YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY	**ITEM 11**
Date:	**26 March 2024**
Report:	**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

1. ENGAGEMENTS

Since the last meeting of the Authority, the Chief Executive has been involved in the following:-

Events

- Attended the launch of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, held in York.
- Attended a Managing Mental Health at Work course.
- Conducted a webinar for all Authority staff, providing updates and an opportunity to discuss: National Government and what's happening in what will be an election year; the new Levelling Up Bill and how it affects the YDNPA; the developments on the Outcomes and Targets Framework; The Mayoral Elections in May; our current financial position and work programmes; and the new National Park Management Plan.

Meetings

- NPE Board meeting in December which discussed: Paul Hamblin Award; Defra 'Nature Moment' update; League Against Cruel Sport's response; and plans for January board meeting.
- Annual review meeting with Defra officials to discuss the 2024-25 year, as well as an evaluation of key achievements/progress within the current grant period (2023/24).
- Met with the Authority's Land Agent to discuss progress on the Hawes – Garsdale multi use route.
- A meeting with the Director of Economy & Interim Head of Paid Service, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) on Devolution proposals.
- A meeting involving NPA Chairs/CEOs and NPE with Steve Reed MP, Shadow SoS (EFRA).
- An English National Park Officers meeting which discussed furthering the purposes of National Parks in light of new legislation.
- An introductory meeting with the new UK Comms Director, Meg Orpwood-Russell.
- A NPE Board meeting which discussed: National Parks England - update and plans for 2024; Protected Landscapes Partnership update and risk; finance update; and operational Update. This meeting was followed by a round table discussion with the Govt Minister Rebecca Pow on sustainable funding, powers and legislation, and 75th anniversary of the 1949 National Park legislation.
- A meeting of Defra's Outcomes Framework - External Working Group
- A meeting with the CEO of Peak District NPA, who is co-ordinating English National Park Officers Group (ENPOG) peer learning.

- A meeting of the Finance Working Group to update on the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- A meeting of Protected Landscapes Targets & Outcomes Framework. A briefing session on the framework with an opportunity to consider and reflect prior to its publication.
- A meeting with Cycling UK to discuss potential developments in the Park.
- A meeting in York with representatives of National Parks and Active Travel England (ATE) to discuss a national initiative.
- A meeting with the Member Champion for Corporate to discuss a range of current issues.
- A meeting with the Director of Park Services to discuss his role prior to his commencement of employment in late March.
- An ATE workshop with National Park Authorities - introductory session to run through all grant documents and new strategic guidance.
- A Climate Change Regional Policy Forum which discussed: 'Our Carbon Story' discussion paper; Changes to national planning policy (Written Ministerial Statement 13 Dec 2023: Regional round-up: Introduction to Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership.
- A meeting with the Chair/Deputy Chair to consider the progress and ';next steps' in implementing the Europarc Youth Manifesto.
- An introductory meeting with LibDem candidate for North Yorkshire's Mayoral elections
- An introductory meeting with David Skaith, Labour's candidate for North Yorkshire's Mayoral elections to discuss the Authority's position on public transport.
- A meeting of Board of Europarc Atlantic Isles which discussed: Governance; Finance; Event 2024 - details/update; Mentoring scheme details; Strategy reviews; Federation: On-line Europarc Conference 2024; update on work of Sections, Commissions and task force; European Day of parks; Advocacy.
- A meeting of the National Park Management Plan Partnership.
- An introductory meeting with the new Regional Manager at Sustrans to discuss potential joint working.
- An English National Park Officers Group Peer leaning meeting.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Background Papers: None

8 March 2024