Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 10**

25 June 2024

Attendance at The UK National Parks' Conference 24 26 September 2024

Purpose of the report

1. To agree member representation at the 2024 UK National Parks' Conference.

Recommendation

2. That four members are selected to represent the Authority at this year's National Parks' Conference in September taking place in Newcastle on the 24-26 September 2024. In addition, all NPAs have been asked if they will fund and send a delegate who might represent groups whose views/voices are not often heard/represented in our discussions

Strategic Planning Framework

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

Background

4. The UK National Parks' Conference is held every other year; the last one being in Exmoor in 2022.

5. The upcoming conference will be hosted by Northumberland National Park Authority and will take place in the city of Newcastle. This venue has been chosen in order to reduce carbon emissions by having a location that has easy access to public transport, but is close to Northumberland National Park itself.

6. The theme of the conference is '75 years of Landscapes for Everyone'. This is a generic title that seeks to encompass the wider 'equality, diversity, and inclusion' agenda. Consequently, each NPA has been asked if it is willing to send a representative to the conference, alongside its usual member delegates, that might speak for a group whose voice is not always represented within the National Park environment. Discussions are currently taking place with appropriate individuals to confirm their attendance.

7. The Authority has places for four members. This normally includes the Chair who is expected to attend other National Park business meetings at the event. In addition, we have recently received a letter from Northumberland NPA asking if we can confirm the attendance of Neil Heseltine. One of the sessions is entitled 'What should the future look like' and Mr Heseltine was approached some months ago and asked if he would take part in a panel who are leading this session. Note, that the panel will also include the representative from the 'harder to reach' group. If Members are supportive of such an approach, we would be looking for 2 other Members to attend the conference alongside the Chair and Mr Heseltine.

8. The current draft conference agenda is on the attached **appendix**.

Financial Implications

9. Attendance at the conference is an approved duty for the purposes of the payment of travel and subsistence. All hotel arrangements have already been made.

Legal Implications

10. None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

11. A delegate will be selected who could represent diverse audiences or diverse lived experience in your National Park.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

National Parks Conference 2024
75 years of Landscapes for Everyone

Northumberland National Park

Tuesday 24th September to Thursday 26th September 2024
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle
Draft Programme as of 26.04.2024

Tuesday

13:00 – 14.30	**Check in, plus** **Networking and Meet the Partners - Showcasing good practice (Conference lobby)**
14:30 – 14:50	**Opening & Welcome** Northumberland National Park Authority Chair & National Parks UK Lead Chair
14:50 – 16:00	**Why do National Parks matter to us?** A panel of experts Chaired by Karin Woodley CBE, Chair of Race Equality Foundation Including presentations and Q&A
16:00 – 17:00	**Keynote address and Policy Responses** Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (TBC), Minister for Climate & Change Wales (TBC), and Minister for Green Skills, Circular Skills and Biodiversity Scotland (confirmed)
17:00 – 17:10	**Closing remarks and top takeaways** Karin Woodley CBE
17:10 – 18:30	**Free time**
18:30 – 19:15	**Urban Safari & Dark Skies** Taster Sessions with Wild Intrigue and Newcastle Astronomical Society
19:30 – 21:00	**Reception drinks - sponsored by Northumberland County Council, followed by dinner** **at the Northern Rock Foundation Hall, The Glass House International Centre for Music** **Performance by Folkestra**
21:00 – 21:30	**Inspiring People to Care, a conversation with** Jackie Morris, Author and Artist of Lost Spells & Lost Words

Wednesday

08:30 – 16:30 **A choice of themed Landscapes for Everyone coach trips to Northumberland National Park**

16:30 – 18:30 **Free time**

18:30 – 19:30 **Drinks Reception at The Crowne Plaza – Sponsored by Hepple Spirits**

19:30 – 21:30 **Dinner**

(tables hosted by local partners)

21:30 - 22.00 **Longing to Belong**

Nadia Shaikh and Amy-Jane Beer, Right to Roam and Wild Story

Thursday

09:00 – 10:30 **What Next for National Parks?**
Creating a shared vision for EDI in National Parks with Soil Collective

10.30 - 11.00 **Break**

11:00 – 12:50 **What Should the Future Look Like?**
Presentations and panel discussion with invited partners

12:50 – 13:00 **Close NNPA Chair and hand over to the Chair of Cairngorms NPA**