
MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 17 March 2017 at 10.00 am
Venue:	The Board Room, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
Chair:	Cllr Mrs L C Roberts
Present:	Mr P Ancell, Mrs P Anderson, Mrs F Beatty, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr P Brady, Cllr C Carr, Cllr A R Favell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr N Gibson, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr H Laws, Cllr Mrs C Howe, Cllr J Macrae, Cllr A McCloy, Cllr C McLaren and Cllr Mrs K Potter
Apologies for absence:	Cllr D Chapman, Mr D Greenhalgh, Ms S Leckie, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke, Ms S McGuire, Cllr Mrs N Turner, Cllr Mrs J A Twigg and Mr D Williams

6/17 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that five applications had been received so far for the two Secretary of State vacancies. The closing date for applications was Wednesday 22 March.

Members were informed of the forthcoming retirement of Ken Smith, Cultural Heritage Manager, at the end of March 2017. Members thanked the officer for his work over 35 years with the Authority.

Andrea McCaskie, Head of Law, was thanked for her support to the Authority as Acting Director of Corporate Strategy and Development during the interim between the departure of Ruth Marchington and the start date for the new Director on 8 May 2017.

7/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 3 FEBRUARY 2017

The minutes of the National Park Authority meeting on 3 February 2017 were approved as a correct record.

8/17 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to report.

9/17 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 9

Cllr Mrs K Potter declared a personal interest as a member of CPRE and because she knew one of the speakers, Mr J Lambert.

It was noted that both Cllr K Potter and Cllr C Furness had received a phone call from one of the speakers, Dr P Owens.

Cllr J Macrae declared a personal interest as a member of CPRE

Item 10

Cllr A Hart declared a prejudicial interest as a board member of Visit Peak District and Derbyshire and a personal interest as a member of the National Trust. He would withdraw from the meeting at the start of the item and take no part in the debate or voting.

10/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were present to make representations to the Meeting.

11/17 BUDGET 2017/18 (A137/PN)

The Chief Executive commended the report to Members as showing the Authority's diligence and prudence in managing its finances. This gave confidence for the future and grounds for a period of stability to 2020, following the government's previous cuts to the Authority's funding.

The Chief Finance Officer noted that the Authority was in receipt of only 65% of its 2010 settlement and acknowledged that the investment opportunities it now had were partly a result of Members agreeing to reductions in spending.

Members thanked officers for a clearly written report and asked that in the next annual report, the previous year's Appendix 1 should be included for ease of comparison.

In response to Members' query about the cost of the Corporate and Democratic Core (Appx 1), the Chief Executive confirmed that it is subject to frequent audits and does provide value for money in delivering essential services for the Authority.

The Chief Executive also confirmed that a report on the development of the visitor centres would be submitted to the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee later in 2017.

The recommendations were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the base budget for the 2017/18 financial year shown in Appendices 1 and 2 be approved, which incorporate the investment allocations shown in paragraph 9 of the report.**
- 2. That the additional baseline allocation of £15,000 per annum and the one-off allocation of £180,000 in paragraph 10 of the report be added to the existing delegations (Authority Minute 20/16) to the Leadership Team, working with the Chief Finance Officer.**
- 3. That the financial position of the Authority in the period up to March 2020 be noted as explained in paragraph 11 of the report.**

12/17 PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK CHARITY (SM/SS)

The Director of Commercial Development and Outreach apologised for an error in paragraph 5 of the report, which should have stated that the Integrated Commercial and Outreach Development Plan, listed as a background paper, was presented to Members at Strategic Finance Workshops open to all Members in October and November 2016, not to meetings of the Strategic Advisory Group.

The Director confirmed that following Members' ratification of the Giving Strategy at the Authority meeting in March 2016 (Minute No. 14/16), the Director and his team had been reviewing potential ways to diversify and boost income streams, including the possibility of setting up a charity vehicle.

The Integrated Commercial and Outreach Development Plan had been developed by the Director and his team to cover the Authority's trading and fundraising activities and to provide a means of co-ordinating the Authority's work in increasing awareness, understanding, support and income in line with the Authority's three-year Corporate Strategy, which required the provision of options by Year 3 (2018/19). In view of a feasibility study being carried out by the National Parks Partnership and National Parks UK into the setting up of a national charity and given the Authority's current in-house knowledge of the not-for-profit market place, the Director had concluded that work on developing a charity vehicle could be brought forward to Year 2 to enable an earlier assessment of the required level of financial and time investment.

