smithing. Settlement evidence of a broadly similar date has also been excavated on Bollilhope Common in Weardale.

We now know through Altogether Archaeology, the Lidar Landscapes project and the pollen record that this is the period when much of the dales landscape was first enclosed and extensively settled and farmed. It was also a time when trees and woodland became a minor part of the landscape in area, after being the dominant vegetation types for several thousand years. It is in this period that arable cultivation reached its highest point up the dales and evidence of Iron Age farms and fields is still widespread particularly in the middle to upper dales beyond the highpoint of Medieval ploughing. A good example of this can be seen at East



Holwick, Teesdale © NPAPPaul Foadsham



Excavated Bronze Age burial cairn on Birkside Fell
© NPAP/Paul Frodsham



Excavation of a late prehistoric settlement at Bollhope, near Stanhope
© Rob Young



Bronze Age aurachis horn, radiocarbon dated to c1950BC,
from Upper Weardale © NPAP/Paul Leadbitter



Whitley Castle © English Heritage

Mellwaters which was recently designated as a Scheduled Monument.

During the latter half of the first century, a network of Roman roads, studded with forts and marching camps, was constructed to enable troops to pass unhindered across northern England. The North Pennines were effectively enclosed by such roads and the Maiden Way ran between the forts at Kirkby Thore and Carvoran (near Hadrian's Wall) passing close by Alston where the fort of Epiacum was constructed, presumably to oversee lead and silver mining in the region. Two third-century altars from Weardale, dedicated to Silvanus (a woodland god often associated with hunting), suggest that many areas retained a woodland cover and were perhaps reserved for elite hunting expeditions.

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

The North Pennines lay within the great Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria during the seventh and eighth centuries, but seem never to have been anything other than a peripheral zone. In 883, much of the land between the Tyne and the Tees was granted by King Guthred to the Community of St Cuthbert; thus it was owned and managed by the ecclesiastical authorities in an early version of what would become County Durham. Four fascinating settlement sites, dating from the late eighth century, have been partially excavated at Simy Folds on Holwick Fell (Upper Teesdale). These consist of rectangular buildings and small, enclosed yards: one of them produced evidence for iron smelting and smithing. Place-name evidence suggests that northern and eastern regions of the AONB were dominated by Anglo-Saxon communities, while Norse (Viking) influence was much greater to the south and west, in Teesdale and the Eden Valley.

Medieval times

After 1066, England was divided up amongst William the Conqueror's loyal followers, many of whom built castles to protect their property. The area's transport and communications network was still very much based on the Roman road network and some important Norman castles, of which Brough is a particularly good example, were built on the site of Roman forts. Other medieval castles were constructed at numerous places around the fringes of the AONB. During the three centuries preceding the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the region was constantly threatened with cross-border reiving associated with Anglo-Scottish border conflict. In response to this, in about 1600, several bastles (thick-walled defensible farmhouses with living accommodation at first-floor level over a byre) were built in the Allendales and on Alston Moor.

In medieval times, all the land owned by the Community of St Cuthbert came under the jurisdiction of the

immensely powerful Prince Bishops of Durham. Upper Weardale was maintained as a vast hunting forest, subject to special forest law rather than common law. Between 1250 and 1300, Stanhope deer park was set up within the forest, along with some 30 new vaccaries (seasonally occupied, tenanted cattle ranches). Several of these vaccaries grew into hamlets and villages, some of which still survive today. Other great medieval forests in the North Pennines included those of Teesdale, Gildersdale, Milburn, Lune and Stainmore. In addition to Stanhope, many other deer parks existed in and around the AONB, for example at Wolsingham, Waskerley, Marwood (near Barnard Castle) and Thorngarth (Lunedale).

Medieval villages consisted of rectangular houses clustered round a green or, more typically in the upper dales, set out along a road, each house having a long field known as a 'toft' behind it. Beyond the village were communal 'ridge-and-furrow' fields and hay meadows, and beyond these, communal grazing land and woodland. The upland pastures in the hills were occupied seasonally by herders who moved out from the villages in spring along with sheep and cattle, living in crude shelters known as 'shielings' through the summer, before returning with their beasts the following autumn. The beasts would then be overwintered in the fields, fed largely on hay harvested from the village hay meadows.

An industrial landscape

From medieval times, the North Pennines became one of Britain's most important lead mining regions. Mining was on a relatively small scale until the mid-18th century, but from this time, until the early 20th century, much of the area was dominated by lead mining and the landscape was transformed. Levels were driven miles underground to exploit the lead veins, and the ground surface became studded with mine complexes, dressing floors and smelt mills. The hills were criss-crossed by leats providing water power to various sites, flues taking noxious gasses away from the smelt mills to chimneys high in the hills, and tracks and railways providing access to all the different sites.

Many lead miners lived in small farmsteads scattered throughout the dales, working their shifts in the mines and also growing produce to support their families. Limekilns were constructed to produce quicklime, used on the fields to improve the fertility of the acid soils, and as lime mortar for the construction of buildings. Today's distinctive landscape of scattered homesteads (most with a single building that originally combined cottage, byre and hayloft) set within a patchwork of stone-walled fields, generally referred to today as the 'miner-farmer landscape', dates essentially from the 18th and 19th century heyday of the North Pennine lead industry, when at least a quarter of all Britain's lead came from the region.



Blanchland, an 18th century estate village on the site of a medieval abbey © NPAP/Paul Frodsham



Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett



The ruins of Stridlon engine house, near Blanchland, stand as a stark reminder of the growth and decline of the North Pennine lead industry © NPAP/Elizabeth Pickett



The Weardale Museum inreshopeburn documents the social history of Weardale © Weardale Museum

Other miners lived in villages (such as Nenthead, Garrigill, Allenheads and Carrshield) heavily influenced by the mining companies, or in larger settlements, such as Stanhope, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Alston and Allendale, that survived from medieval times and contained the ancient parish churches. There was a strong Methodist tradition amongst the lead miners. Rivalry between Methodists and Anglicans, and between different strands of Methodism, led to the construction of many chapels from the mid-18th century, both within villages and at isolated roadside locations for dispersed communities. Some of these, like Westgate Chapel, were of considerable architectural merit and have left us with a rich architectural legacy. The lead mining companies supported several new schools during the 19th century in Teesdale, Weardale and Allendale, alongside numerous Institutes and reading rooms.

North Pennine industries received a great boost during the mid-19th century with the introduction of the railways, and the road network was also much improved. However, in more remote areas, pack ponies continued to tread well-worn tracks to get ores to the nearest road or railway.

Although lead was the dominant industry, it was far from the only one. Iron was mined and worked on a local scale from medieval times, and, from the mid-19th century, on an industrial scale at Tow Law and Stanhope Dene. Elsewhere, limestone, sandstone and coal have all been worked on a large scale, and from the late-19th century the development of fluorspar, zinc, barytes and witherite mining helped to offset, albeit only to a small extent, the worst effects of the decline in lead mining.

Many of the area's 2000 km of Public Rights of Way have their origins in the heyday of mining – routes to chapel and mine and packhorse routes from mine to smelt-mill and out to the wider world, have become part of the access network people enjoy today.

Historic houses

Today, few domestic buildings from earlier than 1600 survive in anything like their original form, but many attractive 17th-, 18th- and 19th-century houses contribute much to the character of the AONB. Many still retain historic characteristics such as multi-pane sash windows, although others have been 'improved' over recent years through the addition of modern, plastic doors and windows that, unfortunately, detract markedly from the appearance of otherwise well-preserved historic settlements.

Historic buildings are invariably of local stone, often with roofs of heavy sandstone slabs. Building stone was obtained from small-scale quarries operated on an ad-hoc basis to meet fluctuating demand. Huge quantities of quarried stone were also used to construct hundreds of miles of dry stone walls throughout the AONB during the enclosure movement of the 18th and early-19th centuries, when previously communal pasture land was divided into stone-walled fields and allocated to individual landowners.

Recent times

Following the decline of the lead industry, the 20th century saw population levels decline throughout much of the AONB. Village shops, chapels, schools and pubs became redundant, sometimes being redeveloped for domestic use. Many isolated smallholdings in the dales lie abandoned, while others have been redeveloped as holiday homes.

Within the AONB today there are 16 Conservation Areas, 183 Scheduled Monuments and 13 Buildings at Risk. Of the 968 Listed Buildings, 15 are Grade I, 36 are Grade II and 917 are Grade III.

From the hunters and gatherers of prehistory to the miner-farmers of the 19th century, communities have continually left their mark on the historic environment of the North Pennines. Properly managed, this historic environment has much to offer the local economy, as well as being of great social and spiritual value to local people and visitors alike.

Action for our historic environment

- Increase our understanding of the area's historic buildings, structures, routeways and archaeological features, and share that knowledge widely
- Identify, conserve and enhance the patterns of historic landscape (field boundaries, woodland and wood pasture, parklands, mining landscapes etc)
- Use the planning system to avoid the piecemeal erosion of the historic character of buildings and settlements
- Maintain the supply of local building stone
- Support the retention and application of skills required to maintain historic buildings and structures
- Encourage greater community participation in identifying and conserving what is special about the North Pennines' historic environment
- Use agri-environment schemes to conserve and enhance archaeological features and built heritage on private land
- Promote sensitive new uses for historic buildings and structures.

Culture, landscape and community

A cultural landscape

Despite how remote and naturalistic the North Pennines can seem in comparison with some parts of England, nowhere is it truly 'natural' or 'wild'. This is a cultural landscape, the product of around 7,000 years of human interaction with the environment. Other than geological processes and climate processes, the dominant influences on the story of the post-glacial landscape have been forest clearance, the evolution of farming, the development of settlements, mineral mining and in relatively recent times the management of the high fells as grouse moors. These things have brought some positive developments for nature, such as species-rich grasslands and high populations of breeding waders, but they have also brought the loss or decline of some species, land contamination and the large-scale drainage of the moors from which the area is only just recovering.

If the accepted definition of 'natural beauty' is about the coming together of landscape, wildlife and our built heritage, then landscape ought to be seen as much more than just the view. Our understanding of landscape is bound-up with how the land has been used over time, how it has evolved, and the stories often hidden within it. When the stories of a landscape are known to us, our appreciation of it (and crucially in this context our desire to look after it) can be so much greater than when faced with a beautiful view without the time-depth of stories that may go with it. The historian Simon Schama captured this well, saying, "Before it can ever be a repose for the senses, landscape is the work of the mind. Its scenery is built up as much from strata of memory as from layers of rock." People have made this landscape and to understand it properly it is important to see the human stories alongside, and as part of, those of nature.

Approximately 12,000 people live within the boundary of the AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark today. When the lead mining industry was at its peak 150 years ago, about 27,000 people lived in the area. The legacy of buildings, structures, hushes and spoil heaps from the area's lead mining heyday have made a huge impact on the character of the area. A history of religious nonconformity is evident in the chapels that dot the landscape and even the Rights of Way network connects a heritage of chapel and mine.

In the context of the management of 'natural beauty', a long-term and sustainable future relies on understanding and celebrating the role of people in the landscape, both in the past and today – this is not about nostalgia, but about a living and breathing culture now and in the future. An approach based purely on science can miss a vital element in the area's long-term conservation and risks pushing local communities – past, present and future — to the side of their own story.

Community capacity for heritage management

The long-term future for our natural and cultural heritage lies in local people caring about it and caring for it. This can't just be about encouraging local communities to engage in the plans and work of others; it is essential to promote the development of skills, knowledge and resources among community organisations, businesses and voluntary groups, so they can take an increasingly skilled and informed lead in heritage management. A classic example of this is *Altogether Archaeology*, which began life as AONB Partnership project but continued as an independent charity, led by local people, who had built up the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to keep it alive and expand it.

Art and association

On one level, there is a North Pennine story of famous artists' responses to the landscape. Most notable amongst these perhaps are J M W Turner and W H Auden. Auden is perhaps the central figure of English 20th century poetry and the North Pennines are to him what the Lake District was to Wordsworth. The lead mining landscapes of the area provided Auden with a never-failing source of reference and inspiration. Many of his poems of the 1920s and 1930s, and two influential plays, are set here. The landscapes around Rookhope in Upper Wearedale and on Alston Moor had a particular impact on Auden and this is reflected in some of his best loved poems of the period, including 'The North', 'Alston Moor', 'The Old Lead Mine' and 'The Engine House'. After the outbreak of war, Auden even declared to the American media his patriotic allegiance to the 'North Pennine moors', rather than to England as such. When we look to what Auden saw as his 'great good place', we can see both the geographical area he defined and his particular places of fascination and affection, in this extract from *New Year Letter* (1940):



Part of 'Natural Creation' by Rob Mulholland



Spar box at Killhope, the North of England Lead Mining Museum
© Killhope Museum

I see the nature of my kind

As a locality I love,

Those limestone moors that stretch from Brough

To Hexham and the Roman Wall,

There is my symbol of us all...

Always my boy of wish returns

To those peat-stained deserted burns

That feed the Wear and Tyne and Tees,

And turning states to strata, sees

How basalt long oppressed broke out

In wild revolt at Cauldron Snout

And from the relics of old mines

Derives his algebraic signs...

The derelict lead-smelting mill,

Flued to its chimney up the hill,

That smokes no answer any more

Arguably Britain's finest landscape painter, JMW Turner was also inspired by the North Pennines, producing outstanding work in Teesdale in the late-1790s and between 1816 and 1836. He painted several scenes around Bowes and Greta Bridge, before travelling through Deepdale to Cotherstone and on to Middleton-in-Teesdale. Here he stayed and painted the town bridge and the river. He followed the route of the modern-day Pennine Way, visiting the upper dale to produce wonderful paintings of High and Low Force, Wynch Bridge and Cauldron Snout, before moving on through High Cup Nick to Dufton.



Turner's High Force



Alston © Natural England/Charlie Hedley



Sheep judging at Eggleston Agricultural Show © NPAP/Shane Harris

Telling local stories

Whilst celebrating the North Pennines through the eyes of great artists can help to raise its profile and reinforce its identity as somewhere special, it is the imprint of ordinary people's lives on this landscape that give it its special character. There have been many local initiatives to bring out and tell people's stories in the landscapes through drama, artworks, music and oral histories etc. A recent success story has been the rebirth of the Allendale Folk Festival, whilst major installations such as Steve Messam's 'Waterfall' have attracted new audiences to experience this landscape. The HLF- and Arts Council-funded 'Northern Heartlands' programme is helping to increase people's participation in telling their own stories in the landscape, whilst the AONB Partnership and others are working with school and community groups to explore the landscape through artistic expression and reach new audiences.

There is a strong community of writers, painters, sculptors, photographers, textile artists and more who draw their inspiration from the wildlife and wild places of the North Pennines. Local communities are celebrating their culture in ways that mean something to them.

All of this activity should be encouraged and supported as part of an approach that utilises culture to reinforce a sense of place, increase local pride and act as a force for future conservation.

Action for culture, landscape and community

- Support local people to uncover and tell their stories about their landscape and heritage
- Build community capacity to take a lead on conserving and celebrating natural and cultural heritage
- Recognise and celebrate the area's artistic and literary heritage
- Support programmes and projects such as Northern Heartlands and Highlights Rural Touring Scheme that work with communities to promote cultural activities
- Support traditional agricultural shows, and festivals and large scale events, such as The Allendale Folk Festival, Weardale Wordfest and Music on the Marr
- Conserve heritage buildings and structures and tell their stories
- Maintain the high quality landscape on which much of the area's cultural heritage is built.

Discovering and enjoying the North Pennines

Key features of the AONB as a destination

The North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark is a stunning landscape of open heather moors, dramatic dales, tumbling upland rivers, wonderful woods, inky-black night skies, close-knit communities, glorious waterfalls, fantastic birds, colourful hay meadows, stone-built villages, intriguing imprints of a mining and industrial past, distinctive plants and much, much more.

The North Pennines...

- is recognised as one of the most tranquil parts of England
- has truly dark skies and is the darkest mainland AONB
- is a distinctive landscape of demonstrable quality
- has almost 40% of the UK's upland hay meadows
- has outstanding geology recognised by its UNESCO Global Geopark designation
- has iconic birds and other wildlife (eg. 80% of England's black grouse, 22,000 pairs of breeding wading birds, red squirrels); and
- has a rich industrial heritage, including lead mining/quarrying.

Product, attractions and activities

The tourism offer of the North Pennines is based on the area's natural and cultural assets and the products, attractions and activities that have developed from them.

Walking

There are over 2,000 miles of Public Rights of Way in the AONB and open access land covers 131,000 ha (61%) of the North Pennines. Highlights include:

- England's premier National Trail – the Pennine Way. April-September are the busiest months and there are approximately 1,000-2,700 end-to-end walkers each year
- Wainwright's Pennine Journey
- Three regional routes — Teesdale Way, Weardale Way and Isaac's Tea Trail.
- 33 'Nuttalls' — England's 2,000ft mountains — are in the AONB
- Numerous promoted day walks.

Cycling

The area has excellent cycling opportunities, including: road; touring; cross-country/forest mountain biking; and traffic-free family trails. Highlights include the following National Cycle Network routes: C2C; Pennines Cycleway; and the Walney to Wear.

Horse riding

Of the area's 1958km of Public Rights of Way, almost a quarter are bridleways, including a section of the Pennine Bridleway. There are several promoted routes for horseriders (which are of course also available to walk and cycle).

Paddlesports and sailing

Parts of rivers such as the Tees provide canoeing opportunities, whilst sailing takes place at some of the Teesdale reservoirs but most notably at Derwent.

Attractions

There are a variety of attractions in the area. Notable amongst them are:

- High Force waterfall – England's largest waterfall and the most visited site in the AONB
- Bowlees Visitor Centre – gateway centre to Upper Teesdale and the North Pennines
- South Tynedale Railway – England's highest narrow-gauge railway
- Derwent Reservoir – the second largest reservoir in Northumberland
- Killhope Museum – excellent place to get to grips with the area's lead mining history

Just outside the boundary, Hamsterley Forest attracts over 200,000 visitors a year and is a big draw for mountain bikers, walkers and families.



Enjoying the view in Upper Teesdale



© South Tyndale Railway



High Force

A focus on nature and culture

Nature-watching opportunities are integral to the offer of the North Pennines – either as a passive backdrop to a visit or as a more active, guided wildlife tourism experience. These opportunities are available across the whole area, but are especially so at the National Nature Reserves at Moor House-Upper Teesdale and Derwent Gorge and Muggleswick Woods and the important RSPB reserve at Geltsdale.

As a UNESCO Global Geopark, there are many geotrails to follow, geo-heritage sites to explore, attractions to visit and events to attend.

The area has some of the finest upland reservoirs and rivers, renowned for the quality of their fishing.

The area's rich historic environment provides many opportunities for visitors, with museums, events and exploration of the historic landscape through promoted trails.

Stargazing

There are more designated Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the North Pennines than anywhere else in the UK. The area is recognised, and promoted, as a stargazing destination. The success of the North Pennines Stargazing Festival indicates the potential.

The tourism industry in the North Pennines

A survey of tourism businesses in the area in 2016 provided a snapshot of the shape of the industry in the AONB:

- Overwhelmingly, tourism businesses in the area are small: 86% employ five people or less. Forty-two percent are one-person enterprises. A third reported annual turnovers of up to £25K.
- Almost half of all stays with accommodation businesses were short breaks (2-4 nights). Twenty-three percent of all stays were for single nights.
- The two most important groups for tourism businesses in the North Pennines are couples and groups of friends.
- The top five (reported) motivations for visiting the North Pennines are: peace and tranquillity; enjoying the view; walking; visiting the North Pennines as a destination; and AONB designation.

Responsible tourism issues

The overall goal of this section of the Management Plan is a sustainable visitor economy in the North Pennines – this involves taking responsibility for the process and making sure that the right attitude is adopted.

Economic

- Seasonality – the vast majority of visitor economy activity takes places in the spring and summer months. This sharply seasonal nature is identified as an issue by each of the area's three Destination Management Organisations.
- Day visitor dominance and lack of visitor accommodation options.

Environmental

- Transport and travel – nine out of ten visitors use their own cars to visit the area. Public transport connectivity is poor across administrative boundaries.
- Impacts of tourism businesses.
- The potential impact of visitors on biodiversity, historic features and the infrastructure such as paths and trails.

Socio-cultural

- Local community services – seasonality can lead to reduced services for local communities in the quieter months.

Other

- Identity and administrative complexity – the area's tourism geography is complex, leading to a fractured identity and often a lack of confidence in the North Pennines as a destination.
- Reducing resources – to support destination management activities and maintenance of the public realm.



Killhope



Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers' Market



Bike around Bowlees



2,000km of Public Rights of Way

Strengths	Opportunities	Threats
Natural beauty Inspirational landscape Tranquility/dark skies/sense of wildness Authenticity – people/places/experiences Outdoor recreation offer Community values tourism Industrial/religious heritage Quiet/un-crowded The AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark designations	Target niche markets eg. stargazing Emerging events/festivals Slow tourism Nature-based/outdoor activity/wellness agenda/car-free tourism Archaeology/industrial heritage Capacity for growth Linking to higher-profile offers Emerging/new attractions Increased collaboration Proximity to visitor markets in major cities and towns Conversion of day visits to overnights	Poor co-operation/competition between sub-destinations Declining public/private investment Better differentiated rural UK destinations Fuel/transport costs Economic leakage Poor rural infrastructure Low margins/seasonality
Weaknesses		
Fragmentary destination messaging Perceived remoteness/poor weather Poor transport connectivity Dependence on day visits Strongly seasonal Quality is mixed – accommodation/food offer Fragmentary data Administratively complex Weak 'AONB'-brand Deeply rural Reliance on private car Historic low recognition/awareness of the North Pennines as a destination		

Action for discovering and enjoying the North Pennines

- Support development of an environmentally and economically sustainable visitor economy based on, and sustaining, the special qualities of the North Pennines through a positive planning policy framework, which support tourism whilst protecting the environment, and through investment initiatives (eg. Growth Funds etc)
- Ensure high standards of management of the Rights of Way Network in the AONB, including an emphasis on promoting ease of access for all responsible and legal use
- Promote ease of responsible use of Access Land and of the wider landscape, including by walkers, cyclists, canoeists, vehicle users etc, placing the emphasis on conservation
- Develop/expand shoulder season programming which supports the extension of the spring/summer season, such as the North Pennines Stargazing Festival
- Develop and promote extended dwell-time, including more heritage based events and activities
- Develop and promote activity which encourages overnight stays, such as festivals and itineraries
- Increase partnership working across administrative boundaries – improving business and visitor engagement, inclusivity and participation; ensure that Destination Management Plans produced by VCD, NT and CT have a strong focus on the area, its offer and its designations
- Develop work that improves the profile of the North Pennines and business confidence in the destination and its offer, including making more of the promotional value of the UNESCO Global Geopark brand
- Generate better cross-border monitoring and collection of tourism data, especially cut to the AONB boundary
- Support the development of new (and enhancement of existing) walking and cycling product linked to public transport hubs – linked to promoting the area as a slow travel destination
- Support the development and promotion of locally distinctive food and other products associated with nature and culture
- Develop opportunities for using the North Pennines as a place to increase people's physical and mental well-being
- Support activity which encourages a reduction in within-destination car travel eg. car-free days and itineraries
- Ensure the sustainable management of access to the landscape, including by (but not restricted to) walkers, cyclists, canoeists, vehicle users etc, placing the emphasis on conservation
- Expand the broad portfolio of activities related to the natural and cultural heritage of the North Pennines.

Education and lifelong learning

If we are to conserve our natural heritage, then it is essential that people understand how our natural systems function. Understanding past lives in this landscape is also valuable for its own sake and for what it tells us about the cultural evolution of this special place. The North Pennines has great potential to be a fascinating outdoor classroom, where schools, universities and the wider public can learn formally and informally about how nature works and how it can be better conserved, how farming can provide both food and public goods and how the area's rich culture has developed and will keep evolving.

In the last Management Plan period (2014-19) thousands of school children, students and adult learners made the most of the educational and learning opportunities they sought for themselves in the landscape or found through work with conservation organisations. There has never been a greater need to engage children, in particular, with nature than there is now, as even many children in rural areas appear to be losing a connection to the natural world that would have been stronger in the relatively recent past.

Formal education

The nature of the education system means that inspiring children about our natural and cultural heritage needs to meet objectives in the curriculum; thankfully this is usually possible and a wide variety of work has been done by many organisations with the 30+ schools in and immediately around the North Pennines. From the AONB team alone this has included:

- Film-making about geology and landscape
- Long-term climate science investigation
- Pollinator studies
- Practical conservation
- Art and drama activities; and
- More traditional field work.

Barriers to engagement with schools include the pressure of the curriculum, the cost of travel, and lack of awareness of the opportunities, allied to continued pressure on conservation organisation budgets.

Despite this, there is considerable potential to build on the current offer and in particular to generate better understanding about where our food comes from and how land is farmed and managed.

Action for formal education

- Support school visits to the North Pennines, through developing projects and programmes linked to the curriculum
- Support the organisations across all sectors that deliver environmental education
- Provide school travel grants where possible
- Deliver training and other activities with teachers
- Provide support to universities to encourage and enable fieldwork and research
- Support farmers and land managers to deliver educational programmes on their land.

Skills Training

The future conservation of the uplands will require skills and knowledge in land-based practices as diverse as farming, forestry, ecology and practical field work of all kinds. Training and skills in this field are well-supported by local agricultural colleges and universities and in the past have been augmented by the work of farming organisations such as Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services and conservation bodies such as the AONB Partnership and the Rivers Trusts. This work actively supports improvements in conservation and increases people's environment sector employability locally.

