



NPA/25/019

Dartmoor National Park Authority

9 May 2025

Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026 – Review Process

Report of the Partnership Plan and Climate Officer and the Director of Spatial Planning

Recommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) **support the establishment of the Partnership Board;**
- (ii) **note the need to review the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026;**
- (iii) **note the proposed review process and indicative timeline for the Partnership Plan review;**
- (iv) **advise their views on Member engagement with the review process.**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed approach to the review and development of an updated Dartmoor Partnership Plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 The [Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026](#) is the single most important policy document for the National Park (also known as the National Park Management Plan). It is the strategic, overarching plan for the National Park and is the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes and duty are met and provides a mechanism for combining national (e.g. 30 x 30, Net Zero, Environmental Improvement Plan and Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework) and local priorities (e.g. Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy)
- 2.2 The Partnership Plan is for the National Park and not just the National Park Authority, or any individual group or organisation. It should set the framework for partnership action to deliver outcomes set out in the Plan and the Vision for Dartmoor.
- 2.3 Each National Park Authority is required to prepare and publish a Management Plan under section 66(1) of the Environment Act 1995. The Act also requires a National Park Authority to review the Plan at least every 5 years and states that they shall –
- (a) determine on that review whether it would be expedient to amend the Plan and what (if any) amendments would be appropriate

- (b) make any amendments that they consider appropriate, and
- (c) publish a report on the review specifying any amendments made

2.4 As the Partnership Plan is a document for the whole National Park (and not just the National Park Authority) it is essential that the review process involves key partner organisations and consultation from key stakeholders.

3 Partnership Plan Governance

3.1 In December 2024 (NPA/24/041) Members noted that a key step prior to the review of the Partnership Plan was to establish a meaningful governance structure that ensures a partnership-based approach to reviewing and delivering the Partnership Plan.

3.2 The Dartmoor Partnership Board has been established to provide strategic oversight and direction for the development and delivery of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan. The Partnership Board is made up of the key partners that play a significant role in delivering the Plan and ensures a coordinated and collaborative approach to the review process. Full membership details and the Terms of Reference are provided in Appendix 1.

3.3 In recognition of the National Park Authority's statutory responsibility for preparing and producing the Partnership Plan, the Chair of the Authority also serves as the Chair of the Partnership Board.

4 Proposed approach for the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026 Review

4.1 The current Partnership Plan covers the period 2021–2026, the proposed scope, timetable, and review process are outlined below. The approach was discussed and agreed upon with the Dartmoor Partnership Board at its meeting on 24 March.

4.2 The context and scope of the review are being shaped by several key policy drivers that must be considered, including:

- [Section 245 \(Protected Landscapes\)](#) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) amends the duty on relevant authorities in respect of their functions which affect land in National Parks. Relevant authorities must now 'seek to further' the statutory purposes of Protected Landscapes. This replaces the previous duty on relevant authorities to 'have regard to' their statutory purposes. The new duty requires a positive obligation.
- The [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) (PLTOF) published in January 2024 builds on the new LURA legislation and sets the ambition for how Protected Landscapes will achieve outcomes within DEFRA's [Environmental Improvement Plan](#). It sets out 10 national targets that all Protected Landscapes are expected to contribute to. The targets are non-statutory and are for the geographic area of each Protected Landscape, with shared responsibility amongst all stakeholders, partners and land managers for delivery. Defra are in the process of 'apportioning' the national targets to each protected landscape.
- In 2020 the government committed to protecting 30% of the UK's land for nature by 2030. How this would be achieved was also set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan and in more detail through [delivering 30by30 on land in](#)

[England \(2023\)](#). Defra state that areas containing our most important biodiversity should be prioritised through a framework of strengthening designated sites, extending existing sites, creating new sites and investing in delivery by landowners.

