

Pentland Hills Regional Park Strategic Management Plan 2019 - 2028 **FINAL DRAFT**



pentland hills
regional park



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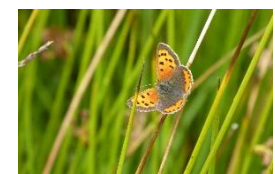
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1 Introduction

The Pentland Hills Regional Park

The Pentland Hills Regional Park covers some 10,000 hectares of land, located immediately south west of Edinburgh, straddling the local authority boundaries of The City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council. A map of the Pentland Hills Regional Park is provided in **Figure 1.1**. It is within easy reach of a population of 761,000 from the three local authority areas offering opportunities to access the outdoors.

The Pentland Hills Regional Park - Origins

The Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) was designated in October 1984, under section 48(A) of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 as supported by The Regional Parks (Scotland) Regulations 1981. Initially the PHRP was operated by Lothian Regional Council who prepared a Subject Local Plan to guide the Parks policies and management. Following local government re-organisation in 1997, Lothian Regional Council was disbanded and its functions superseded by the three unitary local authorities comprising The City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council.

The policies relevant to the Pentland Hills Regional Park contained within the former Lothian Regional Council's Subject Local Plan were then incorporated into the local plans of the respective three new unitary authorities. This remains the position with the Pentland Hills Regional Park currently covered by; The City of Edinburgh Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016; Midlothian Local

Development Plan 2017 and the West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018. All three LDPs are under review to prepare LDP2's.



The City of Edinburgh Council is currently the managing authority of the Pentland Hills Regional Park under the terms of a Minute of Agreement between the three local authorities.

The aims of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, as set out in its designation order, are:

- to retain the essential character of the hills as a place for the peaceful enjoyment of the countryside
- caring for the hills so that the landscape and the habitat is protected and enhanced

- within this caring framework, to encourage responsible public enjoyment of the hills
- co-ordination of these aims so that they co-exist with farming and other land uses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The Pentland Hills Regional Park is a living, changing environment and has evolved as a mixed land use resource which is an important leisure, economic, community and heritage asset to the capital city and the surrounding Lothians.

With this evolution comes increasing and changing pressures and demands on the Pentland Hills Regional Park management and the other key stakeholders seeking to balance recreation and enjoyment with economic demands and the conservation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's natural and built heritage assets.



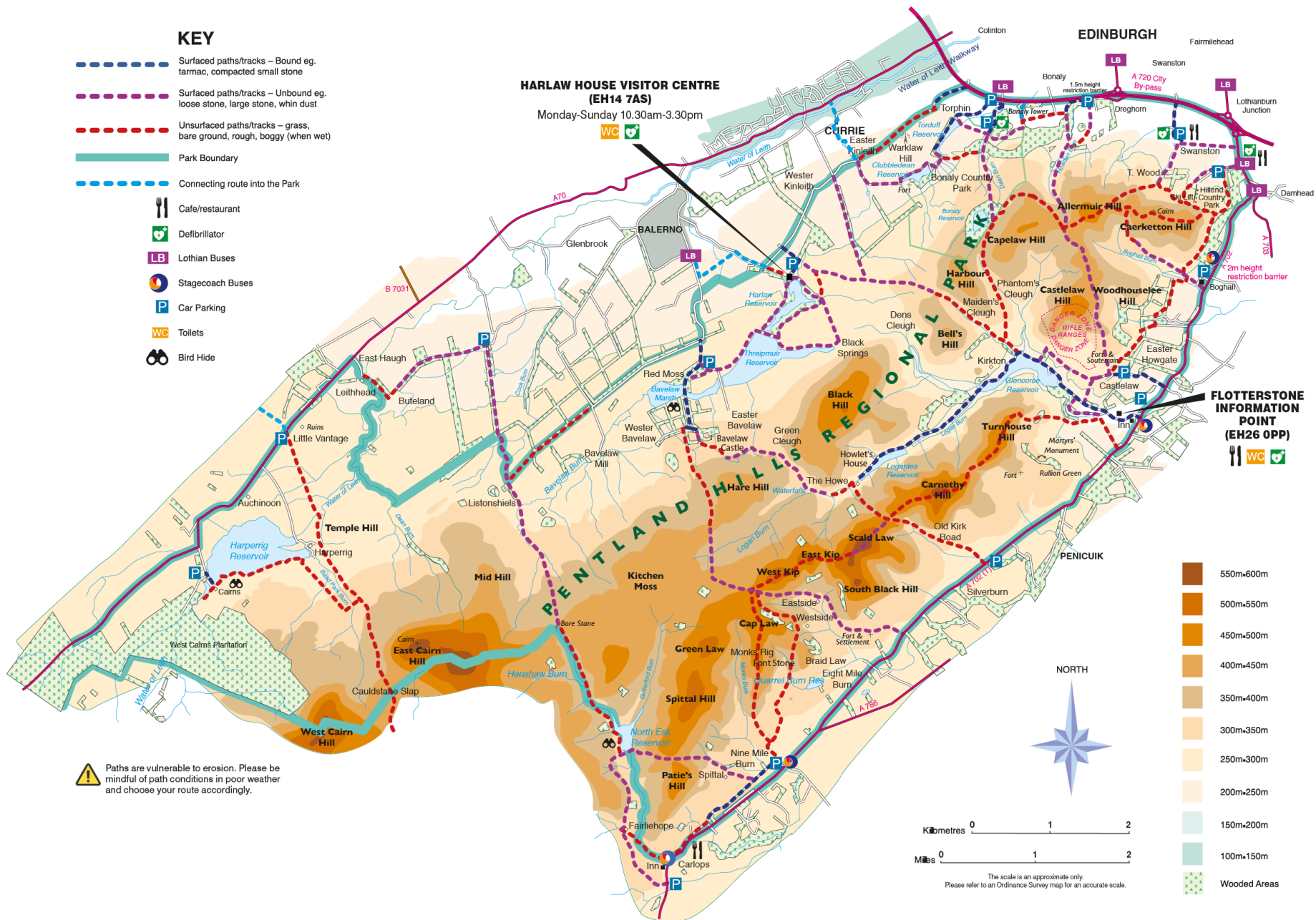
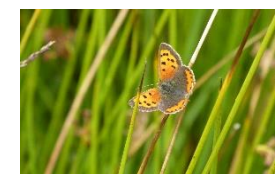


Figure 1.1



The Purpose of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

The overall purpose of this plan to provide the relevant contemporary strategic framework guiding the management of the Park and the preparation of detailed action plans which will translate the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan into deliverable tasks and projects.

This Plan is an update to the previous 10-year Strategic Management Plan that covered the period 2007-2017 and provides a renewed over-arching vision for the sustainable integrated management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park. It highlights the underlying principles and themes which provide the framework within which aims, objectives and actions have been formulated.

The Plan also seeks to highlight potential benefits which could accrue from the delivery of the recommended proposals and identifies their relevance in the context of relevant strategies, policies and plans in the wider sphere e.g. at the local, regional, national and international levels.

The Plan identifies a prioritised programme for investment together with monitoring recommendations.

Development of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Development of this plan has included:

- A review of relevant Pentland Hills Regional Park documentation; local, national and international agency strategies, policies and plans.
- A consultation programme to develop the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan. This included workshops with the PHRP Consultative Forum, meetings with the PHRP land managers and the PHRP Service, an initial presentation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan process to the PHRP Joint Committee with opportunities to provide inputs. In addition, an invitation to provide comments, opinions and suggestions for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan was provided.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The PHRP Plan (2007-17) was subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the current plan has undergone SEA screening to ensure best planning practice and compliance with statutory obligations, which concluded that as the relevant three LDPs all received SEA's it is not necessary to undertake a full SEA of this particular management plan as it continues to aim to improve the environment.



2 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision

Introduction

The long-term vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park recognises a number of key factors which provide the context for the PHRP Plan.

The three local authority stakeholders have statutory powers and duties in relation to their constituent parts of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and therefore, they exercise significant control over activities in the Park. All three authorities are members of the Sustainable Scotland Network which brings together practitioners from local authorities throughout Scotland to share experiences and take action on sustainable development.

The parameters of the existing Park management roles are facilitative, advisory and consultative.

Current regional and local policies, and proposals which are directly relevant to the Pentland Hills Regional Park and which are a fundamental aspect of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's legal framework include.

