

## Annex 1: Comments Received

### Cheshire East – responses to Defra proposals for membership changes

Note, this summary reflects responses received by the NPA at Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Further responses will be reported at the Authority if they are received.

<p><u>Options</u></p>	<p>a) Cheshire East Council appoints two Members.</p> <p>b) Cheshire East Council appoints one Member with the total membership of the Authority reduced to 29.</p> <p>c) Cheshire East Council appoints one Member with the other Member being appointed by one of the Authority's other constituent councils</p>
<p>Derbyshire Dales District Council</p>	<p>Fully support re-allocation of the "extra seat" to one of the other councils and preferably to a Derbyshire Council.</p>
<p>High Peak Borough Council</p>	<p>The second seat proposed for East Cheshire should be re-allocated to Derbyshire and High Peak Borough Council in particular. The Council's view is based on the need to ensure a better balance between the number of seats and the proportions of the population and area of the National Park covered by each authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derbyshire covers 62.2% of the total area, 82.7% of the population and has 8 seats (50% of the local authority seats, average of 3922 people per seat)</li> <li>• High Peak covers 26.1% of the total area, makes up 17.1% of the population and has 1 seat (6.25% of the local authority seats, average of 6487 per seat)</li> <li>• Cheshire East will have just 6.1% of the area and 3.3% of the population yet is proposed by CLG to have 2 seats (12.5% of the local authority seats, average of 626 people per seat)</li> </ul> <p>Our view is that, if there is to be effective representation on the Authority by elected councillors of the communities within the Peak District, there needs to be much greater recognition given to the level of population and area covered within Derbyshire in any re-allocation of seats. It is already something of an anomaly that High Peak has the same number of seats as the metropolitan authorities of Barnsley and Oldham, which each lie on the fringes of the Peak Park and cover just 0.2% of the population and 2.2% of the area.</p> <p>Given these discrepancies, there is a compelling argument in favour of re-allocating one of the two seats from Cheshire East to the county of Derbyshire, and specifically High Peak or Derbyshire Dales. As the second largest district – by both area and population – in the Peak District (following Derbyshire Dales which already has 2 seats) it is suggested that it would be most appropriate to allocate the seat to High Peak. This would give High Peak one seat for 3244 people and Cheshire East 1252 people per seat. It would also restore the two seats previously held by High Peak Borough Council.</p>

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	The Council's view on the question arising out of the consequences of local government re-organisation in Cheshire, is that option a, to retain two seats for Cheshire East should be the preferred option.
Kirklees Council	The council has no view to state on any of the three stated options.
Hayfield Parish Council	Firmly in favour of the seat being allocated to High Peak BC.
Peak Parishes Forum	Favour allocating the seat to High Peak Borough Council
Friends of the Peak District	We can see a strong argument for either option a) or option b), depending on whether Cheshire East or another of the councils is under represented on the Authority in terms of geographical area or population within the National Park. However, if this is not the case, we would prefer option c).
Sir Nicholas Winterton MP	Two seats should be allocated to Cheshire East. A sizeable area of the Park lies within East Cheshire and I believe that two seats on the Authority are fully merited and necessary.