

**APPENDIX 4**

**Summary of external consultations received at date of finalising report in response to Jim Dixon's letter of 9 August 2010**

Questions asked:

**Size and make up of the Authority**

*Questions to consider: Does your council or parish or national interest need to be represented in the way that it is today? Are there ways in which the interests of your council could be represented with fewer members or with members shared with other councils with similar interests? Can your Authority be better represented with better links to a 'link' member, such as a suitable ward councillor or cabinet member in place of a formal appointment to the Authority?*

**The nature and make up of committees**

*Questions to consider: Do you agree that some members can contribute well to the Authority's work mainly in ways other than formal committee work?*

**Being more accountable to local communities**

*Questions to consider: Are there ways other than formal committees in which our members can contribute to better accountability to local communities? Could local councillors including parish councillors who are not appointed to the Authority be involved in some of these in certain cases?*

Consultee	Size and make up of the Authority	The nature and make up of committees	Being more accountable to local communities
Natural England	Need to continue to have expertise in key areas of the NP purposes such as landscape, nature conservation, cultural heritage and access, understanding and enjoyment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A slimmer committee structure may free up member and officer time to contribute in other ways</li> <li>• Members can contribute effectively to the Authority's work out of the formal structure</li> <li>• Effective delegation is a further way to improve performance</li> </ul>	Suggestions (building on current good practice) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Executive blog</li> <li>• Task and finish groups</li> <li>• Identifying issues that matter to local communities and demonstrating leadership in helping take these forward</li> <li>• Empowering local people to take responsibility for their local environment</li> <li>• Creating ways to engage effectively with land management communities</li> <li>• Induction and training for members</li> <li>• Reviewing member performance to ensure high standards maintained</li> </ul>

<p>Peak Park Parish Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not considered that current representation needs to be retained unchanged</li> <li>• Interests can be represented by fewer members</li> <li>• Link members strongly opposed</li> <li>• Suggestions made for reduction in membership to 25 or 23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would be wrong to allow a differential status of members for certain, not defined, duties</li> <li>• Needs to be clear members are signing up to represent the Authority without exception, including attendance, and that they should not accept this offer if cannot commit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better local accountability can be delivered without recourse to formal committees</li> <li>• The involvement of non authority members on Authority business is opposed</li> <li>• All members could be given a geographical responsibility</li> <li>• Don't blur important distinction between the role of a member and the role of an officer</li> <li>• Good governance needs better education of all interested parties and a willingness to accept the that the Authority is bigger than its individual parts</li> </ul>
<p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expects to retain its present seat in the event of any reduction in size of the Authority</li> <li>• Options on reducing number of Secretary of State and/or one representative covering a number of councils on the periphery of the NP considered more appropriate than reducing the number of elected representatives in the core area of the NP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Really a matter for the PDNPA</li> <li>• There are other ways that members can serve without just sitting on formal committees but it is through the formal decision making that most influence is brought to bear and it is important that those elected members representing the majority of the population are in a position to influence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recognition that more needs to be done to engage with and respond to local communities is welcomed and supported</li> <li>• There is a good track record of joint working and collaboration however this can always be improved and it is important that the PDNPA engages and consults with the Council on significant issues in Staffordshire Moorlands</li> <li>• The Council welcomes the opportunity to explore options for shared delivery of services</li> </ul>
<p>High Peak Borough Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council will strongly resist any reduction in its present allocation of two places</li> <li>• Options on reducing number of Secretary of State and/or one representative covering a number of councils on the periphery of the NP considered more appropriate than reducing the number of elected representatives in the core area of the NP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Really a matter for the PDNPA</li> <li>• There are other ways that members can serve without just sitting on formal committees but it is through the formal decision making that most influence is brought to bear and it is important that those elected members representing the majority of the population are in a position to influence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recognition that more needs to be done to engage with and respond to local communities is welcomed and supported</li> <li>• There is a good track record of joint working and collaboration however this can always be improved and it is important that the PDNPA engages and consults with the Council on significant issues in the High Peak</li> <li>• The Council welcomes the opportunity to explore options for shared delivery of services</li> </ul>

<p>Derbyshire Dales District Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference for no change</li> <li>• If Authority seeks to reduce number of local authority representatives should look to metropolitan areas where ratio of one seat to numbers of population much smaller</li> <li>• If Authority seeks to reduce should reduce national members in favour of those who are elected to represent communities including elected parish members from within the Park</li> <li>• Opportunity should be taken to make it compulsory that representatives should come from wards/areas within the Park</li> </ul>	<p>No specific comment save to reiterate primary concern that when important decisions are made the council is sufficiently and appropriately represented as outlined</p>	<p>Council urges PDNPA to consider enhancing its consultation strategy, to actively engage the public, local stakeholders and the views of Ward Members (not just the nominated representatives) in all matters affecting their area. In terms of the Council's elected members, this could be achieved by exchange of written representations and perhaps offer higher rights of audience at planning committees.</p>
<p>Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council firmly of view that the basic principle of representative accountability can only effectively be achieved by the formal appointment of an elected member to the Authority</li> <li>• Use of link members not supported</li> </ul>	<p>Council accepts that if committees are to be reduced from 3 to 2 then it would not be essential for all members to be represented. More important to have a representative on the full Authority where strategy and policy determined.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members from the west of the borough will have a particularly close interest in the business of the Authority as would members from the significant number of Parish Councils within the Council's area which are within approximate to the NP</li> <li>• Council promotes the view that groups of interested members could look at a particular issue with potential for relevant local members to facilitate dialogue and greater input from members of the community who will be directly affected by key issues relating to the business of the NP- council would welcome such greater flexibility in the conduct of the Authority's business</li> </ul>

Cheshire East Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council values its membership and wishes to retain its representation</li><li>• Can see more logic for option which sees the smallest reduction in Councillor representation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council welcomes proposal for members to contribute in other ways than through formal committee work but recognises the importance of committee process in ensuring that decisions are made in an appropriate manner and that there is proper scrutiny</li><li>• Council encourages innovative approaches to involving Councillors who are not appointed to the Authority</li></ul>	Councillor representation is vital to ensure maximum amount of local accountability
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