

APPENDIX 3

Summary of external consultations received 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	In any revised structure need to continue to have expertise and experience 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"> • A slimmer committee structure may free up member and officer time to contribute to the effective delivery of NP purposes in other ways • Members can contribute effectively to the Authority’s work out of the formal structure e.g. as Lead members for specific programmes and subject areas • Effective delegation to officers in areas where there is clear policy is a further way to improve performance 	Suggestions (building on current good practice) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive blog • Task and finish groups overseen by a Member • Identifying issues that matter to local communities and demonstrating leadership in helping take these forward especially where responsibility lies with adjacent local authorities and private companies • Empowering local people to take responsibility for their local environment e.g. community managed projects, nature reserves etc. • Creating ways to engage effectively with land management communities • Local community involvement and ownership of NPMP • Induction and training for new members and updates on specialist topics including participation by partners • Reviewing member performance to ensure high standards maintained

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Peak Park Parish Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not necessarily considered that current representation needs to be retained unchanged. Interests could be represented by fewer members, if this is required • Link members strongly opposed <p>Suggestions made for reduction in membership to 25 or 23 through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. reducing each primary council to 1 member 2. reducing Secretary of State national appointments to 6 in line with other NPAs <p>Further suggestion made to increase parish members to 8 to strengthen local accountability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be wrong to allow a differential status of members for certain, not defined, duties • Needs to be clear that all members are signing up to represent the Authority without exception, including attendance, and that they should not accept this offer if cannot commit to this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better local accountability can be delivered without recourse to formal committees • The involvement of non authority members on Authority business is opposed • Increase in numbers of Parish Members would improve local accountability • All members could be given a geographical responsibility to garner local views • Don't blur important distinction between the role of a member and the role of an officer • Essential to avoid influence of vested interests • Good governance needs better education of all interested parties and a willingness to accept that the Authority is bigger than its individual parts
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to argue against the desire for a leaner, more efficient Board – this principle is supported • Expects to retain its present seat in the event of any reduction in size of the Authority • Options on reducing number of Secretary of State or seats allocated to councils on the periphery of the NP considered more appropriate than reductions to democratic representation in the core areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really a matter for the PDNPA • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that more needs to be done by PDNPA to engage with and respond to local communities • 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 • The Council would welcome the opportunity to explore options for shared delivery of services as a means of achieving greater efficiency savings and more responsive services

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High Peak Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to argue against the desire for a leaner, more efficient Board – this principle is supported • The Council will strongly resist any reduction in its present allocation of two places • Options on reducing number of Secretary of State and/or the number of seats allocated to councils on the periphery of the NP considered more appropriate than reducing the number of elected representatives in the core area of the NP. 83% of population of NP live in Derbyshire • Current balance of national to local members could be challenged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really a matter for the PDNPA • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recognition that more needs to be done by the PDNPA to engage with and respond to local communities and this is welcomed and supported • 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 • The Council welcomes the opportunity to explore options for shared delivery of services as a means of achieving greater efficiency savings and more responsive services
Derbyshire Dales District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for no change. If there is change, local accountability and democratic legitimacy should shape size and make-up. • The District's 2 seats represent the interests of 65% of the population of the NP. • If the Authority seeks to reduce the number of local authority representatives it should look to metropolitan areas where ratio of one seat to numbers of population is much smaller • Query desire to maintain balance between 3 categories of members and suggest that 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 • Opportunity should be taken to make it compulsory that representatives should come from wards/areas within the Park 	<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>

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Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Use of link members not supported 	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 for BMBC to have a representative on the full Authority where strategy and policy determined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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
Cheshire East Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council values its membership and wishes to retain its representation • Can see more logic for an option which sees the smallest reduction in Councillor representation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council encourages innovative approaches to involving Councillors who are not appointed to the Authority • Councillor representation is vital to ensure maximum amount of local accountability

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Sheffield City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is essential that there is representation from SCC. Wish to retain current seat. Proactive recruitment to position and “sign-up” to J-D and competencies is considered important. • Suggest reduce multiple representation by some councils • Use of link members not supported but suggestions for improving feedback to SCC and support to Member Representative e.g. through representative formally reporting back through an annual report, identifying an SCC officer to support the Member representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members need to be on committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling that more could be done to enhance member involvement in local communities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sheffield’s Community assemblies - Ward councillors who have territory in the NP, also Parish Councillors
Derbyshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise desire to achieve a leaner and more efficient Board • Any proposal to reduce the council’s current 4 seats would be strongly resisted • Current proposals do not sufficiently challenge the balance of membership • Core councils with largest size population represented should maintain current seats, could reduce numbers of seats for councils on periphery • Could reduce secretary of state appointments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and make up of committees is matter for NPA but willing to work with the Authority to develop a more cost effective solution e.g. through shared services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keen to collaborate with NPA in developing better dialogue and collaboration with local communities

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Oldham Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to explore options for reduction in size but need to identify the key driver: finance, efficiency or greater accountability? • Look first to reduce at councils with multiple seats. 'Shared' membership between 2 councils has difficulties • Support proposal to retain current balance between 3 categories • Even if membership numbers stay the same, should look to explore opportunities for strengthening links with councils through other mechanisms. • Support for a review of parish 'constituencies' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider the effect on decision making – advantages to a member sitting on at least one committee as helps ensure they are fully engaged and aware of the work of the Authority • Reducing number of committees will enable members to maximise use of their time e.g. travelling to and from meetings • Agree there are other ways a member can contribute e.g. through external advocacy, membership of outside bodies, partnership working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support need for accountability to be achieved through a mix of formal representation and informal/formal engagement activity • Suggest consideration is given to developing joint links between local authorities and local (parish) councils in the same geographical area such as the newly formed 'joint councils' partnership meetings established between the PDNPA, Oldham Council and Saddleworth Parish Council
Staffordshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council recognises that the cost of governance needs to be reviewed but suggests this needs to be done in a way that enhances, rather than diminishes local accountability and the role of the elected member • The council wishes to retain its one seat 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports view that local accountability should be enhanced