Edinburgh Local Development Plan 2016

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_and_building/66/edinburgh-local-development-plan

Caring for the Environment

Policy Env 6 Conservation Areas – Development

- Policy Env 8 Protection of Important Remains
- Policy Env 9 Development of Sites of Archaeological Significance
- Policy Env 10 Development in the Green Belt and Countryside
- Policy Env 11 Special Landscape Areas
- Policy Env 12 Trees
- Policy Env 14 Sites of National Importance
- Policy Env 15 Sites of Local Importance
- Policy Env 16 Species Protection
- Policy Env 17 Pentlands Hills Regional Park
- Policy Env 22 Pollution and Air, Water and Soil Quality

MIDLOTHIAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017

http://midlothian-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/midlothian_local_development_plan_2017?pointId=4791461#document-4791461

Protecting Our Heritage - Safeguarding and Managing Our Natural Environment

- Policy ENV 1 Protection of the Green Belt
- Policy ENV 2 Midlothian Green Network
- Policy ENV 4 Prime Agricultural Land
- Policy ENV 5 Peat and Carbon Rich Soils
- Policy ENV 6 Special Landscape Areas
- Policy ENV 7 Landscape Character
- Policy ENV 11 Woodland, Trees and Hedges
- Policy ENV 12 Internationally Important Nature Conservation Sites
- Policy ENV 13 Nationally Important Nature Conservation Sites
- RD3 Pentland Hills Regional Park
- RD4 Hillend Country Park

Policy ENV 14 Regionally and Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites
Policy ENV 15 Species and Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Preserving our Historic Environment

Policy ENV 21
Policy ENV 23
Policy ENV 24

Encouraging Sustainable Energy and Waste Management

Policy NRG 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Projects

Appendix 6: Pentland Hills Regional Park policy considerations 1-9

Midlothian Open Space Strategy

http://www2.midlothian.gov.uk/Council/meetings/public/Planning%20Committee/20130528/CM_PC_20130528_11_2.pdf

West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018

https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/27735/Adopted-West-Lothian-Local-Development-Plan/pdf/West_Lothian_Local_Development_Plan_-_Adopted_final.pdf

Policy ENV 4 Loss of Prime Agricultural Land
Policy ENV 6 Peatlands and Carbon Rich Soils
Policy ENV 7 Countryside Belts and Settlement Setting
Policy ENV 8 Green Network
Policy ENV 9 Woodland, Forestry, Trees and Hedgerows
Policy ENV 11 Protection of the Water Environment / Coastline and Riparian Corridors
Policy ENV 13 Pentland Hills Regional Park
Policy ENV 14 Pentland Hills Regional Park – Further Protection
Policy ENV 17 Protection of International Nature Conservation Sites

Policy ENV 19 Protection of Local Biodiversity Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites
Policy ENV 20 Species Protection and Enhancement
Policy ENV 32 Archaeology
Policy NRG 1 Climate Change and Sustainability

West Lothian Open Space Strategy 2005-15

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2448/Open-Space-Strategy>



Current National strategies, legislation and reports with key messages relevant to the future operation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park include: -

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) The SPP sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. The SPP promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances



Ambition. Opportunity. Place. Scotland's Third National Planning Framework (NPF3) – (2014) This brings together Scotland's plans and strategies in economic development, regeneration, energy, environment, climate change, transport and digital infrastructure to provide a coherent vision of how Scotland should evolve over the next 20 to 30 years.

NPF3 and this SPP share a single vision for the planning system in Scotland:

We live in a Scotland with a growing, low-carbon economy with progressively narrowing disparities in well-being and opportunity. It is growth that can be achieved whilst reducing emissions and which respects the quality of environment, place and life which makes our country so special. It is growth which increases solidarity - reducing inequalities between our regions. We live in sustainable, well-designed places and homes which meet our needs. We enjoy excellent transport and digital connections, internally and with the rest of the world.

Both are currently under review in light of the Planning (Scotland) Bill 2019.

Land Use Strategy (2016) This second Strategy retains the long-term Vision on how to realise the full potential of Scotland's land in ways that result in multiple benefits for our economy, environment and communities; and the Principles for Sustainable Land Use to guide policy and decision making.

2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013), is Scotland's response to the EU biodiversity targets and UN Aichi targets. It sets a target of halting the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services in Scotland by 2020 and is accompanied by a

Route Map (2015), which sets out six 'Big Steps for nature' and Priority Projects to deliver them. Scotland is a stronghold for habitats and species threatened elsewhere in Europe, providing the largest part of the UK's contribution to the EU Natura 2000 network of protected sites.

A future strategy for Scottish agriculture: final report (2018)- A report from the Scottish Government's Agriculture Champions on the development of a future agriculture strategy which include themes on enhancing Scotland's Natural Capital, improved integration, continuity, improving productive efficiency, assisting agriculture through the transformational change and illustrating career opportunities.

Our Place in Time (2014) is Scotland's strategy for the historic environment. It sets out a vision of how our historic environment can be understood, valued, cared for and enjoyed.

Our Place in Time identifies four strategic priorities:

- cross-cutting strategic priorities – ensuring that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of our heritage continues to contribute to Scotland's well-being
- understand – investigating and recording our historic environment to continually develop our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past, and how best to conserve, sustain and protect it
- protect – caring for and protecting the historic environment in order to both enjoy and benefit from it, and to conserve and enhance it for future generations

- value – sharing and celebrating the richness and significance of our historic environment.

Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019–2029 The long-term framework for the expansion and sustainable management of Scotland's forests and woodland. The Strategy has the principles of sustainable forest management at its core, including an adherence to the principle of 'the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose'. It also recognises the need for better integration of forestry with other land uses and businesses and builds on the achievements of the previous strategy.

Reaching Higher: Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007) –sets out the Scottish Executive's long-term aims and objectives for sport in Scotland until 2020. The strategy identifies the provision of quality facilities as fundamental to its delivery. Specifically, the strategy states that "Scotland's natural environment provides new and exciting outdoor sporting opportunities" – within the parameters recommended by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. However, the strategy also acknowledges the need for care in ensuring that the integrity of the natural environment and its enjoyment by other users is not compromised by those participating in outdoor sporting pursuits.

Changes in subsidy schemes resulting from external policies and national strategies e.g. impact of Brexit, CAP Reform, Rural Stewardship Scheme, Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.

Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)- This plan sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-climate-change-plan-third-report-proposals-policies-2018/pages/1/>



The City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils all formally signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration 2007. The Declaration acknowledges the reality and importance of climate change and is a means of demonstrating local leadership and commitment to action. The Declaration includes commitments both to mitigate human impact on climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to predicted climate change impacts.

The responsible exercising of statutory access rights for all introduced by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 1) and maintaining a sustainable balance between the different land use pressures caused by those visiting the Pentland Hills Regional Park as well as those who work and live within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.



The Vision Statement

Reflecting all these various national, regional and local policies and strategies, the vision for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is:

To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access for all, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural, historic and natural heritage features.

The vision comprises four elements:

Conservation and Enhancement of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Natural and Historic Environment

The varied landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage character of the PHRP significantly contribute to the environment of the Lothians and is the fundamental strength of the resource. Conserving and enhancing the Regional Park's natural and historic environment against a backdrop of mixed human activities and demands, as well as other changing circumstances such as climate change, is therefore a central management challenge of the PHRP Plan.

The majority of the land holding within the PHRP is in private ownership, therefore aims can only be achieved with the ongoing support of these land managers on the basis of demonstrable mutual benefits. Visitors and local communities also have an important role to play in the future conservation and enhancement of the PHRP through the implementation of responsible behaviours, attitudes, awareness and understanding as well as active participation.



Developed Public Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Successful future sustainable management of the PHRP will require shared awareness and understanding amongst land managers, stakeholders, organisations and visitors. The PHRP is a living, changing environment and there is an ongoing need to identify, promote and disseminate information that facilitates this enhanced understanding.

Responsible Access for All

The PHRP is an established resource for recreational activities. With the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and many national agendas promoting more healthy life-styles and increased levels of exercise activity there is potential for increased access demands and activities participation on both land and water in the PHRP.

The importance of promoting, and managing responsible visitor access that is compatible with the mixed land use of the PHRP and balancing recreation and visitor enjoyment with the long-term sustainability of the natural and historic environment of the PHRP is integral to the PHRP Plan.

