Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 14**

16 December 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Engagements

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

Media

- Greatest Hits Radio Interview on the launch of the National Park Management Plan.

Events

- Along with the Chair, attended the EUROPARC Conference held in Birštonas, Lithuania (refer to Chair's report Appendix).
- Chaired the annual meeting of UK NPA Access Officers in Keswick with the following agenda: Co-ordinators update & round-up; Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature; Wild Camping; Access Agreements; Disability Access Standards; Measuring Access and Accessibility; Rights of Way monitoring; Landscape Recovery Access Plans; and Active Travel Round up. Also chaired the Active Travel Meeting which discussed the following:
- Along with the Chair and several other Members, attended the official Opening of YDNPA Southern Area Ranger Base.
- Hosted a visit by Rishi Sunak MP to see completion of work done as part of improvements to the Coast-to-Coast path at White Mossy Hill in Swaledale.
- Along with the Chair, attended the launch of 'Underground worlds – caves of the Yorkshire Dales and Vietnam' at Dales Countryside Museum.
- A day with The Area Ranger (Wensleydale & Coverdale) to look at his area of work.
- The new Board Member induction for Saira Ali (Secretary of State appointee).
- Attended the Annual Remembrance Sunday wreath laying at Leyburn.
- Hosted a CEO Webinar covering the subjects of; Cross Keys Bridge, Cautley; update on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group; and Tourism – promoting the Special Qualities of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Attended a training event on equality diversity and inclusion.
- Along with the Chair, hosted the annual full staff meeting in Grassington Town Hall where the following presentations were given: National Park Management Plan; Tees-Swale Project; Friends of the Dales; Europarc Federation & Youth Council; Garsdale-

Hawes Multi-User Route; Communications Update; and Coast to Coast: where are we, next steps.

Meetings

- A meeting with representatives from Walk Wheel Cycle Trust to discuss the Garsdale - Hawes multi-user route.
- A meeting with the Chair of the Dales Biodiversity Forum to discuss future engagement opportunities.
- Along with the Chair, the Europarc Atlantic Isles Section Meeting (which attending the EUROPARC Conference in Birštonas).
- An Introductory meeting with the Chair and CEO of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.
- A Liaison Meeting with Friends of the Dales which discussed: YDNP Management Plan; Governance and funding of NPA; Trustee changes and involving young people; Friends of the Dales Lead Campaign; Proposed LURA changes; Local Plan – barns policy; and Hope Moor Wind farm proposal.
- A meeting with Richmondshire Dementia Action Alliance to discuss community housing and healthcare in the National Park.
- An NPE Board Meeting which discussed: Chair's report, NPE Organisational Design & Strategy; Unlocking private finance in National Parks, and Farming in England's National Parks.
- A meeting with Active Travel England to discuss the National Parks Active Travel Project Phase 2.
- The Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan Annual Forum where the following were presented: a summary of the achievements and challenges from 2019-2024 Management Plan; introduction to the updated Management Plan for 2025-2030; details of each of the 6 long-term ambitions in the Management Plan and the key objectives that the partners hope to achieve in the next 5 years..
- Two English National Park Officers meetings.
- A meeting with Defra officials to discuss the format of the forthcoming National Park Authority Annual Review meetings.
- A meeting with the Chair of NPE to discuss future work programmes.
- Hosted a liaison meeting with North York Moors Senior Management Team colleagues where the following were discussed: Performance related processes – how do they differ, potentially identify areas for improvement; Overview of both National Park Authorities – key management team priorities, opportunities & risks; NYM Parish Forum Review – lessons learned; Approach to capitalising revenue costs; Active Travel – compare and contrast journeys; Relationship with Combined Authority and joint working; Regenerative farming/farm advice/Defra Pathfinder; NYM Management Plan review re partners' delivery of objectives; and Dales Management Plan review –

what's worked and hasn't in terms of engagement with partners; Local Plan reviews; and Opportunities for joint working.

- A discussion with a DfT official regarding the path creation order at Garsdale – Hawes.
- Along with the Chair, the on-line Autumn Parish Forum. Attended by representatives from 22 Parishes within the National Park where the following were discussed: Affordable Housing - NYC Rural Housing Enablers; Production of a Clapham Neighbourhood Plan; National Park Management Plan; Update on Active Travel projects; Recent Parish Initiatives – Settle Town Council
- The National Parks Partnership AGM which discussed the Annual Report and Annual Accounts & Audit.
- A meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership where the following were discussed: Cumbria Combined Authority; Cumbria Anchor Collaborative Update, including Cumbria Good Work Charter; Local Skills Improvement Plan and Connect to Work update; and Partner updates
- A National Park Management Plan Partnership Meeting where the following were discussed: Accountability Framework for NPMP 2025-30; Objectives: Baseline and Monitoring; Wildfire Risks; Partnership Membership and Wider Governance; Costing the Objectives; and Partner updates on objectives.
- A NPE Extraordinary Board Meeting to discuss Executive Director Recruitment.
- A meeting of the NPUK Chairs and CEOs where the following were discussed: NPP Update; UK Climate Change Working Group Update; UK Nature Update; National Policy updates and NPUK Conference 2026.
- Along with the Chair, a meeting of NPE (agenda unknown at time of preparing this report).

ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE

3. Chief Executive delegated decision under the Scheme of Delegation to Committees and Officers (Terms of Reference) December 2022 (as amended 26 March 2024 and 9 December 2024)

The scheme of delegation C1.1 enables the CEO to authorise urgent action requiring an immediate decision on any matter, subject to consultation with the Chair of the Authority or the Chair of the appropriate Committee to which the function is delegated and to a subsequent report to the Authority or Committee. The summary below details the decision that has been made under the urgency provisions and the reasons for that decision.

Date	Delegated Decision	Reasons for decision taken
20/10/2025	To appoint Saira Ali to Audit & Review Committee. To appoint Dan Holmes to Finance & Resources Committee. To appoint Saira Ali and Dan Holmes to Planning Committee.	The decision ensures that vacant Secretary of State positions on both Audit and Review Committee and Finance and Resources Committee are filled and that Secretary of State Members who have resigned from Planning Committee are replaced. The decision taken also ensures that

	To appoint Julie Hutton as the Secretary of State Member substitute for Planning Committee.	a Secretary of State Member is appointed as substitute to Planning Committee.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive