

Report to: **Hub Committee**

Date: **23 July 2024**

Title: **Tamar Valley National Landscape – 2025-2030 Management Plan – Consultation Draft**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Mann – Climate and Biodiversity**

Wards Affected: **Tavistock, Buckland Monachorum, Walkham, Bere Ferrers, Tamarside, Milton Ford**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: After the call-in period for Hub Committee

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That Hub Committee AGREES:

- 1. to support going out to consultation upon the Draft of the Management Plan;**
- 2. to delegate authority to the Director for Place and Enterprise in consultation with the Lead Hub Member for Climate and Biodiversity the final content of the formal Council consultation response; and**
- 3. that the final Management Plan will be brought to Hub Committee for adoption on 11th March 2025.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 It is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce Management Plans for National Landscapes in their area. Part of the Tamar Valley National Landscape falls within West Devon (Tavistock, Buckland Monachorum, Walkham, Bere Ferrers, Tamarside, Milton Ford Wards).

- 1.2 The National Landscape team aim to undertake public consultation on the Consultation Draft, before finalising the Management Plan with a view to respective Council's adopting the plan in early 2025, and delivery starting on 1st April 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) defines the statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce Management Plans for National Landscapes in their area, and to review adopted plans at periods of not more than five years.
- 2.2 More recently, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) adds a new duty, replacing the need for Local Authorities to 'have regard' to the purpose of National Landscapes, with a duty to 'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area' which is intended to be an active duty, not a passive one.
- 2.3 The current Management Plan for 2019-2024 was extended for 12 months following a light-touch review to the end of 2025 and allowing for the publication and digestion of new Natural England National Landscape Management Plan guidance. The Tamar Valley is aiming to be one of the first National Landscapes to adopt their new Management Plan.
- 2.4 The Council (as well as other constituent Local Authorities – these being Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and South Hams District Council) delegates the responsibility for leading the review of the Management Plan to the Tamar Valley National Landscape team.
- 2.5 The Consultation Draft would be out for public consultation during September and October, with a view to the final draft being brought to respective Local Authorities for adoption in early 2025, ready for starting delivery on 1st April 2025.

3. The Consultation Draft

- 3.1 The Consultation Draft recognises the substantial new and emerging policy and strategy that must rightly influence the direction of the new Management Plan, including those relating to Climate Change, Local Nature Recovery and Protected Landscapes.
- 3.2 In the context of a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency, the Consultation Draft recognises a deep sense of emergency, and accordingly a need for a higher level of ambition in response. Catchment scale activity is proposed with three golden thread themes:

- a. Nature first – restoring, creating, and connecting ecosystems
 - b. Climate adaption – mitigating and adapting to climate change, leading local net zero actions
 - c. Place makes people - furthering and celebrating the Tamar Valley for residents and visitors
- 3.3 The Management Plan identifies and costs projects including identifying potential significant funding sources to deliver against the purposefully ambitious aims.

4. Proposed Way Forward

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Director for Place and Enterprise will have delegated authority to agree the final content of any formal Council consultation response to the Consultation Draft incorporating comments from Members and relevant officers.
- 4.2 Officers will assist the Tamar Valley National Landscape team with a review of consultation responses as appropriate following the public consultation period. The Management Plan would be expected to be presented to the Tamar Valley’s Executive and Partnership Committees for agreement.
- 4.3 The final Management Plan is expected to be presented to the Council’s Hub Committee on 11th March 2025 for adoption ready for delivery to commence on 1st April.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		<p>Section 89 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW Act, 2000) sets out the statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce Management Plans for National Landscapes in their area, and to review adopted plans at periods of not more than five years</p> <p>The Council (as well as other constituent Local Authorities – these being Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, and West Devon Borough Council) has delegated the authority of reviewing the Management Plan to the Tamar Valley AONB team.</p> <p>The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) amends s85 of the CroW Act, creating a new duty on Local Authorities to ‘seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty’ of National Landscapes.</p>

Financial implications to include reference to value for money		The Council makes an annual contribution of £10,134 to the Tamar Valley National Landscape, towards the cost of the team and their production and delivery of the Management Plan.
Risk		Failure to publish a Management Plan before expiry of the existing would result in the Council failing to meet the statutory duty set out in Section 89 of the CRoW Act.
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Natural Environment
Consultation & Engagement Strategy		Public consultation led by the Tamar Valley National Landscape team will be undertaken during September and October 2024.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		'Nature first' and 'Climate adaption' are key themes in the Consultation Draft, backed up by ambitious and significant projects at a catchment scale in the Tamar Valley.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		N/A
Safeguarding		N/A
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		N/A
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		N/A
Other implications		N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A - Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 – Consultation Draft