- The UK governments third [National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\)](#) introduces the requirement for all Protected Landscape Authorities to produce Climate Change Adaptation plans by 2028. Climate Adaptation plans are to be completed on a 5-year cycle and should contain action focused policies looking to adapt areas of the designation where climate change is projected to have an impact.
- [Local Nature Recovery Strategies \(LNRS\)](#) have been established through the Environment Act as tools to drive more coordinated, practical and focussed action to help nature. Each strategy will establish priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and establish specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. LNRSs will be an important tool for aiding effective planning for nature recovery activities as part of management plans.

5 Scope of the review

5.1 The Partnership Plan review process should establish a clear Vision for the National Park. The [Vision for Dartmoor in 2045](#) was developed during the previous review in 2019/20. To support the delivery of this Vision, the Plan was structured around approximately seven key themes:

- A Better Response to Climate Change
- Better for the Next Generation
- Better for Nature and Natural Beauty
- Better for Cultural Heritage
- Better for People
- Better for Farming and Forestry
- Better for Business and Communities

5.2 At a meeting on the 24 March 2025, the Partnership Board agreed that the Vision remains broadly aligned with ambitions for Dartmoor. A light-touch review of the Vision is proposed as part of the Partnership Plan review process to ensure it remains relevant. The current themes will be retained and carried forward into the updated Partnership Plan.

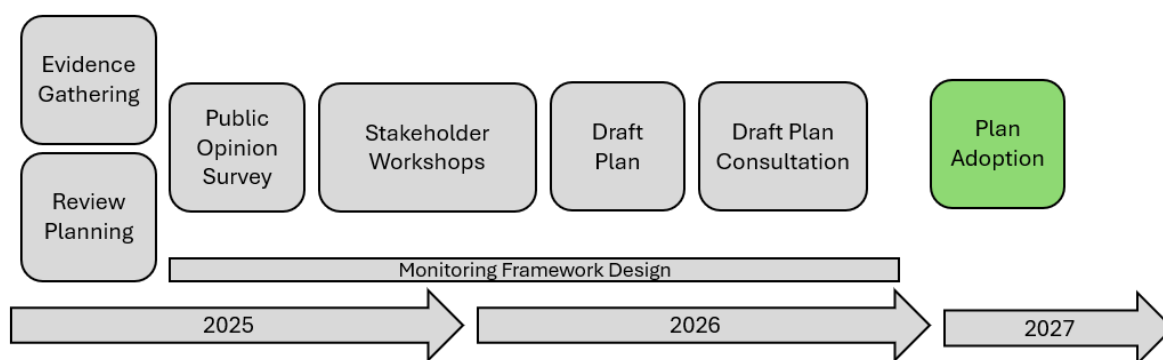
5.3 The review will prioritise the establishment of strengthened outcomes and targets to guide the Partnership Plan period. A key focus will be on more effectively embedding stakeholder activity within the Partnership Plan to ensure wider engagement and shared ownership of delivery. This will be underpinned by the creation of a robust monitoring framework.

5.4 The review process will need to be cognisant of the work of the Dartmoor Land Use Management Group. This group is charged with developing a land use framework for Dartmoor and a Dartmoor Observatory; both initiatives are of relevance to the Partnership Plan. The Land Use Framework should take a lead from the Partnership Plan vision. The Dartmoor Observatory should assist with data collection and monitoring of the Partnership Plan going forward.

6 Timeline and Approach

- 6.1 The indicative timeline and review process for the Partnership Plan is outlined in Figure 1, with the aim of adopting an updated Plan by January 2027.
- 6.2 Three stages of public and stakeholder consultation and engagement are proposed for the review process:
1. Public opinion survey
 2. Stakeholder workshops
 3. Draft Plan consultation
- 6.3 The public opinion survey will identify the priorities and issues for Dartmoor that should be considered within the review process, the priorities and issues tested in the survey will be guided by data and evidence included in the [State of the Park Report 2025](#) and feedback from partners through the Partnership Board.
- 6.4 In late 2025 and early 2026, the review will focus on stakeholder engagement through a series of workshops. These sessions will bring partners together to agree on the strategic priorities, outcomes, and actions needed to deliver the Vision through the updated Partnership Plan. The process must clearly define delivery responsibilities across all partners
- 6.5 Consultation on the draft plan will take place mid-late 2026, the remainder of 2026 will be spent making final revisions and designs to the Plan and preparing for adoption of the new Plan in January 2027.

Figure 1: Dartmoor Partnership Plan review timeline



- 6.6 Key milestones have been established and will be monitored by the Partnership Board to ensure the review process remains on track and to identify any significant issues or delays. These milestones, along with key dates for Authority meetings, are detailed in Table 1.
- 6.7 Member engagement is essential to the review process. Members will have the opportunity to feed into the review process through the stakeholder workshops. Members will be kept informed of progress through the Park Management and Planning and Sustainable Development working panels. Additional briefings and updates will be provided to Members to ensure they stay informed throughout the process.

Table 1: Dartmoor Partnership Plan review key milestones.

Date	Meeting	Milestone
July 2025	Partnership Board	Sign off stakeholder engagement and consultation process
December 2025	Partnership Board	Monitor review progress Receive public opinion survey report
April 2026	Partnership Board	Review draft Partnership Plan Review monitoring framework progress
June 2026	Authority	Approve draft Partnership Plan for consultation Receive consultation reports
November 2026	Partnership Board	Review final Partnership Plan and monitoring framework
January 2027	Authority	Partnership Plan adoption

- 6.8 It is recognised that broader stakeholder engagement is needed beyond the public opinion survey and stakeholder workshops to re-establish engagement with the Partnership Plan. To support this, we are working with the Partnership Board to develop a Communications Strategy that enhances understanding of and engagement with the Partnership Plan, while also establishing a shared and coordinated approach to communications across all partners.

7 Partnership Plan Review Risks

- 7.1 The Partnership Plan review is taking place during a period of significant uncertainty, including financial pressures facing National Park Authorities, wider local government re-organisation, a comprehensive spending review and ongoing changes to key policies and legislation. The main risks associated with the review are outlined in Appendix 2.

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The Partnership Plan review covers more than one financial year and has links to the review of the Local Plan and the development of the Climate Action Plan for Dartmoor. A total of £25,590 of ringfenced reserves has been allocated to the Partnership Plan Review. The main costs associated with the review are expected to come from the external plan assessments, external facilitation, communications and design work. Staff resource is also required to manage and support the review process, including, specialist staff input into the consultation and engagement design, document preparation and communications.
- 8.2 We are commissioning a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to support the delivery of Race to Zero and inform priority setting for the updated Partnership Plan. A budget of £30,000 has been allocated for this work from the 2025/26 Project Fund.
- 8.3 Through the Partnership Board, we are seeking opportunities to share resources. It is anticipated that partners will provide support for the review process either through direct financial contributions or in-kind resources to help meet the resource requirements outlined above.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 A review of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026 is required in line with legislation set out in the Environment Act 1995. A light touch review of the Vision will be carried out to ensure that it remains relevant. The review will focus on defining clear outcomes and targets that effectively deliver the Vision for Dartmoor.
- 9.2 Funding continues to be a key risk in the review of the Partnership Plan. As the review progresses, its scope and approach will be kept under continuous review. Members will be kept fully informed of the review progress through regular briefings.

JEN MANNING &
DEAN KINSELLA

Attachments: **Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference**
 Appendix 2 – Risk Register

20250509 JM/DK Partnership Plan Review

Dartmoor Partnership Plan
Partnership Board
DRAFT Terms of Reference

1 Purpose of the Partnership Board

The Partnership Board will provide strategic oversight of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan, working collectively to shape Dartmoor's future and achieve the Vision for Dartmoor.

