

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 25th July 2017.

A

Subject: Ilkley Moor Management Plan – final version

Summary statement:

A reviewed management plan for Ilkley Moor has been produced following public consultation and the support of the Committee is sought before sending it to Natural England for consent.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Environment and Waste Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A reviewed management plan for Ilkley Moor has been produced following public consultation and the support of the Committee is sought before sending it to Natural England for consent. The consent of Natural England is required for management works on the moor because of its protected status, so it is intended that the whole plan will be given blanket consent.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The management plan for Ilkley Moor has been reviewed over the last 12 months so that it reflects the Councils intended approaches to managing the habitats, species and other features on the moor. A draft management plan was presented to this Committee in June 2016 and members made a number of helpful suggestions and sought clarification on some points to be incorporated into the draft, but overall were happy with the draft Plan and gave it their support.
- 2.2 The draft was amended in light of these comments and circulated for public comment during October and November 2016. Organisations which responded included RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Wharfedale Naturalists, Friends of Ilkley Moor, the Ban Bloodsports on Ilkley Moor group, Ilkley Civic Society, Bradford Urban Wildlife Group, plus a number of individuals.
- 2.3 The main comments were reported back to this Committee in March 2017 and the accompanying report outlined how the management plan would be amended to reflect these comments.
- 2.4 The committee in turn welcomed the comprehensive approach being developed in relation to the management of the moor and requested that the amended plan be presented before its submission to Natural England. The reasons for submitting this plan to Natural England is that works affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Special Protection Areas (SPA's) and Special Areas for Conservation (SAC's) – all of which apply to Ilkley Moor – require the consent of Natural England before they can be carried out. In submitting a comprehensive management plan, this will form the basis of a blanket consent for all the management proposals outlined within.
- 2.5 Appendix 1 is submitted as the amended final version of the plan and Appendix 2 outlines the key changes/additions in the new plan.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The plan emphasises Ilkley Moor's role as a provider of a wide range of "eco-system services" and focuses for the future on maximising the wider benefits from these. In previous management plans, the key focus of management activity has been on biodiversity and recreational opportunity. The reviewed plan, whilst recognising the continued importance of these, also focuses on the moor's role in securing flood mitigation, carbon retention (and therefore combating greenhouse gases and climate change), avoidance of wildfire and conservation of the cultural and historic landscapes on the moor. It also recognises the role that neighbouring land, such as the adjacent in-bye pastures can play in conserving important

moorland species.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 None arising from the report although the Management Plan includes details of future potential funding sources and available resources.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Council has a legal responsibility to manage Ilkley Moor under national and international environmental legislation. Setting out how this management is to be achieved over the long term, guards against the risk of non-compliance with this legislation

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None arising from the report

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The principle of equality of access to Bradford's countryside and open spaces, including Ilkley Moor, lies at the heart of the Council's management. The moor is a District-wide, regional and national resource and as such attracts a range of visitors with varying backgrounds and abilities. The Management Plan attempts to recognise this and make appropriate provision to ensure that barriers to access are minimised and that responsible enjoyment of the site is encouraged.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Management Plan sets out approaches for the sustainable management of this resource and whilst its focus is primarily environmental, it also touches on relevant social and economic aspects.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

The Environment & Climate Change Manager has contributed to the Management Plan most notably in setting out the effects of climate change and the moor's role in storing carbon. The plan includes proposals to maximise this and so reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None arising from the report

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None arising from the report

7.6 TRADE UNION

None arising from the report

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The moor lies within the Ilkley Ward.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

9.1 The Committee considers the management plan and supports its submission to Natural England and subsequent implementation.

9.2 The Committee requests further amendments before submission to Natural England

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The views of the Committee the options set out in Section 9 of this report are requested.

11. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Ilkley Moor Management Plan
- Appendix 2: Table summarising main changes.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS