

## APPENDIX 1

### REVIEW OF ENGLISH NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES – RELEVANT EXTRACTS FROM THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S RESPONSE TO ALUN MICHAEL ON 9 OCTOBER 2002

#### Key points in our covering letter

**Recommendation 42** – we welcome and look forward to further discussion by DEFRA with National Park Authorities on the refinement of the basis for determining funding allocations based on a recurring needs baseline, and a performance based element (and exceptional pressures). Best Value Performance Plans have highlighted the resource needs to deliver priority work in line with the government's agenda related to National Parks.

**Recommendation 46** – is that all National Park grant should come direct from central government rather than, as now, 25% being re-directed via the local authorities. The arguments for and against this seem quite finely balanced. We did not press to change existing arrangements and are aware of concerns about centralisation from some of our Members and from the constituent authorities. We are not pressing for this change, but recognise that if a change is made it is practical. (Note that this recommendation and the responses are still under consideration by Defra).

#### Summary of the Relevant Defra Recommendations about Sponsorship and Resources and our views which accompanied the letter to Alun Michael

The 2 August 2002 Seminar was for Members of the Authority in advance of consultations with our Stakeholders and a Special Authority meeting on 27 September. ' ' denotes our agreement with recommendations. Points in 'bold' were specific comments from the Peak and the 'suggested next steps' were from Defra, who are now regularly reviewing progress and action with National Park Authorities.

Agreed ( ) 2 August 02 Seminar	Sponsorship and Resources	Suggested next step (Lead organisation and lead Peak officer)
<b>Discussion with DEFRA welcomed</b>	42: The basis for determining funding allocations should be refined. There should be two elements: i) recurring needs based baseline: this would involve establishment of baseline funding for each Park based on <u>recurring</u> needs or pressures common across National Parks. <b>(Recurring needs baseline must include new needs as a result of the review, and the "fixed costs" will vary from Park to Park).</b> ii) performance based element (and exceptional pressures): this would be allocated on the basis of past performance and forward programmes. <b>(Exceptional needs may be permanent as well as time limited and should cope with both. Our exceptional pressures need to include minerals).</b>	Discuss with National Park Authorities.  (DEFRA) (CJH with PH/PN & ANPOs)
	43: The Government should consider introducing National Park Authority service agreements, based on the local public service agreements agreed between the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and local authorities.	Discuss scope and content of agreements with National Park Authorities. (DEFRA) (CJH with PH/PN & ANPOs)
	44: DEFRA should work with National Park Authorities to improve the quality of the information supporting Park Authority bids and to develop better system of evaluating outcomes.	Convene meeting to consider action. (DEFRA & National Park Authorities) (CJH with PH/PN & ANPOs)
	45: Greater certainty and continuity of funding should, if possible, be given to National Park Authorities. <b>(This is crucial for future planning and implementation of our work with partners)</b>	This should be done as part of developing National Park Authority service agreements. (DEFRA)  (PH with NPO, ANPOs & PN)

Agreed ( ) 2 August 02 Seminar	Sponsorship and Resources	Suggested next step (Lead organisation and lead Peak officer)
See comments in the covering report and Appendix 4	46: All National Park grant should come direct from central Government rather than, as now, 25% being redirected via local authorities.	Consider public comments invited by October (see Ministerial statement). Legislation would be needed. (DEFRA) (PH with NPO, ANPOs & PN)
	47: National Park Authorities should be encouraged to seek greater access to other sources of funding, including lottery funds.  <b>(This is certainly being done in the Peak – eg Heritage Lottery funds for Moors for the Future, Millennium Awards, New Opportunities funding at Losehill Hall. All external funding should be additional. Core funding should not be reduced by DEFRA as a result of successful lottery bids. The external monies should not negate the need for borrowing powers - see recommendation 49).</b>	Authorities to report to DEFRA annually on securing other sources of funding.  (National Park Authorities) (JNT with External Funding Team)
	48: DEFRA should issue guidance to National Park Authorities on the scope for, and limitations on, Authorities securing additional funding through sponsorship and/or product marketing.	Draft guidance.  (DEFRA) (JNT with External Funding Team)
	49: DEFRA should, in consultation with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), National Park Authorities and the Countryside Agency, look at scope for devising borrowing arrangements for the Park Authorities, which would enable them to undertake capital expenditure projects.  <b>(This would be particularly welcome in line with our previous representations)</b>	DEFRA to discuss options with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.  (DEFRA) (PH with NPO, ANPOs & PN)