MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

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Summary

This paper provides updates and material for discussion on the Management Plan review. This will be supplemented with slides at the meeting.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to comment on the issues raised.

Background

The <u>public survey</u> has been running since April and we have so far received 140 responses. The output shows strong support for the purposes of the designation and the issues and priorities as we have recently described them. Some slides showing extracts of the results will be shown at the meeting.

Output from the <u>Partnership's topic based workshops</u> on 23rd November 2023 (see Appendix 2) is feeding into meetings of three Topic Groups. These are aiming especially to involve stakeholders beyond the Partnership, following production of a simple engagement plan. Some of the output from the Landscape, Natural Beauty and Land Management and the Planning Topic groups will be shared at the meeting.

Use of <u>Doughnut Economics model</u> (see Appendix 3). We have previously looked at this model, which defines parameters of a social foundation (human needs which should be met for everyone) and of an ecological ceiling, and so shaping a goal of policy to stay within this 'safe space for humanity'. Along with some other protected landscapes, we would like to use the model as a high level reference framework in the new Management Plan. A further stage of application of the model we are exploring is to try to 'localise' the parameters to the Shropshire Hills and their condition, and so to produce a visual representation which helps to convey the Management Plan's priorities and challenges. This will be talked through at the meeting with some slides.

Some data has been received from Defra linked to the new <u>Targets and Outcomes Framework</u>, a summary of which is given in Appendix 1.

Work continues by Defra on the <u>new legal duty</u> to 'further' the purpose of designation, including the drafting of guidance and regulations on this. The new duty will put extra significance on the Management Plan to identify what natural beauty means in the context of the individual protected landscape.

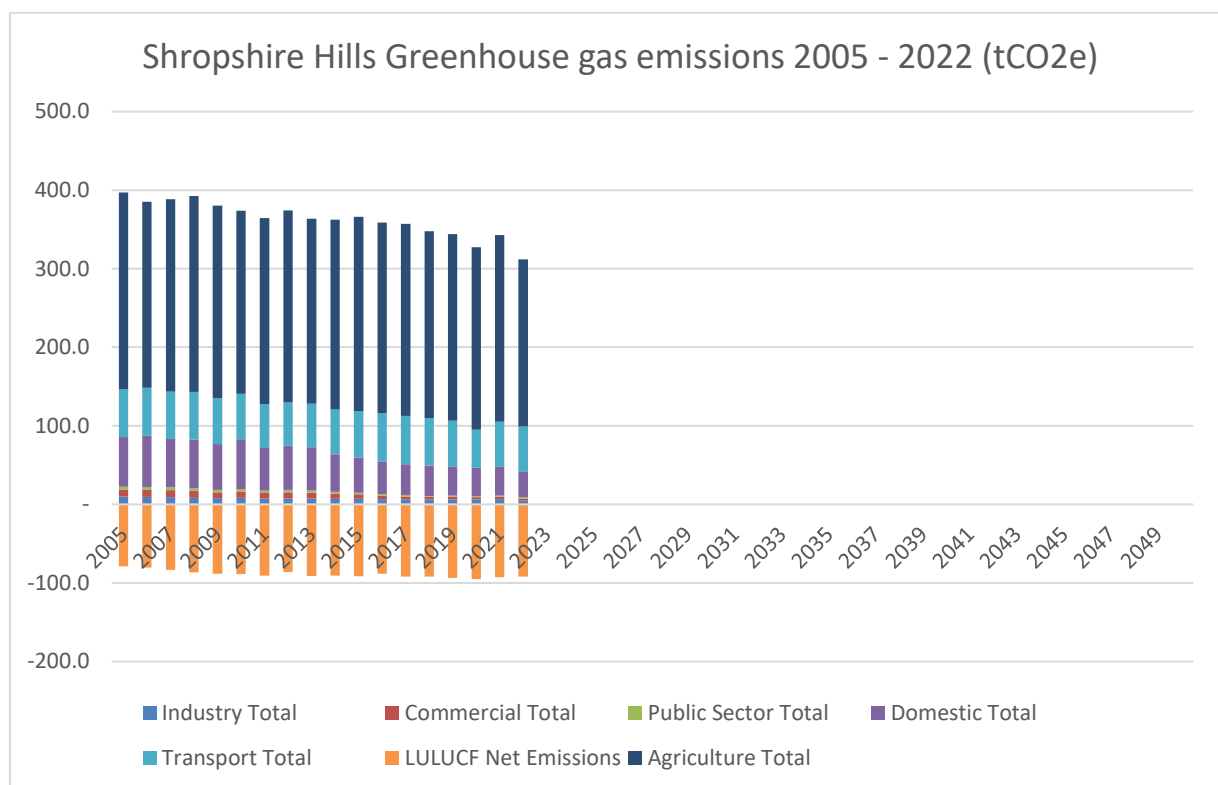Some <u>themes which are emerging for the new Plan</u> are:

- The damage to **climate and nature** threatens human wellbeing and the balance of life – we need a new goal and framework of **meeting everyone's needs within planetary boundaries**.

