

RAPC 570/25

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT 2025/26

Report by: Nigel Stone, Head of Resources, David Stone, Corporate Services Manager

1. Purpose

1.1 To present first quarter (April-June) progress against the objectives from the 2025/26 Work Programme agreed by members in March.

2. Introduction

2.1 Following the adoption of the renewed Partnership Plan by its constituent organisations in 2022, members of this Authority approved the priorities for our own Business Plan in July 2023. This plan sets out what we need to deliver as our part of the partnership, alongside detail on how this will be achieved through specific outcomes, actions, timescales and measures of success.

2.2 Members also agreed the 2025/26 Work Programme in March 2025 and this report provides the first quarter progress against the outcomes and actions / priorities within it. As previously, many ‘business as usual’ items are removed from the tables, leaving a smaller number of clearly defined and concise actions to be monitored during the year.

2.3 Progress against these actions is measured by referring to the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status under the quarterly column – this is simply progress seen in the period April to June against what was originally intended. A further column of ‘RAG status’ confirms whether the overall objectives are still expected to be achieved by the end of the financial year. An amber or red status for the quarter or year has been addressed through an ‘action to regain’ column aimed at mitigation or corrective action to bring the status back to green.

3. Progress Reporting

- 3.1 Under the format agreed by the Committee, the Work Programme does not include a specific column for officers to provide a substantive progress narrative against each of the actions shown as 'green'; however, these narratives will still be available through the Chief Executive's reports which provide a more flexible, detailed and up-to-date account of what has been done. There is however a final column in the tables for any particularly noteworthy officer comments on progress or issues.
- 3.2 Members of the Committee can of course question officers in first instance at the meeting, however should they wish to receive further detailed information or clarifications on a specific issue(s) whilst at the meeting, please contact David Stone or an appropriate member of the Strategic Leadership Team beforehand and they will endeavour to bring such responses along with them.

4. Performance Indicators

4.1 As discussed with Members, the national Key Performance Indicators have now morphed into the newly agreed Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF). These all have target dates greater than any single financial year and will be monitored over those timescales through annual year-end progress figures. As in previous quarterly reports, we have also provided our local list of annual indicators. All indicators will mirror the RAG status of the qualitative performance monitoring. For any amber or red indicators, officers have been given the opportunity to provide some text around 'mitigation / actions to regain'.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and following discussion, agree any necessary management action.

Papers:

RAPC 570/25 Cover paper
RAPC 570/25 Annex 1: Q1 Work Programme Progress Report 2025/26

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Equality and Diversity Implications:

A number of the work programmes and indicators are directly focussed around improving equality and diversity, for example, our work with the New Forest Voices project, all-ability cycling and by monitoring attendance of under-represented groups at our events.



First Quarter Progress Report 2025/26

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Quarterly Monitoring (Local Indicators):

Indicator	Annual Target	Q1 Result
No. of planning applications received this year to date	N/A	130
% of planning decisions delegated to officers	90%+	97%
% of planning applications approved	85%+	94%
Speed of Major Development applications	60%+	100%
Speed of Non-Major Development applications	70%+	71%
Quality of Major Development applications (% overturned at appeal)	10% or less	0%
Quality of Non-Major Development applications (% overturned at appeal)	10% or less	20% (1 of 5)
Enforcement acknowledges complaints within 3 working days	90%+	91%
Carry out initial enforcement investigation within 15 working days	90%+	91%
Check compliance with enforcement notices within 5 working days	100%	N/A
Initiate action for non-compliance with an enforcement notice within 15 working days	100%	N/A
No. of tree works applications received this year to date	N/A	132
No. of tree works applications determined within 8 weeks	90%+	100%
No. of planning consultations completed by the Archaeology team	N/A	TBC
Combined social media audience	150,000+	142,660
No. of Climate Pledges received	1,800+	1,847
% change in New Forest Tour passenger numbers	+1-2%	Annual
Number of promoting understanding face-to-face contacts (education, events, rangers, talks, training)	20,000+	TBC
No. of Pedall participants	5,000+	TBC
% of income derived from sources other than the defra National Park Grant	25%+	39%
Information requests processed within statutory deadline	100%	94%

Complaints processed within 20 working days	100%	100%
Member participation in attending committees	82%+	80%
Undisputed invoices paid within 30 days	98%+	98%
No. of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE	6 days	Annual
No. of working days lost due to short-term sickness absence per FTE	4 days	Annual

Third Quarter Mitigation / Actions to Regain:

Quality of Non-Major Development applications – Q1 figure is based on a very small / likely unrepresentative sample i.e. 1 out of 5 appeals allowed.

Information Requests – 17 out of 18 responded to within the deadline, 1 was 1 day late.

Member Participation – Result is still increasing and three new Members due in September.

Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework

Note: Some initial / starting-point data is still being defined and confirmed, shown in the tables as 'TBC'.

Thriving Plants & Wildlife

Indicator	NFNP 2022 Baseline	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date
Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites	N/A	4000 hectares	2042
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition	24.2%	80%	2042
Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition	10.6%	60%	2028
Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment	TBC	Increase	2042
Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land	57%	65%	2030

Mitigating and adapting to climate change

Indicator	NFNP 2022 Baseline	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date
Net greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes (territorial emissions reported through DESNZ)	225,733 TCO ₂ e/yr	0 TCO ₂ e/yr	2050
Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes	N/A	20 hectares	2050
Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes	36%	550 hectares (~1% increase)	2050

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Indicator	NFNP 2022 Baseline	PLTOF NFNP Target	Target Date
Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of accessible toilets and rest stops	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of disability accessible parking spaces	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of accessible gates and gaps	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of volunteer days	TBC	Increase	2042
Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved	TBC	Increase	2042
Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers	TBC		
Scheduled monuments 'At Risk'	4	<4	2042
Registered parks and gardens 'At Risk'	0	0	2042
Registered battlefields 'At Risk'	0	0	2042
Listed buildings (grade I or II*) 'At Risk'	1	0	2042
Protected wreck sites 'At Risk'	0	0	2042