

2. ELECTION OF AUTHORITY CHAIR & DEPUTY CHAIR (A.111/JS)

1. Purpose of the report

To elect the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.

Key Issues

- **In accordance with the Authority decision to establish a Member Appointment Process Panel, the Panel invited all Members to indicate whether they wish to stand for appointment to the role of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.**
- **The Panel has considered the responses received in the context of the agreed principles and attempted to informally resolve any issues identified.**
- **The Panel has received one expression of interest for the role of Chair of the Authority and two for the role of Deputy Chair.**
- **Further nominations may be received at the meeting.**

2. Recommendations

- 1. To appoint a Member as Chair of the Authority until the Annual Meeting in 2020.**
- 2. To appoint a Member as Deputy Chair of the Authority until the Annual Meeting in 2020.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

- 3. Under The National Park Authorities (England) Order 1996 (“the 1996 Order”) the Authority is required to elect a Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority at each Annual meeting. The term of office will be until the next Annual meeting in 2020.**
- 4. Standing Order 1.4(1) states: “The Authority shall at its Annual Meeting elect a Chair and Deputy Chair who shall continue in office until immediately after the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair at the next Annual Meeting unless they resign their respective office, or resign their membership of the Authority.”**

Background Information

- 5. The Authority’s Standing Orders no longer state that the elections of the Authority Chair and Deputy Chair shall normally be such that one of the offices shall be held by a Council Member and the other office held by a Secretary of State National or Parish Member.**
- 6. As in previous years the Authority’s Member Appointments Process Panel has assisted with appointments to key positions at the Annual Meeting. This year Mr P Ancell, Cllr C Carr, Mr J Macrae and Cllr B Woods were appointed as members of the Panel. The Panel has considered the expressions of interest received and agreed that this year there was no need for the Panel to meet.**
- 7. The purpose of the Panel is to:**
 - **invite, receive and consider expressions of interests from Members in the annual appointments**
 - **apply the agreed appointment principles to identify any issues that conflict with**

the agreed principles

- contact relevant Members to discuss and resolve issues if possible
- compile a list of candidates for the appointments for consideration at the Annual meeting.

8. On behalf of the Panel all Members were contacted individually to ask if they intended to stand for appointment as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority. At the time of writing the report the Panel had received 1 expression of interest for the role of Chair of the Authority, (Cllr A McCloy) and 2 for the role of Deputy Chair of the Authority, (Cllr D Chapman and Cllr C Furness). The Panel has confirmed that the one expression of interest for the role of Chair of the Authority complies with the appointment principles agreed by the Authority; however before voting on the appointment the Authority will be asked if there are any further expressions of interest. If no further Members are nominated voting on the appointment can be by a show of hands.
9. For the role of Deputy Chair one of the expressions of interest (Cllr D Chapman) does not comply with the appointment principles as they have now completed four successive terms of office in this role. However as the principles are not binding the Authority may if it wishes, make appointments contrary to the principles. The appointment of the other candidate (Cllr C Furness) would meet the criteria set out in the appointment principles. If both of the candidates for the role of Deputy Chair are proposed and seconded a ballot will be held, however before voting on the appointment the Authority will be asked if there are any further expressions of interest.
10. The Authority's Standing Orders require that when more than one Member is standing for a Chair or Deputy position the voting must be carried out by ballot of all Members present at the meeting. If more than two persons are nominated and of the votes given there is not a clear majority in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes will be struck off the list until there is a majority of votes given in favour of one person. In the case of an equality of votes for two or more candidates the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

Appointment Principles

11. The Panel has considered the expressions of interest and checked them against the following appointment principles:
 1. Democratic process remains essential.
 2. Any Member should continue to be eligible to stand for election for any post and all Members should continue to have the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidates.
 3. The chosen system should foster confidence, unity and trust within the Authority.
 4. All Members should be assumed to be equally committed to the objectives of the National Park, and to have a contribution to make across the full range of the Authority's work.
 5. All Members should be considered equally for all appointments but need to maintain the overall balance between different categories of members.
 6. Anyone holding office should be seen to act on behalf of all Members in the interests of the Authority, and not be allied with one particular group or interest.
 7. All appointments should be time limited with a stipulated maximum continuous

period of holding any one office to four continuous terms.

8. Responsibility of nominated Members to demonstrate to colleagues their interest and potential.
 9. Responsibility of nominated Members to show that they understand what will be required of them.
 10. That we should strive to achieve a similar balance across Member Representatives and outside body appointments if possible although it is recognised this may not always be achievable and the main aim is to appoint members who have demonstrated interest and potential.
 11. That newly appointed members will not be considered for Chair or Deputy/Vice Chair position in their first year of office.
12. The Panel also considered points 8 and 9 in the current principles above regarding the responsibility of nominated Members to demonstrate interest and potential and show that they understand what is required of them. With this in mind the Panel have agreed that candidates for the Chair and Deputy Chair positions be asked to supply a written statement of not more than 500 words in support of their expressions of interest which will be circulated in advance of the meeting (if received).

Proposals

13. It is proposed that the elections be made in accordance with the 1996 Order and Standing Orders taking into consideration the agreed appointment principles.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

14. Although a special responsibility allowance is paid to the Chair and Deputy Chair these costs are included in the 2019/20 budget so the appointments do not incur any additional cost to the Authority.

Risk Management:

15. There are no apparent risks. Members have the opportunity to seek appointments to all the available positions.

Sustainability:

16. None.

Equality:

17. None.

18. **Background papers (not previously published)**

None

19. **Appendices**

None

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