YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 12**

Date: **26 September 2023**

Report: **MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS' REPORTS**

Purpose

1. To provide feedback from meetings attended by Members as representatives of the National Park Authority since the last Authority meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Members consider and note the reports from the Authority's representatives.

Background

3. Members represent the Authority on a wide variety of Partnerships and, in order to keep Members and Officers updated on this representation, formal reports are brought to each full Authority meeting.

4. Member Champions are also engaged in a wide range of activities. Champions take turns in bringing annual reports to the Authority meetings –reports were due from the Member Champions for Corporate Management and Promoting Understanding – reports attached.

5. These formal reports provide the opportunity to update members on the work of the various partnerships we are involved, a chance to question member representatives and Champions and a means by which we can continually assess the value of these partnerships and Champion roles.

6. The **Appendices** include:
   1) A list of Partnership Meetings attended in the last quarter;
   2) Report from relevant Partnership meetings: and
   3) The reports of the Member Champions for Corporate Management, Promoting Understanding and Sustainable Development.

Rebecca Eslick
Committees Officer

14 September 2023

Appendix 1

List of Partnership Meetings June 2023 – September 2023

Title	Member	Date	Attended	Report
1. Dales Woodland Forum	M Corner	22/06/23	Yes	See Report
2. Farming and Land Management Forum	N Heseltine	01/08/23 Site Visit	Yes	See Chairs Report
3. Biodiversity Forum	M Corner	01/08/23 Joint Site Visit	Yes	See Report

Appendix 2

Report on Partnership Meetings

Meeting of the Dales Woodland Forum, 22nd June 2023

This was the first face to face meeting of the Forum since the pandemic restrictions and was, disappointingly, poorly attended. Thought needs to be given to the membership of the forum and to ensuring that the agendas are relevant and substantive. It also remains frustrating that not all stakeholders seem willing to share their woodland planting plans which makes it difficult to assess progress against the woodland creation ambition in the Dales Woodland Strategy.

An update was given by Tony Serjeant on the status of the Nature Recovery Plan. The bulk of the meeting, and the two woodland site visits that followed, was dedicated to the subject of deer management and was led by Arman Siddiqui, a Deer Officer of the Forestry Commission. In the absence of natural predators, deer have increased in range and density. From a UK population of 450k in the '70s current numbers are estimated at over 2 million and pose a growing threat - through browsing, bark stripping, and fraying – to successful woodland creation and maintenance, to hedgerows, and to agriculture generally. Woodland fencing and the use of tree shelters can reduce deer damage but the use of lethal control is viewed as an essential component of successful woodland management. To be most effective, shooting should take place at a whole property or ideally at a landscape scale. Focus tends to be on targets and plans for woodland creation but the presentation and discussion was a useful reminder that appropriate aftercare, including deer management, is critical in the establishment and stewardship of woodlands.

Joint visit of the Biodiversity Forum and the Farming and Land Management Forum to Mearbeck Farm on 1st August 2023

Anthony Bradley kindly hosted the two forums to a walk around his farm. Wide ranging discussions included farming with lower inputs, improving soil health, connecting habitats, nature recovery, water quality and flood management. The joint nature of the event made it particularly informative and enjoyable.

Mark Corner

Appendix 3

a) Annual Report of the Member Champion for Corporate Management

Meetings

- Interview panel for membership of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

- Input to the Finance and Resources quarterly meetings which cuts across Deputy Chair and Member Champion roles.

- Member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group and wrote a piece to be included in the staff newsletter about the work of the group to encourage staff to become more engaged with this are of the business.

- Attendance at Member Champion meeting in support of the Chair and other Member Champions.

- Parish Forum Meeting**.**

Reviews

- Confidential Reporting Policy and Review of Anti-Fraud Bribery & Corruption Policy.

- Commented on Annual Governance Statement.

Local Government Review

- I have been able to share with the Chief Executive and Chair my experience as we have moved to Unitary Authority in North Yorkshire, assisting the authority in moving forward. My staff management experience has helped the Authority in dealing with some considerations during the cost-of-living crisis in 2022/23.

Customer Service Excellence and Investors in People

- We have retained the Customer Service award and the Investors in People assessment starts on 7th November a number of workshops have been set up, including the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group.

Julie Hutton

b) Annual Report of the Member Champion for the Promoting Undertsanding

Access, Education and Engagement

• I joined the Access and Engagement full team meeting at Colvend, with a broad range of agenda full commitment, total engagement and evidence of teamwork.

• In recent months data has shown that our targets are being exceeded especially for work with schools, with young people, with various under-served groups and in providing events across all areas.

• The DEFRA Removing Barriers Fund has enabled the Authority to purchase a Tramper for the Aysgarth Falls National Park Visitor Centre, the availability for which is being actively promoted.

• There has been an audit of Accessible Routes.

Visitor Services Review

• I am a member of the Authority's current Visitor Services Review, along with Lizzie Bushby (Member Champion for Recreation Management). This Review is due to report to the A&R Committee later in the year.

Centres

• I joined the one-day pre-season meeting for all Centre staff and managers held at DCM, which had a full and enthusiastic attendance of officers and volunteers.

• I and Lizzie Bushby have undertaken study visits and staff discussions at the Aysgarth and Grassington Visitor Centres in connection with the above-referenced Visitor Services Review.

• We have installed our first Changing Places facility, located at Dales Countryside Museum.

Craven College

• I represented YDNPA as speaker and for a Q&A session at one-day conference for Trustees and senior staff team of Craven College, who were scoping and developing their 10-year strategy. There has been subsequent follow-up passed to Authority Officers and College senior staff.

Tourism

• The former Yorkshire Dales National Park Tourism Partnership has not met for the past year, The purpose of the partnership was to bring together those bodies (the previous eight local authorities and three Destination Management Organisations) with responsibility for tourism within the Yorkshire Dales National Park area, and the three AONBs with a shared boundary. Following a national government review of the

DMO framework work is underway to establish Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEPs) at the same time as there have been fundamental changes to our own local unitary local authorities both in structures and in personnel.

• North Yorkshire Council is now leading on proposals for an LVEP and is developing a Destination Management Plan (DMP) to which we are contributing We are still continuing work with the councils and with our neighbouring AONBs on joint initiatives which may have tourism elements or implications. I am working with Julie Barker who is closely involved with development of the strategy, along with her peer in the NYMNP.

• We have provided a letter of support for NYC's application to the LVEP Panel at Visit England, as we did for Cumbria Tourism which has previously gone through a similar process and which already has LVEP status.

• The Westmorland Dales Local Distinctiveness tourism project is almost complete, and the Sense of Place toolkit resources and training for businesses is due to be delivered in October 2023

Derek Twine

c) Member Champion for Sustainable Development Update 12th September 2023

- In June the Authority set up an Advisory Group to make recommendations about which housing sites should go forward into the Publication Local Plan later this year.

- There are seven Members on the group chaired by myself and supported by officers. It has so far met four times to consider the local housing context, to agree additional sites to review and to consider the distribution of sites in relation to the Local Plan's network of towns and villages.

- The group has started to consider the 33 sites that are potentially capable of allocation and has also decided to review an additional 30 plus 7 new sites, in order to maximise the options.

- Members have asked for more information from the two Unitary Authorities and the two water companies, with the aim of making recommendations to the Authority in December.

Cllr. Richard Foster