

Action Plan for Strengthening the Regional Park's Contribution to Single Outcome Agreements and the 15 National Outcomes.

Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee

18th December 2009

Purpose of report

- 1 To inform the Joint Committee about the findings of a recent study into the Regional Park's contribution to national and local outcomes.

Main report

- 2 During summer / autumn 2009, the Regional Park Service carried out a study into how the Regional Park contributes to the Scottish Government's 15 National Outcomes and to the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Council's Single Outcome Agreements.
- 3 The study also included an analysis of the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the Regional Park Service (a SWOT analysis). The analysis was carried out with the involvement of both the Regional Park Service and key stakeholders represented by the Consultative Forum, including elected members from the Joint Committee.
- 4 The study identifies a number of actions to strengthen the Regional Park's contribution to national and local outcomes, and to respond to the issues raised by the SWOT analysis. It is intended to include these in the Regional Park's operational workplan for 2010/2011.
- 5 The full study report is available as a background paper. The key actions proposed for 2010/2011 arising from the study report are summarised in Appendix 1. A summary of the report's main findings are:

National Outcomes

- The Regional Park contributes to 14 out of the 15 National Outcomes.
- A particularly strong contribution is made to 5 (33%) of the National Outcomes. These include outcomes relating to: environmental protection and enhancement; health & well-being; attractiveness of Scotland as a

place to live, work and do business; education & learning; and provision of responsive public service.

- The Regional Park could usefully strengthen its contribution to National Outcomes relating to: crime and antisocial behaviour; young people's work and life skills; inequalities; and empowering communities.

Single Outcome Agreements

- The Regional Park makes some contribution towards 69% of local outcomes within the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian's Single Outcome Agreements.
- The Regional Park makes a strong contribution to 35% of local outcomes. This includes those relating to: health & well being; learning & education; environmental quality (amenities and open space); community participation; biodiversity; and provision of responsive services.
- Although the study identifies small differences in contribution between individual local authorities, the pattern is broadly similar;
- The Regional Park could strengthen its contribution to local outcomes relating to: economic development; health for older people and people with disabilities; crime and antisocial behaviour; skills development; social inclusion; and environmental sustainability (waste, energy, travel and greenhouse gas emissions).

SWOT Analysis

- The Regional Park has significant strengths in: quality of staff; the voluntary ranger service; partnership with Friends of the Pentlands; information and communication; and landscape and habitat quality.
- The Regional Park has some weakness in relation to: security of partnership and associated budget; staff numbers 'on the ground'; and project aspirations in relation to available staff and financial resource.
- The Regional Park has opportunities to: engage with community planning and further raise the profile of the Service; embrace tourism and economic development; to further promote the benefits of responsible access; and to secure additional funding through donations, sponsorship and working with community groups.
- The Regional Park faces some significant threats including: risk of withdrawal by key partners; adverse impact of irresponsible access; vulnerability to loss of key staff; and reduction of grant at a time of tight constraints on public expenditure.

Financial Implications

- 6 This report identifies that there are budgetary pressures on the Service and that these may present a risk to service continuity in the medium term. There are however no specific financial implications arising from this report at this stage. The budget for the remainder of 2009 / 2010 (financial year) is unaffected

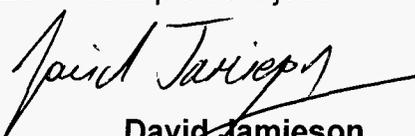
Delivery and development of service from 2010/2011 onwards will largely depend on availability of funding.

Environmental Impact

- 7 The report indicates that the Regional Park makes a strong contribution to the national and local outcomes relating to environmental quality.
- 8 The actions identified in the 'Fit for Future' study will strengthen the positive contribution that the Regional Park Service makes to local and regional environmental quality.

Recommendations

- 9 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
 - a) notes the key findings in the study; and
 - b) notes the actions proposed for inclusion in the 2010/2011 work plan subject to budget provision.