Support for Communities Living and Working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

The PHRP hosts communities who live and/or work in and adjacent to the PHRP and it therefore has an important supporting social and economic role. The PHRP Plan recognises that development of initiatives and activities within the PHRP should seek to achieve compatibility and co-existence with all land uses as this is fundamental if the long-term sustainability of these communities is to be facilitated. Inclusion is fundamental to ensure that the living and working communities can be encouraged to play active roles in shaping the Pentland Hills Regional Park's future.





3 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Themes

Themes

Taking the vision for the Regional Park, this translates into five themes for the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan which are:

- (1) Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills**
- (2) The Local Economy of the Hills**
- (3) Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Hills**
- (4) Partnership & Participation**
- (5) Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.**

Each of these themes represents a broad heading under which any topic relevant to the future operation and management of the PHRP can be allocated.

Guiding Principles

The operation of the PHRP takes place within the following guiding principles:

- The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the PHRP landscape, natural heritage and natural historic environment;

- The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the PHRP through recreational activities appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the PHRP;
- The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities and research which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the PHRP environment and to foster support for its long-term protection and sustainability;
- The support for a social and economic environment associated with the PHRP management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the PHRP boundaries;
- The development of the contributory role of the PHRP to the delivery of cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, and, community involvement objectives.;
- Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future PHRP management and stewardship – embracing the PHRP stakeholders, land managers, residents and the general public;
- The delivery of the highest quality services in the PHRP management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and cooperation; and
- The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the PHRP Plan actions - in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision, Themes and Principles Flowchart

A flowchart illustrating the inter-relationship between the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan vision and its constituent themes and guiding principles is shown in **Figure 1.2**





Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Vision Statement

To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural, historic and natural heritage features.

Figure 1.2

Conservation and Enhancement of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Heritage and Environment

Developed Public Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Responsible Access for All

Support for Communities Living and Working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Theme A

Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills

Principles

The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the PHRP through recreational activities appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the PHRP.

The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities and research which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the PHRP environment and to foster support for its long-term protection and sustainability.

Theme B

The Local Economy of the Hills

Principle

The support for a social and economic environment associated with the PHRP management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the PHRP boundaries.

Theme C

Conservation and enhancement of the landscape natural and historic environment of the Hills.

Principles

The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the PHRP landscape, natural heritage and natural historic environment.

The development of the contributory role of the PHRP to the delivery of cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, and, community involvement objectives.

Theme D

Partnership and Participation

Principles

The development of the contributory role of the PHRP to the delivery of the cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, community involvement and sustainable transport.

Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future PHRP management and stewardship – embracing the PHRP stakeholders, land managers, residents and the general public.

Theme E

Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Principles

The delivery of the highest quality services in the PHRP management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and co-operation.

The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the PHRP actions in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.

4 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Strategic Framework

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Framework

For each of the five PHRP themes listed:

- **Theme A** - Responsible Enjoyment and Understanding of the Hills;
- **Theme B** - The Local Economy of the Hills;
- **Theme C** - Conservation and Enhancement of the Landscape, Natural and Historic Environment of the Hills;
- **Theme D** - Partnership & Participation;
- **Theme E** - Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

a strategic framework has been prepared which includes:

- aims
- objectives
- key operational programme actions including dates
- potential outputs and outcomes.

For ease of use the vision, themes, principles, aims and objections have been brought together to show how each one flows. Appendix 1 shows the Prioritised Implementation Programme for the 10-year time frame between 2019-2028 which also highlights the potential outputs and outcomes of the actions.

Framework

Vision

To guide and assist all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's changing environment in a way which supports communities living and working within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, promotes responsible access, develops public understanding of the mixed land use resource and conserves and enhances the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape, cultural, historic and natural heritage features.

Themes and Principles

Theme A – Responsible enjoyment and understanding of the hills

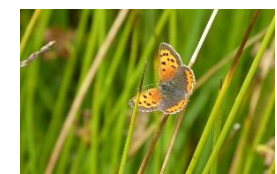
Principles: -

The provision and management of opportunities for the widest public enjoyment of the Pentland Hills Regional Park through recreational activities appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

The encouragement and facilitation of educational activities which will contribute to the development of public awareness and understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park environment and which fosters long term support.

Aim 1: To promote and manage compatible forms of responsible recreational activity in the Pentland Hills Regional Park

- a. to support and manage responsible outdoor (land and water) recreational activities
- b. to support responsible outdoor access activity within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) which relates to, and supports, the objectives of the local access forums and the



- respective outdoor strategies of the City of Edinburgh Council(CEC), Midlothian and West Lothian Councils
- c. to balance the visitor recreational and leisure enjoyment with other PHRP land use activity.

Aim 2: To sustain and enhance a high-quality visitor experience

- a. to ensure that the PHRP resource meets needs and expectations of visitors (existing and new)
- b. to provide contemporary visitor and education facility that adds to the appeal of the PHRP as a visitor destination and which appeals to a broad range of market sectors
- c. to maintain and enhance a comprehensive public access network of paths within the boundaries of the PHRP
- d. to continue to monitor and deliver structured programme of maintenance and upgrades- particularly in areas of proven popularity such as Harlaw/Bonaly/Flotterstone
- e. in partnership with Scottish Government and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFU) and PHRP Farmers, capitalise upon the Land Management Contract (LMC)- option 15 as a possible mechanism to sustain and enhance the visitor experience in the PHRP e.g. maintaining/developing path surfaces and associated infrastructure
- f. to continue the provision of socially inclusive facilities access and enjoyment for all, particularly in compliance with the requirements of The Equalities Act 2010.

Aim 3: To raise awareness and increase visitor understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

- a. to continue promotion as a free outdoor recreational resource offering healthy lifestyle opportunities for all;
- b. to continue and enhance the environmental education programme;
- c. to establish co-ordinated (and consistent) sign posting provision to the PHRP;
- d. to establish co-ordinated (and consistent) signposting and interpretation provision within the PHRP;
- e. to develop public access to PHRP literature- in advance of visiting the PHRP.

Aim 4: To promote and provide more sustainable visitor transport opportunities

- a. to improve sustainable access to, and within, the PHRP providing opportunities to reduce visitor dependency upon private cars
- b. to reduce safety hazards created by irresponsible access/ visitor parking during peak times.

Theme B - The local economy of the Hills

Principle: -

The support for a social and economic environment associated with the Pentland Hills Regional Park management and operation that brings benefits to the residential and business communities within the Pentland Hills Regional Park boundaries.

Aim 1: To sustain a healthy, diverse range of agricultural, forestry, sporting and recreational businesses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Objectives: -

- a. to support the sustainable economic opportunities through appropriate diversification to supplement incomes from activities such as agriculture, forestry, sporting management and recreational businesses
- b. to generate a growing customer base for sustainably produced PHRP local produce
- c. to maintain, and where appropriate expand, extensive areas of moorland which provides a valuable resource for sport, nature conservation, agriculture, landscape and recreation.

Aim 2: To develop the Pentland Hills as a Green Tourism destination

Objective: -

- a. To widely promote the green and sustainable credentials of the PHRP

Aim 3: To achieve integrated land and water management

Objectives: -

- a. To deliver potential benefits from current and future changes in land management support schemes maximised to maintain and enhance the special qualities of the PHRP;
- b. To widely promote Best Practice in land management within the PHRP

Aim 4: To achieve enhanced environmental sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Economy

Objectives: -

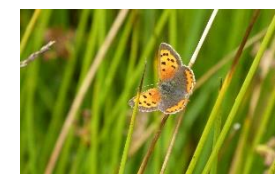
- a. To promote increase in the use of energy from renewable resource by communities and businesses in a manner which is compatible with the special qualities of the PHRP and which contributes living and/ or business operational cost savings for those living and working within the PHRP;
- b. To maximise energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and new development;
- c. To reduce the carbon footprint of the PHRP.

Theme C - Conservation and enhancement of the landscape, natural and historic environment of the Hills

Principles: -

The conservation and enhancement of the condition and diversity of the Pentland Hills Regional Park landscape, natural and historic environment.

The development of the contributory role of the Pentland Hills regional Park to the delivery of cross cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, community involvement objectives.



(1) Landscape

Aim 1: To conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Pentland Hills.

Objectives: -

- a. To maintain the visual amenity of the hills;
- b. To ensure that development respects the landscape character of the Pentland Hills;
- c. To influence landscape change arising from new development;
- d. To Influence design arising from new development.

