



MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 13 March 2020 at 10.00 am
Venue:	The Board Room, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
Chair:	Cllr A McCloy
Present:	Cllr D Chapman, Mr P Ancell, Cllr W Armitage, Mr J W Berresford, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Cllr A Hart, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr V Priestley, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping and Ms Y Witter
Apologies for absence:	Cllr J Atkin, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr C Furness, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr B Lewis, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Miss L Slack, Cllr R Walker, Mrs C Waller, Cllr G D Wharmby and Cllr B Woods.

14/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Authority Meeting held on 14 February 2020 were approved as a correct record.

15/20 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

16/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

17/20 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Member declarations of interest.

18/20 AUTHORITY CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair reported the following items:

- Defra Group Chairs meeting – the Chair had attended this meeting in London and it had included representatives from Natural England, Environment Agency and National Park Authorities. The meeting had discussed issues including the Landscapes Review and climate change. In particular Defra had positively received the Landscapes Review and would like to take it forward. Also COP 26,

the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties being hosted by the Government in November at Glasgow, was discussed. The National Park Authority representatives had urged Defra to use National Parks as case studies/good examples of how protected areas are taking forward the climate change and sustainability message. National Park Chairs will try to progress this via National Parks UK. Defra are very keen to make the link between climate change and biodiversity to look for nature based solutions and National Parks could help to take this forward.

- Climate Change Summit hosted by Derbyshire County Council – the Chair had attended this summit held on 3 March and had signed a pledge to support Derbyshire County Council to achieve zero carbon by 2050. Other Members who had attended the event included Mr James Berresford, Prof Janet Haddock-Fraser, Cllr David Chapman and Cllr Barry Lewis.
- Over Haddon Community Event – the Chair had attended a community event at Over Haddon, on 6 March, looking at sustainability and he had spoken on how the Authority and communities can work together on this issue. He had also passed on details of other groups that could help including Hope Valley Climate Action Group who were coming to give a presentation to Members today during their Members' Forum meeting.

19/20 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (SLF)

Members noted the Chief Executive's report which included confirmation of the National Park Grant settlement for 2020/21 and updates on current work and issues both nationally and within the National Park.

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on plans to deal with any disruption to National Park work by the Coronavirus. The Authority was following current advice from the Government and was regularly updating both staff and Members by email. The Authority's Scheme of Delegation had emergency powers to enable the Chief Executive to make decisions and the Authority had a business continuity plan in place. Preparations had been made for remote working when required but the Authority could not hold virtual committee meetings as current legislation did not allow for this. If any Member meeting needed to be cancelled this would be communicated as soon as possible. The Chief Executive stated that the Authority was emphasising the current preventative advice of good hygiene. She advised Members to keep a regular check on emails for updated information.

In response to Members' queries the Chief Executive stated that they were considering the possible effects on income streams and how to overcome them, including the Government's Bellwin scheme of emergency financial assistance to local authorities.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

20/20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY (A1327/PN)

Members considered the report which requested approval of the over-arching Treasury Management Policy Statement and the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

In introducing the report the Chief Finance Officer highlighted the following issues:

- An amendment to the accounting standard for leases for which an extra half million had been identified to accommodate this.
- In providing financial services to the Peak District National Park Foundation the Authority will borrow funds from the Foundation in return for the same investment rate earned by the Authority through its Investment Strategy with North Yorkshire County Council.
- The recent Bank of England cut in interest rates could mean a shortfall of up to £50,000 but this will be reviewed at mid-year.

In response to Members' queries the Chief Finance Officer stated that the reduction in finance from revenue estimated for 2022/23, shown in paragraph 6 of Appendix 2 of the report, was due to the use of reserves for one off projects and he would email a fuller explanation to Members after the meeting. He also answered a query regarding ethical investment.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Authority approves the Treasury Management Policy Statement in Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. That the Authority approves the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy in Appendix 2 of the report, with specific approval of the Prudential Indicators and borrowing limits (paragraphs 5-13), and the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (paragraphs 14-15), and adopts the Investment Strategy of North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 3 of the report).**

21/20 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT BLOCK 2 2019/20 (A1362/7/PN)

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which gave details of four areas covered under the Internal Audit Report Block 2 and these were:

- Main Accounting – High Assurance
- Performance Management – High Assurance
- Income Generation – Substantial Assurance
- Information Security Compliance Check – Substantial Assurance

With regard to the recommendations of the report on Income Generation the Director of Commercial Development and Engagement stated that plans for a Commercial Strategy were in place and it would be produced within 6 months.

RESOLVED:

That the internal audit reports for the four areas covered under Block 2 for 2019/20 be received (in Appendices 1 – 4 of the report) and the agreed actions considered.

22/20 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS - PART 7 DELEGATION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Members considered the report which proposed additions to the Delegation to the Chief Executive in part 7 of Standing Orders with regard to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, following a recommendation from the Authority's Planning Committee.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

To amend the Scheme of Delegation to the Chief Executive set out in part 7 of Standing Orders to authorise the Chief Executive:-

a) To determine whether an appropriate assessment is required under regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

b) To carry out appropriate assessments under regulations 63 and 64 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) including, without limitation, to require further information, to carry out consultations (and for that purpose to determine whether the opinion of the general public should be taken) and to have regard to any representations received.

23/20 PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK: NATIONAL PARKS SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR ALL (SW)

Sarah Wilks, Head of Engagement, gave a presentation on the report which gave details of the work of the National Parks England's Supporting Health and Wellbeing task and finish group. The task and finish group had now become the Health and Wellbeing Strategic Steering Group. She highlighted opportunities and challenges for the Authority including partnership working.

Members queried recommendation 2 and asked that it be made clearer.

Members welcomed and praised the report but expressed concern over how actions could be implemented. Partnership working would be needed and discussions with Councils within the National Park may be useful.

The Head of Engagement noted Members' comments and the need for partnership working and resources.

11.14 Cllr D Chapman left the meeting.

It was noted that the audience plan would be made clearer within the next 2 months and that some actions were already being progressed. Members would be kept up to date via further reports.

The recommendation with an amended recommendation 2 was moved and seconded. The motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To confirm support for the universal offer and action plan around prevent, restore, excel and the Peak District National Park Authority following this template to focus health and wellbeing actions.**
- 2. To support further national advocacy through National Parks England to align the NHS 10- year plan with the National Parks England offer as set out in the report.**
- 3. To consider what the next steps for Members might be to build and develop support for health and wellbeing work in the Peak District National Park.**

The meeting ended at 11.34 am