

11. OUTSIDE BODY AND CONFERENCE FEEDBACK REPORT

Name of Body	National Parks England AGM & Board Meeting
Date of Meeting	9 June 2022
Member in attendance	Andrew McCloy
Supporting Officer	Andrea McCaskie, Interim CEO
Issues raised at the meeting of significance to the Authority	
1.	I was re-elected as Chair of National Parks England (NPE) for a further 12 months and Ian Phillips (Chair of South Downs National Park) as Deputy Chair.
2.	NPE continues to lobby Government for more support for National Parks, promoting the work we all carry out and how we continue to deliver positive outcomes around our four key strategic aims, despite ever more stretched resources. A compendium of case studies has been produced to showcase examples of this work from around the National Parks; and we are also using opportunities like the forthcoming meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on National Parks (on nature recovery).
3.	In the wake of the Landscapes Review there is ongoing dialogue with Defra around the creation of a National Landscapes Partnership body – its membership, funding, role and purpose. NPE is actively putting forward National Parks' position, alongside AONBs and National Trails, and we wait to see how this will develop. Also part of this discussion is National Parks Partnership, reflecting Government's desire to explore private finance as an addition income stream for protected landscapes, and NPE and NPP are working closely so that we achieve the best outcome for National Parks.
4.	Hoda Grey, Executive Director for National Parks England, is shortly to go on maternity leave and cover is being provided by Jo Swiers, an experienced consultant that has worked with many NPAs. Directors approved NPE's budget for the year ahead (but for one year only, because of so much current uncertainty). They also agreed to set up a working group to examine the long term sustainability and future direction of NPE, which is funded entirely by NPAs' subscriptions. This is in light of decision of the Broads Authority to leave NPE and the concerns of some smaller NPAs over their own budgetary pressures. To that end, Directors agreed to bring in a banded subscription model for NPAs from 2023/4 onwards, which will see larger Parks like the Peak District pay a slightly higher annual fee and smaller NPAs like Northumberland and Exmoor slightly less. (In the case of PDNPA this would mean an increase of £9,000 per year.)
Issues on which the views of Authority Members are sought	
1.	To note the above (there will be an opportunity for a fuller discussion on any of these points in the Members' Forum on 22 July).
Relevant documents such as reports and hyperlinks	
1.	https://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/