A clear area of need is to enable different sectors to learn from each other, especially farmers and conservation bodies. Farmers have a large skills and knowledge base and supporting them to share those attributes is important, acknowledging that time away from farming costs money. It is particularly pertinent in a time when agricultural support is likely to move towards payment by results for delivering public goods; farmers would benefit from being given more of the tools to deliver more for nature and to monitor their actions and impacts in relation to these payments.

Action for skills training

- Provide resources to support land-based skills training in the North Pennines
- Support an increase in professional and volunteer skills in conserving and restoring historic buildings and industrial heritage
- Identify the skills and knowledge gaps in the land based sector in the area
- Promote skills/knowledge exchange between farmers/land managers and conservationists
- Support training in cultural heritage skills such as oral history recording, family history research or traditional domestic skills such as matting.



Bee workshop at Low Force © NPAP



Winners of the First Northern Open Scything Competition © NPAP

Lifelong learning

There is a long tradition of lifelong learning in the North Pennines, going back to the reading rooms established by and for the mining communities in the 19th century. In the heritage field, today it takes many forms including:

- Conservation and other heritage skills training of the kind delivered by the Rivers Trusts, Wildlife Trusts and the AONB Partnership
- Knowledge-based training for the tourism industry; and
- Conservation- and heritage-related community programmes such as that delivered for many years through the Upper Teesdale Botany Group.

These initiatives create a deeper pool of skills and knowledge in communities, actively supports conservation and serve to connect people and place.

The barrier to such provision is usually a lack of resources to make it possible, though bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, conservation organisations and (in County Durham) Area Action Partnerships have provided consistent support.

Action for lifelong learning

- Support organisations to deliver programmes of lifelong learning on conservation and heritage themes, including practical and knowledge-based activity and outreach events in communities within and beyond the AONB
- Develop knowledge-based training for the tourism industry
- Support conservation- and heritage-related community programmes such as that delivered for many years through the Upper Teesdale Botany Group.



School group working with the AONB Partnership © NPAP

The top ten conservation priorities

These are the top ten conservation priorities for the North Pennines AONB during the life of this Management Plan, aimed at building a nature recovery network across the landscape.

Priority	Action	Main partners
Peatland and other soils	Continuing to block the remaining grips and address large-scale bare/eroding peatland. Using bespoke projects and management agreements to restore ecosystem function on our moorlands, including addressing issues created by burning blanket bog and track construction. Promote agricultural practices that support the health of other soils. Benefits of this work include action on natural flood management, biodiversity conservation, carbon storage and sequestration and water quality.	Estates, AONB Partnership, Natural England, Environment Agency, Water Companies, Farmers
Species-rich grassland	Conserving the best sites and building on programmes of large-scale restoration across the landscape, addressing declines in quality and extent. Benefits include promoting connectivity and key species recovery/expansion.	Farmers, AONB Partnership, Natural England, RSPB
Native and mixed woodland and scrub	Expanding the area of native and mixed woodland and scrub to promote biodiversity, add texture and depth to the landscape, store and sequester carbon, support natural flood management and improve riparian habitat. Benefits include promoting habitat connectivity and diversity, without compromising wader, grassland and peatland conservation.	Forestry Commission, Estates, Farmers, AONB Partnership, Rivers Trusts, RSPB, Woodland Trust
Rivers and riparian habitat	Improve the water quality and habitat quality/diversity in rivers and streams. Through minewater remediation, managing invasive species, removing blockages to fish passage, improving riparian habitat and in-stream habitat and reducing run-off from farms / sediment load from peatlands	Environment Agency, Rivers Trusts, Farmers, Estates, AONB Partnership
Breeding wading birds	Understanding local trends in wader populations, farmers and Estates being supported to take action for wader conservation through advice and practical measures, including creating small wetlands, modifications to management practices and proportionate, responsible and legal predator control. Collaboration to ensure important sites for breeding waders are not targeted for afforestation.	Farmers, Estates, RSPB, Natural England, AONB Partnership, Forestry Commission

Priority	Action	Main partners
Arctic-alpine flora	Conserving the arctic alpine flora of upper Teesdale on the Moor House-Upper Teesdale NNR through managing vegetation, grazing, rabbits and access. Regular monitoring is especially important for this rare and threatened flora.	Natural England, Farmers and Estates around
Dark night skies	Replacing old street lighting with LED at low colour temperature, on at the right time and directed only where needed. Production of joint lighting guidance.	Local Authorities, AONB Partnership
Specific species conservation, including raptors	Work to eradicate raptor persecution, protect breeding and wintering birds and see an increase in breeding pairs of hen harrier, short-eared owl, peregrine and red kite. To include: raptor-crime awareness campaign; increased collaboration between conservation organisations, land managers and the police; training for police and PCSOs; a commitment to prosecutions over cautions where evidence allows. Taking action for specific species which may require bespoke effort during the life of the Plan (eg. water vole) or taking opportunities when they arise (eg. for beaver).	Estates, Police, RSPB, NERF, Natural England, AONB Partnership, Wildlife Trusts
Archaeological sites and features	Excavations and research focused on improving the conservation and understanding of North Pennines archaeology. Maximising public support and engagement by making this work accessible and supporting community-based organisations who share this interest. Including a new community archaeology project in the Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme	Historic England, Altogether Archaeology, North Pennines Mines Research Group, Community Groups
Historic buildings and structures	The conservation, consolidation and interpretation of historic buildings and structures through projects and agri-environment schemes, especially those related to mining heritage. Working closely with land managers, volunteers and community organisations to develop capacity to maintain and interpret some of these structures into the future.	Historic England, North Pennines Mines Research Group, Community Groups, AONB Partnership

Taking action together

This Plan has already highlighted many of the actions and activities that will conserve and enhance our natural and cultural heritage and help people discover, enjoy and understand the area and support the economy in sustainable ways. It is suggested that those actions, amongst others, will create a set of desirable outcomes.

Rather than present a long and detailed table of actions, this Plan focuses on desired outcomes – the result of actions — and they will be used in the process of monitoring progress during the life of the Plan. This outcomes-focus allows many people and organisations to make a contribution to delivering this Plan for their area's natural and cultural heritage. The Management Plan is accompanied by an implementation plan for the AONB staff team, outlining its work initially until April 2021 when the document will be reviewed.

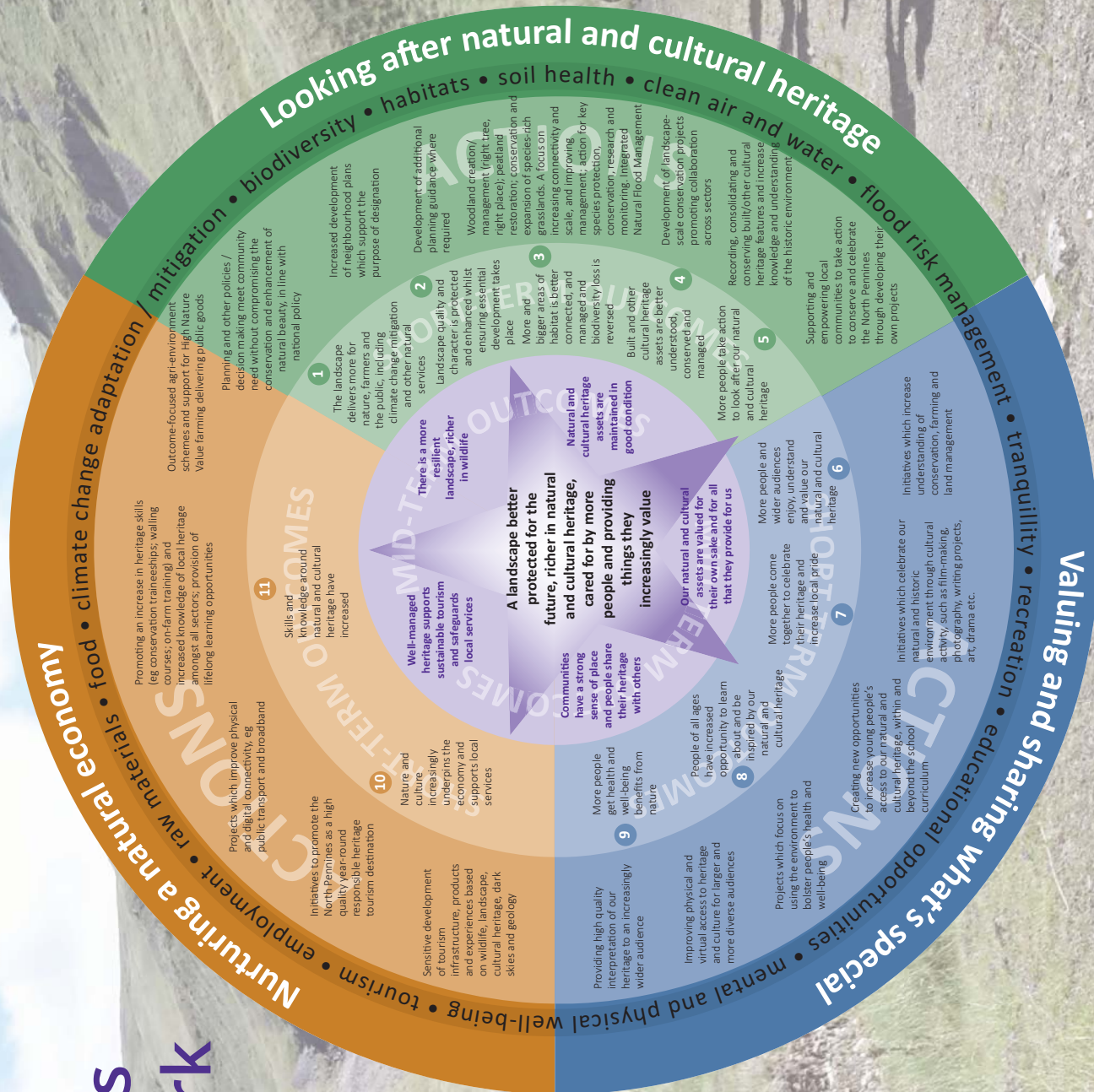
The diagram on the following page sets out:

- A goal for the North Pennines (a summarised version of the Vision outlined on page 5)
- Some indicative medium-term outcomes that need to be in place to achieve that goal
- A set of 11 numbered short-term outcomes that form the core of this Plan and which will be used to help monitor its effectiveness
- Some of the benefits derived from ecosystem services
- Some broad thematic areas of work.



Surveying a species-rich hay meadow © NPAP

Outcomes framework





Curlew © Brian Rafferty



Allenheads mineyard



Local produce on sale at Bowlees Visitor Centre

Monitoring actions

The AONB Partnership will be responsible for monitoring implementation of this Plan on an annual basis. The Staff team will be gathering information from partner organisations on how their work has delivered these outcomes; this will be combined with information on the AONB team's activities.

Statutory agencies, NGOs, community organisations, farmers' groups and others will all be invited to add their voice to how they have all contributed to making the North Pennines richer in natural and cultural heritage.

The AONB team will have an implementation plan, updated annually, as a companion to the AONB Management Plan and setting out its work, with many partners, to conserve this special place.

Indicators

A Management Plan needs a set of indicators that can be monitored and that can show whether things are heading in the right direction. Ideally, indicators should be able to tell us about more than just that one factor. These are things that can be reliably measured and that are ideally monitored as a matter of course or at a modest cost.

Indicators will be developed collaboratively, early in the life of the Plan, and published on the AONB Partnership website www.northpennines.org.uk

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Report to Executive

**Agenda
Item:**

A.2

Meeting Date: 11th March 2019
Portfolio: Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision: Yes (KD.06/19)
Within Policy and Budget Framework Yes
Public / Private Public

Title: GLOBAL HOUSE, DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF
Report of: Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Report Number: CE 02/19

Purpose / Summary:

To seek approval from the Executive on an application for discretionary rate relief for a large empty hard to let premises – Global House, Castle Street, Carlisle.

Recommendations:

Approve the application for 100% discretionary business rate relief for two years for Global House, a large empty hard to let premises and in doing so be satisfied that the award is in the interests of Carlisle City Council Tax Payers;

- a) Note that the total cost of awarding such relief is £255,757 over two years with the direct cost to Carlisle City Council being £102,303 over two years. The balance being shared between the Cumbria Pooling authorities.

Tracking

Executive:	11th March 2019
Scrutiny Panel:	N/A
Council:	N/A

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In July 2016 the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy was expanded to include Large Empty 'Hard to Let' Business Premises. The amendment to the Policy was designed to encourage the occupation of large 'hard to let' empty business premises and therefore support the Council's economic development objectives as set out in the Carlisle Plan.
- 1.2 The policy acts to significantly bolster efforts to secure inward investment through providing a direct incentive and therefore enhanced offer. It was also designed to help the Council compete with other Local Authorities/cities across the North offering similar schemes in an attempt to attract new businesses to Carlisle. Furthermore, it acts to counterbalance any unintended negative consequences of Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone through ensuring existing employment locations can reasonably compete with it in terms of available incentives, and in doing so maintain their diversity and vibrancy.
- 1.3 The main beneficiaries would be businesses bringing employment opportunities to Carlisle, and as such, this policy allows the Council to actively support businesses looking to relocate to Carlisle with a package of assistance. If, however a local business wished to expand, and it was of clear benefit to local council tax payers, i.e. that it would be a significant upsizing of the operation, then the business would also be able to apply for rate relief.
- 1.4 Conditions of the relief include that the business has to commit to Carlisle for a minimum of 5 years and create job opportunities and other benefits for the Carlisle economy. Wider economic growth considerations include that further business rate benefits may be gained by increasing capacity in areas through increased employment and footfall. This in turn may lead to additional businesses paying rates in the longer term.
- 1.5 A decision on whether or not to grant relief under the policy rests with the Executive.
- 1.6 All applications for relief will be considered by the Executive on an individual basis and, where the ratepayer does not meet the scheme criteria, submit sufficient supporting information or where the proposed benefits and financial viability do not support an anticipated commitment for at least 5 years, will be refused. Applicants will be notified of the outcome accordingly.

2.0 CURRENT APPLICATION

- 2.1 The current application for consideration by the Executive has been made by The Edinburgh Woollen Mill Limited and concerns the occupation of Global House, 5/11 Castle Street, Carlisle, CA3 8TF for the purposes of the business group's headquarters. The application is shown at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2.2 Edinburgh Woollen Mill Limited (EWM) submitted an application relating to the same premises (previously known as Rufus House) under the 'Large Empty Hard to Let Business Premises' concession in the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy in November 2016, at which point the company were considering a number of potential locations for their new headquarters. The Executive considered and approved the application, but shortly afterwards the building was taken out of rating by the Valuation Office whilst it was subject to significant redevelopment works. The previous application therefore lapsed as a consequence of this process, with a new application invited at the point at which the building was brought back into rating i.e. at the point at which the redevelopment works were complete and it was in a condition where it could be occupied.
- 2.3 For an organisation to apply to be considered for 100% discretionary business rate relief for two years, the following conditions must be met:
- i. Propose to occupy a difficult to let large commercial property rateable value £51,000 or over;*
 - ii. Commit to occupying for the long term i.e. more than 5 years minimum; and*
 - iii. Satisfy the Council's Executive that in granting 100% discretionary rate relief that it is in the interests of Carlisle City Council Tax Payers, factors to be considered include number of new local jobs likely to be created, other benefits to the District of locating in Carlisle.*
- 2.3 The property satisfies the first criteria as it is a large, empty commercial property and the rateable value of £255,000 exceeds the policy threshold level. It is noted that the property is let following the completion of extensive refurbishment.
- 2.4 In terms of a commitment to long term occupation the applicant has confirmed that they have now occupied the building following a significant, bespoke and multimillion pound investment by the building owners to facilitate EWMs occupation of the building as their headquarters. This provides significant assurances, and the applicant has confirmed their commitment to remain in Global House for the long

term, significantly in excess of the required five years. Any relief is to be considered from the date of occupation 16th October 2018.

- 2.5 The proposal is considered to give rise to significant wider economic benefits. Whilst EWM already has a presence in Carlisle (existing retail premises on English Street and warehouse at Kingmoor Park), occupation of Global House relates to the relocation of their head office functions and therefore acts to significantly upsize and diversify their interests within the District.
- 2.6 The head office operations have approximately 300 staff working from Global House which includes a number of new jobs. This reflects that the move to a new headquarters was required to ensure that the function could be expanded to keep pace with the positive growth of the wider business.
- 2.7 In acting to bring Global House back into occupation, a direct and significant multi million pounds investment has already occurred acting to create new jobs and safeguard existing ones within the fashion sector and the associated supply chain. Whilst indirect benefits are always difficult to precisely quantify, it is likely that the scale of the headquarters operation will benefit a number of smaller and medium based enterprises within the City via service and supply chain opportunities.
- 2.8 Global House's City Centre location is also clearly material. The large workforce now present within the building will undoubtedly frequent the City Centre including for example at lunch, in so doing expending money to the benefit of City Centre based retail and food and drink operators. Bringing Global House back into occupation could also have a catalytic effect on adjacent and nearby premises within the Historic Quarter through increased footfall, in doing so helping to generate additional business rates growth as well as acting to boost the vitality and viability of the immediate area.
- 2.9 Aside from business rate relief it should be noted that the Executive approved (at their meeting of the 25th June 2018) discounted car parking provision for a fixed period as part of the wider package of assistance to attract EWM to relocate to the City, in the full knowledge that an application for rate relief on the grounds applied for would be forthcoming. Paragraph 3.2 of that report stated that:

"Following the extent of refurbishment and redevelopment of Rufus House, the premises were brought out of rating by the Valuation Office reflecting that as a construction site, the premises were not subject to a rateable value. The previously approved relief was not therefore ultimately granted. Now that works are almost

complete, the premises is in the process of being brought back into rating. Given the time that has elapsed it is necessary from a procedural perspective to invite a fresh application for relief, as the rateable value needs to be notified by the Valuation Office albeit that it is anticipated that the policy requirements upon which the decision was based have not changed. This application will be brought to the Executive for a decision once rating liability has recommenced and at the point that liability rests with EWM".

3.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Under the existing 50:40:10 business rates retention scheme, the cost of any additional award of discretionary relief which was not included in the current year baseline estimate, set annually in February, will be shared between central government, county and district Councils. However, under the Cumbria Business Rates Pooling arrangements, the 50% central government share of business rate gains as well as any costs, are now shared between the Pooling authorities and will form part of the year end NNDR3 return, when any net gains are calculated and re-allocated. For profit making organisations the Council must be satisfied that it is reasonable to fund the 40% direct cost of relief before granting discretionary relief, having regard to the interests of council taxpayers.
- 3.2 The current year charge for the premises since EWM became liable is £57,518.92 for the period from 16th October 2018 to 31st March 2019, using the assessed rateable value of £255,000.
- 3.3 Granting 100% relief for a period of 2 years equates to £255,757, a rating liability of £128,520 per annum, therefore 40% of the estimated cost to the Council in respect of the discretionary relief period for the premises at Global House amounts to £102,303.

4.0 RISKS

- 4.1 Awards such as rate relief are required to comply with the EU law on State Aid. State Aid is the means by which the European Union regulates state funded support to businesses. Discretionary rate relief will automatically be State Aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulations. Under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013 any business cannot benefit from a cumulative value of grant or relief totalling more than €200,000 over 3 rolling years. At the time of writing this report, this equates to £176,000.

4.2 In considering relief above these thresholds' consideration will need to be afforded to whether the undertaking definitely amounts to State Aid by way of reference to a number of prescribed questions as set out below (a yes answer to all four is deemed to constitute State Aid):

- Is the assistance granted by the state or through state resources?
- Does the assistance give an advantage to one or more undertakings over others?
- Does the assistance distort or have the potential to distort competition?
- Does the assistance affect trade between Member States?

4.3 In the circumstances, and by way of reference to these tests, it is arguable that the relief will not amount to State Aid as it is unlikely to unfairly distort competition. If a body is found to have received non-compliant State Aid, the Council can be required to recover the aid from that body but ultimately the risk lies with the body, in this case Edinburgh Woollen Mill Limited as the applicant.

4.4 Based on the current rateable value and annual charge, the rates due for a period of 3 years, assuming that Edinburgh Woollen Mill remains in occupation, is £385,560. Whilst it is envisaged that liability will continue for a long term of at least 5 years as stated in the relief application, should the ratepayer cease to be liable there is a potential risk of this revenue not being received in subsequent years.

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is considered that the application by Edinburgh Woollen Mill Limited, relating specifically to the reoccupation of Global House, fulfils all of the requirements of the discretionary business rate relief policy for hard to let empty business premises. Based on this and the belief that the reoccupation gives rise to significant economic benefits, and in doing so would therefore be in the interests of Carlisle City Council Tax payers, it is recommended that the maximum relief permitted by the policy be granted i.e. 100% relief across the two years period.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

6.1 The proposal can be seen, based on the economic benefits it will give rise to, which are detailed in the preceding sections, to have a direct and positive impact on the following Carlisle Plan priorities:

“Support business growth and skills development to improve opportunities and economic prospects for the people of Carlisle” – through bringing additional jobs and business activity, and therefore growth, to Carlisle; and

“Promote Carlisle regionally, nationally and internationally as a place with much to offer - full of opportunities and potential” – through further reinforcing recognition of the City as a place from which to do business and operate a head office function.

Contact Officer: Reg Bascombe

Ext: 7102

Appendices Application for Discretionary Rate Relief (Large Empty Hard to attached to report: Let Premises) by Edinburgh Woollen Mill

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **None**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL – Discretionary Rate Relief powers are contained within Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended. Awards such as rate relief are required to comply with the EU law on State Aid. As detailed in the Report it will be necessary for each ratepayer who is awarded relief to complete a declaration to the Council if they have received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other Retail Rate Relief they may have received on other property(s). The declaration will include confirmation that the award of Reoccupation Rate Relief does not exceed the 200,000 euros an undertaking can receive under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013. Alternatively, it may be that the award of rate relief is not such that it would distort the market, again this is detailed in the report.

FINANCE – The cost of any Discretionary Rate Relief awarded under this policy will be a cost to the Collection Fund as opposed to being a charge on the Council's General Fund and will be distributed under the relevant proportions between the City Council, County Council and Cumbria Pooling authorities. Although the cost in the period where a rating relief is awarded will be a cost to the Collection Fund, this will be recouped in the following years should the new business stay in situ.

EQUALITY – None

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE – No information governance implications.



Resources Directorate

Director (Resources): Peter Mason CPFA
 Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG • Telephone (01228) 817000 • Fax (01228) 817278
 Typetalk 18001 01228 817000 • www.carlisle.gov.uk

Discretionary Rate Relief – Large Empty Hard to Let Premises

For an organisation to be considered for 100% discretionary business rate relief for two years, the following conditions must be met:

- Propose to occupy a difficult to let large commercial property with a rateable value of £51,000 or over
- Commitment to occupying for the long term i.e. more than a minimum of 5 years

Applications will be considered by the Councils' Executive, in the interests of Council Tax payers, to determine the implications of the organisation occupying a property on the economy and prosperity of Carlisle District. For example decisions may be linked to the number of new local jobs likely to be created and any other benefits.

A list of difficult to let properties is available on request for inspection at the Civic Centre.

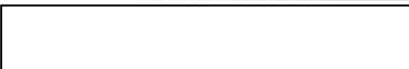
Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS** and **BLACK INK**

The Applicant	
Business / organisation name	The Edinburgh Woollen Mill Limited
Full address of property	Global House, 5/11 Castle Street CARLISLE and Car Park Fisher Street Carlisle
Post Code	CA3 8TF

Please answer ALL questions as fully as possible	
Does the property have a Rateable Value (RV) of £51,000 or more?	Yes ☒ X No ☐
Are you intending to occupy the property for the long term? (i.e. More than 5 years Minimum)	Yes ☒ X No ☐
Is your business venture entirely new?	Yes ☐ No ☒ X

Are you relocating your business to Carlisle from outside Carlisle District?	Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, what are the reasons for your relocation? To enable expansion of the head office function to keep pace with growth.
Have you traded in Carlisle before?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Where is your business currently located?	Global House but formerly Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway.
If your business is currently located in Carlisle District, does the relocation represent a significant upsizing of the business and/or its activities?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Please provide brief details of your proposals and what you will offer to benefit the local area	
The building has undergone a multimillion pound investment programme to redevelop it as a modern and fit for purpose long term office headquarters. The building, which is already occupied, will eventually accommodate in excess of 300 people, including a number of wholly new jobs. The expansion of the head office function within Carlisle will have positive impacts on wider businesses in terms of supply chain opportunities. The additional footfall in this area of the City Centre will also very positively impact on the vitality of the City centre and bring much needed increased expenditure into the City.	
Do you/have you received State Aid within the last three years?	Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, a declaration may be required due to the De Minimis aid threshold of €200,000 Please provide details of the value of state aid awarded within the preceding three year period

Are you likely to be in receipt of State Aid in the future?	Yes ☐ No ☒ Please provide details of the value of state aid you are anticipating
Is your organisation a registered charity?	Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please give your registered charity number
Are the premises rented?	Yes ☒ No ☐
If not, from where was the construction or purchase finance obtained?	
Is your organisation affiliated to local or national organisations?	Yes ☐ No ☒ If so, please give details
If your organisation is a sports club, are you registered with the Inland Revenue as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)?	Yes ☐ No ☒
If there are any other factors you would like the Council to consider as part of your application please give details.	The building owners have invested significantly in the premises now known as Global House (formerly known as Rufus House) and tailored these to facilitate EWM's occupation. This acts to provide significant assurances regarding EWMs long term commitment to Carlisle, with the relocation of staff having already occurred.

