

Appendix 1

Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan - Revision Questions

Q1: Are you happy with the existing vision of the Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP) Strategic Management Plan (2007-17)?

A: The existing vision states:

“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 and natural heritage features”.

West Lothian Council (WLC) is content that the vision still embodies the original aims of the Pentland Hills Regional Park set out in the Designation Order when it was established in 1986.

- 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; and*
- Co-ordination of these aims so that they co-exist with farming and other land uses within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.*

Q2: Should the vision mention the financial stability of the Regional Park?

A: WLC believes that due to the changes in financial budgets, priorities and Administrations that for a ten year plan it is not necessary to explicitly refer to financial matters in the vision statement as it could quickly become out of date.

Q3: Should there be a priority set for income generation to support increased use of PHRP and its required maintenance e.g. car parking, footpaths; be included in the new plan.

A: Yes, due to changes and reductions in internal local authority budgets all avenues of revenue generation should now be considered such as charging for rural car parks associated with the Pentland Hills, with the explicit caveat that any revenue raised should be “ring-fenced” and used for maintenance purposes within the Regional Park and that this message is communicated to the general public about any such forthcoming proposals.

Q4: Should there be a priority set around engagement with volunteers and community groups highlighting people based element of the park’s management?

A: Volunteer groups such as “Friends of the Pentlands” and the Volunteer Ranger Service, administered by the City of Edinburgh Council Natural Heritage Service, have been invaluable in the successful operation of the Regional Park over the last 30 years. They should remain a priority, alongside the continued operation of the bi-annual Regional Park Consultative Forum where elected

members and officers involved in the park seek to engage with community councils, other interested parties and organisations, as well as farmers and landowners.

Q5: Are there any other priorities or direction points you feel should be included in the new Park Plan?

A: Yes, it would be worth introducing the future effect of Climate Change on the landscape and wildlife of the Regional Park as well as rural businesses within the Park.