Aim 2: To promote enhancement of the landscape quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Objectives: -

- a. To ensure that landscape enhancement reflects the distinctive character of the hills;
- b. To understand the contribution of existing landscape components within the ecosystem and encourage their enhancement.

Aim 3: To promote partnership with the local community to foster stewardship of the landscape.

Objectives: -

- a. To encourage participation in landscape enhancement schemes;
- b. To work in partnership with interested parties and agencies to promote positive landscape stewardship.

Aim 4: To promote appreciation and understanding of the landscape including the interaction between the physical form, natural processes, land management, and, natural and historic environment

Objectives: -

- a. To promote the landscape objectives through information, interpretation, advice and education;
- b. To promote understanding of the underlying geology of the Pentland Hills and how it gives rise to the landform.

Aim 5: To promote the management of access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park without adversely affecting the landscape.

Objective: -

- a. To prevent further damage to the landscape arising from increased public access by repairing and upgrading the network paths.

(2) Natural Heritage

Aim 1: To realise the full ecological potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by protecting maintaining and enhancing the present ranges of species and habitats.

Objectives: -

- a. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species present within a healthy ecosystem in the PHRP;
- b. To maintain and enhance biodiversity in the PHRP;

- c. To contribute to the positive management of all Local Biodiversity Sites within the PHRP;
- d. To identify and enhance habitat networks;
- e. To encourage relevant management of all designated sites;
- f. To support relevant management to increase populations of protected species;
- g. To encourage actions to address identified invasive species within the PHRP;
- h. To increase awareness of the natural heritage in the PHRP through engagement and active participation of the wider community;
- i. To increase engagement in biological recording;
- j. To consider biodiversity issues at strategic and local planning level to ensure ecosystems are strengthened;
- k. To bring existing native woodland cover under positive management and expanded, where appropriate;
- l. To promote enhancement of Landscape Quality within the PHRP through woodland management and creation;
- m. Improve native woodland management.

(3) Historic Environment

Aim 1: To conserve and enhance the character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's historic environmental features by Integrated management and raised public awareness of the historic environment.

Objectives: -

- a. To conserve and enhance the historic environment resource within the PHRP;
- b. To work in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the three local authorities' archaeology services as appropriate to maintain and enhance public awareness and understanding of the significance of the archaeological and built environment resource in the PHRP;

- c. To protect the character and pattern of the natural historic environment from future development activity in the PHRP.

Theme D- Partnership and participation

Principles:

The development of the contributory role of the Pentland Hills Regional Park to the delivery of the cross-cutting agendas including the protection of natural and historic environment, climate change, public health, education, social justice, community involvement and sustainable transport objectives.

Encouraging the development of partnership support for the future Pentland Hills Regional Park management and stewardship-embracing the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Aim 1: To maintain and develop partnership support for securing the long-term sustainability of the Pentland Hills as a living and changing mixed land use environment.

Objective: -

- a. To secure the necessary long-term commitment to the sustainable management and operation of the PHRP.

Aim 2: To develop public participation and support for securing the long-term sustainability of the Pentland Hills as a living and changing mixed land use environment.

Objectives: -

- a. To further develop existing public and participation and partnership initiatives in the PHRP management and operation;



- b. To continue and develop the existing contribution of the PHRP to cross-cutting agenda and community focussed initiatives.

Aim 3: To secure commercial sponsorship support for the delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park project initiatives.

Objective: -

- a. To expand partnership based funding opportunities to include commercial business sector sponsorship support as a mechanism to enhance/ fast-track PHRP Plan project or programme implementation, PHRP resources etc.

Theme E - Managing the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Principles: -

The delivery of the highest quality services in the Pentland Hills Regional Park management operation which wholly embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability and which is founded upon consensus and co-operation.

The monitoring and measurement of the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan “actions” in terms of identified timescale targets as well as the attainment of the environmental, recreational, educational, social and economic aims and objectives.

Aim 1: To provide a Pentland Hills Regional Park management structure which is best placed to fully deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

Objective: -

- a. To ensure that the PHRP management organisation has sufficient authority to be able to deliver the scope of agreed actions over the life-cycle of the PHRP Plan.

Aim 2: To provide effective management and direction to achieve management direction to achieve delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

Objective: -

To ensure appropriate management systems are in place, or developed, to meet the PHRP Plan delivery requirements.

Aim 3: To secure necessary funding resources to make the full delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a realistic and achievable goal.

Objective: -

- a. To ensure sufficient funding through the investigation funding streams such as; developer contributions; CEC Transient levy- ring fenced for PHRP; grant applications e.g. WL Wind Farm, NLHG

Aim 4: To fully engage Pentland Hills Regional Park Management stakeholder groups in the processes required to deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

Objective: -

- a. To facilitate enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of managing the mixed land use environment of the PHRP- to the greater benefits of all who use, live or work in the PHRP.

Aim 5: To promote awareness and understanding of the rationale, aims and benefits of the Pentland Hills Regional Park to the general public.

Objective: -

- a. To secure the necessary ongoing commitment throughout the Plan life-cycle to achieve the delivery of the Plan action proposals.

Aim 6: To monitor on an ongoing basis the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan.

Objective: -

- a. To measure the success of the implementation of the PHRP Plan against targeted timescales.

For the detailed 10-year Action Plan that translates these aims and objectives into actions, outputs and outcomes see Appendix 1.





5 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan Monitoring and Review

Monitoring the Implementation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

It will be fundamental that the delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis to monitor the success of the Plan delivery in terms of the prioritised timescale targets. The Plan should be viewed as a fluid document in the context of a number of factors:

- Continuation of existing PHRP initiatives
- Implementation of Plan proposals (which may, or may not, be completed during the time-span in which the PHRP Plan has been set
- Delay (or cancellation) of identified actions due to changes in circumstances unforeseen at the time of the formulation of the PHRP Plan
- The possible introduction of additional Plan proposals deemed appropriate in addressing changes in the Pentland Hills Regional Park's circumstances unforeseen at the time of the formulation of the PHRP Plan.

The PHRP Plan has set out a number of Guiding Principles (see *Chapter 3*) which underpin the Plan aims, objectives and actions. The monitoring process should therefore assess whether, and to what degree, these guiding principles are being met through the

delivery of the Plan, as this will impact upon the level of success in delivering the overall vision of the PHRP Plan.

In order to achieve this, the monitoring process should incorporate a set of indicators which will provide a view at any given time of the implementation of the PHRP Plan as well as providing a cumulative picture of the Plan delivery across all of the five Plan Themes.

Proposed Plan Monitoring Indicators

A potential checklist of specific monitoring indicators has been derived from the scope of the PHRP Plan action recommendations. These potential indicators – together with their suggested monitoring frequency - are outlined in the following sections.

(1) User Activity

The PHRP is a valuable leisure and recreational resource offering a range of passive and active pursuits in an attractive landscape and environment setting. Monitoring of user activity will assist the responsible participation and management objectives and contribute to balancing the user activity with the other PHRP land use activity.

Potential Indicators include:

- development and extension of existing path and facility audit to enhance baseline information reference of actual and future visitor requirements (**Short Term**)
- patterns of visitor activity (location and types of activity) within the PHRP boundaries (**Medium Term**).

(2) User Experience

Both existing, and future, PHRP visitors will have expectations of a high-quality experience from their PHRP visit. Monitoring both the condition of the PHRP facilities and infrastructure as well as changing market trends will assist the PHRP to manage the visitor experience and maintain / enhance the quality levels.

Potential Indicators include

- Addressing PHRP improvement qualitative research findings contained in the 2005/2006 PHRP and 2016 Potsdam & Edinburgh Universities Visitor Surveys **(Short Term)**;
- Collating visitor counts figures for increased usage and determining high use areas **(Short term)**;
- Update of Paths and Facilities Inspection reports **(Ongoing)**.

(3) User Education

Visitor education is fundamental to developing responsible usage of the PHRP as well as enhancing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the mixed land use environment.

Potential Indicators include:

- Number of PHRP land managers voluntarily engaging in educational programmes **(Short Term)**;
- Number of “hits” on the PHRP web-site and social media forums **(Ongoing)**;
- Numbers of, and those participating in, PHRP Service led programmes **(Ongoing)**.

