Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 8**

1 October 2024

Appointment of Member Champion for Development Management.

Purpose of report

1. To appoint a member to the role of Member Champion for Development Management.

Recommendation

2. That members consider the application from Mr Murday for the role of Member Champion for Development Management and, if they are content with it, make an appointment for a period of 3 years.

Background

3. Mr Murday is the only Member who has indicated an interest in the role of Member Champion for Development Management. His expression of interest is attached as **Appendix 1**.

6. The role description is attached as **Appendix 2.**

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Appendix 1

Member Champion – Development Management

Expression of Interest

I would like to be considered for the position of member champion for development management.

I have been a member of the authority since 2022, as a representative from North Yorkshire County Council, now North Yorkshire Council. I sit on the Planning and the Audit and Review committees.

I have lived in the Yorkshire Dales, albeit within the Nidderdale National Landscape rather than the National Park, for the past 15 years. On a small scale, I have some personal experience of local agriculture, having kept a smallholding for most of my time in the area.

I have extensive high-level management experience within the National Health Service, having been director of heart and lung services in the West of Scotland for a number of years, and also took clinical responsibility for a national service within Scotland.

I also have direct insight of the issues facing protected landscapes, being chair of the Nidderdale National Landscape for the past year.

Planning is an important function of the authority, particularly in view of the potential changes proposed by the new government. I have learnt a lot about planning in the past two years, particularly with reference to the statutory functions of the national park. I see the primary role of member champion to be a link between the planning officers and the authority members, enabling all of us to oversee the appropriate development, in all senses, of the park for its inhabitants and visitors.

I hope that the authority members will give me the opportunity to fulfil this role.

Andrew Murday

Appendix 2

Member Champions

The key role of each Member Champion is to support the achievement of the Authority's policies and objectives for that area of work. The exact way in which any Member Champion does this will depend on the individual Member and the particular area of work. Nonetheless, there are some general roles that form part of the job description for each Member Champion:

a. represent and champion the area of work externally, including acting as a 'public face' of the Authority through the media;

b. assist officers with the implementation of the Authority's policies, and the achievement of the Authority's objectives for that area of work;

c. assist officers in the formulation of new policy proposals for the area of work before formal consideration by the Authority or its committees. They are expected to bring the `Members' perspective' to these discussions.

d. champion the area of work within the Authority, including introducing relevant reports that come to the Authority and its committees, or speaking first in the subsequent debate.

e. act as a 'critical friend' to officers and encourage improvement, for example where the Authority may not be meeting its objectives or targets for the area of work.

The specific issues relating to Development Management Member Champion role are set out below.

Development Management Member Champion

Authority programmes covered

- Development Management
- Planning Enforcement
- Minerals

Current representative roles

To represent the Authority in the media in relation to planning decisions.

To represent the Development Management function at Parish Council/Parish Forum and other public meetings.

Note: The Member Champion does not include any special role in relation to individual planning applications (other than the normal 'representational role' that all Members have). The Member Champion should not be directly involved in working with officers to negotiate with applicants to resolve issues on a particular application before it reaches Committee.

Current Issues in Development Management

1. Managing workload to meet national performance targets during a period of staff vacancies.

2. Retaining senior experienced staff and recruiting suitable replacements.

3. Contributing to the Draft Local Plan process to ensure policies can be effectively implemented.

4. Produce an updated Design Guide to accompany the new Local Plan which reflects Government design guidance and the Authority's priorities in relation to climate change and nature recovery.

5. Producing Development Briefs for the larger sites to be allocated in the new Local Plan for housing development.

6. Promoting an accurate picture of the Development Management service and Planning Committee decision-making amongst residents;

Induction programme and ongoing commitments

- Briefing with Head of Development Management;
- Job shadowing a Senior Planning Officer, Enforcement Officer and Senior Planning Technician;
- Following an application through the full Planning Committee cycle;
- Conservation and Community Directorate meetings (every 6 months);
- Conservation and Community Directorate Management Team meetings (every 2 months);
- Media training

Lead Officer

Richard Graham, Head of Development Management.

Revised August 2024