



Making the South Pennines a better place for people and nature

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

United Utilities' Ambitions and Actions for Green Recovery

I should like to offer my full support to United Utilities and its ambitions and actions to support a programme of green recovery for the region and its citizens. The proposals will be far reaching and will benefit not only the region, but the nation as a whole, support much needed targeted investment to our uplands and lowlands, which in turn will help the global impacts of climate change, support green recovery and sustainable development and provide a much needed backdrop post Covid-19 for the nation's health and wellbeing.

The South Pennines Park (SPP), National Character Area 36 is England's largest undesignated heritage landscape, covering 460miles² of spectacular upland, full of rich natural, built and cultural heritage. Geographically it sits between West Yorkshire to the east and covers parts of Greater Manchester and East Lancaster to the west. and covers most of West Yorkshire, in the north of England. It is home to over 660,000 people, reaching in excess of 8m people from surrounding three city regions, over 25m visitors p.a. come to enjoy this stunning landscape, shaped over generations by its communities and nature. It bridges four protected landscapes – Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale AONB to the north, the Peak District National Park to the south and Forest of Bowland AONB to the west. We have 15 local authorities, 4 LEAs – Greater Manchester LEA, Lancashire LEA, Leeds City Region LEA and, York and North Yorkshire LEA. It has extensive internationally important wildlife, nature and heritage designations, 2,600miles Public Rights of Way), including two national trails – Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway. It is the largest non-statutory English landscape not designated an AONB/national park (even though the South Pennines was mentioned in both the Hobhouse and Dower Reports, 1940s, the fore runner to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. It is the last vital piece of the jigsaw for the northern upland chain, running from the Peak District National Park to the Scottish Borders.

Pennine Prospects (PP), a 'not for profit' organisation with 40years leadership experience, working collaboratively across sectors to safeguard these assets for the nation. PP plays a vital role, bringing together diverse interests, supports an inclusive strategic management framework that guides, coordinates holistic approaches to deliver statutory/non statutory programmes, policies, activities and facilitates stakeholder and community collaboration/engagement, especially the underserved, on a landscape-scale, that celebrates nature, culture and heritage. Of particular relevance is our internationally successful Watershed Landscape Partnership project, our engagement across SPP through MoorLIFE 2020 and upland restoration and our community led Celebrating our Woodland Heritage project with citizen science.

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Our ambition is to deliver a new approach to managing landscapes/heritage through the co-creation of a 'self-managing' Park, England's first nationally recognised 'self-designated' national landscape, reconnecting people to nature now and for future.

As a non-designated SPP does not receive direct funding or investment from Government. Our evidence of a coordinated approach, on a landscape-scale has proven successful, with over £45m being invested over 15years to support conservation demonstration programmes and projects, sustainable development principles and sustainable economic regeneration that supports green recovery and wellbeing for both nature and people. It has allowed us to pool resources, safeguard legacy, invest in heritage for the benefit of all.

UU's ambitions for green recovery very much ties-in with our ambitions through the South Pennines Park Partnership Plan, a 15year management framework based on innovative landscape-scale partnership delivery through 3x 5year Action Plans. A coordinated and holistic approach across SPP will support to pool resources and use targeted investment and resources across the public, private and third sectors, which will carefully be monitored and evaluated through a State of Park Report, open-sourced data available to all. It also supports PP's 5year Strategy and Business Plan that looks to mitigate against the impacts of climate change, through nature-based solutions and green recovery initiatives at scale. With all 15 local authorities declaring climate emergency, climate action is required. SPP acts as a testbed and will trial innovative and new management tools to pilot a new approach to manage our landscapes that value the natural, social and economic assets and support the growing green sector. I believe UU's ambitions, especially the proposal at Winter Hill will demonstrate a new way of working and engaging communities.

I am delighted to support UU's green recovery submission.

Yours faithfully



Helen Noble

Chief Executive

T: +44 (0)1422 264 686

M: +44 (0)7808 028 442

Pennine Prospects

**Canal and Visitor Centre, Butler's Wharf, New Road
Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8AF**

Website: <http://pennineprospects.co.uk/>

Telephone: 01422 264684

Southern Pennines Rural Regeneration Company Limited T/A Pennine Prospects

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