

## What is a National Park Management Plan?

The Management Plan is the single most important policy document for a National Park. National Park Authorities are required by law to produce them, and to review them every 5 years. However, it is a Plan for the place, not for a single authority or body. As a strategic over-arching document, it should co-ordinate and integrate the policies, plans and strategies of many different organisations - where these are relevant to the statutory purposes for which the National Parks were designated (see below). The Management Plan is, therefore, the main means of ensuring that those statutory purposes are met.

### **SEP Response to YDNP Consultation on draft Management Plan 2025-30**

The SEP response was via online form, on sections relevant to Sedbergh Framework for Growth.

#### **A - A distinctive, living, working, cultural landscape that tells the ongoing story of generations of people interacting with their environment.**

1. Do you have any comments on the proposed objectives to support this ambition (refer to the consultation document A1-A6)

*SEP supports the park's ambition for a distinctive, living, working, cultural landscape. The use of Dark Sky reserve provides an opportunity to grow Sedbergh's visitor economy through increasing overnight visitors and local spend. SEP would like to see an increase in the promotional budgets of YDNP visitor services to help support this ambition.*

2. Would your organisation be able to help support the achievement of any of these objectives? What contribution might you be able to make?

*With regards to the visitor economy, SEP is working to establish a new tourism strategy for the town, establish a new tourism business group and to obtain grant funding to deliver key projects in the town which will support hospitality business and the vitality of the main street.*

#### **D - Resilient and responsive to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces**

Do you have any comments on the proposed objectives to support this ambition (refer to the consultation document D1-D6)

*Referencing D5, a key priority in the Sedbergh Framework for Growth is to support and protect local services through improving accessibility - additional car parking, electric vehicle charging points, more reliable and regular improved public transport network. YDNP should increase dialogue with local authorities to improve transport links and bus services to access and sustain key service centres. Enhancing transport provision supports both local residents and visitors. YDNP and partners should capitalize on opportunities from the West Coast main line and Settle to Carlisle line and work to implement recommendations in the newly published integrated transport study from FOSCL.*

*Any increase to public electric vehicle charging points in areas like Sedbergh would be welcomed.*

Would your organisation be able to help support the achievement of any of these objectives? What contribution might you be able to make?

*The SEP are lobbying the local MP and local authority to see investment increased to the current transport offer. SEP can co-ordinate, where possible, the opportunities arising from closer working with local bus providers to try and increase the Sedbergh offer – all of which support employer’s needs, visitor economy growth and residents.*

**E - Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, landscape and cultural heritage, which underpin a flourishing local economy**

Do you have any comments on the proposed objectives to support this ambition (refer to the consultation document E1-E7)

*Referencing E5, more emphasis should be placed on provision of apprenticeships across all sectors not just land based ones. The park needs more skilled tradespeople such as builders, plumbers, electricians and those in hospitality. This will support local employers, local businesses and residents and importantly, will encourage young people to stay within the area.*

*E6 needs to mention the economic development teams in the local authorities in a bid to push delivery of more training and diversification opportunities to employers and school leavers in the area. Rural areas need to have an increased input and better access to training grants from the Cumbria side of the park.*

*Referencing E7, more needs to be done across the Park’s visitor centres or through the promotions team to encourage visitors to the west of the park and specifically, England’s Booktown and the Western Dales. There is capacity for visitor growth in Sedbergh, Dent, Garsdale and at Farfield Mill. There should be reference to working more closely with local tourism organisations and neighbouring Destination Management Organisations to drive visitors to explore new areas within the park. An increase in temporary licensing on designated green field parking during peak summer holiday weeks and events would help support tourism businesses and events.*

Would your organisation be able to help support the achievement of any of these objectives? What contribution might you be able to make?

*Since forming in 2017, the Sedbergh Economic Partnership brings together public, private and third sector organisations and it will continue to work together and lobby to increase the economic prospects of Sedbergh.*

**F - Home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need**

Do you have any comments on the proposed objectives to support this ambition (refer to the consultation document F1-F6)

*More housing means a more sustainable community, one that attracts working families and new businesses to the area, supports school roll numbers, local employers and puts money back into local services.*

*With regards to F1, Sedbergh wants to be the place within the Dales that is given priority status for development, the place that the planning authority looks to first as the town that can accommodate growth and continue to thrive. SEP would welcome reference to more housing that specifically supports younger people / single professionals looking to work locally and rent on a short-term basis, such as HMO-style provision*

*With reference to F2, SEP would like to see bolder language such as lobbying/pressing government to (a) introduce fiscal measures to encourage second homes to return to the local housing stock and (b) to amend planning legislation to enable the effective control of holiday letting uses. SEP would like to see a stronger assertion on the issue of unoccupied homes with a commitment to doing more to bring them back into use.*

*SEP would welcome reference to provision for older people through extra care provision or more sheltered housing units as part of the objective to tackle housing shortages.*

*With reference to F4, there needs to be a little more emphasis on 'how' given community development support shortages. Sedbergh and similar market settlements will continue to rely heavily on ageing volunteers and local organisations for community events, activities, support groups and project delivery. Also, managing local assets needs purchase power and there is a perceived lack of willingness for YDNP to compulsory purchase.*

Would your organisation be able to help support the achievement of any of these objectives? What contribution might you be able to make?

*The SEP will continue to lobby to support delivery of more housing in Sedbergh, specifically the former Udales building and the Baliol site, and will work to bring developers and landowners together where appropriate and in line with the Sedbergh Framework for Growth.*

**Any additional comments**

*The ambitions are fitting for a national park. The real challenge is how they are to be achieved - as most rely on other organisations to introduce or implement – the management plan should state how the YDNP authority will work to have more impact / influence on outcomes.*

*The Sedbergh Economic Partnership exists to support economic growth in the west of the YDNP and is pleased to have the Yorkshire Dales as a key partner. Sedbergh is an untapped jewel in the Yorkshire Dales and increased visitor initiatives and housing projects to support local services (schools /employers/ main street etc) would be welcomed.*

**SEP, March 2025.**