

8. REPORT OF THE MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS PANEL

1. Purpose

To appoint Members to the Authority's Committees, Steering Groups, Panels, Advisory Groups and Outside Bodies for 2026/27

2. Context

2.1 On 22 April 2026, the Member Appointment Process Panel ("the Panel") invited Members to indicate their preferences for Committee Membership for 2026/27 and whether they wished to stand for appointment to key positions. The Panel met on 18 May 2026 to consider the responses received in the context of the agreed appointment principles available to view here [The Appointment Principles: Peak District National Park](#).

2.2 The report of the Panel is attached as Appendix 1. Members are asked to consider the report when agreeing the appointments set out in recommendations 1 to 5 below. (The references in brackets relate to sections A to D in Appendix 1).

2.3 The report of the Panel is a summary of responses received it is not a recommendation from the Panel.

3. Proposals

3.1 Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Planning Committee and Resources Committee. (Recommendation 2)

3.1.1 Section A of the Panel's report sets out the names of those Members who have expressed an interest in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the two standing committees. All named Members interested in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee and Chair and Vice-Chair of Resources Committee comply with Principle 3, as they have not exceeded the maximum continuous period of holding any one office for four continuous terms.

3.1.2 Several Members have expressed an interest in the role of Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee. If at the time of the meeting there is more than 1 Member to be considered for each role, and those Members are proposed and seconded, the Authority will need to make sure there are no further expressions of interest and carry out a ballot for the appointment.

3.2 Appointments to Planning Committee and Resources Committee. (Recommendations 1 and 3)

3.2.1 Section B of the Panel's report sets out suggested Membership of Committees and Panels based on the preferences of individual Members and the nominations received for the key positions above. Sections B (i) and B (ii) refer specifically to membership of the Authority's two Standing Committees.

3.2.2 Standing Order 1.40 sets out the arrangements for appointing Members to Standing Committees including that both Local Authority Members and Secretary of State appointed Members must be appointed to Committees in the same proportion as the membership of the Authority. This is a requirement of the Environment Act 1995 which means that with a Committee size of 15 there should be one more Local Authority appointed Member on each Committee.

- 3.2.3 The proposed Committee Membership as in sections B (i) and B (ii) of Appendix 1 are based on the previous Authority decision to fix the Standing Committees at 15 Members, with 8 Local Authority Members and 7 Secretary of State Members. Before appointing to the Planning Committee, the Authority will be asked to confirm the allocation of Local Authority Member places by appointing Authorities, as set out in section B (i) of Appendix 1. For the previous 5 years the size of the now Resources Committee has been increased by 1 to 16 so that the Chair of the Authority can be appointed to both Committees. Recommendation 1 refers to this.
- 3.2.4 There is expected to be 2 Secretary of State Member vacancies on the Resources Committee, due to the resignation of a Member from the Authority and the end of term of office of a Member, until new appointments have been made by Defra.
- 3.2.5 At the time of writing this report, it is expected that a ballot will be required in order to determine the Planning Committee Member for Staffordshire Moorlands DC/Staffordshire CC.

3.3 Appointments to Committees, Steering Groups, Panels and Advisory Groups. (Recommendation 4)

- 3.3.1 Sections B and C of the Panel's report set out the suggested membership of Committees, Steering Groups, Panels and Advisory Groups based on the preferences of individual Members and the expressions of interest received for the key positions. If no changes are needed at the meeting the appointments may be approved as proposed subject to the following issues identified by the Panel being addressed.
- 3.3.2 The Panel have identified there that are still vacancies to be filled on the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee, the Due Diligence Panel, the Governance Review Working Group, the Local Plan Review Member Steering Group and the Member Appointments Process Panel. All these vacancies are highlighted in Appendix 1.

3.4 Appointments to Outside Bodies (Recommendation 5)

- 3.4.1 This year there are 18 Outside Bodies to be appointed to and these are listed in Section D of Appendix 1. For each Outside Body how many Members and Deputies the Authority is able to appoint and details of Members who have expressed an interest in being appointed to that body are identified. Where there are more Members interested than there are places or Members have not expressed a preference for being the Member or a Deputy a vote will need to be taken to allocate the places. It is proposed that the Chair asks if there are any further expressions of interest for uncontested places and seeks nominations for the vacancies identified, asks the Authority to vote on contested places and then asks the Authority to approve the appointments as one block.

4. Recommendations

- 1. To set the size of the Authority's Standing Committees to 15, each with 8 Local Authority Members and 7 Secretary of State Members, and to allocate Local Authority places on Planning Committee in the proportions as set out in Section B (i) of Appendix 1, with an additional place on the Resources Committee to accommodate the Chair of the Authority if required.**

- 2. To appoint Members as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Resources Committee until the annual Authority meeting in July 2027 (Section A).**
 - 3. To appoint Members to the Planning Committee and the Resources Committee until the annual Authority meeting in July 2027 (Section B (i) and B (ii)).**
 - 4. To appoint the following until the annual Authority meeting in July 2027:-**
 - a) 5 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members to the Local Joint Committee (Section B (iii));**
 - b) 5 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members to the Appeals Panel (Section B (iv));**
 - c) 3 Local Authority Members and 3 Secretary of State Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee (Section B (v));**
 - d) 1 Member and 1 Deputy to the Due Diligence Panel (Section C (i));**
 - e) 8 Members (4 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members) to the Governance Review Working Group (Section C (ii));**
 - f) The Chair and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee, the Chair of the Authority and 6 other Members to the Local Plan Review Member Steering Group (Section C (iii));**
 - g) 4 Members (2 Local Authority Members, 2 Secretary of State Members) and 2 Reserve Members to the Member Appointments Process Panel (Section C (iv)).**
 - 5. To appoint Members to the 18 Outside Bodies set out in Section D of Appendix 1 until the annual Authority meeting in July 2027.**
 - 6. To confirm that the above appointments are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.**
- 5. Corporate Implications**
- a. Legal
- Standing Order 1.39(1) Part I requires the Authority at the Annual Meeting to appoint Members to be the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Standing Committee. Appointments made will continue until the next Annual Meeting unless a Member resigns from the office or resigns their membership of the Authority.

The Environment Act 1995 requires that membership of the Committees should as far as possible reflect the makeup of the membership of the Authority. This means that each Committee should, in most cases, have a majority of Local Authority appointed Members over the Members appointed by the Secretary of State, which includes Parish Members. There are a few exceptions where due to rounding up and rounding down the numbers from each category are equal. This principle is also considered when setting up an Appeals Panel.

b. Financial

A Special Responsibility Allowance is paid to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Vice-Chair roles, and Members may claim travel and subsistence for attendance at duties relating to the appointments made. These costs are included in the 2026/27 budget so the appointments do not incur any additional cost to the Authority.

c. National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan

The proper appointment of Members to the Authority's Committees, Steering Groups, Panels, Advisory Groups and Outside Bodies supports the National Park Management Plan and Authority Plan.

d. Risk Management

There are no adverse risks.

e. Net Zero

Every meeting of the Authority has its own carbon footprint in terms of arrangements such as meeting papers, providing food and refreshments and where Members use private transport to travel to and from meetings. Scheduling meetings around key business needs and trying to hold several meetings on the same day aims to minimize the impact.

6. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of the Member Appointment Process Panel 2026.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Lisa Walker, Business Centre Manager, on behalf of the Member Appointment Process Panel, 30 June 2026

Responsible Officer, Job Title

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