The Vision for Dartmoor in 2045, is that Dartmoor will be:

'Better for future generations: climate resilient, nature rich, beautiful, connected to the past and looking to the future. A place where people of all ages and backgrounds can live, work or visit. A place that is loved cherished and cared for.'

2 Role and responsibilities

The Partnership Board will work together to provide strategic oversight and direction of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan, ensuring that its development and delivery align with the Vision and that the Plan considers:

- The statutory purposes of the National Park
- Special qualities of the National Park
- Relevant national, regional and local guidance
- Up to date evidence, including the State of the Park report
- Public and stakeholder feedback

3 Key responsibilities

- (i) Strategic Leadership – guide the development and delivery of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan and establish processes and frameworks that support its success
- (ii) Collaboration and Coordination – identify and utilise opportunities for joint efforts and resource sharing to strengthen Plan development and delivery
- (iii) Monitoring and Reporting – monitor delivery and assess progress against the established monitoring framework
- (iv) Data and evidence – collect and share data and evidence to support informed decision making and effectively monitor delivery
- (v) Consensus building – build consensus to resolve challenges, manage conflicts, and develop effective solutions.
- (vi) Promotion – Act as ambassadors for the Dartmoor Partnership Plan and encourage and seek to influence others to be part of its delivery.

4 Membership

The Partnership Board will be made up of the Partners that have a major contribution to make in delivering the Dartmoor Partnership Plan.

Each organisation listed in Annex A will have a named member of the Partnership Board and one additional named representative (who can act as a 'substitute').

It is for each partner organisation to determine who is best placed to represent them on the Partnership Board, having regard to:

1. The role of the Partnership Board as set out above.
2. The key requirements of each individual, including:
 - (i) Knowledge and capacity to speak on behalf of their organisation and seek opportunities for joint working and shared resources
 - (ii) Ability to communicate information on and champion the work of the Partnership Board more widely within their own organisation
 - (iii) Ability to coordinate views from across their organisation to provide a single organisational view or position on relevant issues
 - (iv) Coordinate the timely provision of relevant monitoring information from their organisation
 - (v) Availability to attend meetings

Membership will be reviewed annually by the Partnership Board.

A member of the Partnership Board who represents a sector will be responsible for collecting and conveying the views of those organisations to the Partnership Board when required.

The Partnership Board may invite other organisations or representatives to provide specialist support and guidance when required.

All members are responsible for the communication of the Partnership Boards work both internally (within their organisation) and externally (to their networks and audiences outside).

5 Chairing the Partnership Board

The Partnership Board will be chaired by the Chair of the National Park Authority

6 Meeting Arrangements

The Partnership Board will meet at least quarterly throughout the review period. The frequency of these meetings will be reviewed once the Partnership Plan transitions into the delivery phase.

Partnership Board meetings will be held in advance of the Authority meetings held by Dartmoor National Park Authority. The sequencing of meetings will be planned in line with meetings of the Authority.

Additional meetings may be called as agreed by the Partnership Board.

All documents relating to the Partnership Board will be made available on the Partnership Board SharePoint site.

7 The role of Dartmoor National Park Authority

Dartmoor National Park Authority has a clear statutory duty to develop and monitor the Partnership Plan for the National Park.

DNPA will serve as an equal partner on the Partnership Board, ensuring broader ownership of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan and its effective delivery for Dartmoor.

DNPA will facilitate the Partnership Board and act as its secretariat. This will include:

- (i) Coordinate Partnership Board meetings, prepare agendas and minutes
- (ii) Support the administration of sub-groups and task and finish groups where required
- (iii) Facilitate the preparation of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan, reporting writing, annual reviews and the monitoring of the Plan

The views of the Partnership Board will be reported to the Authority as the review of the Partnership Plan progresses.

8 Accountability and Reporting arrangements

Through its statutory responsibility, DNPA will maintain responsibility for the production of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan, this includes approving the review process for the Plan and approving and adopting the final Plan and receiving annual monitoring reports.

