



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010**

### **The Lake District National Park Partnership**

#### **What is this report?**

The Lake District National Park Partnership was established in 2006. It has taken time to grow and the partners now want to share their achievements, challenges and opportunities each year through annual reports like this.

#### **What is the Lake District National Park Partnership?**

The Lake District National Park Partnership was formed because many organisations with a role in the Lake District National Park did not have a real sense of involvement in its management. The Partnership is made up of representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. There are currently 22 organisations involved.

#### **What makes it special?**

The formation of the Partnership is an achievement in itself. It is unique amongst all other National Parks, helping organisations work together in different ways. Instead of placing all responsibility on the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), the Partnership has agreed a shared Vision for the National Park. They will work to make it happen through 'The Partnership's Plan' which contains actions.

The LDNPA still has a well defined role to develop new planning policies which manage development in the National Park. Before the Partnership was formed, the LDNPA asked organisations separately what they thought about new policies. There was often conflict. However, the Partnership now works together to try to resolve potential areas of conflict, find solutions and advise the LDNPA. This is significant progress and, in 2009, the Partnership resolved that this had worked well through the formulation of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

## Activities that keep an eye on the bigger picture:

The Partnership has continued to develop and concentrate on overarching activities. This is important - the organisations have a greater bond, improved trust and understanding.

## Seeing if the Vision is happening

The Partnership agreed the Vision for the National Park in 2006.

The **Vision for the Lake District National Park** is that it will be:

**‘An inspirational example of sustainable development in action.’**

### What will it look like?

It will be a place where a ❶ prosperous economy, ❷ vibrant communities and ❸ world class visitor experiences all come together to sustain ❹ the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and culture.

Local people, visitors and the many organisations working in the National Park, or have an interest in it, must be united in making it happen.

In 2009, the Partnership developed a range of key indicators to test if the Vision is being realised. They are structured according to outcomes ❶ - ❹ of the Vision. This is the first time a set of indicators has been agreed in this way. The Partnership will also agree a set of targets which must be met. There are also a wider range of State of the Park indicators which, when measured, will provide even more information about what is happening.

## Developing ‘The Partnership’s Plan’

The Partnership created a draft plan for public consultation in May 2010 – the new Management Plan for the National Park 2010-2015. It contains actions which will be delivered to make the Vision happen from September 2010.

## Involving local businesses

There is a subgroup of the Partnership which is facilitated by the LDNPA – the Business Task Force. It was established in 2006 to help businesses from all sectors get involved in the work of the Partnership and the LDNPA. During 2009 it has discussed ‘The Partnership’s Plan’ and concentrated on creating an inclusive planning service for the National Park - a key outcome of the Vision. A ‘Farming/Forestry Task Force’ is expected to be set up in 2010.

For more information about these activities: [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/partnership](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/partnership)

## **Activities that deliver outcomes ① - ④ of the Vision:**

Over the past few years, the Partnership has either worked together, or in smaller groups, to develop and deliver new projects. Whilst some of these projects could have happened without the Partnership, they have been strengthened by the wider involvement, sharing of information and resources it provides.

### **① Prosperous Economy**

#### **Business Parks**

A group of partners have worked to investigate the need and demand for incubator/managed work space within the Park including feasibility studies in three new sites at Troutbeck Bridge and Keswick

### **② Vibrant communities**

#### **Sustainable Transport Framework**

Transport and movement around the area is important to businesses, residents and visitors alike. Cumbria County Council and the LDNPA have worked together with Cumbria Tourism to create a Sustainable Transport Framework which will address some of the problems. The Partnership has agreed the Framework and there are significant actions within 'The Partnership's Plan'.

#### **Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)**

The fund supports many local initiatives and it was agreed to gradually integrate the management of the fund into the work of the Partnership during 2010. It is hoped that by working with the Partnership we will be able to maximise use of resources and even expand them.

### **③ World class visitor experiences**

#### **Windermere Waterfront Programme**

This programme brings together many organisations aimed at improving the offer to visitors, as well as the livelihood of residents and businesses.

#### **Adventure Capital**

Led by Cumbria Tourism, this initiative is developing and marketing the area as 'Adventure Capital' – meeting the needs of a wider and changing audience. It is supported by the Partnership.

### **④ Spectacular landscape, its wildlife and culture**

#### **Climate change**

The Low-carbon Lake District Initiative helps shape our response to climate change, making the Partnership a leader on carbon management and charting the way ahead towards a low-carbon Lake District. There will be a Low-carbon Lake District summit in July 2010 and training events.

#### **Design programme**

This is a two year programme of events, talks and visits aimed at increasing understanding of what comprises good design in the National Park. It is funded by the Northwest Development Agency.

## **Challenges and opportunities:**

The Partnership was reviewed in May 2010. The results clarified key challenges and opportunities:

### **Delivering more actions on the ground**

The Partnership is not a forum. Whilst it provides members with networking and opportunities for debate, it wants to continue as the main coordinating and delivery body in the National Park. The adoption of a sound and achievable plan is therefore crucial.

### **Achieving a balance : making difficult decisions**

Change in any National Park is a challenging concept. For many decades, campaigns against change have existed – in fact, the Lake District National Park has been at the forefront of campaigns right back to Wordsworth's objection to railways. However, change continues at a pace it is inevitable and can be exciting. There are broader demands on the area from visitors; it needs to be a viable place to live and work and the impacts of climate change must be addressed. The Partnership will be at the heart of discussing and agreeing a balanced approach to tackle these changes. There will be some hard choices to make. But the Partnership established an excellent foundation for this type of work when they adopted their Vision which required compromise and a shared understanding of long term outcomes.

Key priorities for the Partnership to address include:

- **Climate change**
- **Local Needs Housing**
- **Transport and movement**

### **Sharing resources and minimising duplication**

The Partnership should take advantage of any opportunity to share resources. This is particularly important in the current financial climate. Visitors and residents alike will also benefit from less duplication and confusion through joint working. The Partnership has already shown the benefits of this through some of the initial projects they have developed. However, the Partnership recognises there is much work to do – it is no time to rest on its laurels.