

1. ELECTION OF AUTHORITY CHAIR AND 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 have met to consider the responses received in the context of the agreed existing appointment principles and attempted to informally resolve any issues identified.
- The Panel has received more than one nomination for each position.
- Further nominations may be received at the meeting.

2. Recommendation

- 1. That a Member be elected as Chair of the Authority until the Annual Meeting in 2016.**
- 2. That a Member be elected as Deputy Chair of the Authority until the Annual Meeting in 2016.**

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

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 2016.

4. Background

The Authority’s current Standing Orders provide 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. See Standing Order 1.4(2). While the Authority should have regard to this Standing Order when making appointments it cannot be “enforced” because all Members of the Authority must have the opportunity to be nominated if they wish and the Authority has a duty to make decisions in the best interests of the Authority

In March 2013 the Authority established a Member Appointments Process Panel to assist with appointments to key positions at the Annual Meeting. This year Councillor Mrs Norma Hawkins, Councillor John Walton, Councillor Peter Harrison and Mr Zahid Hamid were appointed as members of the Panel. However following the recent Parish Ballot Councillor Harrison was unable to participate.

The purpose of the Panel is to:

- invite, receive and consider expressions of interests from Members in the annual appointments
- apply the agreed existing 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.

The Panel has contacted all Members individually to ask if they intend to stand for appointment as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority. At the time of writing the report the Panel had received **two nominations** for the role of Chair of the Authority, **Councillor C Furness** and **Councillor Mrs L Roberts** and **two nominations** for the role of Deputy Chair of the Authority, **Councillor D Chapman** and **Councillor Mrs J Twigg**. The Panel has confirmed that these nominations comply with the agreed existing appointment principles agreed by the Authority however Members will need to give consideration to Standing Order 1.4 (2) if the Authority wishes to appoint two members from the same constituent group (Council Member or Secretary of State) to both roles. Before voting on the appointments the meeting will be asked if there are any further nominations.

The Authority's Standing Orders state 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. As the Panel has received more than one nomination for each role the appointments will be made following a ballot of the Members present at the meeting. Where there are more than two persons 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 majority of votes given in favour of one person.

Appointment Principles

The Panel met on 23 June to consider the nominations and check them against the agreed existing appointment principles as follows:

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.

The Panel also considered points 8 and 9 in the 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 would be asked to supply a written statement of not more than 500 words in support of their nomination which will be circulated in advance of the meeting (if received).

Later in this meeting the Authority will be considering a proposal moved by Cllr Patrick Brady to replace the agreed existing appointment principles with “democratic principles”, however as these have not yet been considered and agreed only the agreed existing appointment principles will be considered at this year’s AGM.

5. Proposals

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

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

6. Financial:

Although a special responsibility allowance is paid to the Chair and Deputy Chair these costs are included in the 2015/16 budget so the appointments do not incur any additional cost to the Authority.

7. Risk Management:

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

8. Sustainability:

None

9. Equality:

Any principles agreed by the Authority on appointments to key positions must make sure that all Members are able to be considered for appointment if they wish to do so and that the final appointments are made in an open and transparent way.

10. Background papers (not previously published)

None

Appendices

None

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