Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 2**
Audit and Review Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at the YDNPA offices, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 10:30am.

Members Present:

Liz Appleton Hall, Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Robert Heseltine, Andrew Murday, Yvonne Peacock, Graham Simpkins.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

The Chair welcomed Katie Barnard (Internal Auditor, Veritau Ltd) and Rob Jones (External Auditor, Ernst & Young LLP)

09/24 Election of Chair

Mark Corner was nominated for the position of Chair of the Committee. Following a brief election address.

Resolved – That Mark Corner be elected Chair of the Audit and Review Committee, to hold office until the first Committee meeting following the annual general meeting of the Authority in 2025.

Mark Corner in the Chair

10/24 Election of Deputy Chair

Liz Appleton Hall was nominated for the position of Deputy Chair. Following a brief address.

Resolved – That Liz Appleton Hall be elected Deputy Chair of the Audit and Review Committee, to hold office until the first Committee meeting following the annual general meeting of the Authority in 2025.

11/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Ian Mitchell, and Steve Shaw Wright.

12/24 Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

13/24 Public Questions/Statements

No notifications of public questions or of the intention to make a statement had been received.

14/24 Declarations of Lobbying

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

15/24 Detailed Annual Review of Performance 2023/24

Considered – the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, presented to Members by the Chief Executive.

Discussion included the following:

- Query relating to how the Enforcement cases were resolved. The Authority's solicitor explained that there were a variety of reasons for the closure of cases. Examples given were that, the breach may have been rectified or an application had been received or it was not expedient to pursue enforcement action. A request for more detail to be included in subsequent reports.
- Clarification was sought about the 6-month extension of the Farming in Protected Landscape grant.
- Concern was raised about Water Quality and a member suggested the River Trust may be able to play a role in helping to improve the water quality, as well as landowners and the other bodies responsible for the quality of water in the National park.
- Query relating to the procurement of a fleet of Electric Vehicles and if that would contribute significantly to the objective of 95% by 2030. Officers to report back to Members.
- Query about the order in which this report is presented to the whole authority before the Audit and Review Committee. The Chief Executive agreed to look at the Calendar of meetings.
- Query about the cost of a protracted enforcement case. The Solicitor explained that the Authority should receive its costs back.

Resolved -To **Approve** the report.

16/24 Internal Audit Plan 2024/25

Considered and **noted** the report of the Head of Finance and the Internal Auditors plan presented by Internal Auditor, Veritau ltd. The Chair queried whether it would be possible to link the proposed Audit work on Climate Change with that of the Member Working Group examine the Authority's performance in relation to Carbon Reduction. Officers to consider.

Resolved – To **approve** the Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25

17/24 Performance Review of Delegated Statutory Highway Duties and Carbon Reduction Plan

Considered the report of the Director Park Services and the Director of Corporate Services.

Resolved – To **approve**

a) Mark Corner as the Member from the Audit and Review Committee, and the membership of the team as set out in the report for the performance review of Delegated Highways duties and, agree the scope of the review as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report.

b) Steve Shaw Wright as the Member from the Audit and Review Committee, alongside the membership set out in the report for the performance review of the Carbon Reduction Plan and, agree the scope of the review as set out in **Appendix 2** of the report.

18/24 External Auditors' Report on 2021-22

Considered the report of the Head of Finance and the External Auditors report from Ernst & Young LLP.

The Committee **Noted** the report.

19/24 Value for Money Opinion External Auditors Report 2022-23

Considered and **noted** the report of the Head of Finance and the External Auditors Value for Money Opinion from Ernst & Young LLP.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:10 p.m.

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