



## Annual Report 2011 to 2012

The Lake District National Park Partnership

### The Partnership - an annual 'health check'

The last 12 months have been fairly settled for the Partnership. With much less 'change' nationally and regionally, the Partnership has remained focussed on delivering the Vision.

However the economy remains a priority of strategic focus for many organisations. It also underpins everything that the Partnership does and aspires to and is crucial to both the growth and sustainability of the Lake District. In recognition of this, the Partnership's Business Task Force and the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership have joined the Partnership. Also an External Fundraising Group has been established.

In 2011 to 2012 Lord Clark of Windermere continued his role as independent Chairman of the Partnership.

Inevitably staff changes within partner organisations mean there have been some new faces joining the Partnership this year. They are always welcome as they bring new ideas, fresh enthusiasm and useful constructive challenge to learn from.

A significant asset to the Partnership is its ability to evolve and continually strive to improve, to be as strong and effective as it can be. An updated and agreed Improvement Plan for 2012 to 2013, will help ensure exactly that, that the Partnership remains 'healthy' and committed to have the greatest impact it can, to achieve the Vision for the Lake District National Park

The Partnership remains supported by groups, to help tackle the more complex Partnership issues or actions in the Partnership's Plan. This includes: Farming and Forestry Task Group, Land Management Strategy Sub Group, Business Task Force, Lake District Still Waters Partnership, External Fundraising Group, Climate Change Group and World Heritage Site Project Management Group.

### Other Partnership success in 2011 to 2012:

- Completed and endorsed a successful first review of the Partnership's Plan, with priority actions
- Adopted a Partnership Improvement Plan
- Adopted a shared fundraising framework, including a coordinated approach to Heritage Lottery applications
- Produced a State of the Park report
- Raised matters of strategic importance to the Park and Cumbria generally, including hosting the Independent Forestry Panel, and lobbying for business rate relief on public toilets.

Have you got any questions about the partnership or their work?

Please call **01539 724555** or email [thepartnership@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:thepartnership@lakedistrict.gov.uk)

### The Lake District National Park Partnership - June 2012



Lake District National Park Partnership's  
**Business Task Force**

**Photographs by:** Charlie Hedley, Andrea Hills, Dave Willis, Go Lakes Travel, Helen Reynolds, Nick Thorne, Mike Turner, Michael Turner, John Hodgson, Dave Ashcroft, Savage and Chadwick Architects, LDNPA

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## Delivering the Partnership's Plan

The Plan was agreed by the Partnership in September 2010 and updated in October 2011. The Plan includes 24 delivery aims, which help identify what the Partnership wants to do over a five year period in order to achieve each outcome of the Vision. To ensure the Plan remained 'real' and achievable, the Partnership established a monitoring process. This reviews actions to make sure they are relevant and accurate.

### Monitoring and reporting

The Plan has an annual monitoring cycle, including performance indicators, five yearly targets, and recording progress on actions in the Plan. Progress on actions is captured and reported quarterly, ending in an annual review of actions and priorities. The first annual review and update of the Plan was completed and agreed by the Partnership in October 2011.

### Is the Vision happening?

As well as monitoring delivery of the Plan, the Partnership is also collectively committed to sharing data. This data is captured in an annual 'State of Park' (SoP) report. This includes essential additional information on the effect the work of the Partnership is having on the ground, as well as an update on the performance targets. The first Partnership SoP report was published in April 2011.

## What is the Lake District National Park Partnership?

The Lake District National Park Partnership (the Partnership) was formed in 2006 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 24 organisations involved.

In 2006, the Partnership agreed the Vision for the National Park in 2030:

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 prosperous economy, vibrant communities and world class visitor experiences all come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage.

Local people, visitors and the many organisations working in the National Park, or have a contribution to make to it, must be united in achieving this.

### What is this report?

The Partnership recognises the need to share its achievements in working towards the Vision. This will be done through simple annual reports. The reports cover the period June to May. The first report was produced in June 2010. All reports can be seen at: [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/partnership](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/partnership)

### What makes the Partnership special?

The formation of the Partnership is an achievement in itself. It leads the way amongst all English National Parks, offering a model for effective working. Its existence means that the management and sustainability of the Lake District is not the sole responsibility of the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA). The Partnership is working towards realising the Vision (2030) for the National Park through 'The Partnership's Plan' (the Plan) which contains actions over a five year period, 2010 to 2015. The Plan is also the Management Plan for the LDNPA – 2010 to 2015, and remains the first of its kind for any English National Park, using this approach. As well as being an equal partner, the LDNPA provide the administration and coordinating support for the Partnership.

## Spotlight on Partnership work, delivering the Vision 2011 to 2012

### Prosperous economy

- Agreed five priority Farming and Forestry areas of activity for 2012 to 2013
- Helped to secure the future of the Ambleside Campus of the University of Cumbria, working with the university to agree a planning framework for future development
- Made significant progress in identifying sites for employment, housing and open space
- 74 per cent of land is in agri-environment schemes

### World class visitor experiences

- Agreed a Strategic Destination Management Plan for Cumbria 2012 to 2014
- Gained planning approval for a high ropes course at the Lake District Visitor Centre at Brockhole and a state of the art conference centre at the Low Wood Bay Hotel
- Failed to secure Regional Growth Funding for Phase 3 of Adventure Capital (AdCap) in the Lake District
- Agreed a series of recommendations to establish a network of priority information centres and public toilets

### Vibrant communities

- Developed an approach to Neighbourhood Planning with the Coniston and Torver 'front runner'
- Secured £7.2 million funding for the Central and South East area as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, now operating as the Go Lakes Travel Project, with £1.5 million worth of spending in the first year delivering cycle networks, new bus services including public bike buses
- Lobbied government on planning control for second homes and holiday homes

### Spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage

- Agreed and implemented a whole valley planning 'pilot' for Wasdale Head and developed a strategic framework for landscape scale management
- Supported Morecambe Bay in becoming a Nature Improvement Area although failed in a bid for the Bassenthwaite and Ullswater Catchments
- Agreed an approach to prioritise carbon savings
- Reduced the number of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk' by 18 since March 2011
- Produced a 'Technical Evaluation' report to support the Lakes World Heritage Site nomination
- Achieved 0.6 per cent of a 1 per cent target for carbon emissions reduction across the Lake District

