

10. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY - COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Purpose of the report

To consider arrangements for the appointment to Committees and positions of responsibility at the Authority's Annual Meeting. This report was prepared before we received the Notice of Motion considered earlier on the Agenda so there is some overlap in relation to proposals to reduce the size of Committees.

Key Issues

- **This report arises following a request from the Chair of the Authority to look at issues relating to**
 - **The size and make up of the Authority's Standing Committees**
 - **The composition of the Member Appointment Process Panel**
 - **Seeking expressions of interest for a Member Representative for Planning Enforcement.**

2. Recommendation(s)

- 1. To appoint four Members to serve on the Member Appointment Process Panel in preparation for the 2015 AGM.**
- 2. To confirm that the Member Appointment Process Panel will be looking for expressions of interest based on two standing Committees with 15 Members on each and no ex-Officio appointments.**
- 3. To confirm that the Panel will seek expressions of interest for a Member Representative for Planning Enforcement in addition to the existing roles.**

3. How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

Part D of the Standing Orders relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Authority set out the relevant Orders applying to Committees of the Authority. These include the arrangements for appointing Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs and appointments to Committees. Most of the orders are discretionary however they must comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 7 of the Environment Act which state that to be quorate a Committee meeting must have at least one Local Authority Member and one Secretary of State Member and Committee places must be allocated between Local Authority and Secretary of State Members in the same proportions as the whole Authority Membership.

4. Background

At the Authority's Annual Meeting (AGM) to be held on Friday 3 July the Authority will be making a number of appointments including appointments to Committees. As in previous years the Member Appointment Process Panel will oversee the appointment process and try to identify and where possible resolve any potential issues before the meeting. This report was originally prepared to seek guidance from Authority Members to help the Panel prepare for the Annual Meeting but since drafting this report we have received a notice of motion which also covers some of the issues.

Size and Composition of Committees.

The Authority's existing Standing Orders do not specify the size of Committees. This is for the Authority to determine at each Annual Meeting. Officers have suggested that to address the issues which led to large Committees during 2014/15 the size of Committees should be fixed with no ex-officio appointment and it appears that this view is supported by the earlier Motion and the group of Members tasked to look at this. If the proposed motion were approved it would have the effect of setting the size of both Committees at 15 Members, 8 Local Authority and 6 Secretary of State. This report seeks guidance from the Authority on whether there is support for this proposal so that the Member Appointment Process Panel can seek expressions of interest on this basis with a view to formally amending Standing Orders in July.

Membership of the Appointment Process Panel

At the moment the membership of the Members Appointment Process Panel is:

Cllr D Chapman
Cllr D Birkinshaw
Cllr P Harrison
Mr Z Hamid

As Cllr Chapman and Cllr Birkinshaw both currently hold positions of responsibility and may wish to seek reappointment the Authority are asked to consider whether to replace them as Members of the Panel. When the Panel was established it was agreed that Members seeking appointment to key positions should not participate in the process.

Member Representative Roles

We have received a request for an additional Member Representative to be appointed to cover Planning Enforcement Issues. Members are asked to consider this request so that expressions of interest can be sought. The view is that as issues relating to Planning Enforcement will be a key priority over the forthcoming year there is a need for an additional Member Representative role to support this.

5. Proposals

To appoint four Members to serve on the Member Appointment Process Panel.

To confirm that the Member Appointment Process Panel will be looking for expressions of interest based on two standing Committees with 15 Members on each and no ex-Officio appointments.

To confirm that the Panel will seek expressions of interest for a Member Representative for Planning Enforcement in addition to the existing roles.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

6. Financial:

No direct costs arise however smaller fixed size Committees will reduce the cost of each meeting in terms of travel and subsistence and printing and postage.

7. Risk Management:

None

8. **Sustainability:**
None

9. **Equality:**
None

10. **Background papers (not previously published)**
None

Appendices

None

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Jason Spencer, Democratic Services Manager, 27 May 2015