

## **2022 Statements Received for Positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority**

### **Chair of the Authority:**

#### Cllr David Chapman

It is my wish to be considered for the above position and for which I give the following reasons:

I have been a Member of this Authority for 12 years during which time I was Deputy Chair for 5 years and have served on both planning and P & R committees, I have chaired the Land Managers Forum for 4 years, Moors for the Future for 6 years and have been a member of the Climate Change Working Group since its inception. My other duties have included membership of the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group and representation of the Authority on Europarc and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

In considering the position of Chair I have given careful thought to what direction the future of this Park must take in situations where world paradigms are rapidly changing and to which we must adapt.

The first of those is our approach to farming and the landscape which are mutually intertwined. Farming is experiencing massive changes in its financing structures, the increasing importance of food security and its approach to climate change mitigation and biodiversity.

I consider that we must move faster into a delivery period to assist and lead Peak District farmers into a position where they will be able to face the challenges which they will be experiencing up to 2024 and beyond.

I attach greater importance to “walking the walk” over “talking the talk”.

I consider that my experience of being part of a farming family and for the last 30 years working as a Sustainable Soil and Crop Consultant makes me well placed to take on this challenge as I deal with the agricultural sector daily, it would also enable me to work with the incoming Chief Executive from day one to ensure he is aware of the direction we must take and familiarize him with the ethos of our farming fraternity.

Secondly in a world of decreasing resources we have to be very aware of the financial implications this will have for the future of our Park. At this point I must confess that the world of finance is not my strongpoint but I know with the highly qualified and competent officers on this Authority and through them and the guidance of my fellow Members this will not be a problem.

Thirdly, having been a local Councillor for 21 years I am aware of the need for good communications and understanding between this Park and its constituent Councils particularly on topics such as local housing and tourism so I would always work to strengthen those relationships, and indeed, I have the experience and contacts to do that.

Finally, I was born and have always lived in the Peak District National Park, my whole life has been inextricably linked with it, its people, its landscape, its way of life and to serve as the Chair of my Park would be one of the greatest privileges of my life, thank you.

Cllr Andrew McCloy

I am standing for Chair for one further year (only) to offer continuity and stability in a time of change for the Authority. With a new Chief Executive not in place till the autumn, and two long-serving committee chairs stepping down, I am keen to minimise the corporate risk to our organisation and provide the time and support for our new CEO, in particular, to get up and running. I acknowledge that serving an extra term is a departure from convention, but I believe these are exceptional circumstances and remaining as Chair for one further year would allow a smooth transition and is in the best interests of the National Park Authority.

In terms of the broader agenda, although we must be prudent with our finances as we move away from the difficult period of covid and lockdown, and in the face of a disappointing 3-year flat cash Government funding settlement, we must also continue to show genuine ambition and leadership as a pioneering National Park in the face of the climate and biodiversity crises. As our new Management Plan and Local Plan policies take shape, they will allow us the opportunity to develop ever more progressive responses, but our biggest challenge may be to galvanise our partners to help us deliver a thriving National Park that delivers for the environment and people alike.

I hope Members will back me for one further year so we can shape this new agenda and the Authority can make a smooth leadership transition.

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**Deputy Chair of the Authority:**

Mr James Berresford

I am keen to continue in my role as Deputy Chair of the Authority. I believe I have proved through my contributions to date that I have a genuine appreciation of the organisation's core purposes and values and the challenges it faces.

I feel that my re-appointment to the role would provide much-needed continuity for the organisation as we transit from the outgoing CEO to the incoming CEO. The new appointee will, of course, need to rely on the skills and knowledge of all Members, not least the Chair. However, my experience in organisational development and team building would perhaps provide a key resource for the CEO to count on should he need to.

I further believe that as Deputy Chair of the Authority, I can add weight to the determination required to hone down the new National Park Management Plan and assist in securing the high-level partnership support its successful implementation will need. With limited resources available to all parties, not least the Authority itself, the Management Plan must become the conduit to focussed, determined action. I hope that as the Management Plan enters its final draft stage, I can be instrumental in persuading partners to commit themselves to its delivery. This would also be helped by the strong local and national networks I possess.

It perhaps goes without saying that I am interested in Chairing the Management Plan Task and Finish group. I have greatly enjoyed and benefitted from the highly skilled and professional input of my fellow Members in this regard.

Finally, I would welcome the opportunity to continue my input into the work of the Governance Review Working Group when required.

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