(4) Visitor Transport Profiles

Visitor traffic volumes and modes to, and around, the PHRP have a fundamental impact on the Pentland Hills Regional Park’s management, its environmental quality and on the communities living and working within the PHRP. Monitoring the visitor transport profiles will assist in encouraging more sustainable visitor transport activity in the PHRP.

Potential Indicators include

- Number of core paths linking settlements surrounding the PHRP into the PHRP included in the City of Edinburgh, West Lothian and Midlothian Councils Core Paths Plans and any subsequent reviews. **(Short Term)**;
- Levels of use of public transport e.g. numbers using bus services which service the Regional Park **(Medium Term)**
- Levels of use of PHRP car parks **(Ongoing)**.

(5) Agricultural Activity & Business Sustainability

Agriculture is the predominant business activity and a significant land use within the PHRP which has an influence on the landscape of the PHRP, the land management, as well as contributing to the PHRP employment and economy. Monitoring the extent of the agricultural activity will therefore provide useful information on any changes which have an economic consequence or potential environmental implications for the PHRP management.

Potential Indicators include:

- Number of renewable energy generation/energy conservation schemes within the Regional Park **(Short Term)**;



- The change in the number of producers participating in the “Pentland Produce” brand scheme (**Ongoing**);
- Number of farm and/or other business start-up, development, diversification projects within the Regional Park (**Ongoing**).

(6) Land Management Change

The PHRP is a living, mixed, land use environment where changes in the land management regimes could have a fundamental effect on other land use activities as well as impacting upon the natural and historic environmental qualities of the PHRP. Monitoring the land management changes provides important management information on the PHRP environment and the potential cumulative effects which are relevant to the overall PHRP management and operation.

Potential Indicators include:

- Establishment of a Code for Sporting Shooting within the Pentland Hills Regional Park (**Medium Term**)
- Changes in the levels of heather moorland cover and woodland planting (**Medium Term**).

(7) Community Vibrancy

There are a number of people residing within the PHRP boundaries and who contribute to the life of the PHRP through participation in community based initiatives, economic activity e.g. employment and expenditure in the PHRP, and pro-active involvement in the PHRP management e.g. community council representation on the PHRP Consultative Forum.

Sustaining and enhancing socially inclusive communities within the PHRP should be a fundamental goal and monitoring the health and pulse of the PHRP communities should be an ongoing activity.

Potential Indicators include:

- Membership levels of the “Friends of the Pentlands” and their agreed role in assisting the delivery of those elements of the PHRP Plan commensurate with the Friends objectives and interests (**On-going**)
- Changes in economic benefits for the Park communities brought about by visitor activity in the Park (**Medium Term**)
- Levels of community volunteering e.g. participation in the PHRP Volunteer Ranger Service (**Ongoing**).

(8) Landscape Change

The distinctive landscape character of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and its contribution to the landscape setting of Edinburgh as a capital city is the reason why the PHRP is a special environment. The landscape is made up of topography and natural processes, historical and current land management activity and the Pentland Hills Regional Park’s biodiversity.

Monitoring change gives an indication of the likely pressures on the landscape and assists in defining management actions required to conserve and enhance it.

Potential Indicators include:

- Changes in field boundary features e.g. drystone dykes, hedges and fences (**Short Term**)

- Land use cover change e.g. new forestry and woodland schemes of removal of existing planting, agricultural practices, built development etc (**Ongoing**)
- Visual changes caused by development proposals outside the PHRP boundary – but which impact upon the PHRP setting from key viewpoints both within and outside the PHRP (**Ongoing**).

(9) Species & Habitat Change

The PHRP biodiversity is impacted upon by a range of potential factors such as land and water pollution, climate change, land management practices, built development, recreational activity etc. Monitoring the PHRP species and habitat changes therefore provides important management information concerning the potential effects of a number of factors and assists in defining management actions required to conserve and enhance the PHRP biodiversity.



Potential Indicators include:

- Changes in the condition of designated sites within the PHRP (**Medium Term**)
- Changes in populations of protected flora and fauna species as well as invasive species (**Medium Term**)
- Progress in delivering the relevant actions already identified in the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans (**Medium Term**).

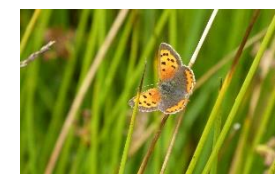
(10) Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage Change

The Pentland Hills Regional Park's historic environment and cultural heritage includes a rich diversity of archaeological sites, historic landscapes and the built heritage dating back to early prehistory. Similar to the Pentland Hills Regional Park's landscape and biodiversity features, the historic environment, will potentially be affected by a range of factors such as land management regimes, visitor activities and built development.

Monitoring the ongoing condition of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's historic environment and cultural heritage assets will be central to their long-term conservation, preservation and management. In addition, monitoring of visitor awareness and understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park's cultural heritage would assist in the overall Pentland Hills Regional Park management.

Potential Indicators include:

- Numbers of historic environment features at risk and requiring prioritised maintenance/repair works (**Medium Term**)



- Number of PHRP Service-led public education events focussing on historic environment features within the PHRP **(Ongoing)**
- Numbers attending the PHRP Service-led events focussing on historic environment features within the Pentland Hills Regional Park **(Ongoing)**.

Reviewing the Implementation of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

The information emerging from the ongoing monitoring of the PHRP Plan (as set out in section 5.1 above), should be used to inform the formal review of the Plan. The focus of the PHRP Plan Action Programme is set within an initial short to medium 6 Year period (2019/23 to 2024/29) corresponding to the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils financial year cycles. The Plan also takes into account longer-term requirements beyond this main timescale – up to an overall 10 Year Plan period (as detailed in Annex 1).

The first formal detailed review of the PHRP Plan should therefore be undertaken in Year 5 (2023 / 24) – during the financial year prior to completion of the initial short to medium term period - with a second review programmed for Year 10 which would correspond with the completion of the main Plan period. The purpose of both these Plan implementation reviews would be to:

- Identify whether the defined Plan actions have been initiated/ delivered against the allocated prioritised timescales;
- Identify delivery progress across all the five Plan Themes – and to highlight areas requiring specific attention e.g. where there is significant programme slippage of initiated actions

or where prioritised actions that should have been initiated have not commenced or where new actions need to be included

- Consider whether re-prioritisation of specific Plan actions is required either due to lack of delivery activity or due to changing circumstances unforeseen during the initial formulation of the Plan
- Identify and confirm action priorities for following the reviews and ensure that agreed action priorities are included in the local authority forward budget planning cycles.

In addition, the Plan review process would provide the PHRP Manager with the appropriate Plan implementation information to report to the PHRP Joint Committee and the PHRP Consultative Forum. Information from the ongoing Plan monitoring activity could obviously be drawn upon by the PHRP Manager in preparing the PHRP Annual Reports.



Appendix 1 Action Plan

Theme A Responsible Enjoyment and understanding of the hills

AIM 1: To promote and manage compatible forms of responsible recreational activity in the PHRP

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.1.a.	1.1 Continue to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) to promote greater understanding of the legislative rights and responsibilities for both the visitor and the PHRP land managers in the context of recreational activity in a mixed land use environment.	Greater public and land manager awareness and understanding of exercising and managing access rights responsibly to assist in reducing/minimising the potential for access conflicts within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.1.a.	1.3 Utilise the 2006, 2016 and future Pentland Path Audits to prioritise path works and seek external funding to implement major works	Provides a key iterative reference (including targets) for future PHRP service work plans. Also provides justification of maintenance funding requirements and funding allocation priorities.	*	*				
A.1.a.	1.4 Utilise the 2016 Infrastructure Inventory to prioritise works to ensure that all items are in 'very good' or 'good' condition.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.1.b.	1.2 Continue to liaise with CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Access Officers and Rangers to co-ordinate the promotion and management of responsible access.	Enhanced partnership communication with management benefit returns in facilitating responsible recreational activity in the PHRP.		*	*	*	*	*



A.1.b.	1.7 Discuss with stakeholders a policy for responsible recreation in the PHRP directly associated with the SOAC rights of non-motorised recreation to include electric bikes and drone use.	As above.	*		*			
A.1.b.	1.8 Review with stakeholders PHRP Events Policy and Guidance (2015)	Better management of organised events.		*				
A.1.c.	1.5 Undertake visitor number surveys through the use of people counters	Assists in the prioritising of works in areas of high usage.		*	*	*	*	*
A.1.c.	1.6 Discuss with stakeholders a policy for responsible water based recreation, in the PHRP.	To reach an understanding and address any adverse scenarios before they arise and demonstrates responsible and responsive management.				*		
A.1.c.	1.9 Continue to work with Police Scotland and other stakeholders to tackle livestock attacks and reduce rural crime.	Reduced levels of attacks and rural crime.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 2: To sustain and enhance a high-quality visitor experience

