

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING

4 DECEMBER 2009

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PART A

1. DEFRA CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL PARKS CIRCULAR (A.11/JBD)

Purpose of the report

1. To seek agreement from members on the broad comments that the Authority will make on the recent Defra consultation on a Circular on English National Parks and the Vision for National Parks.

Recommendations

2.
 1. That the general comments set out in part A paragraphs 1-10 of the attached appendix 1 are approved as the basis of this Authority's response to the Defra consultation on its draft Circular on National Parks in England
 2. That the general comments set out in part A paragraphs 1-10 of the attached appendix 1 are relayed to the English National Park Authorities Association to influence their collective response to the Defra consultation
 3. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority is given delegated authority to make detailed changes to the consultation response prior to submission to Defra.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The National Park Circular is an important document which applies to all National Parks and their Authorities in England. It provides updated policy guidance on a range of matters, including the interpretation of a number of recent Acts of Parliament. It replaces Department of the Environment Circular 12/96 and joint Department of the Environment, Department of Transport and Welsh Office Circular DoE 125/77. The document sets out the Government's views on how the statutory duties of the National Park Authorities and the Broads Authorities are taken forward; a vision for English National Parks; policy on the governance of the Authorities.

Background

4. The revised Circular has been held up due to the need to complete matters relating to the designation of the South Downs National park (whose confirmation order was signed 12 November). The Government published this draft Circular for consultation on 13 November and it requires comments by 6 February 2010. The English National Park Authorities Association will be considering its draft response at its meeting on 2nd February 2010. The Authority is invited to consider and agree the general response from this Authority. The Circular covers a range of detailed matters and our comments on these will be included in a response that will be

submitted to Defra before the closing date.

5. The Circular is at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nationalpark/index.htm . Copies will be made available to members from Democratic Services if required and a copy will be left in the Reception of Aldern House. The full title of the document is *Consultation on the English National Parks and the Broads: Draft Circular – revised version combining Circular 12/96 and Circular 125/77*. It incorporates a *Vision for National Parks: Government's Priorities*.

Proposals

6. The Authority's draft response is at Appendix 1 to this report. This includes general comments (Part A paragraphs 1-10) which members are asked to comment on and an early draft of more detailed officer views on the detail of the Circular.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

7. **Financial:** The Circular includes statutory guidance which we will need to take into account on an annual basis as part of our priority setting and budget planning.
8. **Risk Management:** No issues are apparent
9. **Sustainability:** The Circular expects us to be exemplars of sustainable development, including reporting on our own footprint. This is already incorporated into our work
10. **Background papers** (not previously published)

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 is the Authority's draft response

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Jim Dixon, Chief Executive, 26 November, 2009.