Has assistance or prior advice been sought from the local authority about this application?	Yes ☒
	No ☐
	If yes, please complete the following information about the advice you were given. Officer name: Jane Meek, Garry Legg Details of pre-application advice received as well as ongoing advice on the process relating to implementation of the previously awarded business rate relief under this scheme, as well as parking provision as part of the incentive package leading to the investment in Global House.
Have you answered all of the questions? If not, consideration of your application may be delayed	
Your Name	Steve Simpson
Signature	
Capacity in which signed (i.e., Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)	Director
Correspondence Address	CAPITAL LINK WINDSOR B CARDIFF
Date	20/2/15
Telephone Number	

Please return to:

Julie Ross, Business Rates, Revenues Section, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG.

FOR OFFICE USE: Account Number: Ref No

Authority for granting relief: Signed

Approved: Signed: Date

Committee: Approved/Refused Date Notified



NOTICE

OF

EXECUTIVE

KEY DECISIONS

8 FEBRUARY 2019

Notice of Key Decisions

This document provides information on the 'key decisions' to be taken by the Executive within the next 28 days. The Notice will be updated on a monthly basis and sets out:

- Details of the key decisions which are to be taken;
- Dates of the Executive meetings at which decisions will be taken;
- Details of who will be consulted and dates for consultation;
- Reports and background papers which will be considered during the decision making process;
- Details of who to contact if further information is required
- Details of where the document can be inspected
- Details of items which the public may be excluded from the meeting under regulation 4(2) and the reason why
- Details of documents relating to the decision which need not, because of regulation 20(3) be disclosed to the public and the reason why.

The dates on which each new Notice will be published are set below:

Publication Dates

8 February 2019
15 March 2019

Key decisions are taken by the City Council's Executive and these are usually open to the public. Agendas and reports and any other documents relevant to the decision which may be submitted can be viewed in the Customer Contact Centre at the Civic Centre, Carlisle or on the City Council's website (www.carlisle.gov.uk). Agendas and reports are published one week ahead of the meeting.

A Key Decision is an Executive decision which is likely –

- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant* having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.

*significant expenditure or savings to the authority in excess of £70,000

The City Council's Executive Members are:

Councillor Glover –Leader
Councillor Dr Tickner – Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillor Ms Quilter – Culture, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder
Councillor Miss Sherriff – Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Southward – Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder
Councillor Glendinning – Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder

Should you wish to make any representations in relation to the items being held in private or If you require further information regarding this notice please contact Democratic Services on 01228 817039 or committeeservices@carlisle.gov.uk.

Index of Active Key Decisions

	Date Decision to be considered:	Date Decision to be taken:
KD.04/19	North Pennines AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024	11 March 2019
KD.05/19	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Reports	29 May 2019
KD.06/19	Implementation of Rate Relief relating to Global House, Castle Street, Carlisle	11 March 2019

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.04/19
Type of Decision:	Executive
Decision Title:	North Pennines AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to consider the North Pennines AONB Management Plan 2019 - 2024 and refer to Council for adoption. This is a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	11 March 2019
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public.
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Corporate Director of Economic Development will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Corporate Director of Economic Development, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Economy, Enterprise and Housing (Councillor Mrs Glendinning)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

All public reports can be viewed in the Customer Contact Centre of the Civic Centre, Carlisle, the Public Library and on the Council's website www.carlisle.gov.uk.

Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.05/19
Type of Decision:	Executive
Decision Title:	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Reports
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to consider and approve the 2018/19 Provisional Outturn reports and make recommendations on any carry forward requests to Council on 16th July 2019 • Provisional Revenue Outturn • Provisional Capital Outturn • Elected Members Allowances – Provisional Outturn • Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates – Provisional Outturn • Treasury Management Provisional Outturn
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	29 May 2019
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The reports of the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Finance, Governance and Resources (Councillor Dr Tickner)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

All public reports can be viewed in the Customer Contact Centre of the Civic Centre, Carlisle, the Public Library and on the Council's website www.carlisle.gov.uk.

Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.06/19
Type of Decision:	Executive
Decision Title:	Implementation of Rate Relief relating to Global House, Castle Street, Carlisle
Decision to be taken:	The Executive will be asked to consider and approve implementation of previously approved business rate relief for Global House (formerly Rufus House) via the 'Large Empty Hard to Let Business Premises' concession in the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy
Date Decision to be considered:	
Date Decision to be taken:	11 March 2019
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	The report of the Corporate Director of Economic Development will be available five working days before the meeting
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Corporate Director of Economic Development, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Economy, Enterprise and Housing (Councillor Mrs Glendinning)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

All public reports can be viewed in the Customer Contact Centre of the Civic Centre, Carlisle, the Public Library and on the Council's website www.carlisle.gov.uk.

Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

Notice prepared by Councillor Colin Glover,
Leader of Carlisle City Council

Date: 8 February 2019

Officer Decisions

A.4

Below is a list of decisions taken by Officers of Carlisle City Council which they have classed as significant, full details and supporting background documents can be viewed on the Council's website: <http://cmis.carlisle.gov.uk/cmis/CouncilDecisions/OfficerDecisions.aspx>

Decision Ref No	Title:	Subject and Decision Taken:	Reports and Background Papers considered:	Date Decision Taken:
Licensing Manager				
OD.009/19	Licensing Decisions taken between 1 January 2019 and 31 January 2019	The Licensing Manager has granted the attached licences or permissions Applications for various under an express authorisation delegated to her and in accordance with the Council's policy requirements. (can be viewed on the Council website http://CMIS.carlisle.gov.uk/CMIS/CouncilDecisions/OfficerDecisions.aspx)	licences	31/01/2019
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources				
OD.010/19	National Non Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDR1) 2019/20	Revised regulations came into force in February 2013 that required Local Authorities to formally approve their forecast Business Rates income as calculated in the National Non Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDR1) 2019/20 form. The new Rates retention scheme that is now in force for 2019/20 requires this figure to be calculated in order to set the amounts to be paid over to Central Government and the County Council. This amount is to be calculated by 31 January each year. That the Net Rate Yield excluding transitional arrangements but after rate retention adjustment as per the NNDR 1 is £41,164,329 for 2019/20, with the Central Government share being £20,418,450, The County Council Share being £4,116,433 and the billing authority share being £16,465,732 before tariffs and top-ups. These amounts exclude the estimated surplus on the collection fund for 2018/18 of £450,295 (which includes provision for all backdated appeals in line with regulations).		04/01/2019

Decision Ref No	Title:	Subject and Decision Taken:	Reports and Background Papers considered:	Date Decision Taken:
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Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

OD.011/19	Business Rates Pooling arrangements 2019/20	At their meeting of 12 November 2018, the Executive agreed in principle to continue with the pooling arrangements with other Cumbrian Authorities under the Business Rates Retention Scheme for 2019/20 financial year. Final confirmation that the Pooling arrangements would be beneficial to the Council was obtained in line with submission of NNDR1 Returns in January and the decision, delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder has been made to continue in the pool. The financial impact of the pooling arrangements are included within the Council's 2019/20 – 2023/24 updated MTFP which formed part of the 2019/20 budget deliberations. The Council has the right to withdraw from the Pool in the unlikely event that the regulations supporting the pooling arrangements are detriment of Carlisle City Council.	RD.24/18 Local Taxation	04/02/2019
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Decision Ref No	Title:	Subject and Decision Taken:	Reports and Background Papers considered:	Date Decision Taken:
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources				
OD.012/19	Pay Award 2019/20	Pay Award 2018/19 & 2019/20 A two-year pay increase was agreed in April 2018 with the majority of employees receiving an uplift of 2% on 1st April 2018 and a further 2% on 1st April 2019, with those on lower salaries receiving higher increases. The agreement also included the introduction of a new national pay spine on 1st April 2019 and therefore an alignment review, to current pay points, was required for 2019/20. This alignment review has been undertaken with no changes to the Council's pay points; however, the new national pay spine converted 2 spinal column points (SCP) to 1 new SCP, which for the Council, crossed over 2 pay grades. This has therefore necessitated the removal of pay point P7 from the grade C band, resulting in one pay point in Grades A, B and C. This new pay policy is now amended and will be implemented on 1st April 2019. There are no financial implications arising out of this pay spine review.	N/A	04/01/2019
Corporate Director of Economic Development				
OD.013/19	Review of Building Regulation Scheme of Charges	To increase the fees by 3% in line with other Council Services on 1 April 2019	Briefing Note Fees and Charges Regulations 2010 Schedule of Charges Scheme of Charges	04/02/2019
Property Services Manager				
OD.014/19	Demonstration project otherwise known as Land at Beverley Rise, Carlisle CA1 3RX	To complete a freehold disposal of the land to Riverside Housing Association.	ED.28/15	11/02/2019

Decision Ref No	Title:	Subject and Decision Taken:	Reports and Background Papers considered:	Date Decision Taken:
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Property Services Manager

OD.015/19	Land at Greymoorhill, California Road, Carlisle CA3 0HS	To complete the freehold disposal of the land.	GD.10/16	11/02/2019
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Property Services Manager

OD.016/19	Landlord's consent to a new letting.	To grant Landlord's consent to the grant of a new lease of unit 83 at the Lanes Shopping Centre.	None	13/02/2019
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JOINT MANAGEMENT TEAM**Monday 11th February 2019****MINUTES**

Present:	Councillor C Glover (Chair), A Glendinning, C Southward, L Sherriff, L Tickner. J Gooding, A Taylor, M Lambert, J Meek, R Bascombe
Apologies:	A Quilter, D Crossley

JMT – Minutes of Previous Meeting	Action
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed	
Council Tax Premiums	Action
A discussion took place and more information was required	
JMT Forward Plan	
The forward plan was agreed	
Notice of Executive Key Decisions	
The Notice of Executive Key Decisions were agreed	

Report to Executive

Agenda
Item:

A.6

Meeting Date: 11th March 2019
Portfolio: Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes
Public / Private: Public

Title: PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 2018/19
Report of: Policy and Communications Manager
Report Number: PC 04-19

Purpose / Summary:

This report contains the Quarter 3 2018/19 performance against the current Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. Performance against the 2018/19 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are also included.

Recommendations:

1. Consider the performance of the City Council as presented in the report with a view to seeking continuous improvement in how the Council delivers its priorities.
2. Agree the proposed target and KPI changes highlighted in the report.

Tracking

Executive:	11/03/19
Scrutiny:	Health and Wellbeing 14/02/19 Economic Growth 21/02/19 Business and Transformation 28/02/19
Council:	N/A

1. BACKGROUND

This report contains the Quarter 3 2018/19 performance against the Service Standards and a summary of the Carlisle Plan 2015-18 actions as defined in the 'plan on a page'. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are also included. The appendix attached contains the Council's performance against all KPIs.

Service Standards were introduced in 2012 after consultation with Service Managers, DMTs, SMT and JMT. Following a review of the initial set of five Service Standards, five further measures were introduced from Quarter 2 2017/18. All measures were reviewed by officers at the end of 2017/18 and changes consulted on at Scrutiny Panels and Executive earlier in the year.

Service Standards are the measures judged to be the most important to our customers and therefore the mostly likely to influence the overall satisfaction with how the Council performs. The following pages contains the Council's performance against the Service Standards.

The updates against the actions in the Carlisle Plan are presented in Section 3. The intention is to give the Executive a brief overview of the current position without duplicating the more detailed reporting that takes place within the Scrutiny and Executive agendas and Portfolio Holder reports.

Summary of KPIs and Service Standards:

Service Standards – 1 'red', 4 'amber' and 5 'green'

KPIs – 3 'red', 9 'amber', 20 'green'

Summary of Exceptions (RED)

Service Standards:

Measure	Target	Performance
SS05: Corporate complaints should be dealt with within 15 working days	100%	90% (see comments in service standard section)

KPIs:

Measure	Target	Performance
FR03 Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE (full-time equivalent) employee.	6.4	7.9 (agenda item at BTSP 14 Feb 2019)

ED03a Building Control to check 90% of all full plans applications within 14 days of receipt	90%	68% Due to the issues with the Central Plaza Hotel earlier in the year, resources had to be diverted to deal with the emergency situation. This impacted on the ability of the service to achieve its targets in some areas. Performance improved during Quarters 2 and 3.
CSe04 Revenue gained from household waste recycling collected	£484k	£371k See Carlisle Plan Key Action 20 comments

2. PROPOSALS

See KPI Section

3. RISKS

None

4. CONSULTATION

The report was reviewed by Directorate Management Teams in January, by the Senior Management Team on 29 January 2019 and was considered at the Scrutiny Panels in February.

A 'Listening Council' exercise is being organised for March 2019 and will include open public meetings and online consultation. The purpose of the exercise is to capture the issues that are most important to the residents and businesses of Carlisle district. It will offer an opportunity to speak directly to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Glover, at one of the open public meetings. In addition, feedback will be captured from social media and an online feedback form. The events will begin on Monday 4th March with a social media launch and a discussion at Carlisle Partnership Executive. Throughout the following week open public meetings will take place at community centres (Botcherby, Brampton, Belah and Yewdale) and in the City Centre (Old Town Hall).

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive are asked to comment on the Quarter 3 Performance Report and agree to the revised KPIs and targets.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

Detail in the report.

Contact Officer: Gary Oliver

Ext: 7430

Appendices attached to report:

Performance Dashboard

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL - This report raises no explicit legal issues.

FINANCE – This report raises no explicit financial issues

EQUALITY – This report raises no explicit issues relating to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE – This report raises no explicit issues relating to Information Governance.

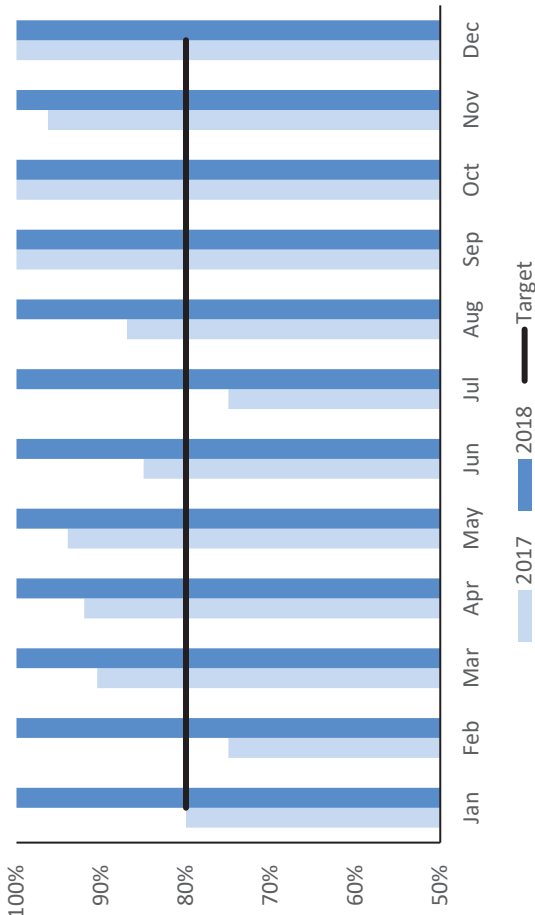
Section 1: Service Standards 2017/18

Service Standards were introduced in 2012 after consultation with Service Managers, DMTs, SMT and JMT. Following a review of the initial set of five Service Standards, five further measures were introduced from Quarter 2 2017/18.

Service Standards are the measures judged to be the most important to our customers and therefore the mostly likely to influence the overall satisfaction with how the Council performs.

The following pages contains the Council's performance against the current Service Standards.

SS01: Percentage of Household Planning Applications processed within eight weeks

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Month	Further Information																																							
80% (Nationally set target)	100%	 <table><caption>Monthly Performance Data (Estimated %)</caption><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017 (%)</th><th>2018 (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan</td><td>82</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>75</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>90</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>88</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>92</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>85</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>75</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>88</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>82</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>82</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>82</td><td>82</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>82</td><td>82</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	Jan	82	82	Feb	75	82	Mar	90	82	Apr	88	82	May	92	82	Jun	85	82	Jul	75	82	Aug	88	82	Sep	82	82	Oct	82	82	Nov	82	82	Dec	82	82	231 household planning applications have been processed in 2018/19 compared with 218 in the same period last year.
	Month		2017 (%)	2018 (%)																																						
	Jan		82	82																																						
Feb	75	82																																								
Mar	90	82																																								
Apr	88	82																																								
May	92	82																																								
Jun	85	82																																								
Jul	75	82																																								
Aug	88	82																																								
Sep	82	82																																								
Oct	82	82																																								
Nov	82	82																																								
Dec	82	82																																								
On target?																																										
																																										

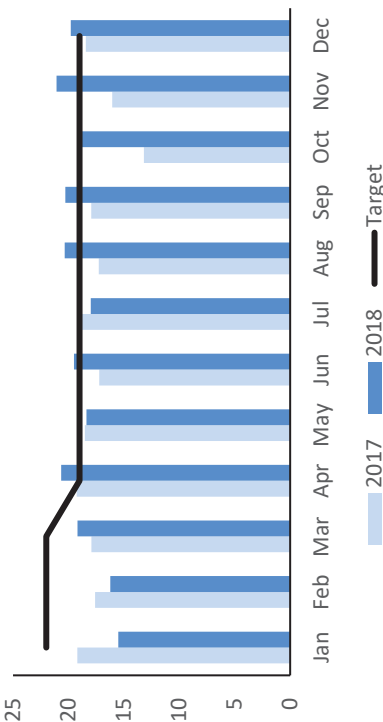
SS02: Proportion of waste or recycling collections missed (valid)

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Month	Further Information																																																				
40 missed collections per 100,000 (Industry standard)	8.1	<table><caption>Monthly Missed Collections Data</caption><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017</th><th>2018</th><th>Target</th></tr><tr><td>Jan</td><td>25</td><td>35</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>30</td><td>45</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>20</td><td>30</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>15</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>10</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>120</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>140</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>80</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>40</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>30</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>20</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>10</td><td>-</td><td>40</td></tr></table>	Month	2017	2018	Target	Jan	25	35	40	Feb	30	45	40	Mar	20	30	40	Apr	15	-	40	May	10	-	40	Jun	120	-	40	Jul	140	-	40	Aug	80	-	40	Sep	40	-	40	Oct	30	-	40	Nov	20	-	40	Dec	10	-	40	Just under three million collections were due to be made in the first nine months of the year. 237 collections were missed meaning the success rate was 99.992%.
	Month		2017	2018	Target																																																		
	Jan		25	35	40																																																		
Feb	30	45	40																																																				
Mar	20	30	40																																																				
Apr	15	-	40																																																				
May	10	-	40																																																				
Jun	120	-	40																																																				
Jul	140	-	40																																																				
Aug	80	-	40																																																				
Sep	40	-	40																																																				
Oct	30	-	40																																																				
Nov	20	-	40																																																				
Dec	10	-	40																																																				
(Q3 2017/18: 55.4)																																																							
On target? 																																																							

SS03: Percentage of household waste sent for recycling (including bring sites)

Service Standard	To end of Nov 2018	Performance by Month	Further Information																																																				
50% by 2020 (Nationally set target)	45.0%	<table><caption>Monthly Recycling Performance Data (Estimated)</caption><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017 (%)</th><th>2018 (%)</th><th>2020 Target (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan</td><td>35</td><td>38</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>38</td><td>40</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>40</td><td>42</td><td>45</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>42</td><td>45</td><td>48</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>45</td><td>48</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>48</td><td>50</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>45</td><td>48</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>42</td><td>45</td><td>48</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>40</td><td>42</td><td>45</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>42</td><td>45</td><td>48</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>45</td><td>48</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>48</td><td>50</td><td>52</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2020 Target (%)	Jan	35	38	40	Feb	38	40	42	Mar	40	42	45	Apr	42	45	48	May	45	48	50	Jun	48	50	52	Jul	45	48	50	Aug	42	45	48	Sep	40	42	45	Oct	42	45	48	Nov	45	48	50	Dec	48	50	52	Recycling rates nationally have stagnated and even reduced in some areas. Rates were down in July and August this year due to a 17.5% reduction in the tonnage of green waste collected compared to last year as a consequence of the dry weather. A new ‘campaign’ to increase participation in recycling is starting in Quarter 4
	Month		2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2020 Target (%)																																																		
	Jan		35	38	40																																																		
Feb	38	40	42																																																				
Mar	40	42	45																																																				
Apr	42	45	48																																																				
May	45	48	50																																																				
Jun	48	50	52																																																				
Jul	45	48	50																																																				
Aug	42	45	48																																																				
Sep	40	42	45																																																				
Oct	42	45	48																																																				
Nov	45	48	50																																																				
Dec	48	50	52																																																				
	(end of Nov 2017/18: 45.1%)																																																						
	On target?																																																						

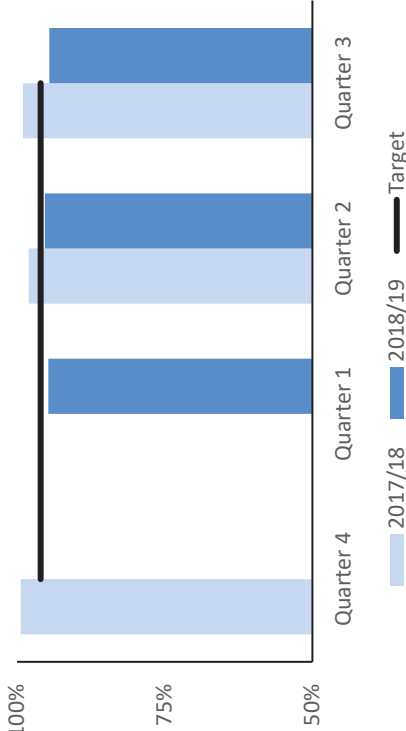
SS04: Average number of working days to process new benefits claims

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Month	Further Information																																																				
New claims should be processed within 19 days to achieve top two quartiles compared to other local authorities	19.5 days	 <table><caption>Performance by Month Data (Estimated)</caption><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017 (Days)</th><th>2018 (Days)</th><th>Target (Days)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan</td><td>18.5</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>17.5</td><td>18.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>18.5</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>18.5</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>17.5</td><td>18.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>18.5</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>18.5</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>17.5</td><td>18.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>18.5</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>19.5</td><td>20.5</td><td>20.5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	2017 (Days)	2018 (Days)	Target (Days)	Jan	18.5	19.5	20.5	Feb	17.5	18.5	20.5	Mar	18.5	19.5	20.5	Apr	19.5	20.5	20.5	May	18.5	19.5	20.5	Jun	17.5	18.5	20.5	Jul	18.5	19.5	20.5	Aug	19.5	20.5	20.5	Sep	18.5	19.5	20.5	Oct	17.5	18.5	20.5	Nov	18.5	19.5	20.5	Dec	19.5	20.5	20.5	The target was stretched to 19 days in April 2018 with the aim of achieving top quartile performance against other authorities. The national average in the latest data release (up to end of Quarter 2) is around 22 days.
	Month		2017 (Days)	2018 (Days)	Target (Days)																																																		
	Jan		18.5	19.5	20.5																																																		
Feb	17.5	18.5	20.5																																																				
Mar	18.5	19.5	20.5																																																				
Apr	19.5	20.5	20.5																																																				
May	18.5	19.5	20.5																																																				
Jun	17.5	18.5	20.5																																																				
Jul	18.5	19.5	20.5																																																				
Aug	19.5	20.5	20.5																																																				
Sep	18.5	19.5	20.5																																																				
Oct	17.5	18.5	20.5																																																				
Nov	18.5	19.5	20.5																																																				
Dec	19.5	20.5	20.5																																																				
On target?																																																							
																																																							

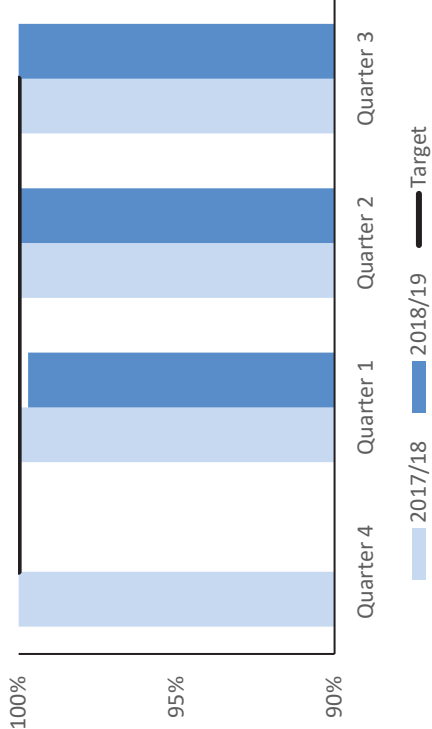
SS05: Proportion of corporate complaints dealt with on time

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Quarter	Further Information																				
Corporate complaints should be dealt with within 15 working days	90%	<table><caption>Performance by Quarter Data</caption><thead><tr><th>Quarter</th><th>2017/18</th><th>2018/19</th><th>Target</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Quarter 4</td><td>~92%</td><td>-</td><td>97.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter 1</td><td>-</td><td>~90%</td><td>97.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter 2</td><td>-</td><td>~95%</td><td>97.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter 3</td><td>-</td><td>~88%</td><td>97.8%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Quarter	2017/18	2018/19	Target	Quarter 4	~92%	-	97.8%	Quarter 1	-	~90%	97.8%	Quarter 2	-	~95%	97.8%	Quarter 3	-	~88%	97.8%	18 out of 20 corporate complaints have been completed on time so far in 2018/19. The other two complaints required lengthy and complex technical input to provide a full response. No complaints have been referred to the Ombudsman in 2018/19.
	Quarter		2017/18	2018/19	Target																		
	Quarter 4		~92%	-	97.8%																		
	Quarter 1		-	~90%	97.8%																		
Quarter 2	-	~95%	97.8%																				
Quarter 3	-	~88%	97.8%																				
(Q3 2017/18: 97.8%)																							
On target?																							
✗																							