The Director stated that the charity vehicle was not being proposed as a panacea for income generation. He added that the potential risks of the charity's independence from the Authority would be partially mitigated by closely linking its objectives to the Peak District National Park purposes and to the Peak District National Park Management Plan. He acknowledged the imperative of clear differentiation between the proposed charity and other not-for-profit organisations.

Should Members not approve the development of a Charitable Trust, the Authority would continue to mine existing funding channels.

The following made representations to the meeting in accord with the Public Participation Scheme:

- Mr J Lambert, Chair of Friends of the Peak District
- Dr P Owens

Members were keen to be involved throughout the process of setting up a charity vehicle. A new sub-group of four members of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee, chosen by the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee, was proposed and seconded, to be added as a third recommendation. The sub-group would work with the Director of Commercial Development and Outreach and his team and report back to Members on progress.

The recommendations including the additional third recommendation were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To authorise the Director of Commercial Development and Outreach, in consultation with the Head of Law and Head of Finance, to progress the development of a Charitable Trust which is also a Company Limited by Guarantee in line with the proposals set out in this report.**
- 2. To note that a report setting out the charitable objects, governing documents including a conflict policy document and Memorandum of Understanding and potential investment by the Authority be brought to a future Authority meeting for final approval.**
- 3. To establish a Member Advisory Group made up of four Members of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee.**

13/17 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY (A1327/PN)

The Chief Finance Officer reported that the Authority's three-year Service Level Agreement with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) ended on 6 April 2017 and that a new three-year contract with NYCC had been agreed.

The recommendations were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement in Appendix 1 is approved.**
- 2. That the Authority approves the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy in Appendix 2, with specific approval of the Prudential Indicators and borrowing limits (paragraphs 5-13), and the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (paragraphs 14-15), and adopts the Investment Strategy of North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 3).**

A short break was taken at 11.45am.

As Cllr A Hart had declared a prejudicial interest in Item 10 as a board member of Visit Peak District and Derbyshire, he withdrew from the meeting before the start and took no part in the debate or voting.

14/17 SUBMISSION TO THE DISCOVER ENGLAND FUND BY THE 10 ENGLISH NATIONAL PARKS (SF)

The Chief Executive reported that in January 2017, the Authority had successfully submitted an Expression of Interest to the Discover England Fund, along with all the national parks of England, to enable the creation of high quality visitor experiences that would increase its international appeal. As Lead Partner, the Authority was offered a grant of £20,000 seed funding to help in the preparation of its business case bidding for approximately £1million from the Discover England Fund, to be submitted to Visit England by 12 April 2017.

Members' support was sought for the Peak District National Park Authority to act as the Lead Partner in the submission of the English National Park Authorities business case.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the Peak District National Park Authority to act as lead body in the submission of a bid on behalf of the 10 English National Park Authorities for a circa £1million bid to the £40 million Discover England Fund.**

Cllr A Hart returned to the meeting.

15/17 NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF FARMING (SF)

The Chief Executive introduced the report, which sought Members' comments about the National Parks England (NPE) Working Group's working draft document on the future of farming outside the EU. This was one of four papers focusing on how the national parks would be impacted by Brexit.

The Head of Landscape and Conservation was present to answer Member questions.

Members gave substantial feedback to officers which the Chair confirmed would be passed to the NPE Working Group. A particular sentence stood out for Members, on page 92 of the draft:

"Our starting point is that we want to see our National Parks remain as living, working landscapes where sustainable farming systems are playing an active role in delivering a wide array of public benefits and the farmers or land managers doing this work are rewarded for these services."

The recommendation was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the working draft document from the NPE Future of Farming Group and offer comments for the Chair and CEO to use to inform the consideration of, and outputs from, this working group.**

Cllr Mrs G Heath left the meeting at 12.29pm during the debate and before the vote.

16/17 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT (SF)

Members considered the recommendation of the recruitment panel to appoint the new Director of Corporate Strategy and Development.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To appoint David Hickman as Director of Corporate Strategy and Development.**

The meeting ended at 12.35 pm