
MINUTES

Meeting: **Audit Resources & Performance Committee**

Date: Friday 22 January 2016 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Cllr C Furness, Mrs P Anderson, Mrs F Beatty, Cllr A R Favell,
Mr Z Hamid, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Ms S Leckie, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke,
Cllr Mrs L C Roberts, Cllr F J Walton and Cllr D Williams

Mr P Ancell and Cllr D Chapman attended to observe and speak but not vote.

Apologies for absence: Cllr C McLaren and Cllr Mrs N Turner.

1/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 6 NOVEMBER 2015

The minutes of the last meeting of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee held on 6 November 2015 were approved as a correct record.

2/16 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

The Chief Executive (CEO) announced the appointment of Simon Malcolm as the Authority's new Director of Commercial Development and Outreach.

A letter about the outcome of the Chancellor's Spending Review had been received from Rory Stewart OBE MP on 21 January. It confirmed that Defra funding over the next four years for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty would be protected in real terms and reflected the value placed on work being done across a whole range of important issues. The Chief Executive read out extracts from the letter and said that she would be informing staff about the confirmed funding immediately after the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the Authority in particular for her many visits to London to meet ministers. She would continue to meet government ministers with the Chief Executive and the Chairs and CEOs of the other UK National Parks during the formulation and construction of a 25-year Environment Plan and a new Plan for the National Parks.

3/16 MOORS FOR THE FUTURE (MFF) OPERATIONAL PLAN 2016-2017 (SLD/CD)

Members viewed a short presentation given by the Programme Manager, who highlighted achievements in the year 2015/16. He reported on operational progression from the stabilisation of vulnerable moorland in the Dark Peak towards its restoration and management.

Members were informed that the "Look Back" section of the MFF Operational Plan would in future form part of a separate Annual Report.

Risk management included a contract to improve the existing broadband connection at The Moorland Centre, subject to the results of a site survey.

Members thanked the Programme Team, Management Team and other officers.

The recommendation was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Resources and Performance Committee supports this 2016-17 Operational Plan and recommends it to the Moors for the Future Partnership's Strategic Management Group.

4/16 WOODLANDS DISPOSAL PROJECT (SMCK)

Members received an update on the six freehold disposals completed so far, noting that six are due to be sold in phase 2. Approval was sought from Members for a further 28 freehold disposals totalling 40 woodlands covering 32 hectares, which equated to 50% of the Authority's whole portfolio and 25% of the freehold woodlands area.

An additional recommendation at number 2 caused the original recommendations 2 and 3 to become 3 and 4. Recommendation 4 was amended by the deletion of the words "continue to".

The additional and amended recommendations were moved, seconded, voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the progress to date on woodland disposals.**
- 2. Depending on the outcome of the further investigations explained in paragraph 9 of the report, Members approve the disposal of any or all of the 28 woodlands listed in the table also at paragraph 9.**
- 3. To agree that the tolerance level on the final price for disposal is agreed by the Head of Finance and Director of Conservation and Planning in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee.**
- 4. To delegate decisions on future disposals of woodlands with similar under values to the Head of Finance and Director of Conservation and Planning in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee.**

5/16 GROWING AND DEVELOPING THE VISITOR ECONOMY SECTOR WITHIN DERBYSHIRE GRANT ACCEPTANCE (RG/LT)

This report sought Members' approval to accept the sum of £225K from the European Regional Development Fund to enable delivery of the Pedal Peak District Initiative, potentially beginning in February 2016.

Members acknowledged the complexity of working with many partners including the other UK National Parks and commended officers for securing funding to realise the wider vision for cycling.

A second recommendation was moved and seconded, to acknowledge the significant benefits to the health and economy of the wider Peak District.

The recommendations were moved, seconded, voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve receipt of £225K grant from ERDF funding via Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce for the 'Growing and Developing the Visitor Economy Sector within Derbyshire' programme to enable the Authority to deliver the Pedal Peak District Initiative' strand, and to approve spending this funding as outlined in paragraph 4.2.
2. In approving Recommendation 1, Members acknowledged the work done in the wider Peak District that had resulted in significant benefits both to health and the economy.

A break was taken between 11.20 am and 11.25 am.

6/16 2015/16 QUARTER 3 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT (A9194/WA)

The traffic light system of visually categorising levels of performance was considered and the individual status of some areas discussed. It was noted that an extended consultation process had slightly delayed the North Lees Management Plan Review, resulting in an amber status for the priority actions identified in C2a.

Members congratulated officers on the success of the Stange Stickers scheme.

An update was given on the enforcement figures in C3 with 93 cases resolved year to date against a year end target of 120.

The Chair reported a successful Micro Scrutiny Panel Meeting on 8 January, the notes of which were to be circulated to all members.

The recommendations were moved, seconded, voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Quarter 3 Corporate Performance Return, given in Appendix 1, is reviewed and any remedial action agreed.
2. That the Corporate Risk Register, summary given in Appendix 2 be reviewed and status of risks accepted.
3. That the status of complaints and Freedom of Information Requests, given in Appendix 3, be noted.

7/16 GIVING STRATEGY (MB)

The Assistant Director reported receipt of a further £1,500 since the publication of her report and stated that the Giving Strategy would be regularly reviewed with a first report back to Members in March 2017. Members noted that the new Director of Commercial Development and Outreach would have a central role in driving the Strategy forward, to include liaison at a national level with key partners.

The CEO confirmed that the three-year (2016-2019) Giving Strategy was about giving and donations, not sponsorship, and added that the Authority would have four years in which to develop it, focusing upon its unique assets.

The recommendations of the report were moved but not seconded, therefore the motion fell. A new motion to refer the report to a full Authority Meeting whilst expressing support for it in principle was moved and debated. Members wished to give the new commercial director the opportunity to get the measure of the task but time constraints were acknowledged, as he would not be in post until 22 February and the earliest meeting of the Authority after that was 18 March. Delaying a decision beyond that would result in a delay of several weeks running into the summer season.

The new motion was seconded, voted upon and carried. Cllr C Furness voted against the motion.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To support in principle the report and the direction of the proposed Giving Strategy but REFER the Strategy to a meeting of the full Authority for consideration on a date to be agreed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.**
- 2. That a provision of an additional amount of £58k to be made in the February budget report making it clear it is subject to a further report on the Giving Strategy to the Authority meeting**

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm