

Committee: ACCESS
Date: 14 January 2010

Report: HEAD OF DEPARTMENT REPORT

ACTIVITIES

1. Since the last meeting of the committee the following meetings and events of relevance to the Access Committee have taken place:
 - Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group meeting
 - Cumbria Access Work Programme meeting
 - GoDales Steering group
 - Meeting with R Terwey, Head of Transportation, Cumbria CC
 - Outdoor providers workshop
 - Local Access Forum interviews
 - Pennine Bridleway Steering Group meeting
 - 3 Peaks Steering Group
 - Annual Liaison Meeting with Yorkshire Dales Society

ISSUES FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION

2. There are no issues for members' consideration.

ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE

Environment Agency - Strategy for Water Related Recreation in the North West

3. Defra, on behalf of the Environment Agency, have commissioned the University of Brighton to produce water recreation strategies initially for the South West and Anglian regions because both contain coastal and inland waters and water-based leisure, and tourism, is a key contributor to the local economy. Both regions, for instance, are set to play a part in the 2012 Olympics. This approach has been rolled out to a further 4 regions including the North West. All the strategies consider coastal, estuarine and inland locations. The aim is to add value to other regional and local plans and not simply replicate existing strategies, plans and initiatives.

4. The Environment Agency is now asking for views on its new 'Strategy for Water Related Recreation in the North West'. The Cumbria part of the National Park was deliberately excluded from the Strategy as it will be included in the strategy for the North East region. Members may still wish to view the strategy which is out for consultation to see the scope of what is included. The consultation runs until 13 January 2010 and can be found on the University of Brighton's website at: www.brighton.ac.uk/waterrecreation/north_west_consultation_details.htm . It is unclear, if or when a Strategy for North East will be produced.

Revised Circular 1/09 for Rights of Way

5. Members will recall that a revised rights of way circular (Circular 1/09) was published in 2009. Version 2, has recently been published. It is available on the Defra website through the following link: www.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/countryside/prow/rowcircular1-09.pdf
6. The principle reason for the update is the publication, by the Department of Communities and Local Government, of a new circular on costs, Circular 3/09, which supersedes Circular 8/93. As far as rights of way cases are concerned, Circular 3/09 will not change the procedure for costs applications and awards. The revised section of Circular 1/09 clarifies and confirms this, explains more about how the costs regime works, and provides examples of circumstances under which costs may be awarded.

Natural England Transport Policy Statements

7. The Natural England's Board has recently considered two policy statements, one on Aviation and the Natural Environment, http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/NEBPU1706_tcm6-12234.pdf and the other on Road and Rail. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/NEBPU1707_tcm6-12235.pdf
8. The English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) has responded to both and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has contributed through the transport Officers groups, for inclusion in the ENPAA response.

Northern Rail Cycle Project

9. Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis has launched a major £14m nation wide package to transform facilities for cyclists at rail stations and encourage healthier, greener travel, including measures in the Yorkshire Dales area at: Skipton, Ilkley, Clapham Long Preston, Giggleswick, Bentham, Settle, Horton in Ribblesdale and Ribblesdale Stations.
10. The Authority's transport and visitor management officer has attended site visits with officers of Northern Rail and Cycle England to assess the location for the provision of secure cycle parking and is liaising with Cycle England regarding the provision of information to promote cycling from rail stations.

Wensleydale Railway socio-economic study

11. Recently the Wensleydale Railway Company (WRC) commissioned Arup Consultants to undertake a socio-economic study to measure the current and future impacts of the railway if it was to be extended to Northallerton and Aysgarth. The study highlighted a number of issues and the Company is now in the process of developing a 5 year strategy and aims to consult on this in 2010. The Authority is expected to be part of this consultation.

Jon Avison
Head of Park Management

30 December 2009

Background papers

None