

## PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

#### Purpose

1. The history of the National Park Authority suggests that it is best served when all Members of the Authority have a stake in its governance. With this in mind, these Principles include issues that Members are asked to consider when electing or appointing people to, or standing for, Office or position.
2. Their purpose is to foster confidence, unity and trust within the Authority and the general public

#### Voting

3. It is essential to these Principles that nothing they contain is intended to in any way detract from the duty or ability of a Member to cast his or her vote in accordance with his/her best judgement.

#### Definition

4. "Group" means the Group of Members falling into one of these three categories:
  - Members appointed by Local Authorities other than Parish Councils;
  - Parish Members;
  - Members appointed by the Secretary of State other than Parish Members

#### Election and Appointment - Chair and Deputy Chair

5. In electing a Chair and appointing a Deputy Chair, Members should consider the desirability of ensuring:
  - that each office holder comes from a different Group;
  - that at least one of the office holders is a person living in or representing an area that lies within the National Park.

#### Other appointments

6. In appointing the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees, Members should consider the desirability of ensuring that, taking into account the Groups from which the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman were made there should be a spread of office holders from:
  - across the Groups; and
  - from amongst those living in or representing an area that lies within the National Park.
7. Taking into account the expertise, interest and potential of candidates, Members should also consider the desirability of achieving a spread of between the Groups when appointing Member Representatives and to outside bodies.

### **Standing for Office**

8. All Members are 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.
9. All Members have the right to stand for all elections and appointments but need to recognise that these Principles will be drawn to the attention of Members before a decision is made.
10. Newly appointed Members will not normally be considered for the position of Chair or Deputy/Vice Chair.
11. Members who have held a position or appointment for a continuous period of four years will not normally be considered for re-election or re-appointment.
12. It is the responsibility of a Member standing for election or appointment to demonstrate to those making the decision that:
  - his/her expertise, interest and potential;
  - he/she understands what will be required of them.

### **In office**

- 13 Anyone holding office should be seen to act in the interests of the Authority as a whole and of the National Park, and not of any particular Group or interest.

### **Group Meetings etc**

- 14 Whilst members sharing a common concern or interest may occasionally meet to exchange views, the holding of regular meetings of Groups or of members sharing a common interest may be seen as acting against these Principles.