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.2.a	2.1 Utilise 2005/6 Pentland Hills Visitor Survey and 2016 Potsdam & Edinburgh Universities Visitor Survey to guide	Matches provision to expressed public opinions and views.		*		*		*

	development of visitor facilities, amenities and services.								
A.2.a	2.2 Repeat Visitor Survey exercise at future dates (subject to availability of funding) utilising counters to monitor changing visitor trends and needs.	Identifies any changes in the visitor profiles and their requirements.							*
A.2.b	2.3 Monitor Flotterstone Café, ensure that information is available to visitors and investigate new ways of encouraging responsible recreational activities.	Establishes best practice and opportunities in delivering information -appealing to both new and existing markets - to improve responsible PHRP use and visitor management.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.2.c	2.4 Utilise 2016 PHRP Path Survey and Infrastructure Survey reports findings to prioritise PHRP Service annual work plans and support landowners and tenants who are developing the paths within the PHRP.	Maintenance of both existing and enhanced PHRP networks providing safer environment for mixed recreational use and additional route opportunities.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.2.d	2.5 Utilise 2016 PHRP Path Survey and Infrastructure Survey reports as a baseline template to be updated by the Pentland Hills Service staff and Volunteer Rangers and groups on an ongoing basis.	Provides a key iterative reference (including targets) for future PHRP service work plans. Also provides justification of maintenance funding requirements and funding allocation priorities.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.2.d	2.6 Utilising the 2006 Path Survey and PHRP Upland Path Audit 2016 liaise with landowners over grant funding streams e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund in applying for and delivering large scale strategic path improvements works.	PHRP and land managers to secure funding support directly related to management public access; deliver enhanced quality of path surfacing and associated landscape furniture; as well as expanding the current path networks by completing missing links- which also enhances the visitor experience potential of the PHRP as a significant outdoor recreational	*	*					



		resource and could provide training and employment.							
A.2.e	2.7 Ensure design of Harlaw Visitor Centre building provides a best practice example of an attraction with optimum disabled access and facility provision.	Fulfils the PHRP obligations in complying with the Equalities Act but also meets wider social objectives e.g. promoting healthy lifestyles and developing the potential for broader public engagement.	*	*					
A.2.e	2.8 Continue programmed review of PHRP services, facility access and infrastructure improvements e.g. path surfaces and gates to comply with the Equalities Act and implement as required.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 3: To Raise Awareness and Increase Visitor Understanding of the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.3.a	3.1 Continue liaison with the CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Council Access Officers and Rangers to maintain and develop the opportunities that the PHRP has to offer as a resource accommodating both informal and formal leisure pursuits.	Contributes to delivery of local and national cross-cutting policy agendas.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.a	3.2 Continue pro-active community engagement to include consultation and presentations to encourage additional visits by local community groups,	Pro-active demonstration of relevance and role of the PHRP as a	*	*	*	*	*	*

	education, health and targeted minority groups etc.	recreational and educational outdoor resource.							
A.3.b	3.3 Include the promotion of the PHRP as a facility for outdoor learning.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.b	3.4 Liaise with land managers, Police Scotland and National Farmers Union Scotland over opportunities for public engagement with regard to farming and countryside activities.	Meets expressed and continued recognition by some land managers of the importance of environmental education and revitalises previous partnership engagement of land manager community.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.c	3.5 Liaise with CEC and Midlothian Councils and the Trunk road contractor to achieve directional signposting of the PHRP from the trunk road network on A702.	Addresses lack of directional signage to the PHRP and would contribute to improved visitor awareness and access to the PHRP.	*						
A.3.d	3.6 Continue utilisation of PHRP Interpretation guidelines in replacing and developing interpretation panels within the PHRP e.g. information boards and panels and also provide digital online information on various aspects of the PRHP.	Enhances the quality of interpretation presentation to the public. Also, assists in the information provision at a number of locations throughout the PHRP.		*		*		*	
A.3.d	3.7 Continue to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code responsible access message [a local authority requirement under Section10(7a) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 1)] utilising digital formats and encourage standardised signage.	Delivers and promotes the message of encouraging responsible public access- and the benefits that this has for achieving compatible mixed land-use activity in the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



A.3.e	3.8 Continue to develop PHRP website and social media to maximise information provision.	Focussing on the PHRP website and social media platforms as the most effective in reaching both the PHRP current visitors and new visitors provides the best opportunity in communicating information before visitors come to the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.3.e	3.9 Monitor and review the current distribution of PHRP literature to maximise effectiveness of the distribution and market take-up and look to incorporating appropriate adverts.	Targeted literature which is in an accessible form.		*		*		*

AIM 4: To Promote and Provide More Sustainable Visitor Transport Opportunities

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
A.4.a	4.1 Continue promotion of existing public scheduled bus service providers that give access to the PHRP.	An increase in visitors arriving by sustainable transport.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.2 Continue discussions with bus service providers to enhance the current provision to the PHRP.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.3 Support and input into CEC, Midlothian and West Lothian Core Path Plans, their review and the cross-boundary links from settlements surrounding the PHRP.	Inclusion of strategic path network linking surrounding settlements to the PHRP within the Core Paths Plans creating sustainable non-motorised transport options.	*	*	*	*	*	*

A.4.a	4.4 Ensure that the re-design of car parking provision is carried out where possible to make the maximum use of spaces available.	Maximise farm access and visitor ease of use and avoid disruptive parking.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.5 Encourage and support the network of non-motorised routes that lead to the PHRP.	The action is an additional measure related to the PHRP support for sustainable transport.	*	*	*	*	*	*
A.4.a	4.6 Investigate the extension of Edinburgh Cycle Hire Scheme to include PHRP car parks with docking stations.	As above.						*
A.4.a	4.7 Following the redesign of the junction at Mauricewood liaise with bus companies to extend the local bus route to Flotterstone on the A702.	As above.	*	*				
A.4.a	4.8 Investigate the extension of electric car charging points to main car parks within the PHRP.	As above.						*
A.4.b	4.9 Liaise with landowners over the possibility of temporary parking provision for events and promote the use of sustainable transport.	Support diversification of land by land managers having events combined with the events not having a further impact on car park demands.	*	*	*	*	*	*



THEME B – THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF THE HILLS

AIM 1: To Sustain a Healthy, Diverse Range of Agricultural, Forestry and Sporting Businesses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.1.a	1.1 Promote effective consultation between PHRP and businesses within and adjacent to the PHRP in respect of opportunities/plans for diversification – in the context of contributing to the PHRP Plan vision and any PHRP management implications.	Provide publicity for appropriate activities in the Park.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.b.	1.2 Support the promotion of the 'Pentland Produce' and businesses through publications. Work with farmers and landowners in the PHRP to explore ways of increasing visibility of local produce and business.	Develops an existing agricultural economic activity.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.c.	1.3 Support the production and implementation of Moorland Management Plans for core areas of heather cover, i.e. at Bonaly Country Park, to ensure that the resource is maintained and enhanced for biodiversity and heritage.	Robust evidence base for securing resources to better manage moorland habitat within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

B.1.c.	1.4 Provide information to land owners, identify suitable areas for moorland rehabilitation and promote best practice for historic and biodiversity land management.	Halting the loss of moorland habitat within the PHRP and securing of better management for the remaining moorland resource.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.c.	1.5 Provide information and best practice on carrying out Sport Shooting to landowners on responsible land management and public engagement in relation to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.	Reduction of potential conflict between sporting and other recreational interests.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.1.c.	1.6 Raise awareness of the persecution of raptors and any other illegal activities within the PHRP.	Supporting the protections of protected species.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 2: To Develop the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a quality assured Green Tourism Destination

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.2.a.	2.1 Work with the PHRP stakeholders to seek appropriate Green Tourism accreditation for businesses within the PHRP.	Demonstrable activities developing and enhancing the sustainability of the PHRP as a visitor destination and contributing to Best Practice management and operation of the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.2.a.	2.2 Retain Green Flag Award for PHRP.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.2.a.	2.3 Retain Visit Scotland Accreditation for Harlaw Visitor Centre and assist Pentland Hills Café Express, at Flotterstone, in attaining it.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*



B.2.a.	2.4 Continue to utilise accreditation awards in all PHRP marketing material.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
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AIM 3: To Achieve Integrated Land and Water Management

Objective	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.3.a.	3.1 Identify areas of Best Practice for land and water management in the PHRP and publicise this to land owners and users.	Best practice in land management is adopted by land managers.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.3.b.	3.2 Assist in providing additional best practice management advice based on information and knowledge resourced from other Regional Parks, National Park environments and Scottish Natural Heritage.	Positive land management practices adopted in other Regional and National Parks are reviewed and adapted for local circumstances.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 4: To Achieve Enhanced Environmental Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Economy

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
B.4.a	4.1 Liaise with, land managers, residents and local authority planners, on appropriate renewable energy projects for the PHRP and its environs.	Ensure that appropriate renewable energy projects are encouraged within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

B.4.b	4.2 Influence design of Harlaw Visitor Centre and Bonaly block to ensure that it incorporates energy efficiency measures which can be used to showcase best practice in sustainable management.	Encouragement of other public and private bodies to incorporate energy efficiency measures into building design.	*	*	*			
B.4.c	4.3 Work with partners to take forward the Woodland Strategy for the PHRP by reviewing the implementation and progress to date and agreeing future actions to be implemented. Also, to incorporate the Carbon Code and to include Central Scotland Green Network and grant schemes [detailed in Theme C :(1) Landscape - “Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park” aim] Provide input to all planning consultations and strategic land use documents.	Reduction of the carbon footprint arising from the PHRP and staff activities.	*	*	*	*	*	*
B.4.c	4.4 Target corporate and business sectors to identify investment benefit opportunities in the PHRP from carbon offsetting commitments from these private sector business operations e.g. corporate responsibility and tree planting.	Reduction of carbon footprint.	*	*	*	*	*	*



THEME C – CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE LANDSCAPE, NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HILLS

(1) Landscape

AIM 1: To Conserve the Distinctive Landscape Character of the Pentland Hills

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 1.a.	1.1 Monitor changes in land use and land management systems which could affect the landscape in order to promote positive outcomes for the landscape. Potential changes may include changes in the agri-environment grant systems, agricultural practices and climate change.	To ensure that the PHRP influences and maintains input into landscape changes which will be implemented by the PHRP community.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 1.b.	1. 2. Continue to foster contact with landowners and land managers through regular meetings to exchange information.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 1.c.	1.3. Support the protection and implementation of Special Landscape Areas, Green Belt and Local Geodiversity Sites, and Local Biodiversity Sites designations in Local Plans through liaison with constituent and surrounding Planning Authorities as they occur within the Regional Park.	These designations underline the importance of the PHRP landscape, give it status in the decision-making process and give the PHRP and important consultation role to influence development. Ensures that the PHRP (as a relevant consultee) has the opportunity to influence any decisions that could create landscape changes affecting the PHRP setting.	*	*	*	*	*	*

C.(1) 1.d.	1.4. Encourage strict control over the design of new development, including tourist development, in the PHRP. Implement through the PHRP consultation role in relation to development carried out by others and directly for development within PHRP control. Development should be in keeping with the local vernacular and landscape e.g. appropriate design of infrastructure, PHRP car parks Encourage landscape mitigation to structures set into the landscape through pre-application comments and highlighting major projects to the Consultative Forum and Joint Committee for their views.	Ensures that landscape conservation and enhancement takes priority in development decisions and planning applications and that the landscape and visual effects of development are adequately assessed. Protection from in appropriate development and promotion of high quality design in new development.	*	*	*	*	*	*
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AIM 2: To Promote Enhancement of the Landscape Quality within the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 2.a.	2.1 Promote landscape enhancement as an important priority in consultation with landowners and land managers. Respond positively to initiatives designed to protect and enhance the landscape.	A greater understanding of the contribution of landscape and the balance between economic, landscape and cultural heritage and habitat interests.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 2.b.	2.2 Seek to ensure that opportunities to provide landscape enhancement in association with new developments are fully explored e.g. the future development at Midlothian Snowsports Centre.	More focussed influence of the PHRP on the other bodies and individuals effecting changes to the landscape i.e. the landscape planning would address the PHRP as an entire entity rather than as separate components within each local plan area.	*	*	*	*	*	*



AIM 3: To Promote Partnership with the Local Community to Foster Stewardship of the Landscape

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 3.a.	3.1 Discuss landscape issues with farmers and landowners through existing consultation and liaison mechanisms. (see also Theme D).	Maintains influence of Regional Park in landscape changes to the Pentland Hills. Promotes shared landscape stewardship vision with PHRP land managers.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 3.b.	3.3 Work with landowners who are looking to diversify their holdings.	Provides support for appropriate diversification.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 4: To Promote Appreciation and Understanding of the Landscape including the Interaction between the Physical Form, Natural Processes, Land Management, Natural and Historic Environment

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 4.a.	4.1 Support and encourage participation from Lothian and Borders Geo-Conservation (L&BGC) Group, include information about geodiversity in interpretive material.	Increased knowledge and understanding of geodiversity.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(1) 4.b.	4.2 Discuss with L&BGC volunteer group the potential to assess all geological features in the PHRP as possible Local Geodiversity Sites.	As above.			*			*

AIM 5: To Promote the Management of Access to the Pentland Hills Regional Park without Adversely Affecting the Landscape

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(1) 5.a.	5.1 Monitor the effects of increased public access on the landscape in relation to the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003. Address adverse physical impacts e.g. path erosion etc. through consultation with landowners and ongoing PHRP annual maintenance work plans etc. (See also Theme A)	Inputs into the planning and prioritisation of works.	*	*	*	*	*	*

(2) Natural Heritage

AIM 1: To Realise the full Ecological Potential of the Pentland Hills Regional Park by Protecting, Maintaining and Enhancing the Present Ranges of Species and Habitats

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(2) 1.a.	1.1 Contribute to the survey and monitoring of key habitats which include: upland heaths, blanket bog, cleugh, woodland, farmland, rivers and streams.	Improved understanding of the distribution of key habitats and their health across the Pentland Hills.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.b.	1.2 Ensure that the key habitats and species identified within the three Local Biodiversity Action Plans covering the Pentland Hills are addressed through projects within the PHRP Annual Work Plan.	Improved biodiversity within the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*



C.(2) 1.c.	1.3 Contribute to the three LBAP partnerships, where in operation, in delivery of agreed actions.	Competition of co-ordinated actions, improved biodiversity and connectivity.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.d.	1.4 To report on progress for each Local Biodiversity Site.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.e.	1.5 Identify key habitat and green network corridors and actions to link and enhance these biodiversity sites and networks.	Increased awareness and information provision to enhance key habitat corridors.						*
C.(2) 1.f.	1.6 Encourage implementation of relevant management actions to deliver favourable conditions of features on designated sites.	More designated biodiversity sites in favourable condition within PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.g.	1.7 Contribute to the monitoring and management of legally protected species of flora and fauna occurring within the PHRP.	Healthy populations of protected species. Results would also be used to inform planners during planning applications or tree planting schemes.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.h.	1.8 Support surveys and encourage appropriate management of identified non-native invasive species occurring within the PHRP	Invasive species populations are brought under control.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.i.	1.9 Increase engagement with general public and understanding via environmental education and volunteering programme.	Greater awareness of the rich natural heritage within the PHRP and increased involvement by local people in its management.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.j.	1.10 Encourage ongoing biological recording within the PHRP through forging of relationships with The Wildlife	Improved records of biodiversity in the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*

	Information Centre, local recording groups and individuals.								
C.(2) 1.k.	1.11 Ensure that an assessment of biodiversity impacts is always included in planning application and forestry consultation responses.	Net gain in biodiversity from development proposals within or adjacent to the PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.l.	1.12 Encourage woodland management and creation to maximise biodiversity and connectivity.	Stronger woodland habitat networks and more woodland habitats and species.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2)1.m.	1.13 Work with stakeholder to encourage the uptake of incentives for new woodland and improve management of existing woodland.	New and improved woodland habitats.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(2) 1.n.	1.14 Support land managers to bring all native woodland in the PHRP under positive management and restore native woodland on plantations on identified Ancient Woodland sites.	Increased native woodland cover in PHRP.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

(3) Historic Environment

AIM 1: To Conserve and Enhance the Pentland Hills Regional Park's Cultural Heritage Features by Integrated Management and Raised Public Awareness of the Cultural Heritage

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
C.(3) 1.a	1.1 Liaise with Historic Environment Scotland and provide support for owners of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and other historic features.	Increased public awareness.	*	*	*	*	*	*

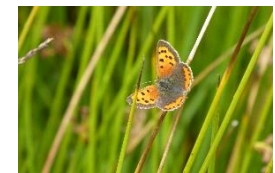


C.(3)1.b	1.2 Promote and interpret cultural heritage sites in the PHRP and ensure that education programmes, temporary exhibitions, website, and guided walks etc focus on the Hills rich archaeological and cultural heritage.	Increased public awareness.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(3)1.b	1.3 Review and develop self-guided downloadable Heritage Trail leaflets and online interpretation.	Increased public awareness.			*			*
C.(3)1.b	1.4 Look at opportunities to develop projects to help deliver on the aims of the emerging (2019) South East Scotland Archaeological Research Framework (SESARF).	Assists delivery of SESARF aims.		*	*	*	*	*
C.(3)1.b	1.5 Explore opportunities for involving volunteers and local groups to enhance the understanding of the Hills historic environment and encourage cross disciplinary working with natural environment research and conservation work/programmes where appropriate.	Increased public awareness and partnership working.	*	*	*	*	*	*
C.(3) 1.c	1.6 Ensure that the three Local Planning Authority's policies continue to safeguard the character and pattern of the built and historic environment in the PHRP and that it is fully integrated into the wider historic landscape of the surrounding local authorities.	Increased protection and awareness.	*	*	*	*	*	*

THEME D – PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

AIM 1: To Maintain and Develop Partnership Support for Securing Long Term Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Living and Changing Mixed Land Use Environment

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
D.1.a	1.1 Continue to develop close working relationships with all the key stakeholders and those living and working in the PHRP.	Ensures communication, co-operation and increases the sharing of information.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.1.a	1.2 Ensure the long-term commitment of stakeholders' support in delivering and reviewing the existing Hillend Country Park and the Bonaly Country Park Management Plans – as integral components complementing and supporting the delivery of the overall PHRP Plan vision.	Delivers an integrated management approach.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.1.a	1.3 Continue the PHRP Consultative Forum (minimum two meetings per year) as a key mechanism providing both pro-active inputs (advisory) and re-active (sounding board) feed-back to the PHRP Joint Committee in guiding the interpretation, priorities and delivery of the PHRP Plan.	Maintains participation of a wide cross section of PHRP land use interests	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.1.a	1.4 Utilise new communication formats (media and technology) to enhance consultation opportunities and contact with the PHRP management by stakeholders such as the PHRP Consultative Forum members, landowners and the general public.	An Increase in communication.	*	*	*	*	*	*



AIM 2: To Develop Public Participation and Support for Securing the Long-Term Sustainability of the Pentland Hills Regional Park as a Living and Changing Mixed Land Use Environment

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
D.2.a	2.1 Support the Friends of the Pentlands (FoP) in complementing the PHRP in delivery of the PHRP Strategic Management Plan and management of the Regional Park in line with the FoP aims and objectives.	Maintains and develops existing partnership with mutual benefits in achieving shared objectives.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.2 Provide information and guidance in the delivery of practical works led by the FoP to include conservation (e.g. tree planting and management) maintenance on paths adopted by FoP and access for disabled and corporate groups.	Ensures quality of delivery of projects.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.3 Provide direction and guidance in the management of the Harlaw wildlife garden to include the joint production of a management plan for the garden and on-going improvement works.	Ensures continuity and partnership in the management of Harlaw Wildlife Garden.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.4 Support a co-ordinated approach to the reduction of litter within the PHRP.	Reduced litter in and around the Hills.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.5 Through the work of the FoP support, where appropriate, non-motorised access links into the PHRP.	Contributes to sustainable transport policies and the reduction in car use.	*	*	*	*	*	*

D.2.a	2.6 Support the FoP educational role by providing guidance, information and building and equipment use.	Contributes to the delivery of environmental education.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.a	2.7 Encourage development and retention of the membership of the Pentland Hills Voluntary Ranger Service.	Maintains and develops well trained personnel to complement the PHRP Service and increases public interaction and delivery of actions.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.b	2.8 Support increased recreational participation in the Pentland Hills by underrepresented groups such as women, children, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.	Broadens sector awareness and potential utilisation of PHRP and contributes to cross cutting national policy agendas of social inclusion.	*	*	*	*	*	*
D.2.b	2.9 Continue support for Bavelaw and Harperrigg Reservoir Management Groups in the PHRP.	Broader sector awareness and implementation of improvement projects raised by these groups.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 3: To Secure Commercial Sponsorship Support for the Delivery of Pentland Hills Regional Park Project Initiatives

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
D.3.a	3.1 PHRP to investigate appropriate fundraising initiatives for the PHRP to include, but not limited to, the Donation Scheme, car parking charges, bequests, corporate sponsorship and technologies that can assist with their operation.	Increase in funds for the delivery of capital and revenue projects specifically within the Regional Park.	*	*	*	*	*	*



THEME E – MANAGING THE PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK PLAN

AIM 1: To Provide a Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Structure which is Best Placed to Fully Deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.1.a	1.1 Facilitate the PHRP Joint Committee in reviewing terms and conditions of the existing Minute of Agreement between the three constituent authorities and consider any appropriate and beneficial adjustments, in light of the PHRP Plan action requirements.	Provides appropriate opportunity to review the scope of the existing Minute of Agreement- in the context of providing the most appropriate management structure with the necessary powers to deliver the PHRP plan.	*					*

AIM 2: To Provide Effective and Efficient Management Direction to Achieve the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.2.a	2.1 PHRP Manager to utilise the PHRP Plan to prepare an annual operational workplan - for the PHRP Joint Committee consideration and approval.	Retains continuity from a proven successful format.	*	*	*	*	*	*
E.2.a	2.2 PHRP Manager to implement and oversee the PHRP Plan monitoring and report on progress.	Provides an update on actions.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 3: To Secure the Necessary Funding Resources Necessary to Make the Full Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan a Realistic and Achievable Goal

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.3.a	3.1 PHRP Manager to investigate funding streams such as developer contributions, CEC transient levy- ring fenced for the PHRP; grant applications - Wind farm community benefit funding, National Lottery Heritage Fund.	Increased funds to deliver projects.	*	*	*	*	*	*
E.3.a	3.2 PHRP Manager to investigate and realise retail opportunities and income generation specifically related to the Regional Park.	As above.	*	*	*	*	*	*
E.3.a	3.3 PHRP Manager to monitor car park donation scheme and RINGGO system to ensure funding is raised for projects. To also include annual membership scheme.	As above.	*	*	*			*
E.3.a	3.4 PHRP to monitor, review and update the Donation Scheme.	As above.		*				



AIM 4: To Fully Engage Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Stakeholder Groups in the Processes Required to Deliver the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.4.a	4.1 PHRP Manager to continue the production of management information keeping the stakeholder groups fully informed of the ongoing implementation progress of the PHRP Plan e.g. Joint Committee, Management Group, Famers and Landowners and Consultative Forum through established procedures e.g. formal meetings, annual reports, annual business planning processes	Maintains a consistent and transparent flow of key information to retain partnership working.	*	*	*	*	*	*

AIM 5: To Promote Awareness and Understanding of the Rationale, Aims and Benefits of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan to the General Public

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.5.a	5.1 PHRP Manager to devise a promotional/information strategy including: - Local Authority Access Officers; - Local Access Forums; - Community Councils; - Liaison with the Friends of the Pentlands and other groups; - Use of the PHRP website e.g. posted features on proposed Plan actions, updates on implementation of current	Delivery of key information.		*				*

	actions and completed actions; - Development of PHRP social media; - Ongoing articles included in the “Pentland Beacon” newsletter; - News updates posted on noticeboards at the Flotterstone and Harlaw visitor centres.							
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AIM 6: To Monitor on an Ongoing Basis the Delivery of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan

Strategic Reference	Action	Outputs and Outcomes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2028
E.6.a	6.1 PHRP Manager to develop and agree a finalised Monitoring Strategy to include an annual report to the PHRP Joint Committee on progress on the PHRP Actions.	Evidence of actions achieved and will allow for adjustments to be made where required.	*	*	*	*	*	*



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