



## Peak District Think Tank: December 2018

### Key Findings

#### The challenges

1. Young people may be unable to afford to live in the Peak District and so be forced to move to surrounding towns and cities pointing to a requirement for more affordable housing and better paid local jobs.
2. The urban elite will continue to find the Peak District an attractive place to live, thereby further driving up property prices.
3. Technological advances are likely to result in a reduced employment base with more jobs in the future focused on servicing the needs of an ageing population.
4. There could well be further social and economic polarisation within and across the communities of the Peak District.
5. Health inequalities are set to be exacerbated by dwindling public services, including a reduction in public transport, which will leave some sections of the community further isolated.
6. Sections of the community may experience increased mental health challenges and an increase in age related illnesses.
7. The Peak District could potentially become a green graveyard for an ageing population
8. There is not a unanimity of thinking amongst key decision makers within the Peak District and so there is not a coherent voice speaking out for the Peak District.
9. Many decision makers are necessarily focused on short-term challenges and find it difficult to plan for longer-term changes.

#### The opportunities

1. Encourage the key decision makers across the Peak District to come together to tackle common challenges and deliver shared solutions, which includes the development of a common narrative/single voice to influence LEPs, Midlands Engine and Government (this should include collaborative working and joint bids).
2. Innovative solutions need to be explored, including an increased role for volunteerism, community focused cooperatives, community interest companies, maker trade spaces etc.
3. Drive a social inclusion agenda that includes an increased focus on affordable housing including within the National Park, and affordable business start-up premises, the 2 of which could be aligned.
4. Implement a rural enterprise escalator that is embedded across the primary, secondary, FE and HE educational community, which increases employer/educator engagement and provides employer mentorship and oversight for those engaged in enterprise activities.
5. Consider enterprise opportunities associated with ageing population.
6. Implement social as well as economic evaluations of new development proposals.
7. Build collaborative working to establish the Peak District as a place for innovation in the areas of carbon neutral technologies, sustainable developments and community cohesion initiatives, which engage diverse groups including employers, educators, the third sector and public sector.

8. Establish exercise and relaxation schemes across the Peak District, which target vulnerable sections of the community, as well as healthy eating community initiatives (e.g. an incredible edible scheme) and educational initiatives (e.g. forest schools).
9. Explore options for age and disability proofing new housing developments.

## **Next steps**

1. Members of the PDP Executive to review and build on the above points before finalising a draft text, which will then be circulated for review and feedback to partners including the CEOs of DDDC and HPBC, as well as the CEOs of PDNPA and RAD, the MD of MPD&D and the Chair of BPD.
2. PD to call a meeting of the above to collectively consider the challenges and opportunities document and agree tangible steps to begin to deliver the necessary changes.
3. Report to PDP Board meeting, including a proposal to deliver annual Think Tank as the future role of PDP.
4. The key stakeholders to take steps to begin to deliver changes including through collaborative initiatives.
5. The first part of the 2019 Peak District Think Tank, which will be scheduled to take place in mid-December 2019, will provide the key decision makers (referenced at 1) an opportunity to feedback to partners on measures they are implementing to address the challenges identified during the 2018 Think Tank event.

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