

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

25 July 2006

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PARTNERSHIP BODIES**Purpose of report**

To report recommendations of the Audit and Review Committee and to seek members' instructions on the Authority's representation on partnership bodies.

Strategic Planning Framework

The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

- ***National Park Management Plan***

Partnerships underpin and underlay the aims and objectives of the Yorkshire Dales Management Plan and forms one of the four common themes. In particular the principles – '.....we need a wide audience supporting and delivering national Park objectives. Partnership is not just about traditional ways of working together, but is about finding new links, where people discover common ground and bring together different skills and interests for mutual benefit. A key element of partnership working is that people need to be able to take action for their own future.'

Background

A review of the Authority's current partnerships was considered by the Audit and Review committee on the 17th March 2006 and again on the 16th June 2006. A copy of the June report is attached as **Appendix 1**. During the latter meeting, members considered whether, a number of partnerships that currently have officer representation, should be replaced with member representation. The table attached as **Appendix 2** contains the list of Authority partnerships that are considered to be ones where the Authority may best be represented by members.

The Committee agreed to recommend that, subject to establishing robust procedures whereby members will report back to the Authority on discussions/progress/proposals, the Authority should increase its member representation on partnerships. The only significant change that the Committee made to the list of proposals was to recommend that the Chief Executive should continue to be the Authority's representative on the Craven and Richmondshire Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

Conclusions

Involvement in partnerships represents one of the Authority's key strands for increasing member involvement across the range of the Authority's business activity. The proposals

contained in the partnership table give members the opportunity to grasp this new role. However, as always, the issue of member capacity, willingness to carry out the role and the ability to do so need to be considered. Should members, at this point in time, not wish to involve themselves in these new partnerships then officers will continue with their current role.

In previous years these appointments have generally been made on the basis of only changing the representative(s) if the incumbent did not wish to be re-appointed. It is now recommended that, as part of good governance, Members should give consideration to each appointment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the Authority's representation on each partnership body listed in the attached Appendix 2.

DAVID BUTTERWORTH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

12 July 2006

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
AUDIT & REVIEW COMMITTEE

16 June 2006

REVIEW OF MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS

Purpose of report

To seek the committees' views on increasing member involvement in responsibilities on the Authority's external partnerships.

Strategic Planning Framework

The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

- ***National Park Management Plan***

Partnerships underpin and underlay the aims and objectives of the Yorkshire Dales Management plan and forms one of the four common themes. In particular the principles - We need a wide audience supporting and delivering national park objectives. Partnership is not just about traditional ways or working together, but is about finding new links, where people discover common ground and bring together different skills and interest for mutual benefit. A key element of partnership working is that people need to be able to take action for their own future.'

- ***Best Value Performance Plan***

[Identify relevant BVPP objective and/or key action to which the proposal will contribute]

Background

Members will be aware that the Authority is currently undergoing a thorough re-consideration of the role of members in delivering the Authority's purposes and objectives. This work involves: a review of the planning committee; a review of the role of the Audit & Review committee; the establishment of Member 'champions'; consideration of members' role in advocacy and representation and a review of members' roles on external partnerships. This paper deals with the last item.

This matter was discussed in some detail at the Audit and Review committee on the 17th March where members asked that officers carry out further work in to consider whether there might be a greater role for members in representing the Authority on external partnerships.

Members resolved that:

“Following consideration by the Authority of the post-Peer Review Improvement Plan, a further report be prepared for the Audit & Review committee to consider in greater detail the Authority’s representation on the partnership bodies listed in the Appendix to the Chief Executive’s Report”.

Criteria

In deciding whether it is most appropriate for the Authority to be represented on a partnership, by a member or an officer, it was thought helpful to develop appropriate criteria. These were discussed by the Senior Management Team and a copy of the proposed criteria is attached at **APPENDIX A**.

Proposals

The Authority is involved in 87 partnerships in total. These are shown at **APPENDIX B**.

Using the criteria at **Appendix A**, consideration of greater member involvement has identified 20 potential changes to the Authority’s representation. These are highlighted (shaded) in Appendix B. Members should note that, of the 20 possible changes, seven relate to partnerships that previously had both member and officer involvement and where it is now proposed that representation could be member only. The remainder relate to partnerships where it is suggested that it could be more appropriate for a member to represent the Authority rather than an officer.

If all the proposed changes were accepted, then, of the 87 partnerships, 55 would have officer representation, 27 member representation and 5 would be joint member/officer representation.

Member representation on external partnerships represents an opportunity for far greater member involvement in the Authority’s work. However, members need to have regard to their capacity to be able to fully represent the Authority on these partnerships.

Subject to members’ views the next steps would be:

- to establish robust procedures whereby members can report back to the Authority on discussions/progress/proposals. Some of these processes have already been established but will need to be tightened to ensure their effectiveness.
- Identify the most appropriate member to represent the Authority on each of the relevant partnerships, particularly in the light of the appointment of member ‘champions’.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to consider the highlighted (shaded) partnerships identified in **APPENDIX B** and make recommendations to the full Authority as to which ones should have member representation.

