

## 11. **MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES (JS)**

### 1. **Purpose of the report**

In advance of the 2017 Annual Meeting in July this report seeks views from Members on the scope and number of Member Representatives to be appointed.

#### **Key Issues**

- **The current Member Representative Roles, set out in paragraph 6 were agreed by the Authority on 1 July 2016 to support the themes of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and with additional roles to support Asset Management, Planning Enforcement and Member Learning and Development.**
- **At the 2016 AGM the Chair and Deputy Chair were asked to look at the options for rationalising and redefining the roles. Following these discussions this report sets out proposals to align our Member Representative Roles with the National Parks 8-point plan published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.**

### 2. **Recommendations(s)**

1. **To consider proposals to align our Member Representative Roles with the National Parks 8-point plan published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)**

#### **How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?**

3. There is no legal requirement to appoint Member Representatives. The discussion on whether to make appointments and the remit of roles contributes to the “Our Organisation” cornerstone in the Corporate Plan by developing our organisation so it has a planned and sustained approach to performance at all levels by developing and maintaining appropriate standards of corporate governance and developing key business processes to underpin the Corporate Strategy.

#### **Background Information**

4. On 5 February 2016 the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) considered a report seeking a view from Members whether the focus of the existing Member Representative Roles should be reviewed in light of the new Corporate Strategy. After discussion it was agreed that in the lead up to the 2016 AGM the roles should continue to be linked to National Park Management Plan Outcomes, with additional “scrutiny” roles reviewed annually at each AGM. However it was also agreed that the Democratic Services Manager should contact existing Member Representatives to get further feedback to inform an update to the role description.
5. As some of the responses received suggested that the Authority needed to do more than just review the role description a further discussion took place at a Meeting of SAG held on 20 May 2016 to give a steer on how to handle the appointment of Member Representatives at the forthcoming AGM. At the meeting SAG agreed that, although no further changes should be made during 2016, in advance of the 2017 AGM the Chair and Deputy Chair be asked to look at the options for rationalising and redefining the roles. This approach was confirmed by all Members on at the AGM on 1 July 2016.
6. Appointments were made to the following roles in 2016:

Landscape  
Cultural Heritage

Climate Change  
People and Communities

Biodiversity  
Asset Management  
Planning Enforcement  
Member Learning and Development

Promoting Understanding  
Economy  
Tourism

The People and Communities role is currently shared between two Members and no appointment was made to the role of Member Representative for Recreation.

### **Proposals**

7. As requested the Chair and Deputy Chair have looked at the options and now suggest that Member Representative roles should be linked to the delivery of the National Parks 8-point plan published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as it sets out their ambitions to put National Parks at the heart of the way we think about the environment and how it is managed for future generations. A copy of the plan is attached as Appendix 3. The importance of the Plan to the Government was reaffirmed by the Minister for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity in the information sent to candidates during the recent recruitment campaign to our Secretary of State vacancies. Aligning our Member Representatives to the Plan demonstrates to Defra that we share their aspirations and helps Members to directly contribute to their delivery.

8. The 8 Point Plan for England's National Parks are as follows:

#### *Inspiring Natural Environments*

1. Connecting young people with nature
2. Create thriving natural environments

#### *Drivers of the Economy*

3. National Parks driving growth in international tourism
4. Deliver new apprenticeships in National Parks
5. Promote the best of British food from National Parks

#### *National Treasures*

6. Everyone's National Parks
7. Landscape and heritage in National Parks
8. Health and wellbeing in National Parks

9. From the list above you will see that some of the actions cover much wider areas than others so it is therefore proposed that some actions be combined while others are separated so that at the 2017 AGM the Authority appoints to the following Member Representative Roles:

- Connecting Young People with nature
- Thriving natural environments
- Rural Economy
- Farming and Food
- Everyone's National Parks – Tourism and Participation
- Landscape and Heritage
- Health and Wellbeing
- Communities

10. More details are provided in Appendix 1 on what areas of the Authority's activities may be included under – each role along with the names of the suggested Lead Officer. The

references to the National Park Management Plan come from the 2012-17 Plan. These will be reviewed when the 2018-2023 Plan had been finalised. You will see that although the 8 point plan does not include a specific communities reference we have added a Communities role as this is an important area of activity in both the National Park Management Plan and our Corporate Strategy.

11. In 2016 it was also recognised that there were a number of “Scrutiny” Member representative roles which relate to very specific areas of activity which were a high priority and needed direct input from Members. It was agreed that this approach was continued but with each role being reviewed at the AGM. At the 2017 AGM it is proposed that the following roles be continued:

- Asset Management
- Member Learning and Development
- Planning Enforcement

12. For information a copy of the current generic role description for Member Representatives is attached at Appendix 2.

**Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

**Financial:**

13. The Authority does not pay a special responsibility allowance for Member Representatives however there are other costs associated with these appointments:

- Travel and subsistence claims (plus occasionally lunch and refreshments for meetings)
- Officer time spent contacting and briefing Member Representatives.
- Opportunity cost of Member time spent on the role impacts on the time spent on other activities

Members’ travelling and subsistence expenses are paid for from the existing democratic service budget

**Risk Management:**

14. This review has been carried out to address the risk of not using staff and members’ time well and in furtherance of the updated National Park Management Plan.

15. **Sustainability:** None

16. **Equality:** None

**Background papers (not previously published)**

None

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Proposed Member Representative Roles 2017.

Appendix 2 - Role description for Member Representatives.

Appendix 3 - 8-Point Plan for England’s National Parks (March 2016)

**Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

Jason Spencer, Democratic Services Manager, 18 May 2017  
jason.spencer@peakdistrict.gov.uk