

OUTSIDE BODY AND CONFERENCE FEEDBACK REPORT

Name of Body	UK National Parks' Conference
Date of Meeting	27-29 September 2022
Member in attendance	Andrew McCloy (with James Berresford and Janet Haddock-Fraser)
Supporting Officer	Phil Mulligan CEO
Issues raised at the meeting of significance to the Authority	
1.	The UK National Parks' Conference takes place every two years and brings together delegates from all 15 UK National Parks, as well as key partners and external representatives. This year it was held at Exmoor under the heading 'What does the nation need from National Parks today?'
2.	The Conference provided a chance to consider the role of National Parks in response to nature, climate change, diversity and inclusion, and 'green' economic growth. Aside from the study tours, keynote speakers including Minette Batters (NFU President), Tony Juniper (Natural England Chair) and Julian Glover.
3.	Some of the highlights from the speakers and general discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks have 3 big challenges in front of them today around climate, nature, and people's wellbeing, and this is what we should focus on – despite the ever more challenging financial situation facing English NPAs, in particular. • National Parks were set up post WW2 to serve the nation, and not just a local area. • We must be bold, show leadership and use our influence, despite (or arguably because of) the uncertain and volatile current political situation. • National Parks need to look to the future, nurturing a love of nature and the outdoor among young people, which is why projects like Generation Green are so important. • The complexion of National Parks should reflect the look and feel of today's society and we should address both soft and hard barriers to make it happen. • Although National Parks are rural areas our relationship with the UK's growing urban population is crucial and we should consider innovative ways to respond to this. • We should push back on a perceived 'us and them' dynamic between farming and conservation - farmers/land managers are key to the future of our landscapes.
4.	A full report on the Conference produced by Exmoor NPA can be found here: https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/441594/UK-NP-Conf-Report-2022.pdf
Issues on which the views of Authority Members are sought	
1.	To note the above.
Relevant documents such as reports and hyperlinks	
1.	More information and the video summaries of the Conference can be found here: https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/about-us/uk-national-parks-conference-2022