DAVID BUTTERWORTH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

7 June 2006

Appendix 2

Representative	Partnership	Description/Effectiveness for NPA and Nat Park
NPA Chairman	Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA)	To provide the National Park Authorities with a single voice, particularly when dealing with government and its agencies. To provide a focus for collaborative working and corporate activity and the sharing of best practice across the Parks. Attempts to increase public understanding of the statutory purposes for which National Parks exist in the UK, and to promote them as models for sustainable development.
NPA Chairman, but as he currently represents Craven DC the NPA is represented by the Deputy Chairman	Association of North Yorkshire Councils	Forum for discussion of common issues of concern to Councils in North Yorkshire
Officer	Biodiversity Forum	Advisory group for the development, review and implementation of LBAP. Responsible for the content of the LBAP
Ms N Stedman	Council for National Parks	Provides a corporate voluntary sector voice on National Park matters and acts as an umbrella organisation for a range of national bodies interested in National Parks.
Officer	Craven Crime Reduction Partnership Steering Group	A Government initiative. A duty placed on all authorities to seek to reduce crime and disorder in their areas
Officer & Member [Heather]	Craven Regeneration Steering Group	Similar function as the Richmondshire Regeneration Board
Officer	Cumbria Rural Forum	Forum for those involved in rural affairs in Cumbria. Wide range of topics discussed
Officer	Dales Advisory Group	For EN & YDNPA to consult farmer and landowners' reps on agrienv schemes, initiatives and consultations

Representative	Partnership	Description/Effectiveness for NPA and Nat Park
Officer & Member [D Millward]	Dales Woodland Forum	To advise the Authority on a range of woodland issues.
NPA Chairman	English National Park Authorities' Association (ENPAA)	'Political' group of chairs of English NPs – discuss and influence NP policy.
Officer/Member [Hammond]	Grassington Moor Management Association	Duties under the Commons Act Section 9
Officer	Green Lanes Liaison Group	North Yorkshire wide group looking at options for management of green lanes. Important that the National Park is involved.
Officer/Member [Lancaster]	Hudson House Resource Centre/NPC	Staff time commitment and financial contribution of: Capital £25,000 over 5 yrs Revenue £18,00 pa (staff and on costs)
Officer/Member [Fenten]	Joint National Parks IEG Partnership	Critical for delivery of joint NPA projects, particularly the Joint Portal
<i>No member representation at present</i>	Mosaic	With the Council for National Parks (CNP), the Black Environment Network (BEN) and a range of partners, Mosaic aims to introduce people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities to National Parks and to demonstrate how NPAs and voluntary sector organisations can engage with these communities.
W Fenten C Lis S Macaré J Pearlman	Pennine Bridleway Steering Group	In conjunction with the Countryside Agency, management and development of a national trail
Officer	Rejuvenate Wensleydale	Limited company to investigate development of the Auction Mart at Hawes. The project, currently the subject of a feasibility study, would combine improved auction mart facilities, visitor facilities and interpretation, workstation and training facilities. Exhibition space and a showcase for Dales Quality Meats.
Officer - MT	Richmond LSP - Green Living Task Group	Considers and endorses projects to be submitted for NYCC Community Fund (aka 2nd homes discount funding)

Representative	Partnership	Description/Effectiveness for NPA and Nat Park
Officer - PJB	Richmond LSP - Prosperous Communities Task Group	Considers and makes recommendations on projects bidding for NYCC Community Fund (2nd homes discount funding) and prepares Community Strategy Action Plan for this theme. In future likely to be influential in setting priorities.
Officer	Richmondshire Regeneration Board	Considers and endorses projects to be submitted for SRB or EU funding
W Fenten	Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust	To preserve, restore, maintain and protect structures that are of historic, constructional or scientific interest or exhibit craftsmanship worthy of preservation: and to promote public access and knowledge, appreciation and understanding of both the architectural features and the historical and cultural aspects of the Line.
Officer	Settle TIC Board meetings	Promotes Nat Park messages to visitors
Officer	Skipton TIC	Promotes National Park messages to visitors
NPA Chairman	South Lakeland Local Strategic Partnership	Strategic body responsible for providing framework for, and orchestrating co-ordinated action to bring about, social and economic wellbeing in area
Officer/ Member [Hammond]	Swinden Quarry Trust	To manage the investment of the trust fund for the long-term management of the site after the restoration of the quarry
Mrs D Millward J Pearlman H Brown	Yorkshire Dales Access Forum	Forum established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to advise the Authority on access issues.
J Blackie C Hammond Mrs Y Peacock	Yorkshire Dales Housing Forum	To pursue housing issues of common interest.
S Macaré	Yorkshire Dales Area Tourism Partnership	To influence bodies with tourist remit with NPA messages which in turn are passed on to visitors.
Member with Officer Adviser	Yorkshire Dales Tourism (ATP-Area Tourism Partnership)	Quarterly Board meetings (increased meetings during year 1). Member and officer adviser.
Officer/ Member [Macaré]	Yorkshire Tourism Council	To promote and develop tourism within the region
Deputy Chairman	Yorkshire & Humber Assembly	YDNPA has membership status in relation to planning issues only

Representative	Partnership	Description/Effectiveness for NPA and Nat Park
NPA Chairman but Deputy substitutes as Chair represents Craven	York & North Yorkshire Development Board	To increase investment, achieve competitive business and economic regeneration in the county
NPA Chairman with Deputy-Chairman as substitute	Yorkshire and Humber Rural Affairs Forum	Consultative body that represents regional bodies and acts as a forum for discussion on a range of regional issues
Chairman of Planning Committee	Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Planning Forum	Advises the Regional Assembly on regional spatial/land use matters and infrastructure topics. Key in preparation of Regional Planning Guidance.
S Macaré	Yorkshire Tourism Council	To promote and develop tourism within the Region.