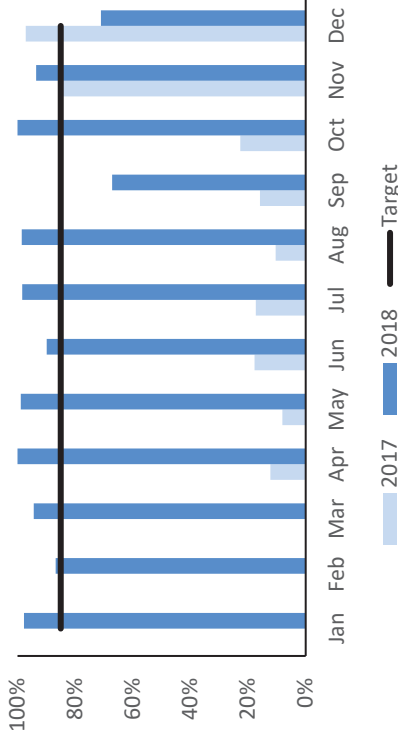
SS06: Proportion of food businesses that are broadly compliant or better with food safety legislation

Service Standard	Rolling figure to end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Quarter	Further Information																				
Our work with local food businesses should ensure that 96% are at least broadly compliant.	94.5%	 <table><caption>Performance by Quarter Data</caption><thead><tr><th>Quarter</th><th>2017/18 (%)</th><th>2018/19 (%)</th><th>Target (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Quarter 4</td><td>~92</td><td>~95</td><td>96</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter 1</td><td>~92</td><td>~95</td><td>96</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter 2</td><td>~92</td><td>~95</td><td>96</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter 3</td><td>~92</td><td>~95</td><td>96</td></tr></tbody></table>	Quarter	2017/18 (%)	2018/19 (%)	Target (%)	Quarter 4	~92	~95	96	Quarter 1	~92	~95	96	Quarter 2	~92	~95	96	Quarter 3	~92	~95	96	Approximately 200 premises are inspected each quarter. All premises are inspected at least once every eighteen months. Up to the end of December, 1071 out of 1133 inspections were broadly compliant.
	Quarter		2017/18 (%)	2018/19 (%)	Target (%)																		
	Quarter 4		~92	~95	96																		
Quarter 1	~92	~95	96																				
Quarter 2	~92	~95	96																				
Quarter 3	~92	~95	96																				
On target?																							
																							

SS07: Proportion of non-contentious licence applications completed on time

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Quarter	Further Information
100% of non-contentious licence applications should be completed within 10 working days	99.9% (Q3 2017/18: 100%)		748 out of 749 applications completed on time so far in 2018/19. In 2017/18 100% of 871 applications were completed on time.
	On target?		
	▲		

SS08: Proportion of official local authority searches completed on time

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Month	Further Information																																							
85% of official local authority searches should be completed within 10 working days	91.6% (Q3 2017/18: 22%)	 <table><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017 (%)</th><th>2018 (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>85</td><td>85</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	Jan	85	85	Feb	85	85	Mar	85	85	Apr	85	85	May	85	85	Jun	85	85	Jul	85	85	Aug	85	85	Sep	85	85	Oct	85	85	Nov	85	85	Dec	85	85	570 searches were completed in the year to date – 3% more than the same period last year.
Month	2017 (%)	2018 (%)																																								
Jan	85	85																																								
Feb	85	85																																								
Mar	85	85																																								
Apr	85	85																																								
May	85	85																																								
Jun	85	85																																								
Jul	85	85																																								
Aug	85	85																																								
Sep	85	85																																								
Oct	85	85																																								
Nov	85	85																																								
Dec	85	85																																								
	On target?																																									

SS09: Proportion of new waste and recycling bins, bags and containers delivered on time (within 10 working days)

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Month	Further Information																																																				
95% delivered within 10 working days	95.1% (Q3 2017/18: 75%	<table><caption>Monthly Performance Data (Estimated)</caption><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017</th><th>2018</th><th>Target</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.90</td><td>0.951</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	2017	2018	Target	Jan	0.85	0.90	0.951	Feb	0.85	0.90	0.951	Mar	0.85	0.90	0.951	Apr	0.85	0.90	0.951	May	0.85	0.90	0.951	Jun	0.85	0.90	0.951	Jul	0.85	0.90	0.951	Aug	0.85	0.90	0.951	Sep	0.85	0.90	0.951	Oct	0.85	0.90	0.951	Nov	0.85	0.90	0.951	Dec	0.85	0.90	0.951	
	Month	2017	2018	Target																																																			
	Jan	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																			
Feb	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Mar	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Apr	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
May	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Jun	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Jul	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Aug	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Sep	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Oct	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Nov	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
Dec	0.85	0.90	0.951																																																				
On target?																																																							

SS10: Average number of working days to process benefit claimants' changes of personal details

Service Standard	To end of Quarter 3 2018/19	Performance by Month	Further Information																																																				
Changes should be processed within 8 days	4.5 days (Q3 2017/18: 5.1 days)	<table><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>2017</th><th>2018</th><th>Target</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td><td>8.5</td></tr><tr><td>Feb</td><td>2.0</td><td>2.0</td><td>8.5</td></tr><tr><td>Mar</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td><td>8.5</td></tr><tr><td>Apr</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>May</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Jun</td><td>5.0</td><td>5.0</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Jul</td><td>5.5</td><td>5.5</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Aug</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Sep</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Oct</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Nov</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>Dec</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td><td>4.5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	2017	2018	Target	Jan	4.5	4.5	8.5	Feb	2.0	2.0	8.5	Mar	4.5	4.5	8.5	Apr	4.0	4.0	4.5	May	4.5	4.5	4.5	Jun	5.0	5.0	4.5	Jul	5.5	5.5	4.5	Aug	4.0	4.0	4.5	Sep	4.5	4.5	4.5	Oct	4.0	4.0	4.5	Nov	4.5	4.5	4.5	Dec	4.5	4.5	4.5	Over twenty-two thousand changes have been processed in the 2018/19 year to date. This is a 6% decrease compared to the same period last year.
	Month	2017	2018	Target																																																			
	Jan	4.5	4.5	8.5																																																			
Feb	2.0	2.0	8.5																																																				
Mar	4.5	4.5	8.5																																																				
Apr	4.0	4.0	4.5																																																				
May	4.5	4.5	4.5																																																				
Jun	5.0	5.0	4.5																																																				
Jul	5.5	5.5	4.5																																																				
Aug	4.0	4.0	4.5																																																				
Sep	4.5	4.5	4.5																																																				
Oct	4.0	4.0	4.5																																																				
Nov	4.5	4.5	4.5																																																				
Dec	4.5	4.5	4.5																																																				
On target?																																																							

Section 2: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Service Standards are not the only set of measures used to interrogate the performance of the Council. Alongside the review of Service Standards, a set of Key Performance Indicators, derived from the links between the service plans and Budget Resolution were developed. These are attached as a Dashboard.

Current KPIs have been reviewed with Service Managers. A summary of changes is below and, if agreed, changes will be implemented at the start of 2019/20.

The Building Control measures are changing to reflect the Quality Management System BS9001: 2015 which the service is externally audited against.

New Measures

Measure	Target
% of valid full plan applications determined or checked by Building Control within 5 working days	25%
% of valid full plan applications determined or checked by Building Control within 15 working days [amendment to ED03a below]	90%
% of site inspections carried out by Building Control on the date agreed [amendment to ED01 below]	99%
Proportion of sundry debts recovered	2019/20 baseline year
Customer Services - Respond to customer emails within 48hrs	90%

Measures to be Removed

Code	Measure
ED01	Building Control carry out inspections notified as necessary to the applicant or agent at time of acknowledgement within 24 hours of the date required.
ED03a	Building Control to check 90% of all full plans applications within 14 days of receipt

Target Changes

Code	Measure	Old Target	New Target
GRS09	Annual rental revenue from Kingstown Industrial Estate	£2,023,880	£2,049,917
CSu06	Proportion of direct social media messages on Facebook and Twitter responded to within 24 hours during normal working hours	100% within 24hrs	100% within 4hrs

Section 3: Carlisle Plan on a Page 2016 - 2018 Delivery

Priority 1: Support business growth and skills development to improve opportunities and economic prospects for the people of Carlisle

Business Property & Infrastructure:

OUTCOME	<u>2. City Centre redevelopment projects</u>
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth / Business & Transformation
Specific – What is the task	Promote development opportunities and regeneration opportunities within the city centre (including Carlisle Station, Caldew Riverside, The Citadel, English Street and The Pools). Set out a strategy for the future vitality and viability of the city centre including development options for the regeneration opportunity sites (Carlisle Station, The Pools, Court Square, Caldew Riverside and the Citadel).
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Production of a city centre masterplan
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	Consultancy support will be required to produce the masterplan. This will be funded by revenue budgets secured through the MTFP process.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The preparation of the masterplan will commence Q3 2018-19, with a draft version produced by the end of Q4.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Preparation of the masterplan has commenced with options for the strategic regeneration sites being considered.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	Delivery and funding options are currently being explored through the Borderlands Growth Deal.

OUTCOME	3. Support the delivery of a Carlisle Enterprise Zone at Kingmoor Park
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek Officer: Garry Legg
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Support the delivery of Carlisle Kingmoor Park Enterprise Zone Implementation Plan and Marketing Strategy, as well as actively contributing to governance as a key partner.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Delivery of approximately 200,000sqm of new employment related floor space, across 73ha creating an additional 3,000 jobs and representing private sector investment of £109m.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes, detailed Implementation Plan in place and role required of partners clear.
Realistic – Resources available	Partnership governance arrangements in place.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Zone effective from 1 st April 2016 with the retention of business rates for a period of 25 years.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	• Delivery Board met on the 13th December 2018 with a new chair. • Partnership Memorandum Of Understanding being updated. • One application for Business Rate Relief approved, with a handful pending a decision. • Single and dedicated reporting template and process being prepared by dedicated project manager.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None. Detailed risk register is being updated by the new LEP-based project manager.

OUTCOME	4. Support the development of Carlisle Airport as a regional gateway
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Support the development of Carlisle Airport as a regional gateway
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Airport offer expands to include increased freight and in addition passenger services.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Through Economic Development Planning and Building Control Services professional advice and support.
Realistic – Resources available	Planning / Building Control advice
Time Bound – Start/end dates	There is currently no planned end date to this action.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	No direct progress to report pending commencement of passenger flights. Opportunities including Borderlands continue to be used to promote the airport and the benefits it presents for Carlisle and the wider subregion.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	The major risk which has caused delays to date and which is being addressed by the airport operators, is the availability of experienced air traffic controllers.

Strategy & Planning:

OUTCOME	5. Identify and deliver further projects aligned with the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Identify and deliver further projects aligned with the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Development of project pipeline; alignment of priorities and projects with Cumbria LEP Strategic Economic plan to ensure they are supported by the LEP and/or attract funding.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Through engagement with the LEP and Technical Officers Group
Realistic – Resources available	Corporate Director/Senior Officer time
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Local Industrial Strategy to be adopted late 2019. This will feature on a future Scrutiny agenda.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Draft Local Industrial Strategy published for consultation in October 2018. Response to draft strategy submitted to the LEP on the 14 th December 2018.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None.

OUTCOME	6. Progress the Borderlands Initiative
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Progress the Borderlands Initiative
Measurable – How will success be measured?	By way of the successful continuation of the innovative and long-term partnership and the level of additional public and private sector investment secured as a direct result of the initiative.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes. A co-ordinated approach to support regional economic development through partnership working will help to attract additional investment. Progression of 'The Borderlands Proposal' will rely on support from both the UK and Scottish Government.
Realistic – Resources available	Corporate Director of Economic Development and Borderlands Project Officer time to support the Initiative. In addition, partners have contributed towards a centralised fund to enable the appointment of consultancy support to develop a suite of strategic outline business cases and other evidence base requirements. It is anticipated that additional financial revenue resources will be required to provide support to move from Heads of Terms to Final Deal, which will be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget process.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The Borderlands Partnership submitted the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Proposal 2018 to UK and Scottish Government on 28 th September 2018. It is anticipated that a Heads of Terms agreement on a Deal could be reached by the end of the calendar year/early 2019. Thereafter it can typically take twelve months to agree and sign a Deal based on the experience of other areas. The Deal would then progress to the implementation and delivery phase, timescales for which would be dependent on individual projects or programmes.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	The Borderlands Partnership has continued to work closely with both Governments following the submission of the <i>Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Proposal</i> on 28 th September 2018.

	Both governments have indicated in recent budgets that they are absolutely committed to the ongoing discussions. The Leaders of the five Borderlands partners (Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council) have met with Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity and are due to also meet with David Mundell MP, Secretary of State for Scotland imminently. Responses by the Borderlands Partnership to the feedback and queries of both governments have been returned and partners are keen to progress to Heads of Terms as soon as possible.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	There are several potential risks to the delivery of a Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, although nothing of concern to report at present; reflecting risks continue to be managed. Partners are aware of the external risks to the project in terms of time delays due to current political uncertainties. The acceptance of a Deal could have significant implications for the Council in the delivery of potential significant capital regeneration projects which present risks in terms of reputation, financial commitment, staff resources and the service delivery.

OUTCOME	7. Infrastructure Delivery Plan
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Maintain an up to date Infrastructure Delivery Plan and develop proposals to address identified issues.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Progress and issues will be reported through the annual statutory Authority Monitoring Report.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Regular dialogue with infrastructure providers set up and maintained.
Realistic – Resources available	Can be delivered within existing staff resource and budget allocation.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The Plan is aligned to the Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-30. Comprehensive update critical to development of masterplan and delivery strategy for St. Cuthbert's Garden Village.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Procurement underway for Stage 2 masterplanning for St Cuthbert's Garden Village which includes the production of specific individual framework plans including an infrastructure schedule to set out the following: - necessary strategic infrastructure - when the infrastructure will be required - risks - the ability to deliver a range of specific infrastructure items. Meetings continue to be held with infrastructure providers including United Utilities and Severn-Trent.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	Delay in the award of capacity funding from MHCLG could delay Stage 2 Masterplanning.

OUTCOME	8. Develop a St Cuthbert's Garden Village Masterplan covering housing, design, employment land, community facilities, transport and infrastructure
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	The development and adoption of a masterplan covering St. Cuthbert's Garden Village.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Masterplan will be incorporated into a Development Plan Document (DPD) which will require approval by Council. Masterplan to be delivered in 2 parts: Part 1 is visioning and concept framework; Part 2 is detailed framework plans.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Production of DPD governed by Government Regulations, with policy and guidance also set out nationally
Realistic – Resources available	The project is detailed in the Council's approved Local Development Scheme (LDS). An adequate allocation has followed through the process of the MTFP. Additional funding to accelerate delivery and enhance quality has been forthcoming through inclusion in the Government's Locally Led Garden Villages Programme. Further Garden Village Capacity Funding applied for as and when funding rounds are announced.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Mandate forthcoming from LDS which was approved in July 2016. Inclusion in Garden Village programme confirmed on 2nd January 2017. Anticipated adoption date of DPD April 2020.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	• Draft final report Stage 1 Masterplanning received • Procurement for Stage 2 masterplanning commenced including draft brief and sifting questions placed on The Chest, shortlisted consultancies informed and clarification meeting for shortlisted bidders arranged • Transport framework, land-use and placemaking framework and policy formulation workshops held • Members' Advisory Group (MAG) met twice • Continued engagement with wider community including Dementia Awareness Group, urban youth club, Carlisle College and Carlisle Ambassadors trade and industry session

	Stewardship fact finding visit to Bourneville Village Trust including chair of MAG and Parish Council members.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	Delay in anticipated capacity funding award being received. Decision on HIF application for the Carlisle Southern Link Road still awaited. Capacity of team and budget continue to be closely monitored in relation to escalation of volume and complexity of work.

Skills Development:

OUTCOME	10. Continue to support the delivery of the city region Skills Plan aligned to business growth, sustainability requirements and the LEP Skills Strategy
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Continue to support the delivery of the city region Skills Plan aligned to business growth, sustainability requirements and the LEP Skills Strategy
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Successes in relation to skills improvements and better alignment with key sectors will be determined by the LEPs emerging Local Industrial Strategy and Carlisle City Council emerging Economic Strategy.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	The emerging Economic Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy will contribute significantly towards the achievement of this objective through the exploration of the requirements of key sectors operating and expanding within the area and the alignment of these requirements with the education offer of local education providers.
Realistic – Resources available	Whilst the delivery of the skills plan will be challenging, the emerging Economic Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy will continue to support its delivery and may, in some cases, enhance this through targeted sector work to establish the skills requirements of key sectors. Carlisle City Council is currently working with training providers who deliver apprenticeships within the District to better understand the take up of apprenticeship opportunities and what the City Council can do to encourage take up of apprenticeships, particularly within key sectors.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The Local Industrial Strategy is currently being consulted on and will be adopted in 2019. The emerging Economic Strategy is anticipated to be adopted 2019 in when there is a clearer indication of the timescale and scale of a number of significant projects that Carlisle

	City Council are currently involved in, such as the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, as well as a greater understanding of the potential impact of external factors such as Brexit. Officers have been involved in the emerging draft Local Industrial Strategy and will continue to input into its refinement. This, linked to the national Industrial Strategy published late 2017, will identify priority actions that will contribute towards the delivery of the LEP Skills Strategy. A review has been undertaken of the evidence base informing the emerging Economic Strategy and the strategy will continue to be developed and refined over the coming months. Additionally, Cumbria LEP are to launch Cumbria Careers Hub in late January and as such officers will be engaged with the work of the hub and its role in driving forward improvements in Cumbria, developing coordination and coherence to the implementation of the Careers Strategy.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Nothing of concern to report at present, reflecting risks continue to be managed.

Working with business:

OUTCOME	11. Proactively develop business support through supporting the Growth Hub
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Proactively develop business support through supporting the Growth Hub
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Actions and activities undertaken to support businesses will be defined through the emerging Economic Strategy. This will include supporting the activities of the Growth Hub. Success of business support will be measured through annual review of the Economic Strategy actions (once adopted).
Achievable – Is it feasible?	The emerging Economic Strategy will contribute significantly towards the achievement of this objective through the exploration of the requirements of businesses and therefore linking requirements with targeted support, including through the Growth Hub.
Realistic – Resources available	Whilst the delivery of business support is often challenging due to limited resources, the emerging Economic Strategy will provide some tangible actions linked to business support, including supporting the Growth Hub.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The end date of the key action will be coterminous with the Economic Strategy action plan.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Funding agreement continues to be implemented and outcomes monitored.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	Consideration being afforded to future years' arrangements particularly given Brexit and uncertainties on any replacement for previously EU funded initiatives.

Priority 2: Further develop sports, arts and cultural facilities to support the health and wellbeing of our residents
Service and Facilities Development:

OUTCOME	<u>12. Develop and deliver the proposed new leisure contract to improve facilities at The Sands Centre in line with the City Sports Facilities Development Plan and enhance the leisure services across the city.</u>
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Business & Transformation / Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	1. To retender and award a new leisure contract with a significantly reduced subsidy. 2. Develop Outline Designs and budgetary package and secure approvals for Sands Centre Development. 3. Complete works on cycle track and open the facility. 4. Complete works on tennis canopy and open the facility.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	1. The award of a new contract. 2. Executive approval for outline designs and consent (inc budgetary provision) to develop detailed design and works. 3. An operational track by October 2017. 4. Canopy covered courts by Spring 2018.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	1. COMPLETE 2. Sufficient budget and permission has been secured to appoint a design team to take the project to the end of outline design. The design team are currently working on a more detailed design to RIBA Stage 3. 3. COMPLETE 4. Support in place from the LTA and a clear scheme identified, subject to planning permission the canopy can be delivered.
Realistic – Resources available	1. COMPLETE 2. The project is on schedule and has adequate financial resource to be completed.

	3. COMPLETE 4. Sufficient budgetary provision has been made via grant funding from the LTA and the city council's capital programme. Work is currently underway to procure the enabling work to get the tennis courts back into service.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	1. COMPLETE 2. Route to Affordability to be completed by the end of October 2018 and contracts put in place for the Principal Contractor. The designers need to be novated to the Principal Contractor by the end 2018, to maintain programme. Temporary accommodation (or alternative arrangements') need to be put in place by the end of October 2018 to allow demolition and construction of the Sands Leisure facilities by March 2019. Completion of the project scheduled for December 2020. 3. COMPLETE 4. The enabling works was scheduled for completion by end November 2018.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	1. The leisure contract retender is complete and it has been in place since December 2017. 2. During Quarter 3, the main Sands new build and temporary accommodation (x2) planning applications were submitted and approved. Preconstruction design service agreement to aid the tender process was also signed. 3. The cycle track is complete and operational. The final account has been settled following adjudication. 4. The proposed Tennis Canopy at Bitts Park has been abandoned due to the extent and condition of main sewers running under the courts and the risks and costs associated with works nearby. Dialogue will continue with the LTA to see if there are any other options providing covered courts in the City.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	

13. Deliver a renewed Old Fire Station 2017/18 Business Plan and Development Strategy	
OUTCOME	Strategy
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	1. To review the existing business plan and develop a new one for 2018 taking into account income generation and sustainability. 2. To identify and secure funding to help cover additional front of house staff. 3. Improve audience numbers through marketing and promotion.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	1. Development of a new business plan for 2018. 2. Success will be measured by the amount of funding secured. 3. Number of visitors to venue / number of audience members at specific events in comparison to previous year (measure CSe19).
Achievable – Is it feasible?	1. The catering contract is due for renewal in 2018 and the current business model is becoming outdated. This is a good opportunity to reconsider the plan. 2. Working with the funding officer to identify potential funding streams. 3. Using the marketing budget to investigate alternative avenues for marketing.
Realistic – Resources available	1. The existing team will work on the review as part of their 2017 work programme. 2. Using casual staff and employed staff to work on funding bids. 3. Existing staff to develop marketing plan.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	1. First draft to be prepared by Dec 2017. 2. Funding in place for March 2018. 3. Action plan to be developed during 2017.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	A leasehold opportunity was advertised in Quarter 2 to test the potential for further improvement on the operating costs for the OFS under a different model. The deadline for interested parties was in Quarter 3 and, following a detailed evaluation of proposals, a

	preferred partner has been identified. Discussions are on-going around the proposal detail and will be concluded in Quarter 4.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

Healthy City Programme:

OUTCOME	16. Continue to work with key partners to deliver the World Health Organisation Phase VI Healthy City Action Plan
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	- Restructure Healthy City Forum (HCF) and work with partners to deliver on the Phase VI application - Completion of the Annual Reporting Template (ART) - Completion of abstract submissions (Complete 2018) - Develop action plan - Explore next phase (VII) (timescales yet to be released) - Deliver Place Standard situational awareness workshop (Complete)
Measurable – How will success be measured?	- Number of partners engaged (target will be set as part of the Phase VII criteria) - Completion of ART and feedback received - Number of abstracts accepted (target: 1) - Development of an action plan
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	No budget allocated – but some external resource / capacity
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Phase VI 2014-18 Phase VII details to be released in early 2019
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	• Mapping of activity across Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Cumbria Public Health Strategy and the 6Ps complete, to assist in action plan development • Further input into the development of the Cumbria Public Health Strategy (as put forward at Joint Districts – 2 strategic topic areas now complete) • Healthy City meeting held in the last Quarter • Support and input at the Health and Wellbeing Board provided to Districts • Successful Place Standard session delivered in the last Quarter with 34 partners in attendance and supported by the Scottish / World Health Organisation lead. Several

	partners are keen to take this forward. A funding bid has been submitted to further explore developing this.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	• Completing agendas / timescales – various documents with different timescales / competing agenda requiring input • Partner turnover / changes of appointment • Interest in agenda (PLACE) – increasing needs and capacity requirements if interest continues

OUTCOME	17. Continue to support and develop the Food City Partnership: Local Healthy Eating Options; Carlisle Food Charter; food sector supply chain development; food skills; education and tourism.
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Develop work of Food Carlisle and subsequent partnership projects
Measurable – How will success be measured?	- Local Food Partnership Officer in post (June 17) (complete) - Development of Local Healthy Options Award - Number of Food Charter sign ups (target exceeded) - Sustainable Food Cities (SFC) Award (complete) - Refresh of partnership steering group and action plan (draft complete)
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes - fixed term period SFC funding for an appointed post (July 2017 to July 2018).
Realistic – Resources available	Yes. Further project funding will need to be explored and partnership working to develop shared projects. We also need to be aware that the funding is only available for one year.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Commenced with appointment to post in June 2017 and projects will continue to be developed.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	• Food Charter Sign up exceeded target of 6 (total was 85) • Due to the success of the Local Healthy Option Award, countywide development is now being explored • Steering group refreshed – this will be ongoing as the new Action Plan is further developed • Draft Food Carlisle action plan is now complete following two workshops in previous quarters. This is going to the steering group on 25th Jan for further input / development • New projects developing – Big Lunch, Meals on Wheels • Sugar Smart received addition funding - £10,000 (Big Lottery)
Emerging issues / risks to the project	• Local Food partnership officer funding has now ended – leaving a gap in resources • Partner turnover or partners move on

OUTCOME	18. Work with partners to develop and deliver a Healthy Workforce programme
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Work with partners to design and develop a workplace health partner project / package and lead by example in the completion of Carlisle City Councils Better Health at Work Application
Measurable – How will success be measured?	- Sickness absence stats (measures FR03 and FR04) - Number of employees engaged - Number of organisations signed up to the Better Health at Work (BHAW) Award - Number of businesses / organisations signed up to BHAW - Delivery of an event (Summer 2018)
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Timescales may slip. Need for good partner relationships
Realistic – Resources available	Yes – Partnership funding externally
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Contract with Inspira to start Nov 2017. Initial delivery and 2 events to be held before end of 2018.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Project complete but being continued in terms of BHAW by external partners. It is recommended that this action is closed once final evaluation figures have been received.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

Priority 3: Continue to improve the quality of our local environment and green spaces so that everyone can enjoy living, working in and visiting Carlisle
Rethinking Waste:

OUTCOME	<u>20. Optimise income achieved from the sale of recyclable materials collected</u>
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Optimise income achieved from the sale of recyclable materials collected
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Additional income for the Council through the sale of assets and through the receipt of recycling credits (measure CSe04)
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	Yes – from 12 June 2017, kerbside recycling collections were extended to additional properties across Carlisle and at the same time the range of recyclable material collected from households was extended to include drinks containers (Tetrapak). Some of the increase in kerbside recycling collections will be off-set by an associated decrease in recycling collected from our local bring sites.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	There is no specific end date to this action; income will continue to be maximised.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Officers continue to monitor the situation and working on a new 'campaign' to increase participation in recycling starting in Quarter 4.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	'Our Waste, Our Resources Strategy for England' launched by Gov't December 2018 will have implications potentially on the way in which we collect refuse and recycling going forward.

