YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 4**
AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the YDNPA offices, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL on Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 10:30am.

Members Present:

Lizzie Bushby, Mark Corner, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, Allen Kirkbride, Jim Munday (in the chair), Yvonne Peacock and Steve Shaw-Wright.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

The Chair thanked Richard Good and Sandy Lancaster (who have now left the Authority) for their past work as Committee Members, and welcomed Steve Shaw-Wright to the Committee.

01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Liz AppletonHall and Andrew Murday.

02/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

03/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

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

04/23 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

No declarations of lobbying were made at the meeting.

05/23 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23

CONSIDERED – the report of the Director of Corporate Services and s151 Officer.

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members of the following amendments to the Annual Governance Statement as follows:-

- Para 1 Purpose of the Governance Framework 1.1 - 3rd line replace the words “and leads” to ‘working with’.

- Para 6 (j) – S151 Officer - replace the words “and sits on the Senior Management Team” to “has access to the Senior Management Team”.

DISCUSSION included the following:

- The suggestion that some means of reconnecting the work of committees back to the full Authority meeting (other than circulation of minutes), such as a short verbal briefing by the Chairs of Committees, would be taken to the Chair and Chief Executive to consider further;
- Some Members raised concern about any potential reduction in membership in light of the Landscapes Review. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Chief Executive would brief Members once more details were received from the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED -

a) To APPROVE the Annual Governance Statement to accompany the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts; and
b) To CONFIRM that, subject to the matters identified in Table B which are to be addressed in 2023/24, the Authority’s internal control systems and governance arrangements are considered to be adequate and effective.

06/23 PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERED – the report of the Director of Conservation and Community.

Appreciation was expressed to the Planning Team for the high quality of the service provided.

RESOLVED - To NOTE the findings of the review and to APPROVE the recommendations for future action set out in paragraph 23 of the report.

07/23 PROGRAMME OF REVIEWS FOR 2023/24

CONSIDERED - the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

RESOLVED -

a) To APPROVE a Performance Review of the Authority’s main Visitor Services with terms of reference as detailed in Annex B of the report;
b) To APPOINT Lizzie Bushby as the Committee Member to assist in leading this Performance Review; and
c) To APPROVE a Major Project Review of the “Miles without Stiles” programme.

08/23 REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS

CONSIDERED – the report of the Deputy Chief Executive.

The Committee was advised that the Housing Board for North Yorkshire had been re-instated and that the Chief Executive had used his delegated powers to appoint Richard Foster, Member Champion for Sustainable Development and former Chair of the previous Housing Group, to represent the Authority on that partnership until the AGM in June.

The Committee NOTED the revised list of strategic partnerships (Appendix B of the report) and the range and scale of current project partnerships (Appendix C of the report).

09/23 REVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS – PENNINE NATIONAL TRAILS PARTNERSHIP

CONSIDERED – the report of the Committees Officer and the Director of Corporate Services.

The Committee NOTED the report.

10/23 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS 2022/23

CONSIDERED – the report of the Corporate Services Officer, who advised the Committee that the final decision from the Ombudsman was still awaited.

The Committee NOTED the report.

11/23 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23

CONSIDERED – the report of the Head of Finance and the annual report of the Authority's Internal Auditor, Veritau Ltd.

The Committee NOTED the report and thanked Internal Auditor for the report.

12/23 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

CONSIDERED and NOTED – the report of the Treasurer.

Concern was expressed about the significant delays in the production of the External Audit. The Treasurer advised the Committee that the External Audit for 2021-22 was still outstanding due to a national shortage of public authority auditors. This is having an ongoing impact for the External Audit 2022/23 and 2023/24. The Authority is continuing to do all it can to chase the delayed audit report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:10pm