Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 14**

31 March 2026

Report of the Chair

Engagements

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

Events

- Celebrating the establishment of the Coast to Coast as a national trail: Attended a media photo-call and lunch on 22 December near Kirkby Stephen together with Members of YDNPA, NYMNPA and LDNPA; useful informal discussions around common objectives and working methods.
- White Rose Forest Strategic Plan Launch: Attended (along with the Director of Conservation & Community) a one-day event at Leeds University which included time with Mayors for York & North Yorkshire and for West Yorkshire, and with partner organisations; able to discuss public transport as well as nature restoration and green health benefits across the Mayoralties
- Governance in Protected Landscape: attended workshop [along with Director of Corporate Services) commissioned by Defra and facilitated by University of Gloucester, reviewing “soft governance” in English National Parks (eg Member policies, working methods, risk-management, staff/Member relationships, oversight and accountabilities, etc)
- Launch of the Coast to Coast National Trail: attended (with Chief Executive) formal launch event at Reeth, organised in partnership with Natural England and attended by representatives from HMG, Defra, other partner organisations, and from NYMNPA and LDNPA, and with MPs

Meetings

- NPE Recruitment: meetings for confirming recruitment process for Executive Director, longlisting, shortlisting and interviewing; appointed Debbie Stockwell from the Renewable Energy Foundation
- Recruitment of CEO: along with members of the Recruitment Panel, attended recruitment training, and longlist and shortlist meetings with the recruitment agency, and final interviews.
- Natural England/YDNPA: meeting to review overlap of strategies and activities on Health and Wellbeing objectives, and to identify synergies for future work and funding
- Youth Council meeting: informal meeting between members of YDNPA. Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and Friends of The Dales (FoTD to review current and

planned ambitions and practices for youth engagement, and to scope potential future coordination towards a “Youth Council for the Dales”
- Co-opted Members’ Annual Review: one-year review with Youth Members of Finance & Resources Committee to evaluate engagement, support and impact, and to consider future ways of working
- NPE Board Meeting: hosted by LDNPA; agenda included finance update and 2026/2027 budget, report on Protected Landscapes Partnership, update from Office of Environmental Protection, presentation and discussion with CNP about their report on National Parks’ governance
- NPE Directors monthly Teams catch-up meeting: information exchange
- NPE Executive Director introductory meeting along with CEO and Deputy CEO
- National Parks Partnership: update meeting with Board Member
- Ripon Cathedral Consultative Council
- Chaired the Member Champion meeting
- CEO annual appraisal review meeting

Derek Twine
Chair