

Report to **South Downs National Park Authority**  
Date **1 September 2025**  
By **Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer**  
Title of Report **Appointment to Committee**  
**Decision**

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**Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to appoint Lara Sonola to the Policy and Resources Committee.**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its Annual General Meeting in July 2025 the Authority made its appointments of Members to committees. It was noted as part of the appointments that the Authority was awaiting the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to appoint a new Member of the Authority.
- 1.2 The SoS appointed Lara Sonola as a Member of the South Downs National Park Authority from 1 September 2025. This report seeks to appoint Lara to the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 1.3 Under Schedule 7 Para 13(3) of the Environment Act 1995, the Authority has a duty to secure that the division of local authority appointed Members and Secretary of State appointed Members on any Committee is (as nearly as possible using whole numbers) in the same proportion as required in the case of the Authority itself.

## **2. Issues for consideration**

- 2.1 It is proposed that Lara Sonola be appointed to the Policy and Resources Committee. This appointment is considered to support the distribution of skills and experience across the Authority's committees (**Appendix I**) and ensure the Authority is compliant with its duty outlined in paragraph 1.3 of this report.

## **3. Options and cost implications**

- 3.1 The Authority could decide not to make the proposed appointment. However, the proposed appointment support previous decisions of the Authority and is in line with the Authority's approach that all Members be appointed to a committee of the Authority.
- 3.2 The costs associated with the administration of the decision-making structures of the Authority are met from within the Authority's core budget.

## **4. Next steps**

- 4.1 Officers will take the necessary administrative steps to deliver the new committee membership.

**5. Other Implications**

<b>Implication</b>	<b>Yes*/No</b>
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The administration and meeting costs of Committees is covered by existing Authority staff and budgets. Members of the Authority are paid allowances in accordance with the Authority's Scheme of Allowances.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Effective decision making contributes to the efficient running of the Authority.
Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against	Effective decision-making contributes to the delivery of all PMP Outcomes and Corporate Plan objectives.
Links to other projects or partner organisations	None
How does this decision contribute to the Authority's climate change objectives	Effective Committees at the Authority play an important role in sustainable practices and development, as set out in the Partnership Management Plan, Local Plan and various Supplementary Planning Documents, and in monitoring the performance of the Authority against its Climate Change Action Plan.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	All Members are eligible to be considered for Committee places. The operation of Committees meets the obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and reasonable adjustments will be made to support Members to participate.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Data Protection implications?	Personal data relating to this decision has been and will continue to be managed in accordance with the Authority's information security policy and in compliance with Data Protection legislation.

**6. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision**

- 6.1 Members who have been newly appointed to Committees may be required to undertake training in the role and responsibilities of such Committee.

**RICHARD SANDIFORD**

**Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

**South Downs National Park Authority**

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Appendices:	I. Committee Appointments 2025-26
SDNPA Consultees:	Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Legal Services.
External Consultees:	None
Background Documents	<a href="#">Authority Standing Orders</a>