- We need to **allow nature to recover while producing healthier food in ways which sustain the land** – this is not an either/or, it needs integrated solutions.

- We need to **de-carbonise and adapt rapidly** across all sectors through **behavioural change as well as technology**, embracing the huge opportunities for a new economy and better wellbeing.

- We need to support **people's closer connection to nature and place**, being more active for health, helping to nurture our environment and being part of communities.

- We need to **upscale positive action** to achieve these things, and to **stop doing the things which continue to cause harm** and go in the wrong direction.

List of Background Papers None
Human Rights Act Appraisal The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.
Environmental Appraisal The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.
Risk Management Appraisal Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.
Community / Consultations Appraisal The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.
Appendices Appendix 1   2024 data on Protected Landscape Targets & Outcomes Framework Appendix 2   Topics from 23rd November 2023 Partnership meeting workshops Appendix 3   Brief notes on the Doughnut Economics model

Appendix 1 2024 summary data on Protected Landscape Targets & Outcomes Framework

Targets	2024 level Shropshire Hills (with some context notes)
Target 1: Restore or create more than 250,000ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).	
Target 2: Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.	**57.9% of SSSI features in favourable condition** 3rd highest of 44 protected landscapes National Landscapes average 41.3% All England average 39.5%
Target 3: For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.	**14% of SSSI features have actions on track** (17 out of 104). 17th of 44 Protected Landscapes. National Landscapes average 15.3% All England average 14.1%
Target 4: Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.	
Target 5: Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.	
Target 6: Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.	A **31.7% reduction** in the total of measured greenhouse gas emissions linked to the Shropshire Hills National Landscape has been observed between **2005 and 2022**. (Note that this excludes consumption based emissions so is not alone a measure directly linked to net zero).
Target 7: Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.	**0 ha of peat committed for restoration** by March 2025 Only 6 National Landscapes have >0

Target 8: Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).	**Total area 11,352 ha**
	    Broadleaved 5,309.0
	    Conifer 3,797.3
	    Felled 930.9
	    Ground prep 14.6
	    Mixed 644.6
	    Shrub 19.9
	    Windblow 6.6
	    Young trees 629.1

Target 9: Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.	
Target 10: Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.	**Listed Buildings 1%** **Scheduled monuments 7.4%** (11th of 44 PLs, Average 11.9%)

Data on greenhouse gas emissions https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022

Shropshire Hills Greenhouse gas emissions 2005 - 2022 (tCO2e)

Year	Industry Total	Commercial Total	Public Sector Total	Domestic Total	Transport Total	LULUCF Net Emissions	Agriculture Total	Grand Total tCO2e
2005	9.9	8.7	3.7	63.2	61.1	-79.0	250.6	332.8
2006	9.4	9.2	3.7	65.3	61.0	-80.8	236.5	318.1
2007	9.2	8.8	3.5	61.5	60.6	-83.3	244.8	313.6
2008	8.3	8.8	3.5	61.8	60.8	-86.8	249.5	320.6
2009	7.7	7.7	3.1	58.2	58.4	-88.3	245.2	300.0
2010	8.1	7.9	3.3	63.4	57.9	-88.8	233.2	299.1
2011	7.3	7.2	3.0	54.1	55.9	-90.8	237.1	285.4
2012	7.3	7.8	3.2	56.4	54.8	-86.4	244.5	300.1
2013	7.3	7.3	3.0	55.1	55.5	-91.0	235.4	284.3
2014	7.2	6.2	2.6	47.4	57.2	-90.8	241.5	279.3
2015	6.9	5.7	2.3	44.8	58.7	-91.6	247.4	282.9
2016	6.6	4.6	2.1	41.7	61.5	-88.4	242.4	280.4
2017	6.3	3.8	2.0	38.9	61.7	-92.0	244.6	273.8
2018	6.1	3.3	1.1	38.8	60.2	-92.1	237.9	263.5
2019	6.3	3.5	1.4	37.2	58.2	-93.4	237.6	259.6
2020	6.2	2.9	1.2	36.2	48.5	-95.1	232.5	239.9
2021	6.6	3.2	1.3	37.1	56.9	-92.9	237.6	257.2
2022	4.5	2.9	1.5	32.4	57.7	-92.1	212.9	227.3