OUTCOME	<u>22. Provide quality, clean local environments for people to enjoy with the involvement of local communities, supported by robust enforcement action against those who drop litter, fly-tip or allow their dogs to foul</u>
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	The production of an Enforcement Strategy 2019 to 2023 to identify the key actions to be undertaken by the Council over the next three years to tackle enviro-crime. To also include active work with schools, volunteer and community groups to support positive behaviour change and reduce reliance on the Council for clean-up activity.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	– Improved street scene with reduced incidence of fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling (measure CSe11) – Increase in successful enforcement action (measure CSe10) – Improved Council reputation (measured through survey work) – New partnerships developed and community links strengthened – Added value to the local community
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Officers to prepare a revised draft enforcement strategy to consult with elected members and stakeholders.
Realistic – Resources available	There are no significant resource implications.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Strategy to be launched before June 2019
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Final draft of Strategy presented to SMT December 2018.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

OUTCOME	<u>23. Complete the delivery of a programme of public realm improvements throughout the city: fingerpost signage; interpretation boards and gateway signage</u>
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Complete the delivery of a programme of public realm improvements throughout the city: fingerpost signage; interpretation boards and gateway signage
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Installation of new fingerpost signage, interpretation boards and gateway signage
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	Can be progressed to completion within existing staff capacity and allocated budget
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Installation of fingerpost signage and interpretation boards completed Q4 2017-18 Gateway Signage – to be delivered in the next public realm improvement programme. Appraisal of projects and indicative costing to commence in Q3 2018-19 with a provisional programme produced by the end of Q4.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Public realm audit of city centre conducted in Q3 provides the evidence base for the development of the improvement programme which has now commenced. Ongoing dialogue with Cumbria County Council regarding design and delivery.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	With regards to highway signage, the County Council continue to highlight the highway safety implications. The delivery of the phase 2 programme will be dependent on approval for the release of the remaining budget.

Quality of our Local Environment:

OUTCOME	25. Annually review the air quality in Carlisle and work with partners to deliver an Air Quality Action Plan to reduce outdoor air pollution to a safe level.
SMT OWNER	Mark Lambert
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Defra LAQM process followed
Measurable – How will success be measured?	AQ assessment approved. Monitoring results continue downward trends. These are reported through an annual report to Scrutiny.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Within existing staff and budgets
Realistic – Resources available	Delivered through Housing and Pollution Team
Time Bound – Start/end dates	As below
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	2018 Air Quality Action Plan supported by Defra. Continuous and monthly monitoring continuing. Revised Action Plan and further reporting to Scrutiny scheduled for 2019/20
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

Priority 4: Address current and future housing needs to protect and improve residents' quality of life
Housing Strategy:

OUTCOME	<u>30. and 31 Prepare and publish an updated Housing Strategy and develop and implement a Housing Delivery Action Plan</u>
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Preparation and adoption of an up to date Housing Strategy inclusive of a housing delivery action plan, informed by appropriate stakeholder consultation and engagement as an integral part of the process.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Housing Strategy adopted by Council and action plan complete.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	Can be progressed within existing staff capacity and base budgets
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Strategy planned to be adopted by Council in 2019.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Commissioned update of Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which will assess affordable housing need for the period 2019-24. This evidence base will help inform the emerging Housing Strategy.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None.

Homelessness Strategy:

OUTCOME	32. Work together with partners to monitor progress against Carlisle's Interagency Homelessness Strategy 2015-20
SMT OWNER	Mark Lambert
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Work together with partners to monitor progress against Carlisle's Interagency Homelessness Strategy 2015-20
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Achieving the priority aims and objectives outlined within the Homeless Strategy and annual action plans. A full update is reported to Scrutiny annually as a separate agenda item.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	Yes
Time Bound – Start/end dates	End March 2020
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	All actions achieved and key milestones on track.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	Homeless review to be undertaken in 2019/20 to inform the ongoing strategy in line with government priorities and national guidance specifically in relation to rough sleeping strategies.

Housing Quality/Access:

OUTCOME	33. Improve standards in the private rented sector (including student accommodation) through inspections, advice and, where necessary, enforcement.
SMT OWNER	Mark Lambert
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Improve standards in the private rented sector (including student accommodation) through inspections, advice and, where necessary, enforcement.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Number of HMO inspections completed to check licence conditions Number of notices issued to improve the condition of the Private Housing stock Number of Private Sector Houses Inspections
Achievable – Is it feasible?	
Realistic – Resources available	
Time Bound – Start/end dates	There is no specific end date to this action.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Number of HMO inspections completed to check licence conditions: 6 Number of notices issued to improve the condition of the Private Housing stock: 11 Number of Private Sector Houses Inspections: 12
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

OUTCOME	<u>34. Continue to develop and promote the Council's Empty Homes Service by delivering advice and information to empty homes owners</u>
SMT OWNER	Mark Lambert
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Continue to develop and promote the Council's Empty Homes Service by delivering advice and information to empty homes owners. An Empty Home is defined as a property that has been empty for six months or more and is 'substantially unfurnished.'
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Number of empty homes. Whilst there is no target, the long-term trend should be a reduction in empty homes.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	
Realistic – Resources available	A dedicated officer has been in post since January 2018.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	There is no specific end date to this action.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Number of homes in Carlisle empty for greater than 2 years. Q3 figure 325 Number of homes in Carlisle empty for over 6 months. Q3 figure 931 There is a natural continuous cycle of movement of properties that move in and out to the category of Empty Homes but those remaining empty for two years or more are of most concern as they are more likely to fall into disrepair and potentially be a disamenity within the community. An overarching view of movement of properties in 2018 is below: Number of empty properties January 2018: 873 Number of empty properties December 2018: 931 Number of properties no longer empty in 2018: 488 (271 were empty for over two years) Number of new properties empty in 2018: 546

	Number of properties empty throughout 2018: 385 The properties that have been empty for over two years take priority for officers as two years appears to usually be enough time for owners to attend to individual issues regarding re-establishing homes for habitable use. Communication with the long-term empty home owners is via letters, follow-up letters, questionnaires, telephone calls and visits. Physical visits are also undertaken independent of the owner to visually assess the state of the property. Those properties identified as a 'blight' to the community are given further attention and Development Management officers can assess the property as a disamenity and take further action thereafter where deemed appropriate. Additionally, Council Tax rates increase to 150% at the two-year point to encourage movement. The Executive's adoption of the Empty Homes Enforced Sale Procedure in September 2018 (report at Scrutiny 30 August 2018) provides a further mechanism to bring long-term empty homes back into use.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

OUTCOME	<u>35 Deliver the City Council's annual mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant Programme in respect of applications received and revise the Regulatory Reform Order Strategy to improve expenditure compatible with the discretionary grant</u>
SMT OWNER	Mark Lambert
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Deliver the City Council's annual mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant Programme in respect of applications received and revise the Regulatory Reform Order Strategy to improve expenditure compatible with the discretionary grant
Measurable – How will success be measured?	1. Mandatory grants issued 2. Discretionary grants issued 3. Proportion of DFG adaptations within target for each stage
Achievable – Is it feasible?	
Realistic – Resources available	
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The end date will be defined by the action plan to implement the Revised Housing Renewal Assistance Policy.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	1. Mandatory grants issued – Q1 to Q3 = 81 (total) 2. Discretionary grants issued – Q1 to Q3 = 220 (total) 3. Proportion of DFG adaptations within target for each stage = 77 % (77% completed within 12 weeks)
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None – activity improving, already exceeded last year's total spend – on course for over £2 million expenditure for 2018/19. Previous figures for 2018/19 would have been grants paid so these quarter figures are corrected to represent total grants completed – one grant may have multiple payments as the works proceed. Precise completion times can now be calculated, and these figures are included for both mandatory and discretionary grants.

OUTCOME	<u>36. Develop local solutions to ensure opportunities to maximise the delivery of affordable homes which respond to locally evidenced needs</u>
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Develop local solutions to ensure opportunities to maximise the delivery of affordable homes which respond to locally evidenced needs.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Gross no. of new affordable homes, measured against need as evidenced by the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment). This is reported annually.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	We will work proactively towards maximising the affordable housing delivery, through working in partnership with local Housing Associations, developers, HCA, and strategic partnership groups – such as the Cumbria Housing Supply Group and Cumbria LEP
Realistic – Resources available	Will be managed within existing staffing resources
Time Bound – Start/end dates	HCA's Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	The Council has supported bids to Homes England to deliver up to 43 additional shared ownership units across 4 schemes through the 'Heylo' scheme.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

OUTCOME	<u>37. Work with landowners, developers, and partner agencies (e.g. HCA) to accelerate the delivery of sites</u>
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Work with landowners, developers, and partner agencies (e.g. HCA) to accelerate the delivery of sites.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Number of Net New Homes Per Annum - Performance measured against Local Plan housing target (478 in 2018/19 and 2019/20) and anticipated rates of delivery in housing trajectory.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Whilst out with the direct control of the Council, there are several actions the Council can and is taking to support the realisation of this objective. These actions including potentially new activities will be detailed and coordinated through the Housing Strategy which is under development.
Realistic – Resources available	Can be delivered within existing staff resource and budget allocation. Need for additional resources will be flagged, if necessary, through the development of the housing strategy and consequently pursued through the Medium Term Financial Planning process.
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Linked to the Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-30.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Continue to engage with developers and delivery partners particularly via the Cumbria Housing Supply Group.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

Priority 5: Promote Carlisle regionally, nationally and internationally as a place with much to offer - full of opportunities and potential

Tourism:

OUTCOME	<u>39. Continue to support the delivery of a high-quality events programme across Carlisle to raise the profile of the city, attract more visitors, celebrate diversity and increase pride in the city</u>
SMT OWNER	Darren Crossley
Scrutiny Panel	Health & Wellbeing
Specific – What is the task	Continue to support the delivery of a high-quality events programme across Carlisle to raise the profile of the city, attract more visitors, celebrate diversity and increase pride in the city
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Delivery of an agreed programme of events.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Yes
Realistic – Resources available	Staff and required financial resources are in place
Time Bound – Start/end dates	The events programme is a rolling programme
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	During Quarter 3 the Fireshow and Christmas Lights Switch were successfully delivered.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

Business Growth:

OUTCOME	<u>41. Work with Carlisle Ambassadors to raise the profile of Carlisle through business engagement.</u>
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Work with Carlisle Ambassadors to raise the profile of Carlisle through business engagement.
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Membership numbers are maintained at > 100 or increase. Four themed meetings held per year. Ambassadors are engaged in activities which promote Carlisle and the Carlisle offer.
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Delivery of quarterly Carlisle Ambassador meetings themed around economic priorities. Programme agreed annually and delivery supported by ED Admin team.
Realistic – Resources available	External marketing and relationship management support procured, Corporate Director and Officer support in place to provide direction and project management
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Established 2013 with programme of activity and outputs reviewed on an annual basis. 2018-19 programme currently being delivered with review of proposal for 2019-20 to be considered Q3 2018-19.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	Thursday 29 November 2018, fourth Carlisle Ambassadors of 2018 held at Carlisle Racecourse. The theme was 'Trade and Industry' and showcased 22 businesses in the Bell Hall with over 220 delegates hearing from the following businesses: Carlisle Racecourse, Sealy Beds, CFM, ARCO, Carlisle Local Enterprise Partnership, Carlisle City Council and Molly Rose Lemonade.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

OUTCOME	42. Encourage Carlisle Ambassadors to engage partners in promoting the Carlisle story/offer
SMT OWNER	Jane Meek
Scrutiny Panel	Economic Growth
Specific – What is the task	Encourage Carlisle Ambassadors (CA) to engage partners in promoting the Carlisle story/offer
Measurable – How will success be measured?	Media statistics: Circulation figures, On line views Website / YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Blogs etc. Increased sharing of Carlisle success stories by Carlisle Ambassadors in their sector and CA support for joint promotional opportunities such as Northern Powerhouse or GP Recruitment
Achievable – Is it feasible?	Engagement through Carlisle Ambassador Initiative and Marketing Sub Group
Realistic – Resources available	External marketing and relationship managed support procured, Marketing Sub Group of Carlisle Ambassadors to be implemented
Time Bound – Start/end dates	Established 2013 with programme of activity and outputs reviewed on an annual basis. 2018-19 programme currently being delivered with review of proposal for 2019-20 to be considered Q3 2018-19.
Progress in Quarter 3 2018/19 against project plan / key milestones achieved	An ideas workshop to sift through the suggestions made at the Marketeers Event held in July took place on 15 October 2018. This identified clear objectives for the wider group to work towards promoting Carlisle. Further discussions were held in Nov / Dec with interested organisations regarding the development of a Welcome to Carlisle pack. Options will be explored.
Emerging issues / risks to the project	None

Carlisle City Council Performance Dashboard 2018/19 - to end of Quarter 3

Key	
↓	Performance is deteriorating (compared to same period last year)
↑	Performance is improving (compared to same period last year)
→	No change in performance (compared to same period last year)
✗	Off target
▲	Close to target (within 5%)
✓	On target

On Target?	New Code	Measure	Performance to end of Q3 2018/19	Performance to end of Q3 2017/18	Trend	Target	Comments
✓	CSe03	Average weight (Kg) of domestic non-recycled waste collected per house	318	336	↑	336	April to November only
✗	CSe04	Revenue gained from household waste recycling collected	£ 371,462	£ 492,426	↓	£ 484,036	Carlisle Plan Key Action 20 covers this KPI
N/A	CSe05	Proportion of all Carlisle waste recycled (including partners)	58%	59%	→	Info only	April to November only
✓	CSe08	Litres of fuel used by Council fleet	285,760	298,073	↑	298,073	
N/A	CSe10a	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly tipping	2	6	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe10b	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering	29	43	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe10c	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for dog fouling	2	3	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe10d	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for abandoned vehicles	2	2	→	Info only	
N/A	CSe11a	Number of counts/reports of fly tipping	200	261	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe11b	Number of counts/reports of littering	46	42	↑	Info only	
N/A	CSe11c	Number of counts/reports of dog fouling	166	217	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe11d	Number of counts/reports of graffiti	0	5	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe11e	Number of counts/reports of abandoned vehicles	272	349	↓	Info only	
▲	CSe12a	Proportion of acts of fly tipping responded to in full within 5 working days	99%	38%	↑	100%	
N/A	CSe12b	Proportion of acts of offensive graffiti responded to in full within 1 working day	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	None reported
✓	CSe12c	Proportion of abandoned vehicles initially investigated within 5 working days	100%	39%	↑	100%	
▲	CSe14	Actual car parking revenue as a percentage of car parking expenditure (including recharges).	141%	151%	↓	143%	Revenue down on target
▲	CSe18	Actual OFS revenue as a percentage of OFS expenditure (including recharges).	21%	32%	↓	26%	Revenue down on target
N/A	CSe19	Old Fire Station count of event attendees (direct count of ticket sales)	17008	10714	↑	Info only	Excludes visitors to the venue (café or to buy tickets) and private hire room bookings
▲	CSe22	Actual city centre revenue as a percentage of city centre expenditure (including recharges)	39%	58%	↓	43%	Revenue down on target
▲	CSe24	Actual Bereavement Services revenue as a percentage of Bereavement Services expenditure (including recharges)	112%	112%	→	113%	Revenue down on target
✓	CSe25	Actual Talkin Tarn revenue as a percentage of Talkin Tarn expenditure (including recharges)	95%	100%	↓	83%	Revenue exceeded target and expenditure under budget
N/A	CSe26	Proportion of allotment sites that are self-managed.	19%	22%	↓	Info only	
N/A	CSe27	Proportion of allotment plots that are occupied.	86%	90%	↓	Info only	Excluding self-managed sites

Carlisle City Council Performance Dashboard 2018/19 - to end of Quarter 3

Key	
↓	Performance is deteriorating (compared to same period last year)
↑	Performance is improving (compared to same period last year)
→	No change in performance (compared to same period last year)
✗	Off target
▲	Close to target (within 5%)
✓	On target

On Target?	New Code	Measure	Performance to end of Q3 2018/19	Performance to end of Q3 2017/18	Trend	Target	Comments
✓	CSe29	Percentage of play area safety inspection completed on time.	100%	100%	→	100%	
N/A	CSe36a	Social media reach: Facebook post reach - monthly average	141869	66301	↑	Info only	The number of people who had the City Council's post enter their screen
N/A	CSe36b	Social media reach: Twitter post reach - monthly average	120789	49744	↑	Info only	
✓	CSu02	Proportion of customer "calls for service" logged in Salesforce completed on-line	15.2%	8.2%	↑	8.5%	From calls logged in Salesforce CRM (3528 out of 23149 logs).
▲	CSu04	Percentage of Council Tax collected	84.8%	84.9%	↓	84.9%	
▲	CSu05	Percentage of NNDR collected	84.2%	84.8%	↓	84.8%	
✓	CSu06	Proportion of direct social media messages on Facebook and Twitter responded to within 24 hours	100%	N/A	N/A	100%	New measure for 2018/19
▲	ED01	Carry out inspections notified as necessary to the applicant or agent at time of acknowledgement within 24 hours of the date required.	99.1%	99.1%	→	100%	3984 inspections carried out so far in 2018/19
✓	ED02	Building Control to process S80 demolition notices within six weeks (statutory duty)	100%	100%	→	100%	
✗	ED03a	Building Control to check 90% of all full plans applications within 14 days of receipt	68.0%	79.1%	↓	90%	Due to the issues with the Central Plaza Hotel earlier in the year, resources had to be diverted to deal with the emergency situation. This impacted on the ability of the service to achieve its targets in some areas. Performance improved during Quarters 2 and 3.
▲	ED03b	Building Control to decide 100% of all applications within the statutory period of 5 weeks or 2 calendar months (with the consent of the applicant)	96.9%	97.2%	↓	100%	
✓	ED05	Proportion of major planning applications completed in 13 weeks or within agreed time extension	91.3%	100%	↓	60%	21/23 completed within deadline or agreed extension
✓	ED06	Proportion of minor planning applications completed in 8 weeks or within agreed time extension	98.4%	97.9%	↑	80%	485 applications
✓	ED07	Proportion of 'other' planning applications completed in 8 weeks or within agreed time extension	98.8%	98.5%	↑	80%	244 applications
✓	ED08	Proportion of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) confirmed within 6 months	100%	100%	→	100%	6 out of 6 confirmed within six months
N/A	ED09	Proportion of hedgerow removal notifications determined within 6 weeks	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	0 notifications
✓	ED10	Proportion of Tree Preservation Order applications determined within statutory period of 8 weeks	100%	96%	→	100%	32 applications

Carlisle City Council Performance Dashboard 2018/19 - to end of Quarter 3

Appendix to Section 2: KPIs

Key	
↓	Performance is deteriorating (compared to same period last year)
↑	Performance is improving (compared to same period last year)
→	No change in performance (compared to same period last year)
✗	Off target
▲	Close to target (within 5%)
✓	On target

On Target?	New Code	Measure	Performance to end of Q3 2018/19	Performance to end of Q3 2017/18	Trend	Target	Comments
✓	FR01	Actual net spend as a percentage of annual net budget.	59.3%	69.3%	↑	59.3%	
✓	FR02	Percentage of all invoices paid within 30 working days	98.9%	99.0%	↓	98%	7866 invoices paid
✗	FR03	Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE (full-time equivalent) employee.	7.9	6.4	↓	6.4	Sickness Absence was a separate agenda item at the Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel in Feb 2019.
✓	FR04	Percentage of return to work interviews completed in five working days of returning to work.	77%	77%	↓	77%	
N/A	FR16	Revenue gained from external delegates enrolled on City Council training events	£ 1,200	#N/A	N/A	Info only	New measure for 2018/19. Currently no target set. Places on courses are offered to external delegates once internal demand has been fulfilled.
N/A	GRS04	Proportion of contested licence applications decided on within 50 working days.	N/A	N/A	N/A	95%	0 contested applications so far in 2018/19
✓	GRS05	Proportion of Temporary Event Notices licences processed within 1 working day.	100%	100%	→	100%	168 applications so far in 2018/19
✓	GRS06	Proportion of public health service requests (pest control, noise, smells, house conditions) responded to within the target response times.	91.5%	92.0%	↓	90%	

Report to Executive

Agenda
Item:

A.7

Meeting Date: 11th March 2019
Portfolio: Communities Health and Wellbeing
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and Budget Framework: No
Public / Private: Public

Title: DRAFT JOINT CUMBRIA PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY
Report of: The Deputy Chief Executive
Report Number: CS 12/19

Purpose / Summary:

To provide an overview of the Draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy which describes wide ranging aims to tackle the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, in line with the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-29 in preparation for adoption.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that following the consideration of the comments from the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel, that the Draft Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy is considered for adoption.

Tracking

Executive:	11th March 2019
Scrutiny:	21st February 2019
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health at Cumbria County Council (CCC) has led on the creation and development of the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy. Officers with multi-disciplinary backgrounds and expertise from Carlisle City Council, the other district councils, Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park have contributed to the writing and the shaping of specific thematic areas, as discussed at Cumbria Leaders board.
- 1.2 The Public Health Strategy sits under the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-29. This strategy is currently in production (consultation ended 31st January 2019), and will be going to the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing board in April. This is a document which sets out how the Health and Wellbeing Board will work together over the next ten years. All Clinical Commissioning Groups, local authorities and NHS England plans should take the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy into account.
- 1.3 The vision of the Cumbria Joint Public Health strategy is to: *“enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and to tackle health inequalities”*. This corresponds with the Carlisle Plan, Carlisle Partnership and Carlisle Healthy City activity.
- 1.4 This Cumbria Joint Public Health strategy takes a different approach to previous public health strategies as it acknowledges the conditions in which a person is born, lives, grows, learns and works, and considers impacts on their access and ability to live a healthier life. These are known as the wider determinants of health, and includes housing, education, employment, working conditions, the natural environment, food production and water. These are incorporated into figure 1. Estimates vary, however it is broadly accepted that health care is accountable for approximately 10% of the contribution to our health and 10% genetics. This means that whilst access to good quality health care is very important, health is primarily determined by socio-economic and lifestyle factors (80%). This provides a huge opportunity to influence and improve health and wellbeing.
- 1.5 The above additionally builds on the good work Carlisle has done in regard to the World Health Organisation Healthy City agenda, the wider determinants of health and council services aligned to these determinants. The next phase of Healthy City (phase 7) outlines 6 themes (6Ps) which are:
 - Investing in the **‘people’** who make up our cities
 - Designing urban **‘places’** that improve health and wellbeing
 - Greater **‘participation’** and partnership for health and wellbeing

- Improved community '**prosperity**' and access to common goods and services
- Promoting '**peace**' and security through inclusive societies
- Protect the '**planet**' from degradation, leading by example, including through sustainable consumption and production.

