

Dartmoor National Park Management Plan Delivery Board

Terms of Reference

Remit

The key objective of the Delivery Board is to pursue timely delivery of the goals in the Management Plan by effective partnership working. It is proposed that it will:

- Receive and comment on an annual progress report
- Make recommendations for delivery in future years where necessary
- Advise on partnership working
- Identify how to publicise successful projects
- Assist in the preparation and publication of a State of the Park Report and subsequent monitoring
- Assist in the preparation of future National Park Management Plans

Meetings

The Board will be chaired and facilitated by the National Park Authority.

It is envisaged that the Board will meet once a year but with the ability for bi-laterals or more frequent meetings if circumstances dictate.

Membership

Key stakeholder organisations will include: Natural England, Environment Agency, Dartmoor Commoners' Council, Forestry Commission, English Heritage, Dartmoor Partnership, Teignbridge District Council, West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, Dartmoor Circle, South West Lakes Trust, Duchy of Cornwall, National Trust, Ministry of Defence, South West Water, Community Council of Devon and the Dartmoor Access Forum.

The Board will be able to co-opt additional members as required.

MINUTES OF THE DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN DELIVERY BOARD

Thursday, 18 December, 2008 held at Parke, Bovey Tracey

Present:

Nigel Hoskin (Member DNPA) (Chair)
Kevin Bishop (CEO DNPA)
Tony Clark (MoD)
Matt Carter (Natural England)
John Loch (Defence Training Estates)
Maurice Retallick (Member DNPA)
Stephen Purser (Member DNPA)
Lesley Smith (Community Council of Devon)
Andrew Davey (National Trust)
Andrew Shadrake (Dartmoor Circle Ltd)
Chris Marrow (Forestry Commission)
Lee Bray (South Hams District Council)
Ian Mercer (Dartmoor Commoners Council)
Philip Davies (Dartmoor Partnership)
Patrick Watson (Dartmoor Access Forum)
Lisa Tame (South West Lakes Trust)
Nicola Bulbeck (Teignbridge District Council)
Nick Russell (English Heritage)
Tim Beavon (West Devon Borough Council)
Martin Weiler (Environment Agency)
Sue Goodfellow (DNPA)
Dan Janota (DNPA)
Sue Halse (DNPA)
Phil Markham (DNPA)

1. **Welcome & Introduction:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the Delivery Board, and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Background & Purpose:**

The Chairman re-emphasised that the National Park Management Plan is a plan for Dartmoor, not just for the Dartmoor National Park Authority, and the goals could be achieved by all the partner organisations working together and keeping track of progress.

Comments on the draft terms of reference previously circulated:

- The Community Council of Devon to be added in the Membership list
- The key objective of the Delivery Board is to pursue (not ensure) timely delivery
- The Delivery Board should have a role in preparing the next Management Plan, and this should be noted in the terms of reference.

Action: Terms of reference agreed with these amendments; final copy to be circulated to members.

3. **State of the Park Report:**

Copies of the newly published Report were circulated, and Dan Janota gave a brief summary, noting that the report sits closely with the Management Plan, providing information and a baseline for assessing progress on the ground, and a

starting point for key issues in preparing management plans. He highlighted the good level of understanding of the issues even where there was an absence of comprehensive data; the strengths; and the weaknesses in respect of data provision particularly in qualitative visitor data. Upland farming was the one indicator theme showing as poor.

Help was requested from partner organisations in utilising and disaggregating future datasets which they might commission, in order to improve the evidence base for the National Park. The next SotP Report would be produced prior to 2012, providing evidence to take the next Plan forward. Comments included the need to target things we can affect, for example, hill farming, within the context of wider global climate change. Andrew Shadrake reported on the lack of information about carbon emissions for Dartmoor, something the Dartmoor Circle is working on. Ian Mercer noted that the one site for measuring climate change was at Yarner, and an additional, more exposed and open site on the west of the moor would be a valuable addition for data gathering.

Action: Focus on Climate Change reporting at next Delivery Board

Tony Clark noted that the MoD's Heritage Days had been very successful and were part of the 'Moor To Stay For' scheme, but he would welcome more information about visitor numbers etc. The MoD was working to reconcile the need for public access versus the need for military training on Dartmoor.

Public opinion, whilst not quantitative, was considered to be of value. Climate change was regarded as the big issue, and work on various objectives would support progress on this theme. Qualitative data and the need to engage the public was regarded as important, as their individual actions and attitudes would make a difference to achieving progress on key targets. Andrew Shadrake circulated a paper on the climate change work of the Dartmoor Circle, emphasising that it needed to bring together all delivery sectors working in partnership.