David Jamieson
Parks & Greenspace Manager

Appendices	Appendix 1: 'Fit for Future' – Key Actions 2010 / 2011
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Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	Supports: National Outcome 1: We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe. National Outcome 2: We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people. National Outcome 3: We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation. National Outcome 4: Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. National Outcome 5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. National Outcome 6: We live longer, healthier lives. National Outcome 7: We have tackled significant inequalities in Scottish Society. National Outcome 8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk. National Outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime disorder and danger. National Outcome 10: We live in well-designed sustainable places, where we are able to access the amenities and services we need. National Outcome 11: We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. National Outcome 12 – We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations. National Outcome 13: We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity. National Outcome 14: We reduce the local and global impact of our consumption and production. National Outcome 15: Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.
Background Papers	Pentland Hills Regional Park – 'Fit for Future' 2010 / 2011

APPENDIX 1:
'Fit for Future' Key Actions 2010/11

Theme	Action	Agent	Links
1. Economic Development	<p>1.1 Facilitate a review of the Pentland Produce Scheme</p> <p>1.2 Establish a 'Pentlands Business and Sustainable Tourism Forum' (subject to agreement with farmers and landowners)</p> <p>1.3 Publish regular features on local businesses within the Pentland Beacon.</p> <p>1.4 Participate fully in the Midlothian Tourism Forum.</p> <p>1.5 Establish links and work with the Economic Development Service of the Managing Authority.</p>	<p>Regional Park Manager</p> <p>Regional Park Manager</p> <p>Communications Ranger</p> <p>Regional Park Manager / All</p> <p>Regional Park Manager / All</p>	National Outcome 2 All SOAs, SWOT
2. Inequalities and social inclusion	2.1 Work with Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership on pilot scheme to help older people and people with disabilities access the countryside.	Senior Ranger / Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership	National Outcomes 7, 8 & 13 All SOAs
3. Crime and Antisocial behaviour	3.1 Work with Police and Community safety teams in each local authority area to manage antisocial and criminal behaviour.	Senior Ranger / SW Community Safety Team	National Outcome 9
4. Employment & skills development for young people	<p>4.1 Offer 1 work experience placement. Alternate between partner local authorities in consecutive years.</p> <p>4.2 Deliver an extended project with a local secondary school themed around sustainability and climate change. The project should provide skills development and work experience (possibly in</p>	<p>Senior Ranger</p> <p>Education Ranger / Communities Ranger</p>	<p>National Outcomes 5,7 & 8. All SOAs</p> <p>Key Contacts: Brenda Baxter, Economic Dev (apprenticeships programme); Laura</p>

	partnership with PIPER) 4.3 Consider appointing a 6 th month paid placement candidate to carry forward a specific piece of project work.	Regional Park Manager	Macintyre, Economic Development (School placements, 'adopt a school', paid 6 month placements for 18-24yr olds); Alan Bell (6 mth. Placements)
5. Encouraging Community Responsibility	5.1 Identify and attend key community planning fora in each partner local authority area	Communities Ranger / ALL	National Outcomes 5,7 & 8
6. Environmental Sustainability (waste, travel, energy GHG emissions)	6.1 (4.2) Deliver an extended project with a local secondary school themed around sustainability and climate change. The project should provide skills development and work experience (possibly in partnership with PIPER).	Education Ranger / Communities Ranger	National Outcome 11
	6.2 Audit and improve operational arrangements for waste minimisation, recycling, energy efficiency, and vehicle use.	To be confirmed	National Outcome 14 All SOAs Green Flag Feedback
7. Physical & Mental Health for older people & people with disabilities	7.1 (2.1) Work with Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership on pilot scheme to help older people and people with disabilities access the countryside.	Senior Ranger	All SOAs
	7.2 Work with NHS Health Promotion to provide targeted activities aimed at improving health for older people and people with disabilities.	Communities Ranger	
8. Friends Group	8.1 Attend Friends Meetings on a Regular basis.	All	SWOT
	8.2 Co-ordinate PHRP and Friends	Senior Ranger / Estates	

	work planning.	Ranger	
9. Marketing & Promotion	9.1 Feature articles in publications of all 3 partner local authorities.	Communication Ranger / ALL	SWOT
	9.2 Participate in the Green Flag Award Scheme.	Regional Park Manager / ALL	SWOT
10. Fundraising	10.1 Seek sources of external project funding	All	SWOT
11. Regional Park HQ	11.1 Work with CEC Economic Development to help identify options for alternative HQ accommodation.	Regional Park Manager	SWOT
12. Ranger Remit System	11.2 Ensure that each Ranger has at least 1 key objective / project annually that is outwith their current remit.	Senior Ranger	SWOT
13. Project status / budget commitment	13.1 Update work plan progress monthly	Regional Park Manager / Senior Ranger	SWOT
14. Donations	14.1 Set up a pilot donations scheme to support 'added value' projects.	Communications Ranger / All	SWOT

