Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 15**

25 June 2024

Report of The Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on engagements the Chief Executive has been involved in since the last Authority meeting in March 2024.

Media

- An interview with the Yorkshire Post on the 75th Anniversary of National Parks. Topics covered included: What difference the National Park has made over the last 70 years; The issues we have currently face in terms of funding (core grant); Affordable housing for people to live and work in the National Park and the work we're doing with partners on nature recovery.

Meetings

- North York Moors staff meeting as a guest.
- Induction of the new Director for Park Services: Elliott Lorimer.
- A meeting with a prospective Mayoral Candidate for North Yorkshire.
- A National Parks England (NPE) CEOs away day in North York Moors where the following was seen and discussed: viewing of the Linking Levisham Project site; NPE policy approach - who takes on what roles; What policies we need and how to approach development; Stakeholder mapping and approaches
- Two English National Park Officers meetings where the following were discussed: NPE updates on Staffing, AGM, Chairs induction and venue for October meeting. Membership approach. Funding updates: Spending review and Generation Green. Policy updates on Management Plan guidance, Protected Landscape Partnership and Active Travel. Communications update on national comms activity; NGO meeting in the New Forest; Conference (by exception) and Performance indicators.
- A session on Peer Learning and development with the NPE CEOs.
- National Parks England Board meeting where the following was discussed: NPE chair update; Funding settlement; Looking ahead to AGM; NPE Executive Director Update; operational updates; Staffing at NPE; Membership; Ministerial letter re Farming in Protected Landscapes
- Two meetings with representatives of Active Travel England (ATE) to discuss joint working with English National Park Authorities.
- Chaired a meeting of NPA Officers implementing the ATE proposals.
- Two Europarc Atlantic Isles meetings which discussed: contributions to the EAI strategy; Governance – 2024; Welcome new board members; Europarc Council representation 2024 onwards; Finance/membership update; Event 2024 -

details/update; Mentoring scheme; Strategy reviews; Focus on Board skills audit; Federation; Europarc Conference 2024 – online 6 and 7 of November 2024; European Day of parks; Sections; Advocacy: [Defra, Scotland, Wales Ireland]; Representation to: National Landscapes Conference; National Trails Conference; National Parks Conference and others.

- Annual appraisal, conducted by the Chair.
- Inaugural meeting of the newly formed Cumbria Strategic Partnership Chaired by CEO of Westmorland & Furness Council to discuss issues, plans and opportunities for Cumbria through future working relationships and joint agendas.
- The spring Southern Parishes Forum held at Grassington, chaired by Liz Appleton-Hall. Topics for discussion were: National Park Management Plan 2025-2029; Outcomes Framework/Levelling Up Act; Local Plan Progress; Update on local projects and the Residents' Survey. The Forum was attended by 13 representatives from 8 parishes.
- The spring Northern Parishes Forum held at Aysgarth Falls Café and Chaired by Allen Kirkbride. Topics for discussion were: National Park Management Plan 2025-2029; Outcomes Framework/Levelling Up Act; Local Plan Progress; Electric Vehicle Parking; Update on local projects; Residents' Survey and Update on Hawes to Garsdale Multi Use Route. The Forum was attended by 5 representatives from 4 parishes.
- The Spring Western Parish Forum held at Sedbergh People's Hall, chaired by Libby Bateman. Topics for discussion were: Development and Design of farm buildings; National Park Management Plan 2025-2029; Outcomes Framework/Levelling Up Act; Local Plan Progress; Update on Projects; Residents' Survey and Ideas for future Forum meetings. The Forum was attended by 10 representatives from 8 parishes.
- Along with the Chair, the annual National Park Management Plan Forum held at Settle Victoria Hall.
- Along with the Chair, a Friends of the Dales/YDNPA liaison meeting at which the following were discussed: Local Plan update; Update on PROW funding; Nature Recovery Plan and the National Park Management Plan; Suggestions for possible new Trustees; Telecommunications masts; NYC and transport/Dalesbus.
- Along with the Chair, a meeting with the CEO and Leader of North Yorkshire Council to discuss Public Rights of Way.
- UK CEOs where the following was discussed: Chairs Forum; CEO lead roles and changes; Update on UK communications work; Race to Zero; Taking the lead on nature recovery; 2024 UK Conference; Expressions of Interest for national member induction programme and the year ahead.
- The NPE AGM and Board meeting: The election of Chair and Deputy for NPE took place and Vanessa Rowlands Chair of South Downs NPA was elected Chair with Tiffany Hunt, Chair of Lake District NPA, elected Deputy Chair:
  AGM agenda items were to: Approve minutes of the last AGM; Presentation of work of NPE – NPE Staff team; Approve NPE's Accounts 2023/24 and Words from new Chair.
  Board meeting agenda items discussed were: Approve minutes from meeting held on 17 April 2024; Executive Director's report and Approval of budget for 2024/25.
- National Park Management Plan Partnership Meeting.
- Assisted with the NPE interviews for a Policy and Public Affairs Manager.
- A day with the Access & Engagement Project Officer to look at her work role and work with young people on the National Citizens Service project.

Issues for Members to Note

2. Chief Executive delegated decision under the Scheme of Delegation to Committees and Officers (Terms of Reference) December 2022 (as amended 26 March 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 was made on 11 June 2024 under the urgency provisions and the reasons for that decision.

Cross Keys Accessible Bridge Project: To underwrite the current estimated budget shortfall for the 'Cross Keys Accessible Bridge Project' of £77k.

To allow the commencement of works by early June 2024 and completion by end March 2025; a requirement for the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (which is supporting the majority of the costs for this project).

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

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