



# Notes/Actions of Meeting Held at 2pm on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Futures Group**  
Lifesize Virtual Meeting

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<b>Present</b>
Bob Darracott (BD)
Martin Earl (ME), Chair
Sarah Drummond (SD)
Heather Reid (HR)
Billy Ronald (BR)
James Stuart (JS), First Part Only

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<b>In Attendance</b>
Gordon Watson (GW), CEO
Anna MacLean (AMaCL)
Jo Wright (JW)
Deborah Spratt (DS), Clerk

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. The Chair welcomed members and officers to the first meeting of the Futures Group. AMaCL shared a set of slides with the group, including a reminder of the agreed [Terms of Reference](#) and the following was noted in relation to how the Futures Group will operate:

- The Group will operate flexibly to host bespoke working meetings tailored to the needs of the topic to be discussed.

- The Group will receive presentations and run facilitated discussion sessions rather than have agendas and reports.
- Meetings will not be minuted but a note of the main findings, conclusions or guidance resulting from discussions will be recorded.
- The Group will have an appointed Chair and Depute Chair and a standing membership of up to five members.

1.2. HR advised that conversations have been taking place with Charlie Wallace on how best to engage with the Youth Committee. It was agreed that we need to be mindful of the Youth Committee's availability when scheduling meetings to ensure any attendance from young people on topics of particular relevance to them/their needs.

## 2. Sharing Thoughts

2.1. AMacL took members through the slide on thoughts for discussion on what the Futures Group aimed to be a place for:

- safe thinking space –“a gym for the mind?”
- ‘holding’ and exploring questions that don’t have easy answers
- space to stand back – take time to understand our system
- understand how we can best influence that system
- stimulate our thinking – explore & learn from/with others
- make good use of Board skills, expertise and networks

and then SD facilitated a session to capture what members of the Futures Group hoped to get from it and what good outcomes would look like for them. These have been summarised in a manifesto-style as:

### ***The Futures Group...***

*...helps us to be an organisation that looks forward;*  
*...is an inclusive and accessible space to share early thinking and develop ideas, together;*  
*...allows us to learn from and leverage our networks;*  
*...recognises both the complexity of our system and our potential to influence it;*  
*...provides an opportunity for new collaborations;*  
*...keeps our creative energy flowing.*

2.2. JS left the meeting

## 3. Suggested Topics to Explore

3.1. Members discussed their thoughts on potential topics for the Futures Group to explore:

#### The future of sustainable/visitor transport

- Making the most of the multiple benefits this could bring for visitors, communities, climate and a green recovery.
- Understanding the system and what can help bring the modal shift that is needed.
- Notes/Action: Members agreed that this would be a good piece of work to start on.

#### The role of digital post-pandemic

- A focus on digital service delivery for the Park Authority
- Moving more of what we do online – complexities and opportunities
- Notes/Action: Further consideration to be given to which aspect of digital transformation to explore with the Futures Group first.

#### Planning for climate and nature

- What more can planning do for both climate change and nature?
- Link to NPF4 and our new LDP development
- The National Park has the opportunity to be an exemplar for this approach
- Officers would not be in a position to explore this topic until the second half of the year at the earliest
- Notes/Action: Potential scope of this work to be considered and proposed to the Group at a future session

#### Our role as a Regional Land Use pilot

- Awaiting confirmation of whether the National Park will be a pilot area.
- As such, this topic will not be ready to be explored until later in the year.
- Notes/Action: Further detail on how a Futures Group session on this topic would be helpful once we know more about how the pilot areas will work/are funded, and if we have been selected.

3.2. Members confirmed that they were content in principle, to go forward with the four topics as above but with the caveat that there is scope/flexibility to add other items to explore depending on where we are at a particular time. There was a particular appetite from the group to explore more around Climate and Nature (following the Mission Zero and Future Nature papers approved in December 2020). It was noted that this is very much a starter list and this can be reviewed and amended as necessary.

3.3. Members agreed that 'Future of sustainable/visitor transport' will be the first topic to explore and will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

#### 4. Making it Work

4.1. Members discussed the plan for going forward and agreed the following **actions**:

- Members to send DS the days of the week that suit best for meeting.
- DS to set up monthly 3-hour meetings to ensure time is held in diaries.
- HR will discuss with Charlie the best time to involve the Youth Committee/young people.
- SD Suggested having a blog for staff with the theme from conversations. **AMaCL to explore how best to do this.**
- Members to prepare ahead of each of the meetings – NPA to provide any key questions for members to use for their thinking / links to relevant documents etc.
- Agreed to make more use of the network our Board members each bring. Members to have a think about names that they think would be good to get involved.
- It was noted that AMaCL will be the Executive lead on the Future Group along with GW / JW and DS providing support.