The Partnership Board will have no formal responsibility delegated by DNPA. Through its strategic oversight the Partnership Board will play a key role in the governance of the Partnership Plan.

Any reports or plans developed by the Partnership Board that require formal approval from DNPA will be taken to Dartmoor National Park Authority Members by the relevant DNPA Officer.

Annex 1. Partnership Board membership

Organisation/Sector	Membership
Environment Agency	1 x representative
Natural England	1 x representative
Forestry Commission	1 x representative
Historic England	1 x representative
ENGOS (represented by RSPB and DWT)	2 x representatives
Dartmoor Access Forum	1 x representative
Access NGOs (represented by BMC and SWLT)	2 x representatives
Dartmoor Commoners Council	1 x representative
Hill Farm Project	1 x representative
Dartmoor Commons Owners Association	1 x representative
MoD	1 x representative
The Duchy of Cornwall	1 x representative
Devon County Council	1 x representative
Teignbridge District Council	1 x representative
South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council	1 x representative
Dartmoor Futures	1 x representative

Dartmoor Partnership Plan Review Risk Register

Risk	Potential Impact	Risk Level		Mitigation
		Likelihood	Impact	
Loss of key staff, staff change or illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational impact on delivery resulting in delay Loss of skills and knowledge and staff capacity to input into review Inability to deliver proposed review process Poor quality outcomes of review process 	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain relevant staff engagement throughout review process Resilience through project team approach Strong project management and documentation
External staff turnover and change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of key relationships Reduced effectiveness of partnership working Loss of ownership of Partnership Plan with key stakeholders 	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish strong relationships with stakeholders across multiple contacts Establish clear responsibilities across the Partnership Board
Spending review/insufficient funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to deliver Loss of key staff Operational impact on delivery of review 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience through strong partnership working Careful project planning and informed cost estimates Careful consideration of scope of the review to align with available resources
National Policy Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic misalignment, shifting of policies away from direction of the Partnership Plan Loss of funding to deliver outcomes established within the Partnership Plan 	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring of policy developments Careful consideration of scope and flexibility of the Partnership Plan Strengthened partnership approach, through Partnership Board to address policy changes efficiently.
Local Government Reorganisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of existing partnerships Reduced capacity for joint working due to internal focus Delivery at risk 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement with partners Careful consideration of scope and flexibility of the Partnership Plan
Legislative change/change in NPA Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruption or delay due to new legislation requirements Increased complexity of delivery 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful consideration of review process and scope and flexibility of the Partnership Plan

Lack of ownership of key delivery partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor implementation of Partnership Plan • Delivery at risk 	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well designed review process • Strong governance via Partnership Board • Clear Communication Strategy
Errors in statutory process/legal challenge e.g. SEA/HRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in delivery of updated Plan • Increased costs • Reputational impact 	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong project programme including identification of procedural phases
Poor consultancy support/contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality outcomes • Delays in delivery 	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear procurement criteria and processes • Active performance management of consultants
Cumulative Delay – risk that project creep leads to other completed pieces of work requiring update/review/refresh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in review delivery • Additional financial pressures • Reputational 	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong project management and clear project scoping • Clear understanding of report shelf life and review triggers. • Wider policy awareness.
Requirement for major changes to draft require further consultation round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay to project timeline • Increased costs and resources required to deliver updated Partnership Plan 	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear communication and engagement plan • Clear review scope • Robust evidence base



NPA/25/020

Dartmoor National Park Authority

9 May 2025

Donate for Dartmoor

Report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Recommendation: **That Members authorise the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to negotiate an agreement whereby responsibility for Donate for Dartmoor and its future development transfers to Dartmoor Futures.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Donate for Dartmoor is a voluntary donation programme that the Authority has operated since 2016/2017; it evolved out of '£ for the Park' (NPA/AG/16/007). Donate for Dartmoor had two themes:

Donate your time – a link to the volunteer programme where you can donate your time to help the Authority and/or a range of voluntary groups that work within the National Park.