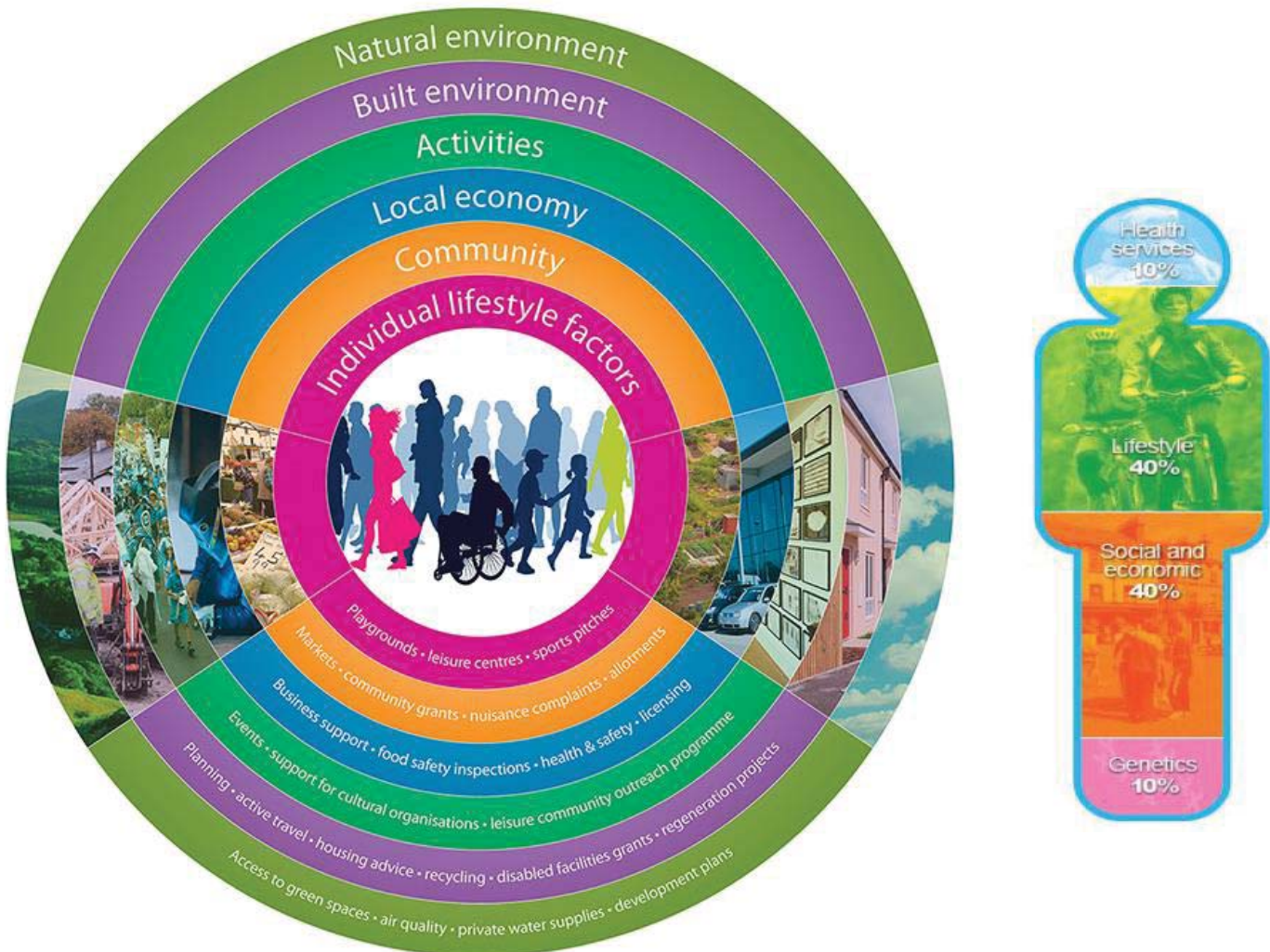


Fig 1. Wider determinants of health referencing district council activity

- 1.5 The framework of the draft Cumbria Public Health Strategy is based on the “*Five Capitals Model*”. This includes the following and links to Healthy City phase 7 and the 6Ps (fig 2).
- Natural Capital (Planet):** A high quality natural environment that provides opportunities for engagement with the natural world.
- Human Capital (People):** People with the skills, knowledge, and experience that give them the capacity to take part in society and have meaningful and fulfilling lives.
- Social Capital (Participation):** A good social infrastructure, with networks and institutions that allow people to connect to each other.

Physical Capital (Place): A good physical infrastructure including housing, transport, and a commercial environment that promotes healthy behaviours.

Financial Capital (Prosperity): Adequate financial resources that are fairly distributed.

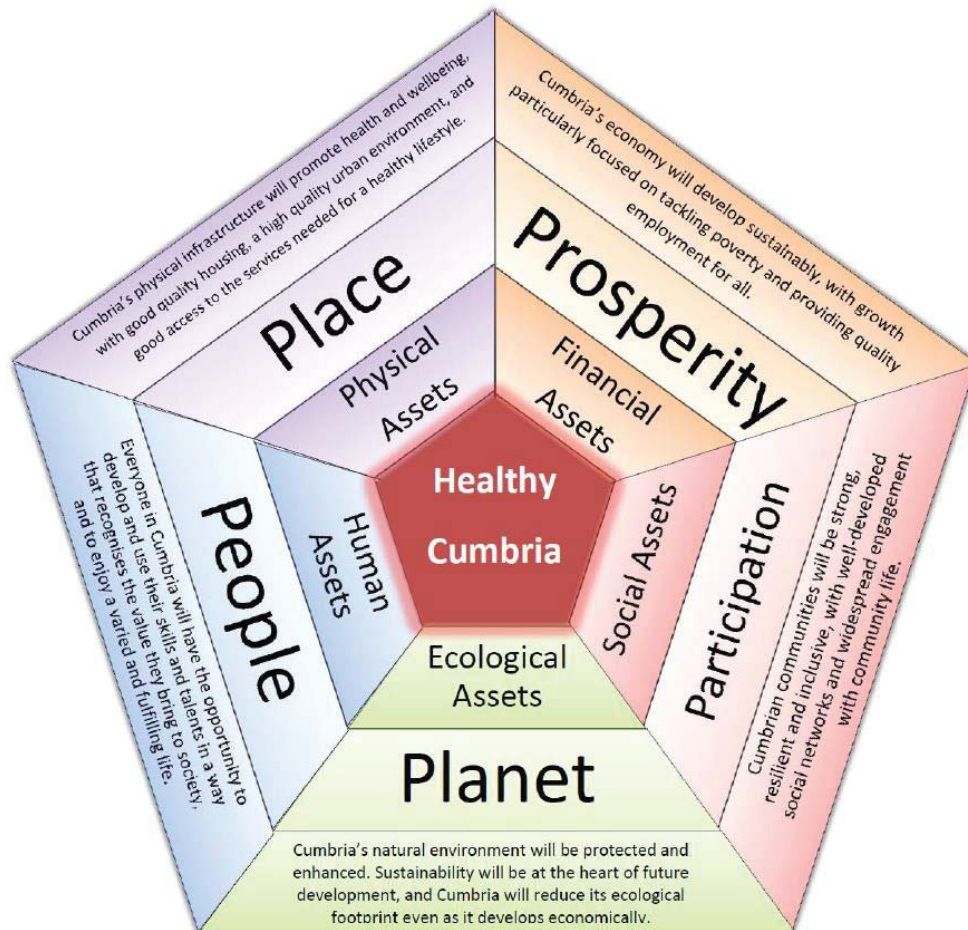


Fig 2. A Future for a Healthier Cumbria

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 This strategy provides a strong framework which demonstrates the cross-cutting nature of the work Carlisle City Council undertakes. Adopting this strategic approach will improve the Council's contribution to promoting, enabling and providing services which improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.
- 2.2 The aims outlined in the strategy are very ambitious, and achieving them is a matter for all of us. It sets out the aspirations of partners and a commitment to work towards these over the long term, and encourage others to work towards them, within the constraints that all agencies face. Health is everyone's business.

- 2.3 The draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy correlates strongly with the Carlisle Plan, via themes such as: health and wellbeing, housing, economy, education and skills, culture and leisure, environment; as well as cross cutting multidisciplinary partnership working. These are all incorporated within this strategy.
- 2.4 The new draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy has been co-written by the Cumbrian local authorities and other partners. This strategy provides a well-developed framework for actions on the wider determinants of health. It includes many aims which correlate with our own council plan. Due to its wider determinants focus it is an appropriate strategy for a district council to adopt.
- 2.5 Implementation of the strategy will require a collaborative cross-organisational approach, bringing together different sectors and specialisms. Following adoption, Carlisle City Council with other local authorities will work with partners on developing an approach to implement the strategy with the support of the Healthy City Forum. The forum would need to mirror the different aspects of health which are included in this strategy and provides the opportunity to refocus and reengage.
- 2.5 The draft Joint Public Health Strategy aligns with future Healthy City ambitions and the key themes within phase 7 which are the 6Ps (People, Places, Participation, Prosperity, Peace and Planet).

3. **RISKS**

- 3.1 Lack of implementation.
- This could mean that the ambitions of the Strategy are not realised.
 - Leadership, coordination and partnership working would be required to ensure implementation and delivery.
- 3.2 Lifestyle drift (where a policy sets out an ambition to tackle health inequalities through the social wider determinants of health (upstream), but drifts to downstream lifestyle/behavioural measures).
- This could mean that there are no or negative changes to inequalities and deprivation.
 - Public health education is required to ensure that challenge can occur if lifestyle drift is seen. A mix of upstream and downstream measures will be required. Partnership working and leadership is also key to this.

- 3.3 High level agenda with a large number of priorities
- This could hinder progress
 - To counter this, priorities for Carlisle would need to be agreed using an evidence-based approach and working closely with partners to implement. Communication will also be key to this.
- 3.4 Conflict with Healthy City agenda
- This could confuse agenda's and limit resource available
 - The Healthy City agenda fits in and aligns with the World Health Organisations 6Ps (Planet, People, Participation, Place, Prosperity and Peace) and the Assets models of the document as visible on page 29. This will need to be further strengthened via the Healthy City Forum. It allows for a refocus and refresh of this agenda.

4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The Draft Public Health Strategy will be considered by the following groups:
- Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Public Health Alliance
 - Cumbria Chief Executive's Group
 - Cumbria Leader's Board
 - CCC Cabinet and Council
 - Carlisle Partnership
 - Carlisle Healthy City Forum
 - The other Cumbrian district's Cabinets and Councils.
 - Carlisle City Council Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny panel.
- 4.2 On 3rd December 2018 the Carlisle Partnership Executive considered both the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the emerging Draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy. Please see the appendices for the excerpt from the Carlisle Partnership Executive.
- 4.3 On Thursday 21st February Carlisle City Council's Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny panel considered the Draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy. Please see the appendices for the excerpt from Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny.

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy correlates strongly with the Carlisle Plan, via themes such as: health and wellbeing, housing, economy, education and skills, culture and leisure, environment; as well as cross cutting multidisciplinary partnership working. These are all incorporated within this strategy. There are also strong links with council services below the plan.
- 5.2 Not adopting the new county wide Public Health Strategy. This would not be the recommended option as it would mean Carlisle is working towards a separate public health strategy and framework to the rest of the county.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The draft joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy contributes to all elements of the Carlisle Plan.

The overall Vision: “To improve the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of the people of Carlisle. We will work in partnership to further establish our position as the regional centre and focus for investment, ensuring that residents can share in the benefits through increased opportunities and greater choice of jobs, range of housing and a quality environment.”

“Support business growth and skills development to improve opportunities and economic prospects for the people of Carlisle.”

“Further develop sports, arts and cultural facilities to support the health and wellbeing of our residents.”

“Continue to improve the quality of our local environment and green spaces so that everyone can enjoy living, working in and visiting Carlisle.”

“Address current and future housing needs to protect and improve resident’s quality of life.”

“Promote Carlisle regionally, nationally and internationally as a place with much to offer – full of opportunities and potential.”

Contact Officer: Darren Crossley

Ext: 7120

Appendices attached to report: The draft joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy, excerpt from Carlisle Partnership Executive and excerpt from Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny panel.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL – None

FINANCE – There are no direct financial implications from this report and any costs will be met from existing budgets

EQUALITY – None

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE – None

Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy:

Tackling the Wider Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

Version Number	FINAL DRAFT
Date	6 February 2019

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Tackling climate change	11
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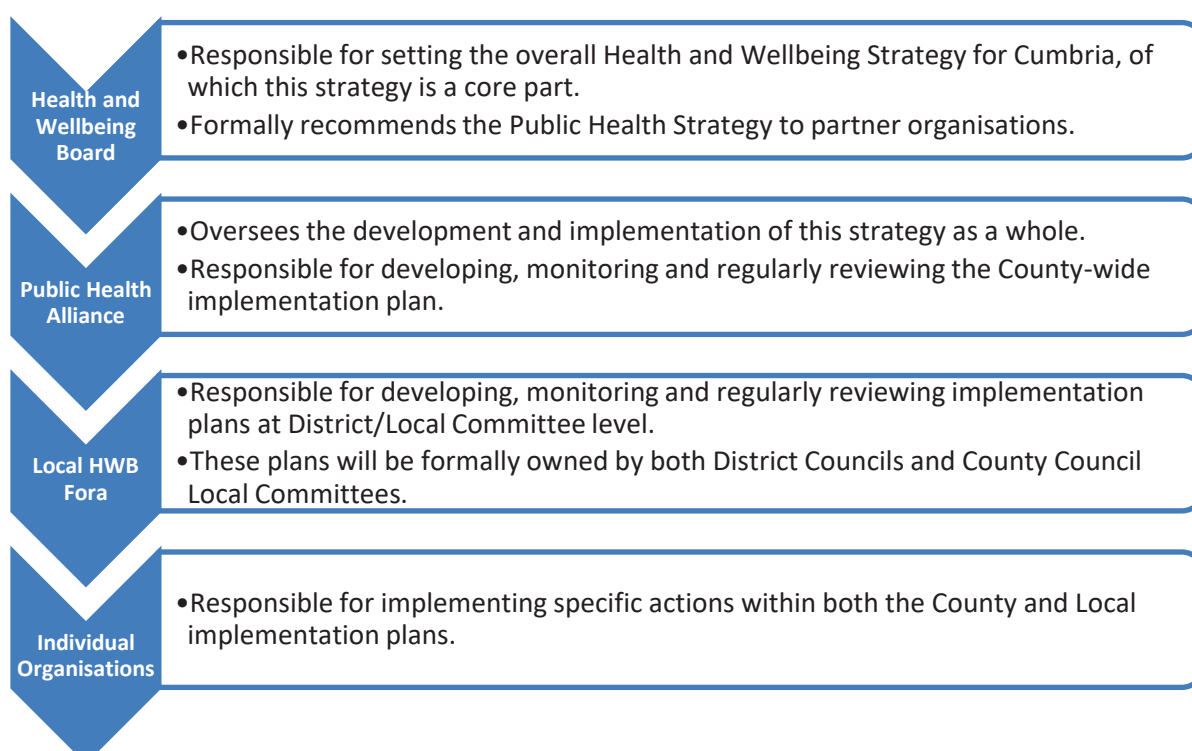
Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy: Tackling the Wider Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

Introduction

This strategy has been developed by the Cumbria Public Health Alliance, which includes partners from across local government, the health service and the third sector. It describes the shared ambition of these partners to help bring about the environmental, social and economic conditions that can best support Cumbrian residents to enjoy a healthy and happy life.

The aims outlined in this document are very ambitious, and achieving them is not simply a matter for the partners who have signed up to the strategy. Many of the key themes are influenced significantly by national and even international economic and political forces, and by the action of individuals as well as a wide range of private sector organisations, so there is no guarantee that the aims set out in this document can be achieved. The strategy therefore reflects the aspirations of partners and a commitment to work towards these over the long term, and to encourage others to work towards them, within the constraints that all agencies face.

Moving towards achieving these aspirations will take concerted action at many levels, including work to influence national policy. Some of this action will need to be taken at the level of the whole County, while other work will take place at a more local level: much of the implementation of the strategy depends on the work of District Councils. Consequently this strategy will be supported by a range of action plans, developed and implemented at different levels, as follows:



Key to the implementation of this strategy will be the development of mechanisms for working together and for assessing how decisions that are being made influence the aims set out in this strategy. Some of these mechanisms, such as the Public Health Alliance and the Local Health and Wellbeing Fora, are in place already but will be refreshed to enable them to develop local action in support of the strategy.

In setting all the aims within this strategy, all partners recognise that there are significant constraints currently facing us. These include the powers available to local organisations, and significantly challenged budgets particularly within local government and the NHS, with knock-on impacts on the third sector. Achieving these aims in this environment will be extremely challenging, but our commitment as partners to this strategy is to make the best use of the limited powers and resources available to work towards these aims.

Strategic Context

The Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-29 sets as its overarching vision: ***[Drafting Note: to be confirmed following consultation on that strategy]***

“To enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and to tackle health inequalities”

The factors that impact on people’s health and wellbeing are many and varied, and the strategies that are used to improve health and wellbeing therefore also need to be diverse and to address a number of different influences. Recognising this, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies four key themes: ***[DN: to be confirmed following consultation on that strategy]***

- Protecting the health of the population as a whole
- Improving health and wellbeing throughout the lifecourse
- Tackling the wider determinants of health and wellbeing
- Providing high quality, person-centred care.

Obviously public health is ultimately about people; however public health action does not just focus on individuals, but on social, economic, environmental and structural issues, as these have direct and indirect impacts on health and wellbeing. Consequently the overall public health approach for Cumbria can be seen as having three main strands, connected to three of the four key themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Health protection remains a core part of the public health agenda and like all parts of public health has a significant multi-agency dimension. Screening and immunisations are commissioned by NHS England and delivered by local health services; communicable disease control involves significant joint efforts by the County Council public health team, District environmental health departments and Public Health England, among many others; and Emergency Planning and resilience is co-ordinated through the multi-agency Local Resilience Forum.

Over recent years, much public health activity has had an individual focus. The **life course approach** (starting well, developing well, living well, ageing well and dying well) is being used as a core component of the health and wellbeing frameworks for the two emerging Integrated Health and Care Partnerships in West, North and East Cumbria and Morecambe Bay. Action that focuses on working with individuals, for example in supporting them to stop smoking, eating a more healthy diet, reducing alcohol consumption and being more

physically active, as well as individual support for mental wellbeing, is more fully outlined in these health and wellbeing frameworks.

However public health action is also required at a broader social, environmental and economic level. Variation in access to or quality of the **wider determinants** of health and wellbeing is the single biggest driver of health inequalities and influences an individual's health behaviour.

It is the third of these strands, creating the conditions in which individuals can have opportunities to be healthy and to take action in support of their own health and wellbeing, that is the focus of this strategy. In line with the timeframes for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, this strategy covers the period 2019 – 2029.

Clearly these three main strands of work have inter-connections and overlaps; this is not a neat division. In particular, the wider determinants shape individual behaviour: diet, for example, is influenced both by individual factors such as attitudes and knowledge, and by social factors such as food availability, marketing and culture. This strategy therefore cannot stand alone as the way of improving health and wellbeing in Cumbria, but has to be seen alongside other plans that focus on working with individuals to influence mindsets and behaviours, as illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf.

Model of the determinants of health and wellbeing

This strategy is adapted from the “five capitals” model proposed by Forum for the Future as a framework for sustainable systems (see Appendix 1). Interpreted for the purposes of a public health strategy, this model suggests that a community is healthy and sustainable when it has:

Natural assets: A high quality natural environment that provides opportunities for engagement with the natural world.

Human assets: People with the skills, knowledge, and experience that give them the capacity to take part in society and have meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Social assets: A good social infrastructure, with networks and institutions that allow people to connect to each other.

Physical assets: A good physical infrastructure including housing, transport, and a commercial environment that promotes healthy behaviours.

Financial assets: Adequate financial resources that are fairly distributed.

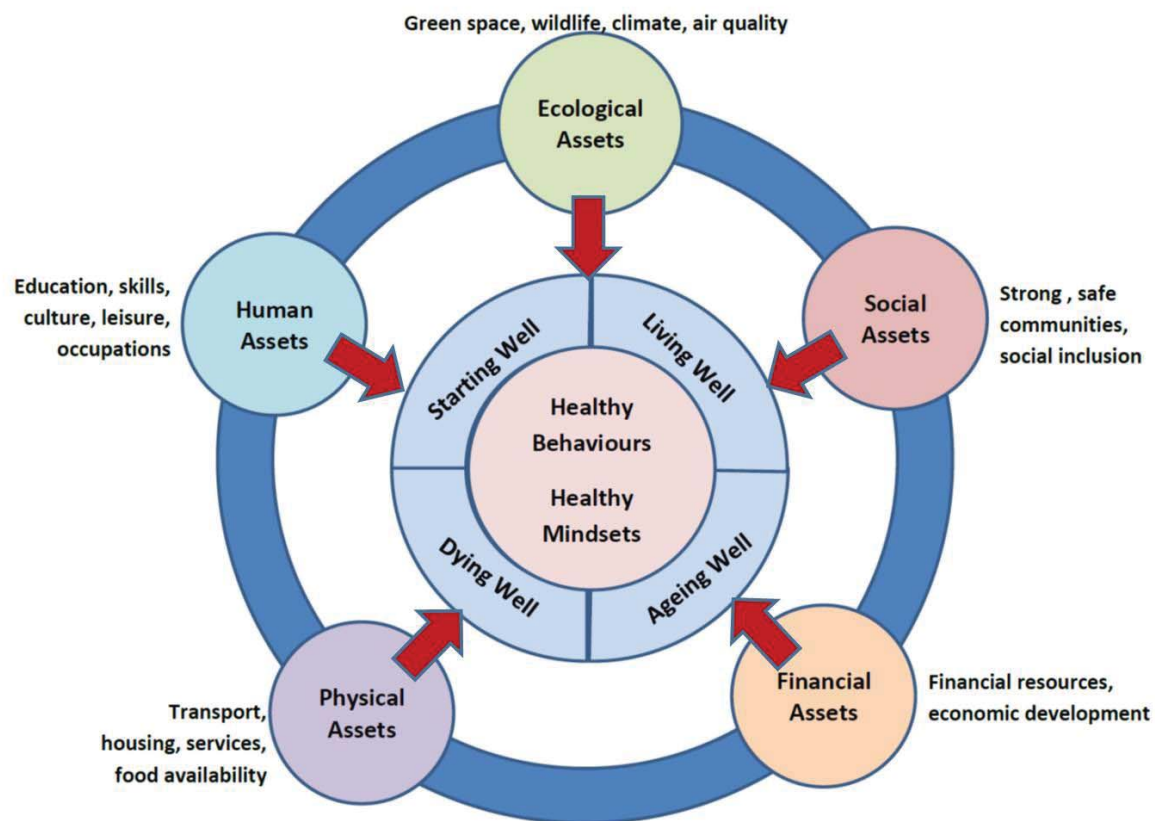


Figure 1: Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

A key feature of this model is that it emphasises the importance of building all five types of community assets without degrading any of them. It therefore sets a positive vision of building a better society in which everyone is able to maximise their potential for health and wellbeing.

This can however be challenging in reality, as often there are actual or perceived competing demands. In particular, the requirement for increased housing or business infrastructure can compete with the desire to protect natural assets. So too can economic growth, which relies on all the other assets but can damage them if not thoughtfully and carefully pursued. This strategy therefore commits policy and decision makers to consider all these factors in the round when assessing proposals for action.

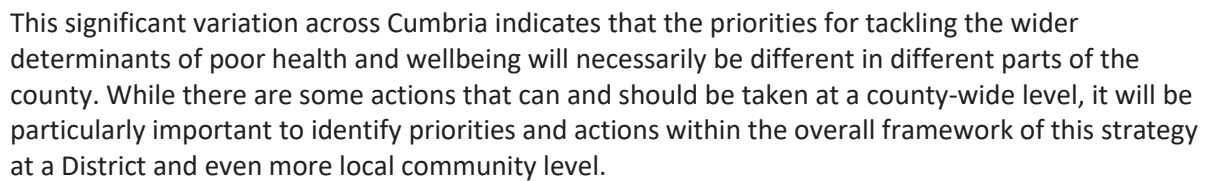
Key Commitment

We will ensure that our decision making takes full account of the environmental, social, human, physical and financial assets described in this strategy. We will endeavour to ensure that our decisions and actions grow these assets sustainably, and where that is not possible, we will attempt to offset any negative impact through action elsewhere, for the health and wellbeing of all Cumbria's communities.

Clearly these various assets are not evenly distributed throughout our County. Many parts of Cumbria have a natural environment second to none; however some of our urban areas suffer from poor air quality. There are clear pockets of deprivation linked to low income and skills, particularly in some urban areas, whereas it is often our more rural areas that have difficulty accessing goods and services. Such differences in poverty, power and resources, exposure to health damaging environments, and opportunities in early life are the main drivers of health inequalities. Unhealthy behaviour such as smoking, inactivity, violence and poor diet is more common in communities that have less access to and control over these assets.