4. **Roles and Responsibilities of Partners**

Sue Goodfellow outlined the way that the Plan had been drawn up with partner organisations, and noted that the allocation of lead responsibilities for each goal/means to achieve had been suggested by DNPA, but may not be agreed by the relevant organisations. Partners were asked to check that they agreed their roles as lead where indicated, or suggest alternative organisations to lead. Each partner's role was to report progress annually to the Delivery Board, and feed information in for the database and the newsletter. Some smaller organisations have still to be contacted.

Action: Members to check the database through web link to be provided

Ian Mercer raised commoners' concerns about the lack of consultation over current blanket bog restoration work. Kevin Bishop replied that this issue demonstrated that good communication, and engagement with all agencies was key. On this occasion the Action for Wildlife Project had not successfully communicated plans with the commoners, and this would be rectified.

The work outlined in the Plan's goals was hopefully now part of organisations' day to day work, Lee Bray noted that the District Councils were already working

closely on a number of objectives, and were well placed to support delivery of their goals.

It was suggested that consideration be given to any missing key partners: the Duchy of Cornwall was a member but had sent apologies for this meeting, and SWRDA were suggested as a partner.

Action: SWRDA be invited to join the Delivery Board.

5. **Demonstration of monitoring database**

Sue Goodfellow gave a brief demonstration of the monitoring database set up to record progress on delivery, and the proposed webpage which will allow public access to it. The link to the (currently hidden) webpage would be circulated to members for checking.

Action: Organise the inclusion of a public feedback facility

Action: Feedback on delivery from partners should be submitted for inclusion in the database six-monthly with the second update in September providing the annual report to the Delivery Board meeting in December.

6. **Progress report for Year 1 of the Plan**

A progress report was circulated to members indicating progress made so far on the Plan goals and objectives. Whilst not complete, with some information still awaited, the report showed good progress being made. It reflects a snapshot at a moment in time, as the database will be regularly updated as information is supplied. Comments were invited on the report.

Action: Differentiate between 'not started' and 'data received' categories in the database.

Action: Members to check database for accuracy – feedback to Sue Halse.

Action: Revised version of progress report including all figures submitted, to be circulated to members.

Tony Clark suggested that the MoD had a partner role to play in the 'Tranquillity and Remoteness' objectives. Andrew Shadrake offered the Dartmoor Circle to lead on the Energy objectives.

Action: Goals and MTAs without leads to be circulated to all members with a request for volunteer lead and partner deliveries.

7. **Recommendations from the Board for delivery in 2009**

Concerns :

- no specific reference on monitoring progress towards the Dartmoor Vision
- the State of the Park report showed a poor rating for upland farming which was an integral part of progressing delivery of many of the Plan objectives.

It was suggested that the Delivery Board might play an influential role in pressing for support for farming, however it was felt that it would be difficult to get all partners signed up to this role.

Action: Consider identifying goals and MTA's relating to the Vision, farming, and to climate change which could be extracted for a separate progress report.

Other recommendations: the Board must monitor and respond to rapidly changing circumstances, and the SotP reporting should direct attention to neglected areas of work.

Matt Carter emphasised that the critical issue for upland farming was subsidy, and members played an important informing and advising role to influence future decisions. Whilst the Plan did not deal directly with subsidy, there were other relevant areas of work, and further discussion was required.

Action: Set up sub-group to look in more detail at support for upland farming (to include Commoners Council, Natural England, English Heritage and DNPA).

Andrew Shadrake noted that progress on some of the 'quick wins' identified by the Dartmoor Circle, such as wood chip energy, promoting local food, would help to support hill farming.

Nick Russell identified that progress on a key objective relating to the appointment of a HER officer, would have a substantial effect on progress towards a number of other objectives.

There were clear recommendations from the Board members to prioritise action on upland farming, moorland vision and climate change for 2009.

8. **Communication and publicity**

A draft newsletter, 'Delivering for Dartmoor' was circulated to members, and comments invited. It would be made available on the Plan web page as a download, and limited numbers of copies would also be printed. Members were asked to authorise the use of their organisational logo, and provide contact details to discuss arrangements. It was suggested that Parish and District Councils should receive copies of the newsletter.

Action: The date should be 2009, to reflect that it is current; photographs should be captioned, and the electronic version should, if possible be provided without block background colour.

Action: Members to advise Sue Halse how many printed copies they would like.

9. **Any other business**

Tony Clark requested that all partners consider sharing information and data from surveys and research which they hold, and suggested that the Plan web page might include links to the location of such information.

Action: Members to advise Sue Halse of a contact within their organisation to provide progress reports and updates

10. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 9 December 2009 at 9.30 at Parke