Donate your money – voluntary contributions to support projects that help deliver National Park purposes.

- 1.2 Donate for Dartmoor was promoted via the Authority's website, publications, social media presence and the three Visitor Centres operated by the National Park Authority.

Donate for Dartmoor has raised the following amounts:

2020/21 : £ 5,006
2021/22 : £ 27,513
2022/23 : £ 17,821
2023/24 : £ 15,018
2024/25 : £ 18,501

- 1.3 In addition, teams participating in Ten Tors have also contributed to Donate for Dartmoor via a programme coordinated by the Army when they collect the entrance fee for the event. This has raised circa £4,000 per annum which has been used to support access and/or conservation projects that are of relevance to Ten Tors (i.e.

within the area of the National Park used for Ten Tors). We have also had Ten Tors teams volunteering time for the National Park.

2 Future Development of Donate for Dartmoor

- 2.1 Now that Dartmoor Futures (previously referred to as Dartmoor Foundation) (NPA/24/10) is established, and operating, it is proposed that Donate for Dartmoor (financial donations) is transferred to Dartmoor Futures for them to operate and proactively develop. The transfer would be underpinned by an agreement that covers the following areas:

Operation – Dartmoor Futures would be responsible for operating Donate for Dartmoor. Monies raised would either go direct to Dartmoor Futures or be transferred to Dartmoor Futures by the Authority (except for the donation via Ten Tors). Dartmoor Futures would, in consultation with the Authority, determine how the money raised would be spent. A key benefit of Dartmoor Futures operating Donate for Dartmoor is the opportunity for Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers. This could increase the value of the initial contribution by 20 per cent. Gift Aid is only applicable for registered charities – Dartmoor Futures is currently awaiting registration as a charity. Under the agreement, the Authority would reconcile cash donations received via the Visitor Centres and then transfer the received amount to Dartmoor Futures.

Development – Dartmoor Futures would proactively promote Donate for Dartmoor to a community, corporate and visitor audience. Over time, there is an opportunity to develop Donate for Dartmoor as part of a wider membership programme for Dartmoor Futures.

Grants – money raised would be used for micro grants, in support of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan, and for the development of Dartmoor Futures. The agreement between the Authority and Dartmoor Futures would include a grants protocol so that there is clarity on what the funds raised can be spent/invested in.

Communication and promotion – Dartmoor Futures would take the lead in communicating and promoting Donate for Dartmoor but with support from the Authority.

Review – the agreement would include formal review in year 3 and break clauses that allow the arrangement to be terminated with appropriate notice. Dartmoor Futures would provide an annual report to the Authority on monies raised and how they were used.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The transfer of Donate for Dartmoor will mean that all monies raised will flow to Dartmoor Futures and not to the Authority (except for the donation from Ten Tors teams which would continue to be received by the Authority).
- 3.2 The Authority has used 100% of the monies received under Donate for Dartmoor to fund practical conservation and access projects. Based on the projections submitted by Dartmoor Futures, they forecast doubling the income received via Donate for Dartmoor to circa £45,000 within four years. If they achieve this then

there will be more money to support practical conservation and access projects in the National Park over a four year time period.

4 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members authorise the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Authority to negotiate an agreement whereby responsibility for Donate for Dartmoor, and its future development, transfers to Dartmoor Futures. The agreement offers the potential for Dartmoor Futures to further develop this initiative for the benefit of the National Park, with appropriate recognition for the Authority. As outlined above the agreement would have safeguards built in for both parties.
- 4.2 For Dartmoor Futures, Donate for Dartmoor offers an opportunity to develop its profile and an unrestricted income stream. Dartmoor Futures could also attract Gift Aid on eligible donations – something that the Authority cannot access. Officers also believe that the propensity to donate is higher for charities than to public bodies – subject to usual caveats about the charity being well managed and transparency over how the money will be funded.

KEVIN BISHOP