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Vision for a Healthier Cumbria

Building on the five capitals and taking inspiration from the World Health Organization's Healthy Cities model, the future for a healthier Cumbria can be seen as having five key components:

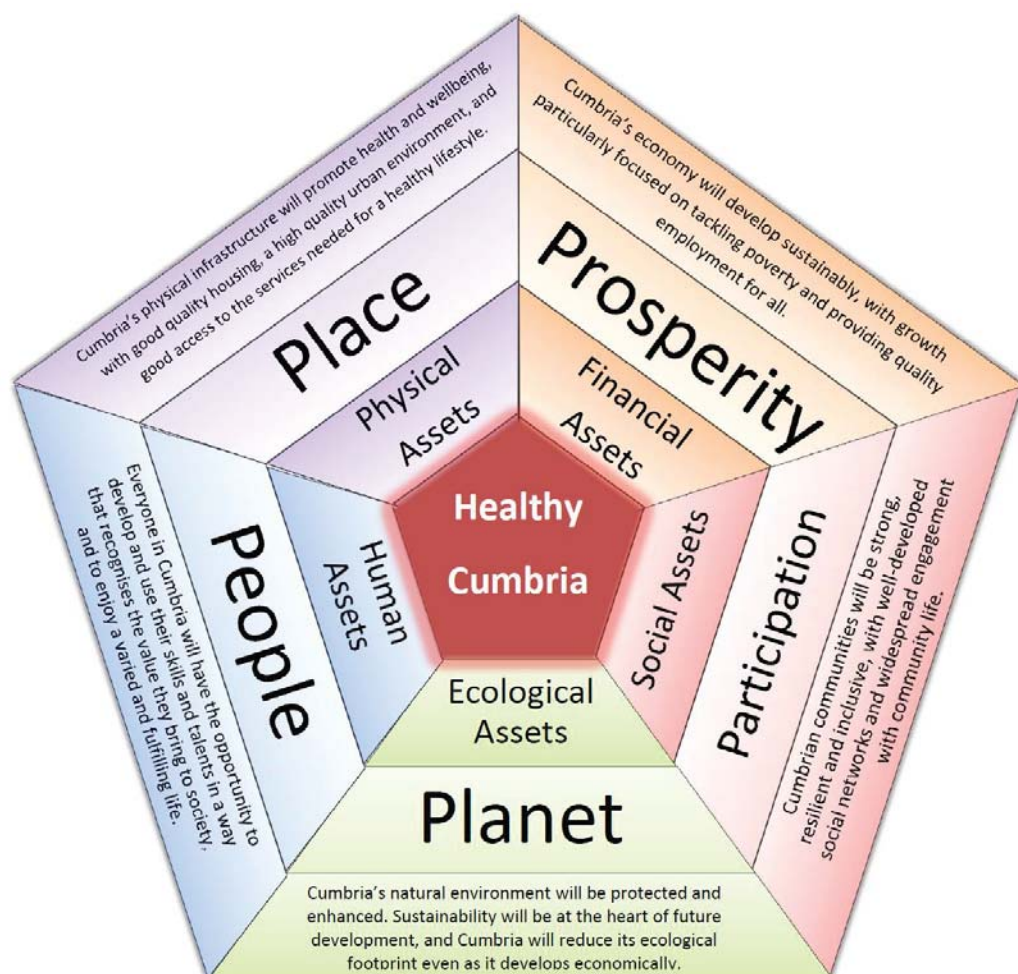
Planet: Cumbria's natural environment, from our world-class landscapes to the centre of our towns, will be protected and enhanced. Sustainability will be at the heart of future development and Cumbria will reduce its ecological footprint even as it develops economically.

People: Everyone in Cumbria will have the opportunity to develop and use their skills and talents in a way that recognises the value they bring to society and to enjoy a varied and fulfilling life.

Participation: Cumbrian communities will be strong, resilient and inclusive, with well-developed social networks and widespread engagement with community life.

Place: Cumbria's physical infrastructure will promote health and wellbeing, with good quality housing, a high quality urban environment and good access to the services needed for a healthy lifestyle.

Prosperity: Cumbria's economy will develop sustainably, with growth particularly focused on tackling poverty and providing quality employment for all.



Planet: Growing our Natural Assets

The global ecosystem is not just the environment in which we live: it is the basis of our society and our economy. A range of natural resources such as land, water, air, timber and animals, and natural processes such as the water cycle and climate regulation, influence our health. But they have to be utilised sustainably in order to ensure that people can have a good quality of life today and to avoid damaging the prospects of future generations.

In the context of this public health strategy, the key aspects of our natural resources that need to be addressed are as follows:

- **Improving the quality of and access to green space**
- **Promoting biodiversity and wildlife habitats**
- **Climate change**
- **Air quality**
- **Waste reduction**

Improving the quality of and access to green space

Cumbria has a plethora of diverse green and blue spaces, from rugged high open fells, rolling farmland, woodland, coastal plains and beaches, with a variety of village, town and city parks, recreation grounds, community gardens, cemeteries and churchyards. These spaces play a vital role in the in the health and wellbeing of local communities and provide valuable ecosystem services such as food, fuel and flood management.

Green and blue space has many public health benefits. Often free to access, it promotes physical activity through providing a pleasant environment for walking, running, cycling and recreational activities, improving health and mental wellbeing. Urban green spaces provide pleasant areas to relax and socialise, promoting greater levels of social activity and stronger neighbourhood relationships. This can help in combatting isolation and loneliness. Spending time in green spaces has been shown to produce levels and patterns of chemicals in the brain associated with low stress and positive impacts on blood pressure.

Although Cumbria is rich in green and blue space it is vital to maintain and where necessary improve its quality, its distribution and access to it. Currently, some people are disadvantaged in terms of the benefits they can derive from it, either through financial circumstances, the area they live in or access to transport.

Key Aim

To protect and enhance Cumbria's green and blue spaces, ensuring that everyone in the County has good access to a high quality natural environment.

Promoting biodiversity and wildlife habitats

There is an increasing amount of evidence that connections with nature and other forms of life can have a significant beneficial impact on health and wellbeing. Consequently it is important for public health to plan positively for the creation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

We need to develop the core of a county-wide Nature Recovery Network, so we can plan for and encourage wildlife and habitats back into our towns, countryside and coastline through initiatives such as wildlife-friendly gardens, green roofs, tree planting, species-rich roadside verges and marine protection. This will enable habitats to spread, wildlife to flourish and increase the number of people who can benefit.

One of the key areas for promoting and safeguarding biodiversity and wildlife habitats will be through engagement with the next generation of young people and children. Cumbria will continue to develop its work with a wide spectrum of conservation and farming groups and the health sector to provide support for schools and community groups to make it easier to learn outdoors and to visit natural places through awards and initiatives run by those such as the John Muir Trust and Forest Schools.

Key Aim

To promote Cumbria's biodiversity through protection and enhancement of a wide variety of wildlife habitats.

Tackling climate change

Climate change is already a threat to Cumbria, and in the long term is one of the greatest threats to public health globally. Within Cumbria, climate change is likely to have a range of impacts. We can expect to see wetter winters, hotter, drier summers, rising sea levels and a greater likelihood of extreme weather events. The severe floods of 2005, 2009 and Storm Desmond in 2015 were consistent with predictions for climate change and caused significant disruption and damage. In 2010, the north west experienced its driest January to June since 1929, resulting in low reservoir levels and hosepipe bans across north west England, affecting six million consumers. These extreme weather events can present an immediate threat to life, property and health and can also have a long term physical, emotional and financial impact on lives, with significant health consequences.

Obviously Cumbria cannot tackle climate change alone – this is a global problem. However it is important for us to take action locally both to reduce our contribution to the problem and to mitigate the inevitable impacts. In 2010 the Lake District National Park was one of the first areas to set itself a local carbon budget and to monitor annual reductions – something that could be valuably adopted in the whole of Cumbria. The 2018 report of the International Panel on Climate Change recommended that in order to limit global climate change to 1.5°C the world should reduce net carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 and be carbon neutral by 2050. There is no reason why Cumbria should be exempt from timescales of this sort – and indeed why we should not seek to go further, faster.

The health of Cumbria's green space and its associated biodiversity and wildlife habitats will help to build resilience to counter the extreme weather associated with climate change. There is an opportunity to do more on green and blue space infrastructure through the local planning system, including providing urban cooling, local flood risk management, carbon sequestration and local access to shady outdoor space through planting more trees.

Key Aim

To become a "carbon neutral" County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.

Air quality

The impact on health of poor air quality can be significant and goes beyond respiratory health. People who live in poorer areas are often exposed to higher levels of air pollution and may suffer greater negative impacts. As a mainly rural county, Cumbria is generally favoured with very good air quality: the proportion of mortality attributable to particulate matter air pollution in Cumbria is 3.82%, lower than the national figure of 4.72%. Only Carlisle and South Lakeland have declared any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). These are places where national air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved. Those in Cumbria have all been declared as a consequence of raised levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), primarily due to emissions from road transport.

However, several other areas in Cumbria have levels of air pollution approaching threshold levels and there are concerns that levels may be rising, with the popularity of biomass boilers, wood-burning stoves and solid fuel use in rural, off-grid areas. For PM_{2.5} (particulate of less than 2.5 microns) in particular, there is no safe level and it has been estimated that in 2010 the deaths of 195 people in Cumbria were attributable to PM_{2.5}.

Action to address the causes and mitigate the consequences of air pollution needs to be taken at all levels of society from Government through to the individual, and these actions will vary depending on the most important influences over air quality at a local level. There is often a tension between a desire for good air quality and economic development objectives, which can also improve health. Major new housing projects, industrial and commercial developments and roads can all impact on air quality either through direct emissions or through increasing traffic levels.

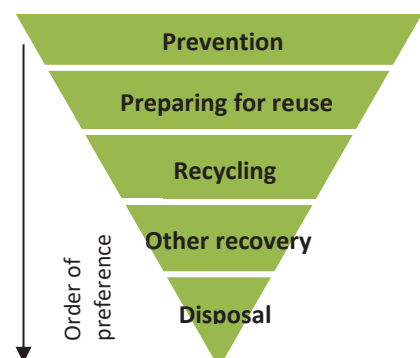
Improving air quality requires both large systemic changes to reduce industrial emissions and traffic and to encourage the use of less polluting vehicles, and action at community level to change behaviours. Where local people have been part of decisions made about interventions, they are more likely to be engaged and thus change their behaviour. Communities that better understand air pollution can become powerful advocates for action and improvement in their local area.

Key Aim

To improve air quality in Cumbria through action on transport, industrial, agricultural and domestic emissions.

Waste reduction

Cumbrians produce almost 250,000 tonnes of rubbish every year. Reducing the amount of waste generated not only reduces the environmental impact and financial burden to local authorities, but often leads to increased household disposable income, healthier dietary habits and improved well-being. Cumbria generates 50,000 tonnes of garden waste, much of which could be composted at home, encouraging physical activity and fresh air. An equivalent of £50 of food is thrown away per household each month. Better portion planning can reduce waste and reduce grocery bills, freeing up money to spend on activities that promote health and well-being.



Key Aim

To reduce the amount of waste produced in Cumbria through reduced material use, promoting greater product re-use, and improving recycling rates.

People: Nurturing our Human Assets

The assets within our communities relate to the people's skills, knowledge and experience the things they draw on every day in living and contributing to society. This includes their capacity for things like empathy, passion and joy and also their intellectual output such as art and other cultural expressions. We can nurture our human assets by:

- **Promoting education, skills and lifelong learning**
- **Ensuring meaningful and high quality occupations for all**
- **Ensuring access to adequate leisure opportunities**
- **Promoting engagement with arts and culture**
- **Tackling discrimination and exploitation**

Promoting education, skills and lifelong learning

There is a direct correlation between the areas of the County with the lowest educational attainment and skills levels, unemployment and poor health. Supporting people to access employment through action to improve skills is therefore a critical part of this strategy. In addition, lifelong learning has health benefits that go beyond the impact on employment: learning for its own sake is positive for mental wellbeing.

Improving the skills of the population to enable employers and the economy to access the workforce they require, both through education and through adult skills training and re-skilling, will be a critical part of the people strand of the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), but will also play a major part in the other strands.

Cumbria faces a number of challenges in this area:

- There is a small pool of residents with graduate level qualifications, who are spread across separate labour markets;
- The percent of population with no qualifications, at 15.3% is higher than the national average, with areas of the coastal belt as high as 17.6%;
- Very strong apprenticeship performance, however there are emerging challenges in maintaining this, mirroring the national reduction in starts.

In developing the skills aspect of the Local Industrial Strategy, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a series of sector skills plans outlining the skills challenges and shared areas for development in: Advanced Manufacturing; Nuclear; Health and Care; Construction; Logistics; Visitor Economy; Rural; Professional Services; Cultural and Creative Industries. The LEP has now established with partners a Careers Strategy for Cumbria that will drive improvements in education and business links, enthusing our young people about the opportunities available in Cumbria and enhancing examples of high quality partnership work between employers and education institutions. This approach will ensure that young people are encouraged to aspire from an early age and have a clear view of the careers available to them, so that they can plan their education accordingly. This approach when tested elsewhere delivered a significant improvement in attainment.

Work will be undertaken with education and training partners to develop an extended curriculum that both meets the needs of industry and the needs of residents, ensuring that there is choice available and a range of support to ensure that those who find accessing skills provision difficult are able to do so, securing the inclusive growth aspiration within the LIS.

Key Aim

To reduce disparities in educational attainment and to increase the proportion of the workforce with higher level skills and qualifications.

Ensuring meaningful and high quality occupations for all

An occupation that gives life a sense of purpose and value is an essential part of positive wellbeing. For many people this will of course come in the form of employment, which also brings the economic resources necessary for good health. However other forms of occupation, such as volunteering or bringing up a family, can be just as powerful for improved wellbeing and should not be ignored as a way of bringing this purpose and value to life.

In general, having a job is better for health than not having one, but poor quality jobs can be damaging to health. High quality employment will provide people with security, a good sense of job control and a reasonable balance between the effort they have to put in and the reward (financial or otherwise) that they get in return. Where these factors are not present, health is more likely to suffer.

It is recognised that currently not everybody is benefitting from Cumbria's economic prosperity with the wealthiest parts of the county not being those with the highest earnings and those areas with the highest weekly earnings experience higher rates of unemployment, deprivation, low skills and poor health. Equally, there is a gap in high quality, flexible/part time jobs that allow people to transition back into work around bringing up a family, or other caring responsibilities.

The Local Industrial Strategy has therefore identified the need to tackle worklessness and under employment with a more coherent employability and social cohesion offer. This will be a co-ordinated multi-agency programme delivered at a local and potentially community-level, based on experiences gained in tackling inter-generational worklessness in other areas. This approach could bring around 4,500 people back into the workforce, helping to address labour supply issues and improve people's quality of life and wellbeing.

Key Aim

To ensure that everyone in Cumbria has the opportunity for high quality employment or other meaningful activity as part of their daily life.

Ensuring access to adequate leisure opportunities

People's leisure helps shape their mental and physical health. The health benefits include opportunities to be active, through sport and other physical activities, but also to be creative and to engage with friends, which can promote mental well-being. Not only are hobbies fun, but they can refresh the mind and body and assist one in improving self-esteem, staying healthy, active and happy. Taking part in leisure activities as a family is also beneficial for children because the process helps to model healthy ways to handle stress and emotions. Participating in leisure activities regularly reduces depression: in fact, just thinking about past outdoor recreation experiences can often improve one's mood.

Leisure is often referred to as "free time", because leisure time is free from compulsory activities such as employment, running a business, household chores, education and other such day-to-day activities. People need both enough time for leisure and access to a range of leisure opportunities,

whether formal or informal. Leisure provides people with the chance to find balance in their life, it also puts them in control of how they spend their time. People on low incomes are likely to have less control over their free time, have less access to recreational space and have less disposable income to spend on leisure.

Key Aim

To ensure that all communities in Cumbria have good access to a wide range of leisure opportunities, including promoting improved availability and affordability of leisure options.

Promoting engagement with arts and culture

It is widely recognised that experiencing arts and culture can create a sense of wellbeing and transform quality of life for individuals and communities. The report *Creative Health: the Arts for Health and Wellbeing*, prepared by The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for arts, health and wellbeing, details various ways in which the arts can enable people to enjoy better health and quality of life. It sets out the significant contribution that arts and culture can make to keeping people and communities healthy and happy: that arts engagement can improve mental health, help with the management of long term health conditions, promote healthy ageing, tackle health inequalities and begin to address obesity. It makes a powerful case for the arts and culture to contribute to the wider health and social care agenda helping people to live healthier lives.

Cumbria has a rich, diverse cultural and arts offer: a 'cultural landscape' shaped by the area and its arts and cultural heritage. People take part in everyday creativity like music, drawing, painting, film making, photography, pottery, singing and crafts. Many attend cultural events in community spaces, theatres, galleries, heritage sites, libraries, museums, venues, at outdoor locations and in our world heritage sited and spectacular landscapes. However it is recognised there are inequalities in the level of cultural and arts engagement and participation across Cumbria. For some residents access to the arts is limited by age, transport, rurality, disability or low income. Our ambition is for Cumbria to be a county that is recognised for the part played in making the arts and culture central to the health and wellbeing of its communities, and to promote awareness of the range and quality of opportunities that exist for people to be creative, to participate and enjoy the arts and culture.

Key Aim

To encourage a wide range of high quality opportunities to participate in and engage with the arts and culture, and to enable great art and culture for everyone so that participation and engagement in the arts is not dependent on where people live or their social, educational or financial circumstances.

Tackling discrimination and exploitation

Discrimination is when a person is treated worse than another person on account of an aspect of their identity. Discrimination can take place at work, in the community, when travelling, when accessing public services, or as a consumer. Groups with a history of discrimination will often be disproportionately affected by poorer educational, health and employment outcomes, more likely to be in the children care system and later in the criminal justice system and are likely to have less voice in local democracy.

Many people who have experienced discrimination will have been victims of harassment, victimisation or a hate crime. In the wake of the MeToo movement there has been a greater

spotlight on sexual harassment and its damaging impact. Hate crimes are any offence where the victim perceives themselves to have been targeted on the grounds of their identity. In Cumbria there are over 300 reported hate incidents per year. Over 60% of all hate crimes in Cumbria are racist, reflecting the national trend, but there are a number of disablist, homophobic and transphobic hate crimes.

Domestic abuse has an overwhelming impact on women and girls and the sexist element of the violence and coercion needs to be treated on a par with the racist and homophobic elements in hate crime.

Exploitation in the forms of human trafficking, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation are growing concerns across the country as a whole and Cumbria is not immune to this trend. The agriculture and hospitality sectors are, nationally, key focal points for modern slavery and with these playing such a large part in the Cumbrian economy it would be naïve to think that it could not happen here.

Cumbria faces some key challenges in tackling discrimination and exploitation, including:

- **Sex:** Reducing number of women who are victims of domestic abuse; reducing numbers of women who are given custodial sentences; reducing occupational gender segregation so more women go into male dominated jobs and vice versa; reducing the gender pay gap; greater participation in physical activity compared to males; raising awareness of sexual harassment; support to community level women's groups to have a greater voice in public life, including female political representation.
- **Transgender:** Developing a socially inclusive approach that supports people identifying as transgender in education, employment and community life; working regionally to increase access to NHS services for people seeking medically to undergo gender reassignment.
- **Race:** Successful community integration, reduction in hate crime, effective access to English language support and culturally responsive public services.
- **Disability:** Greater accessibility in terms of transport, buildings, infrastructure and countryside; employers understanding reasonable adjustments; monitoring impact of welfare reforms on disabled claimants; raising awareness of disability hate crime.
- **Sexual orientation:** Helping to develop a vibrant LGB community through Cumbria Pride and other local activities; using the Stonewall national employer champions standard to promote LGB equality at work; support health and social care to consider aging well for people in same sex relationships.

Key Aim

To promote equality and diversity within Cumbria, to reduce people's experiences of discrimination, and to identify and tackle instances of exploitation within the County.

Participation: Building Social Connections

Social capital refers to the connections between people and to the various groups, institutions and social norms that help to create, foster and regulate these connections. This can include informal social networks involving family and friends, voluntary and community organisations and more formal institutions such as workplaces, trade unions, faith groups and governmental organisations. It also includes cultural norms – shared expectations about how society works – that are often unspoken but are critical to whether people trust each other and work well together.

Key aspects of social capital for this public health strategy are as follows:

- **Building stronger communities**
- **Promoting social inclusion**
- **Building safer communities, including tackling crime and antisocial behaviour**

Building stronger communities

Communities with strong informal networks and high levels of trust between individuals are believed to be more resilient and local people have less need to make use of formal support services because neighbours keep an eye out for each other and informal community organisations provide local social activities and services.

Cumbria is often described as having strong communities and this is reflected in the fact that areas of Cumbria frequently feature in national reports of the “best” areas to live in the UK. There are many examples of Cumbria’s communities developing their own activities and services– community transport schemes, sports clubs, library books in community pubs and good neighbour schemes – enabling individuals to connect with other people and access the services they need. Strong communities support a healthy democracy, encouraging people to take an interest in their local area and help to shape public services to meet local need.

However, even the strongest communities sometimes benefit from access to support and advice (for example, on how to access funding for community activities). Equally, areas where levels of social capital are not already high, for example where there is significant turnover of population, need additional support to develop it, often over a number of years.

Community Development staff, local infrastructure organisations and local funders all play an important background role in enabling Cumbria’s communities to organise and flourish. Communities of interest also play an important role in building social capital. People often seek support from people with similar interests (for example, through sports clubs), at a similar life stage (groups for new parents) or similar beliefs (faith groups).

Links between different communities, for example across geographies, age groups or cultural groups, help to develop understanding and build tolerance and community cohesion.

Cumbria’s new Local Industrial Strategy also recognises the role of community as vital to achieving its ambition of creating an inclusive economy. The Strategy builds upon the idea that for people to be healthy and to be successful they need to feel a part of an established and integrated community.

Key Aim

To support communities to thrive, with a strong and diverse informal and third sector, good levels of community participation, and a sense of having control and influence over the factors that matter most to them.

Promoting social inclusion

Where individuals or groups find themselves isolated, whether because of factors such as geographic distance or because of things like language barriers or competing social norms, the impact on health can be significant. Loneliness has been identified as a significant public health issue, with some studies suggesting that the size of the impact could be similar to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Social isolation can arise out of major life changes that remove a person's access to their friends, family, communities and colleagues. This can include family breakdown, bereavement, being taken into care (as a child or later in life) or losing a job or becoming homeless. Low levels of geographic mobility in Cumbria can mean that people coming into the area may struggle to make social connections and build a friendship network, while other people who may feel they 'do not fit in' could feel particular effects of exclusion that would not be the case in more urban areas.

Structural changes to the way we live can also feed social isolation. With people more likely to live in single households or dispersed families, as well as greater online forms of interpersonal contact, it is increasingly possible for people to have few friends or people they can rely on in an emergency. This can have implications for emotional health and wellbeing, resilience in the face of adverse events and greater sense of insecurity. Digitalisation also brings other vulnerabilities such as cyber-crime, online harassment and trolling, which can particularly impact on people who are already isolated. On the other hand social media enables connections.

Certain demographic sections of the population are particularly vulnerable to isolation – LGBT people in some rural areas, women above 50 (especially where they are economically inactive, live alone, no longer have children in the household), young males with mental health conditions, care leavers, older people in single person households, BME people who have moved to Cumbria and have limited access to local groups from a similar ethnic heritage, disabled people who experience barriers to access to work, education, transport or social access, people with learning disabilities who are more likely to be single and report loneliness.

Key Aim

To tackle loneliness and social isolation by providing opportunities to help build social connections and engagement particularly for those identified as most vulnerable.

Building safer communities, including tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

Feeling safe is a bedrock of good health, to the extent that the fear of crime has a bigger impact on health than the actual risk of being a victim of crime. How safe we feel at home, at work and in our neighbourhood can influence our social habits. Home (and work) is where we might spend a large amount of time so it is important to feel safe and secure there. Feeling part of the community in which we live is also just as important and can add to our feeling of stability. When we feel safe, we find it easier to relax and do all the things that comfort us. If we are feeling unsafe then we may also feel anxious, depressed or frightened, which can have a direct impact on our health. It can also have

an indirect impact whereby we change our behaviour because we are concerned for our safety. This shows that feeling safe is of paramount importance to our wellbeing and our health.

Cumbria remains one of the safest places to live in England and Wales and feelings of safety are generally high. Cumbria Constabulary is recognised by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as a good performing force and for keeping people safe.

However, Cumbria is witnessing an increase in levels of organised crime and the misery this brings on communities through drugs, violence and the exploitation of the vulnerable. In addition, rural isolation presents challenges in identifying vulnerable victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Technology is also changing how the public interacts with the world and each other, changing culture and expectations and criminal use of the internet.

The development of local community based hubs brings together several partner organisations, including the police and District Councils, to combine resources and expertise, to strengthen capacity and build a strong, secure, effective infrastructure to deal with community problems at a local level, increasing public confidence and feelings of safety.

Key Aim

To reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and to ensure that people in Cumbria retain low levels of fear of crime across the whole County.

Place: Improving physical assets

It is important that we develop our physical assets (houses, buildings, transport) in a way that is sustainable, minimising the use of natural resources and maximising the use of human skills and ingenuity. The key assets of place for this strategy are as follows:

- **Promoting healthy town and country planning**
- **Developing a sustainable transport system**
- **Ensuring high quality and safe housing**
- **Access to healthy food**

Promoting healthy town and country planning

The planning system has a very significant impact on the built environment in which people live and work. It can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Planning functions are an important lever to shape the natural and built environment, which can contribute to positive health outcomes through green spaces, housing, transport and our high streets and town centres – not forgetting public health protection – air, noise and light pollution. Promoting healthy and safe communities is a requirement of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which further states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve “*healthy, inclusive and safe places*”. It is therefore critical that the planning system is active in working towards improving health and wellbeing as a key priority.

In Cumbria, the six District Councils and the National Parks are the main planning authorities, with the County Council being the lead for infrastructure planning, highways, minerals and waste and flood and development management. Partnership working across tiers and organisations is therefore key to influencing and designing healthy infrastructure.

With multiple planning authorities in Cumbria, inevitably there are several different approaches to building health into planning objectives. As part of the World Health Organization Healthy Cities Network, Carlisle has included health as an explicit feature within their adopted local plan via a strategic policy on ‘Healthy and thriving communities’. Other Districts have adopted specific policies with positive health benefits via environmental or housing policy. The opportunity exists to take a joint approach to maximising the health benefits of the planning system.

Key Aim

To ensure that planning authorities across Cumbria develop and implement policy in support of this strategy, including focusing on active transport, green space, quality housing, availability of healthy food, carbon reduction and creation of employment opportunities.

Developing a sustainable travel and transport system

The transport system is critical to enabling people to access goods and services that are important for health and wellbeing, to encouraging physical activity through promoting regular walking or cycling and to tackling climate change and improving air quality.