LULUCF = Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

Appendix 2   Topics from 23rd November 2023 Partnership meeting workshops

Land Management
- Agricultural transition, especially for upland farmers. ELMS - SFI, Countryside Stewardship, Landscape Recovery
- Land use tools and mapping, research and studies – how to use
- National Land Use Framework
- Farmer clusters – developing them, supporting more, bringing them together in some way?
- Nature recovery – including LNRS, Biodiversity Net Gain
- Post-FiPL farm advice role of the National Landscape team
- How to get information/support to farmers – a policy forum?
- Green Finance – an opportunity
- Climate change - net zero, adaptation

Planning
- Raise awareness of the National Landscape in the local authorities – with officers and committees
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Review of NPPF
- Improve information and guidance for applicants?
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Housing – various mechanisms in place but still not achieving enough affordable housing to sustain communities
- Clun catchment – work going on to try to break deadlock
- Try to secure resources for greater input from National Landscape team

Community & Enjoyment
- Sources of data on tourism use and trends, visitor data, heat source mapping
- Supporting funding applications and bidding for resources
- Health and wellbeing, inclusion and participation
- Consultation with visitors and audiences
- Engagement with young people, and following through from younger to teenage to post-school
- How do we communicate the value of the National Landscape more widely
- Some concern about dispersal affecting quieter areas, and pressure on other areas of conservation
- Make the plan more accessible to a wider audience

Appendix 3   Brief notes on the Doughnut Economics model

The Doughnut is a compass for human prosperity in the 21st century, with the aim of meeting the needs of all people within the means of the living planet.

It consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries that protect Earth's life-supporting systems.

Between these two sets of boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and socially just: a space in which humanity can thrive.


Application of the doughnut model for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

"Our Park Doughnut is adapted to the unique circumstances of our status as a UK National Park. We see it as a framework for successful implementation of our purposes and duty, combined with a set of measurable policy goals for success.

For us the social foundation relates to our socio-economic duty; no one living within the boundary of the National Park should be disadvantaged by the designation and our park will only thrive if our communities do too.

The outer ecological ceiling represents our first purpose to conserve and enhance the environment (ecological and cultural) of the National Park; drawing this as a ceiling allows us to clearly signify the environmental capacity of the Park and the impacts of moving beyond this ceiling.

The space at the core of the doughnut formed from these two boundaries helps us understand the shifts that are needed in order for us to provide an arena for human enjoyment (our second purpose) that is both ecologically safe and socially just. It also reminds us that in providing this service we run the risk of breaching boundaries ourselves."
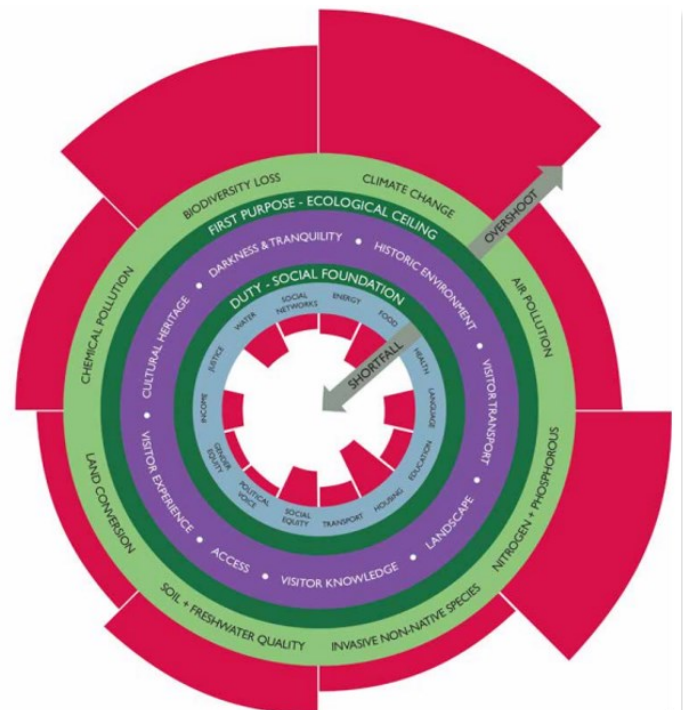
For a simple explanation of Doughnut Economics see the series of short animated videos at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkg2XMTWV4g

For other practical applications see Doughnut Economics Action Lab

https://doughnuteconomics.org/