

**Date: 13 December 2022****Report: REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **1. ENGAGEMENTS**

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

### **Media**

- An interview with the Guardian Newspaper on the current issues facing English National Park Authorities.

### **Events**

- Along with the Chair and other members, attended the UK National Parks' Conference in Exmoor to meet, learn, share ideas and be inspired through visits, talks and discussions: see separate report.
- Along with the Chair, attended the Autumn Europarc Conference and Annual Assembly 2022 which focussed on the theme of Climate Change, as part of the LIFE Natur'Adapt project: see Chair's report.
- Laid a wreath on behalf of the NPA at the Leyburn and District Act of Remembrance.
- Attended and spoke at the Dales Volunteers Annual Conference.
- Chaired the UK National Park Access Officers Annual meeting, hosted by Dartmoor NPA.
- Along with the Chair, a visit to the North York Moors prior to the National Parks England (NPE) Board meeting.
- Along with the Chair, the YDNP Management Plan annual forum meeting.
- Delivered NPE induction sessions with the new Chairs of the Lake District and South Downs NPA, and the new CEO of the Peak District NPA.
- A Menopause Awareness staff training session.
- Attended and gave a presentation to the Friends of the Dales' Policy & Planning Committee.
- Chaired and presented at the annual staff meeting with Chair/Deputy in attendance.

### **Meetings**

- Weekly meetings with the Interim Director of National Parks England (NPE) as Lead Officer for NPE.
- 2 Meetings of an NPE task and finish group to look at the future of NPE.
- Monthly 1:1 meetings with the Policy Officer of NPE.
- Monthly 1:1 meetings with the Defra's Director of Natural Environment Trees & Landscapes.

- Along with the Chair, attended a meeting of the National Parks UK (NPUK) Chairs Forum.
- Along with the Chair, attended a National Parks Partnership (NPP) meeting to discuss Defra funding.
- A meeting with Defra Minister Lord Benyon to discuss Traffic Regulation Orders and Green Lanes.
- An NPE Board Meeting with the following agenda items: Appointment of Deputy Chair; Lead National Park Officer update; NPEs four Delivery Plans update; Update from NPP; Chair's report; Future of National Parks England; NPE Strategic Comms and Meeting dates for 2023.
- The YDNPA Annual Strategic Discussion Review Meeting with Defra.
- A meeting with NPE Executive Director and Campaign for National Parks (CNP) Chief Executive to discuss CNP's 5 Year Strategic Plan.
- A meeting of the Finance Sub-Group Meeting to discuss the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- A meeting with the Chair of the All Parks Parliamentary Group (APPG) Sir Gary Streeter, to discuss the content of the next 18 Months APPG's.
- A meeting of the Chief Executives' Group - North Yorkshire and York - where the following was discussed: North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – risk and resource model; Cost of living update; Moving unitary transition forward; Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and devolution update; Report of the York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull (YNYERH) Directors of Development Group.
- Chaired monthly meeting of the English National Park Officers Group where the following were discussed: Government Updates/Issues: Future deficits/Defra discussion; Feedback from annual review meetings with Defra; National Park Trails Update; Levelling up Bill & Potential amendments; APPG – update from meeting with Sir Gary Streeter; Development Work: Communications Campaign; NPE Intelligence sharing on Work Programs/Government Priorities/Management Plans & Outcomes Framework; Update on international work around CoP15 and a Memo of Understanding with China.
- Two meetings of the Europarc Atlantic Isles (EAI) Board with the following on the agendas: Governance: Treasurer / Diversity, ; Finance: Brief update & Membership update; Accounts for 21/22, Advocacy: Defra/ Landscape review; Consultation on the Government's response to the Landscapes Review; Finalize EAI Strategy; Member's event, site visits, webinars. Federation: Conference France: General Assembly, Meeting of Sections & EAI section meeting; Landscape conference, UK National Parks Conference, AONBs update; Sections Partnership Agreement; Comms Strategy.
- The Investors in people (IIP) 12-month review meeting.
- National Park CEOs meeting with Defra Officials – to discuss Finance: Collective financial pressures; Collective financial outlook for NPAs; Defra's 'policy stance' i.e. where Government want NPAs to prioritise their work.

## **2. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE**

That the Chair: Neil Heseltine was elected as Deputy Chair of National Parks England at the Board meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.

**David Butterworth**  
**Chief Executive**  
 29 Nov 2022