Cumbria is a large rural county with many settlements that are not large enough to sustain a wide variety of services. Many people therefore have to travel significant distances to access services. For those with a car this may not prove too problematic. At the time of the 2011 Census, 21.4% of

households in Cumbria did not have access to a car, a lower rate than the average for England (25.8%). However those without access to a car (particularly the young, the old and those who cannot afford one) and who therefore rely on public transport, can face significant challenges.

The Local Industrial Strategy highlights the impacts of Cumbria's aging public transport which is insufficient to meet the population's needs. Poor rail connections, particularly from coastal towns and a reduction in bus services, particularly in rural areas can lead to social isolation and worklessness.

Communities risk isolation if they do not have passenger transport that is:

Available: the passenger transport network should be within easy reach of where people live and take them to and from the places they want to go at times and frequencies that correspond to patterns of social and working life. People also need to be kept informed of the services that are available;

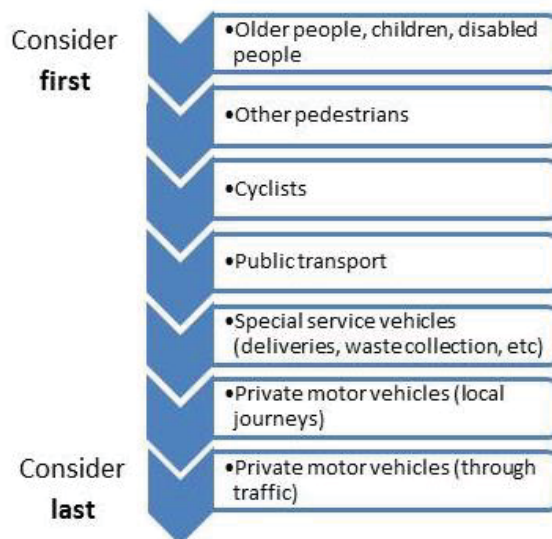
Accessible: vehicles, stops and interchanges (and the walking routes to and from these) must be designed in such a way that, as far as possible, anyone can use them without difficulty;

Affordable: people should not be 'priced out' of using passenger transport because of high fares and should be able to easily find the right ticket for them;

Acceptable: people should feel that passenger transport is something that is equipped to meet their needs as well as comfortable, safe and convenient.

The physical transport infrastructure in Cumbria (in common with the rest of the country) remains very focused on cars, at the expense of more active forms of transport such as walking and cycling.

To promote health and a more sustainable environment, the well-known road user hierarchy (right) needs to move from rhetoric to reality. In addition, there is a need to encourage a greater uptake of new electric and other alternative fuel vehicles in order to reduce transport emissions, improving air quality and helping to tackle climate change.



Key Aim

To develop the physical transport infrastructure to make it low carbon and more active, including making Cumbria a great place to walk, cycle, and use electric vehicles, and to ensure that the public transport system in Cumbria provides a viable alternative to car ownership, particularly for the most rural communities.

Ensuring high quality and safe housing

In Cumbria the median house price is just under £145,000, well below the national average of £186,000. However, in certain parts of the County, such as the Lake District, prices far exceed the national average and affordability is a major problem – house prices can be more than ten times local incomes. However, the County also contains large areas (mainly urban) of deprivation. In response

there has been significant activity around housing to ensure that all people have access to affordable, safe and modern standard of housing which supports a healthy lifestyle. The local industrial strategy reports that in all six districts house building is above Cumbria's required level.

The Cumbria Housing Group has identified three priorities for improved housing across Cumbria:

Priority 1 - Housing Growth, Affordability and Community Sustainability. Housing is a cornerstone of Cumbria's economic ambitions. Investment and growth will bring many more people into the County and this means that affordable housing, including in the social rental sector, is needed for employees and to enable young people to take up jobs locally. It also means that high quality market housing is needed to attract skilled people to come and work in Cumbria, generating wealth and spending to sustain and develop our local services and town centres.

Priority 2 - Housing Regeneration: Regenerating our poorest housing and town centres will improve the quality of housing and increase choice and demand in these areas. We want to bring empty homes back into beneficial use, improve the energy efficiency of homes and improve standards in the private rental market. We also want mechanisms established to ensure that second homes/holiday homes do not dominate local housing markets to help sustain our communities, particularly in rural areas.

Priority 3 - Supporting Independent Living. Poor quality neighbourhoods and housing conditions and at its extreme, homelessness, can contribute to a range of health conditions. These all have a long-term impact on particularly vulnerable people, with consequential impacts for acute hospital services, adult social care and children and young people's life chances and employment prospects because of the effect on learning and education. It is therefore crucial to deliver better-designed housing that can be easily adapted to meet the life changes of occupiers to enable them to live independently.

Key Aim

To improve the housing stock across Cumbria, ensuring that everyone has access to safe, warm, affordable housing, and that new housing supports wider aims including carbon reduction, climate change resilience, energy security, and adaptability.

Access to healthy food

The food system is a vast and complex global infrastructure and the choices that people make are heavily influenced by availability, price, advertising and many other factors besides taste preference. One in four children starting school in Cumbria are not a healthy weight. However, more children from deprived areas are overweight or obese and the differences between low income and high income areas is growing every year.

Dietary habits are changing across Cumbria, mirroring national and global trends. Many households have two working parents and due to time pressure, stress, lack of control over working times and greater availability and affordability of fast food, children are eating less home cooked food. Meals eaten outside the home tend to be associated with higher intake of sugar, salt, fat and salt and portion size tends to be bigger.

Ensuring good access to healthy food, healthy food production locally, supported by a range of community food activities is vital in creating healthy places. Several parts of Cumbria are advancing

work around the food agenda through healthy options awards, allotments and community food projects.

Exposure to marketing of high fat, high sugar processed food influences children's preferences and eating habits. Children who engage with food brands online are more likely to consume unhealthy food. Children and young people that have more screen time, are more likely to be exposed to food advertising through you tube adds, vlogs and online games.

Key Aim

To promote a vibrant and diverse food economy, with local communities having access to a range of healthy and affordable food options, and to reduce waste and the ecological footprint of the local food system.

Prosperity: Fair and inclusive growth of our financial assets

Financial growth and the distribution of financial assets is most commonly considered and pursued as a goal of social and economic policy. There is a strong association between wealth and health, with more affluent people experiencing greater control over their life, greater life opportunities, less exposure to health damaging environments and greater healthy life expectancy. Societies with a large difference in wealth between communities have poorer health overall. Therefore reducing wealth inequalities improves the health of all members of society. For the purposes of this public health strategy, the key aspects of financial capital are as follows:

- **Reducing income inequalities**
- **Promoting sustainable economic development**

Reducing income inequalities

Because wealth and health are so inexorably linked, tackling health inequalities is dependent on reducing income inequalities. For Cumbria, the focus is on lifting incomes at the bottom of the income scale – ‘levelling up’ – rather than by redistribution from the most affluent, which is mostly outside the powers of Cumbrian agencies.

Results can be achieved through a two-pronged approach. The first is to alleviate short term issues causing poverty and the second is to focus on the longer term issues that restrict life chances.

Some of challenges around alleviation are linked to low income households. These include changes to benefits, stagnant wages, a culture of low aspiration and a lack of joined up advice services which are easily accessible. There are also challenges around consumer culture and society’s need for new and more expensive, fashionable products that put more pressure on incomes. In rural areas, there are additional costs relating to transportation and fuel poverty, which eat into household budgets. It is therefore important that public services working with people on low incomes offer advice and support on financial management.

In the longer term, it is crucial that the education, skills and employment agenda is focused on supporting people from low income households. This includes provision of high quality child care in areas of multiple deprivation, reducing the disadvantage gap for pre-school and at key stages up to GCSE, increasing the number of people from low income backgrounds into further and higher education and increasing opportunities for people from low income backgrounds to benefit from the wide range of training available.

The role of the skills system is also vital in addressing the skills gap for people of working age and in terms of providing opportunities for older people who wish to stay economically active.

Key Aim

To reduce levels of poverty and income insecurity through support to vulnerable groups and a focus on supporting people into high quality employment.

Promoting sustainable economic development

When it has the right focus, economic development can be the key to unlocking several of the other themes of this strategy and can bring significant public health improvements. Good economic

development will focus on benefiting existing residents, particularly those with low quality and/or low paid jobs, through creation of jobs matched to local skills and through up-skilling local residents to take on the available jobs. Economic development that seeks mainly to attract existing affluent populations to move into the County may boost economic statistics, but it will do so alongside widening inequalities within the County.

In Cumbria, the main focus for sustainable economic development is the Local Industrial Strategy. This is built on two key platforms:

- Inclusive Growth: Prosperity for All
- Productivity: Improving all sectors and reducing West/East disparities.

However, Cumbria faces a number of challenges in achieving these goals. Productivity in Cumbria is below average across most sectors. As described in the chapter on skills, we have a small pool of residents with graduate level qualifications and a high proportion of people with no qualifications. Crucially, we have a declining working age population, with a net outward migration of 18-24 year olds.

Our five foundations align to our vision for a transformed economy



Key Aim

To ensure that economic development supports health and wellbeing and tackles inequalities by focusing opportunities on the most disadvantaged parts of Cumbria.

Key Measures of Progress

[DN – still being developed, further work required]

Planet

Theme	Indicator	Geographic coverage	Source	Further information	Baseline	England/ comparator
Green Space	Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons	County	PHOF	Indicator 1.16 Mar 2015 – Feb 2016	15.8%	17.9%
Biodiversity						
Climate Change	Net Carbon emissions			New indicator to be developed	Baseline to be established	
Air Quality	Combined Air Quality Index	LSOA	IMD	Living Environment domain: Air Quality Indicator. NOT REGULARLY UPDATED.	n/a	n/a
	Air pollution: fine particulate matter	District/County	PHOF	Annual 2016	5.8 mean µg/m3	9.3 mean µg/m3
Waste						

People

Theme	Indicator	Geographic coverage	Source	Further information	Baseline	England/ comparator
Education, skills & lifelong learning	An increase in the proportion of people in Cumbria aged 16-64 years with skill level 2 or above (CPDP measure M3.3)	County/district	Annual Population Survey	Annual Jan '17 – Dec '17	75%	

	An increase in Apprenticeship starts delivered in Cumbria (CPDP measure M3.4)	County	CCC	Annual – academic year	TBC
Meaningful Occupations	An increase in the employment rate of 16-64 year olds (CPDP measure M3.1)	County/district	Annual Population Survey	Annual Jan '17 – Dec '17	78.1%
	The proportion of 16-17 year olds Not in Employment, Education and Training to be 3.75% or lower for 2018/19 (CPDP measure M2.6)	County/district	Inspira	Quarterly March 2018	3.8%
	% of people who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment), who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage, and are not overworked (i.e. <49 hours a week), or underworked (unwillingly working part-time)	County	Labour Force Survey/Thriving Places Index		5.6%
Access to Leisure					
Arts and Culture					
Discrimination and Exploitation	<i>Hate crime statistics available from Cumbria Constabulary (Crime & Community Safety Strategic Assessment). Annual.</i>				

Participation

Theme	Indicator	Geographic coverage	Source	Further information	Baseline	England/ comparator
Stronger communities	Indices of Deprivation – overall deprivation	LSOA	IMD	NOT REGULARLY UPDATED	n/a	n/a

Social inclusion	Social isolation: proportion of Adult Social Care users who have as much social contact as they would like	County	PHOF/Adult Social Care Survey	Annual 2017/18	51.4%	46.0%
	Barriers to Housing and Services/Geographical Barriers to Services	LSOA	IMD	NOT REGULARLY UPDATED	n/a	n/a
Safer Communities	Levels of crime (Total Crime)	County/district	CCC/Cumbria Constabulary	Annual 2016/17	25,428 51.1 per 1,000	74.6 per 1,000
	Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour	County/district	CCC/Cumbria Constabulary	Annual 2016/17	12,291 24.7 per 1,000	
	How safe do people feel? (check if still available)	County	Cumbria Constabulary	Annual?	TBC	TBC

Place

Theme	Indicator	Geographic coverage	Source	Further information	Baseline	England/ comparator
Healthy Planning						
Sustainable Transport System	Journey Time statistics: access to services – public transport/walking	County/district	DfT	2014	24 minutes	17 minutes
	Journey Time statistics: access to services – cycling	County/district	DfT	2014	19 minutes	14 minutes
	Percentage of adults walking for travel at least 3 days per week	County	Active Lives Survey/ Sport England	Annual 2016/17	18.1%	22.9%
	Percentage of adults cycling for travel at least 3 days per week	County	Active Lives Survey/ Sport England	Annual 2016/17	2.4%	3.3%

	% of CCC maintained road incorporating cycle lanes	CCC			
High quality and safe housing	Proportion of social and private housing in poor condition (Living Environment domain: housing in poor condition; houses without central heating)	IMD	NOT regularly updated	n/a	n/a
	Affordability of home ownership (Housing affordability)	PHOF (Paycheck)	Annual 2017	5.5 ratio	7.9 ratio
	% Households in Fuel Poverty	LSOA	Gov.uk/DBEIS	Annual 2016	12.2% 11.1%
	Homelessness - eligible	County/district	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Quarterly – Jan-Mar 18	44 Homeless - eligible
Access to healthy food	Healthy Foods – Density of fast food outlets	District	PHE	Annual (not sure when it will be refreshed/updated)	Allerdale, 98 outlets (100.9 per 100,000 population) Barrow-in-Furness, 84 (124.4 per 100,000) Carlisle, 105 (96.9 per 100,000) Copeland, 69 (99.6 per 100,000) Eden, 51 (96.9 per 100,000)

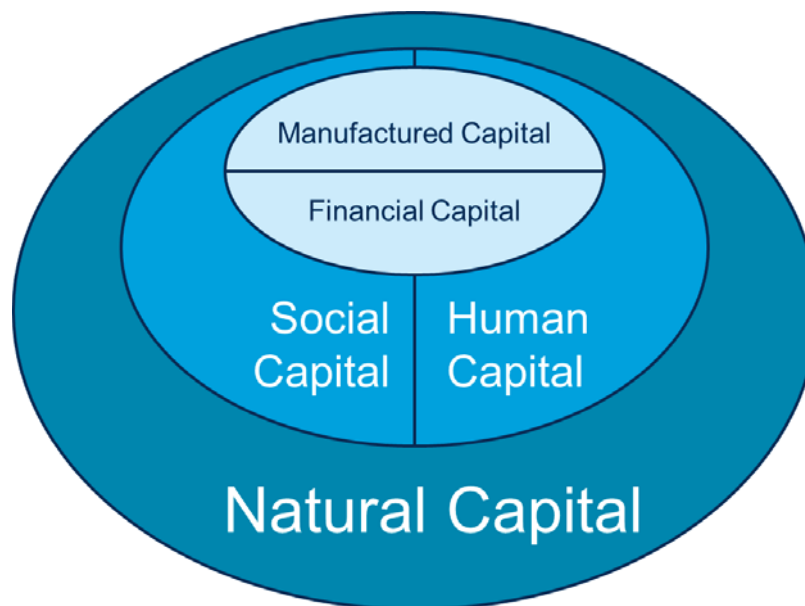
South Lakeland, 111 (106.9 per 100,000)

Prosperity

Theme	Indicator	Geographic coverage	Source	Further information	Baseline	England/ comparator
Fair and inclusive growth	Workless households (part of "Inclusive growth" indicators in LIS)	County/district	Office for National Statistics		25,000 (15.3%)	England 14.0%
Reducing income inequalities	% low income households	Cumbria/ district/ LSOA	CACI/CCC	Annual 2018	11.9%	9.6%
	A reduction in the claimant count rate (CPDP measure M3.2)	County/district	ONS/CCC	Monthly/Annual September 2018	1.9%	2.2%
	Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Attainment, Grades 4-9 - Disadvantaged	County	DfE/CCC	Annual 2018 academic year	40.7% (provisional)	44.4%
	Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Attainment, Grades 4-9 – Disadvantage Gap (All pupils Cumbria/national non-disadvantaged difference)	County	DfE/CCC	Annual 2018 academic year	-31.2% (provisional)	
	Outcomes for SEND (school support pupils) at Key Stage 2 achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics to improve from 17.9% to be in line with national level (CPDP M2.5)	County/district	CCC	Annual 2018 academic year	22.6% (provisional)	23.8%

Appendix 1: The Five Capitals Model

This strategy is built around the “five capitals” model proposed by Forum for the Future as a framework for sustainable systems. Broadly speaking this starts from a recognition that society is a sub-system of the broader ecosystem, and that the economy is a sub-system of society. At each of these levels there are different assets, collectively referred to as “capital”, that can be exploited and/or developed.



Natural capital, sometimes also referred to as environmental or ecological capital, is made up of all those natural resources and processes that people depend on. This includes obvious natural resources such as land, water, air, timber, and animals, but also natural processes such as the water cycle and climate regulation, sometimes referred to as “ecosystem services”. Natural capital is the basis of all other capitals. It can be utilised to support the development of other capitals – for example building things essentially turns natural capital into manufactured capital and financial capital – but it has to be utilised sustainably in order to ensure that people can have a good quality of life today, and to avoid damaging the prospects of future generations.

Most obviously, **human capital** encompasses people’s skills, knowledge and experience, the things they draw on every day in living and contributing to society. Less obviously it also includes people’s motivations, their capacity for things like empathy, passion and joy, and also their intellectual output such as art and other cultural expressions.

Social capital refers to the connections between people, and to the various groups, institutions and social norms that help to create, foster and regulate these connections. This can include informal social networks involving family and friends, voluntary and community organisations, and more formal institutions such as workplaces, trade unions, faith groups and governmental organisations. It also includes cultural norms – shared expectations about how society works – that are often unspoken but are critical to whether people trust each other and work well together.

The concept of **manufactured capital** is a broad one, encompassing for the purposes of this strategy any material goods or infrastructure that have an impact on people's quality of life. Because of both its reliance and its impact on natural capital, it is critical that growing and improving manufactured capital is done in a way that is sustainable, minimising the use of natural resources and maximising the use of human skills and ingenuity.

Financial capital is essentially the amount of money available within the local economy, and is the form of capital most commonly considered and pursued as a goal of social and economic policy. At one level it is clearly critical for public health: within the normal range of experience, more affluent people are generally also more healthy, across almost all measures of health. However at a broader level financial capital has no intrinsic value: it plays an important role in enabling other forms of capital to be owned and traded, but it is only representative of these other forms of capital. Because of this, financial capital cannot grow sustainably without growth in the other forms of capital as well.

Interpreted for the purposes of a public health strategy, this model suggests that a community is healthy and sustainable when there is an appropriate stock of all five capitals. A key feature of this model is that it emphasises the importance of building all five capitals without degrading any of them. It sets a positive vision of building a better society in which everyone is able to maximise their potential for health and wellbeing.

**Excerpt from Minutes of the Carlisle Partnership Executive meeting 3 December 2018
Committee Room Flensburg, Civic Centre, Carlisle**

Item 4 TOPIC THEME: Health and Wellbeing

Cumbria Public Health Strategy

The Chair welcomed Colin Cox and invited him to speak on the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a statutory document and the current one runs out at the end of 2018 and they are moving away from the very lengthy document to a high-level 10-year document with themes we can work to, to encourage discussions regarding priorities.

The vision is "*To enable Cumbrian Communities to be health and to tackle health inequalities*". The 4 themes are:

- Protecting the health of the population as a whole using screening etc.;
- Providing high quality person-centred care;
- Tackling the wider determinants of health and wellbeing
- Improving health and wellbeing throughout the life course

The strategy as it is means each of the 4 headings gets another 1-2 sides to set out priorities etc. Delivery will be set through other documents, e.g. the Public Health Strategy.

The Draft Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy

Is focussed on the wider determinants but with more information and detail emerging through other plans and the pentagon in the centre sets out what we are trying to achieve. This high-level document tries to align the 6Ps for a Healthy City and was adopted from 5 capitals in trying to recognise that the whole environmental ecosystem is the basis for all that happens in society. The document talks about assets rather than capital and covers 4 headings and within each there will be a single key aim for each area. Chapters are edited to further develop the Strategy. This has been pulled together with input from many partners across the county – including the districts – CC thanked ED for her input into the development. It is inevitable that to get something that is acceptable to all it becomes a document with high level aims but the important thing is that it gives a framework for local action. It is hoped it will be adopted by Cumbria County Council, the 6 District Councils and the National Park Authority as a way of planning future actions with a consistent approach while being relevant to the Authority's local area. This document can still be tweaked; is it going in the right direction?

- Emma added that within the document there will be something relevant to each member of the Partnership and following the conversation at this meeting, information would be pulled together.
- Grant Glendinning said he liked the inclusion of skills and life-long learning but the opportunity to strengthen the working age of the population was becoming more prevalent with jobs in the high skills sector. Colin said if that was not coming through strongly enough they would look at it. Cumbria is unusual in that it has more jobs than people but they needed the skills to match the jobs.
- Cathryn Beckett commented on youth participation and was pleased to see its inclusion and said to let them know how they could help to work with it and whether data they generate is useful.
- Colin said getting participation over the next 10 years was important.
- Lee Sherriff was it would be helpful in developing the Healthy City Action Plan at a local level.
- Darren Crossley said our potential to influence, to set out criteria for us to work to open the door to how we would like to work. It should include health planning in all CCC work and Carlisle feels more than happy to have that conversation and make more detailed plans, get the terminology right etc. This was highlighted at a future Healthy City meeting.
- Jane Meek said the Garden Village would have an important part to play in health for the next 20 – 30 years and they were keen to understand about developing communities rather than just houses, e.g. taking mental health and wellbeing into account as an important part of planning for the future.
- Colin said the text of the document tried to set out why it's important for mental health.

- Jane said we need to get the correct balance between the number of people in the city and the skills range; Carlisle is now almost at full employment, so we need to attract new people to the city and a good health strategy is important for the economy and to help people work longer. Jane said we can have a strategy, but actions are very important.
- Colin said they were trying to ensure the health and economy improvement strategies went hand-in-hand. Emma also explained that the LEP has been involved with the development of the economy chapter.
- Emma said it was great to see the food agenda included and she would take it back to the food partnership.
- Colin said this was a significant area in the work and we are looking to further increase the food / healthy weight agenda. It is a jointly-owned strategy that came from the health and wellbeing strategy and they wanted to broaden it. Other strands supported this, e.g. obesity issues and the new takeaway food premises planned for the city, and planning policy can help.
- The Chair said it was important for the third sector and communities to be involved and take control of some aspects of the plan and was pleased to see the community focus.
- Darren said, regarding takeaways, we have a duty to define the difference between a “nanny state” and the right of the individual to make their own decisions but we could influence the proliferation of this type of establishments and have the opportunity and duty to do so.
- Jane said there are tools available that could restrict fast food takeaways and she will advise CCC on that basis.

Action: - PA. Paul Armstrong said he would share the University’s “Charter for Health” document which they use when training the next generation of health worker. He also stated he would share this with the new Pro-vice Chancellor whose remit is Health.

Action: - ALL - The Chair asked members to look at the document from their area of expertise and feed comments back to Colin and Emma by the end of January if possible.

Action: - ED to collate any feedback.

Healthier and Happier Cities for all (6Ps)

The Chair invited Darren Crossley to speak on the WHO Healthy City 6Ps.

- Gave an update on Healthy City and WHO
- Carlisle healthy city designation is coming to the end of its term and a future submission and application will be to be completed; do we subscribe to future WHO plans?
- In Denmark earlier in 2018, the city leaders from across Europe (including Russia) produced a consensus in 15-20 pages which captures in more detail our duty and spells out what we all should be thinking about in relation to healthy cities.
- We are beginning to subscribe to this model, increasingly around planning with a sustainable agenda and are trying to put sense to each “P” in Carlisle. It has not yet been applied to Borderlands but it can be.
- Our timetable is not entirely clear yet, but we do need to develop our own agenda. It has been a very busy year regarding health and wellbeing, with the sugar smart campaign, garden village, policy development, food and healthy city. For example, in terms of the Sands Centre development it is about the wider definition of health, i.e. physical health, a safe environment, access to goods and services, access to employment, participation and engagement and a healthy lifestyle and behaviour.
- There are opportunities for the Healthy City initiative to influence upstream intervention to reduce pressure on the system and regenerate pride of place. This is all wider than most would consider health to cover.
- We need to get down to practical action within the available resources and the Carlisle Healthy City approach will do its best to work with other strategies. The elections in May 2019 will affect the timescales for this but we will keep working towards it. We need to get more people to think in this way of social intervention and Ambassadors in Business will be very important – healthy workplaces - settings. Darren hopes to have more detail for another session.
- All were supportive of the partnership approach and benefits – increasingly becoming an agenda relevant to all.
- **Action: ALL:** Emma said she would appreciate the support of attendees in letters of support for the application and actions to take back to the Healthy City Forum.
- Emma stated prevention was becoming a greater focus.

- A number of key documents were highlighted **Action: - Emma will put links in the minutes:**
 - o The government has a new vision from November 2018 – Matt Hancock, “Prevention is better than Cure”, which relates to life expectancy etc.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/753688/Prevention_is_better_than_cure_5-11.pdf
 - o A vision for population health (Kings Fund) Population Health.
<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-11/A%20vision%20for%20pop%20health%20summary%20online%20version.pdf>
- Steve Morton said the role of the “Prevention is better than Cure” strategy is to ensure that prevention comes in at the correct level, e.g. fast food takeaways, places for children to play etc. There was a further discussion around Place and the Place Standard session – later on the agenda.
- Darren said there seemed to be more positive engagement of all the health providers recently with more space for discussion and more funding for prevention as well as treatment.
- Steve said they were working on a web-based App for family healthy weight management
- Colin Cox endorsed the documents and was keen to see these used / implement locally.
- Agenda to be brought back at a future meetings as things develop.