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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee will be held at **1.00pm on 18 September 2025** at **The Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, GU29 9DH**

Siôn McGeever

Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declaration of Interests

To enable Members to declare to the meeting any disclosable interest they may have in any matter on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous Policy and Resources Committee meetings

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 26 June 2025. (page 5)

4. Updates on previous Committee Decisions

To receive any updates on previous decisions from the Policy and Resources Committee minutes that are not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

5. Urgent Matters

To consider any matter on the agenda which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency to due special circumstances.

6. Public participation

To hear questions or comments from members of the public present at the meeting.

7. Need for Part II Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee is asked to consider whether, in respect of Appendix 3 of Agenda Item 9 and Appendix 4 of Agenda Item 11 the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Authority and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is proposed on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings, it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by the requirement of the National Park Authority to be able to consider matters in relation to its business and fully consider the implications of its actions or proposed actions particularly in relation to decisions which may have implications on the effective day-to-day running of the Authority without the disclosure of information that could adversely impact the day-to-day running of the Authority and its ability to deliver its services.

8. Chair Update

To receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee

GOVERNANCE

9. Corporate Risk Register

To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (PR25/26-01 page 19)

10. Budget Monitoring Report 2025/26: Month 4

To consider a report from the (Interim) Chief Finance Officer (PR25/26-02 page 37)

11. Update on Internal Audit Progress and Implementation of Actions

To consider a report from the Internal Auditor (PR25/26-03 page 63)

12. Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) Self-Assessment and Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan (QAIP)

To consider a report from the Internal Auditor (PR25/26-04 page 75)

STRATEGIES & POLICIES

13. Firlie Whole Estate Plan Endorsement

To consider a report from the Nature Based Solutions Manager (PR25/26-05 page 91)

14. Annual Human Resources and Health & Safety Report for the year 2024-25

To consider a report from the HR Manager (PR25/26-06 page 175)

15. Procurement of Specialist Planning Advice for Landscape, Ecology and Archaeology

To consider a report from the Procurement Manager (PR25/26-07 page 229)

16. QI Seven Sisters Country Park Performance Report

To consider a report from the Commercial and Strategic Manager (PR25/26-08 page 235)

To all Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:

John Cross, Peter Diplock, Chris Dowling, Mark Fairweather, Theresa Fowler, Melanie Hunt, Jerry Pett, Mark Potter, Steven Ridgeon, Vanessa Rowlands, Lara Sonola, Vicki Wells and Stephen Whale.

Independent Members of the Committee: Catriona Aves and Tom Fourcade.

Co-opted Members of the Committee: Cameron Macdonald and Arthur Sloman

Boardroom Apprentice: Sarah Thompson

Members' Interests

SDNPA Members have a primary responsibility for ensuring that the Authority furthers the National Park Purposes and Duty. Members regard themselves first and foremost as Members of the Authority, and will act in the best interests of the National Park as a whole, rather than as representatives of their appointing body or any interest groups.

Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest that is not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and any personal interest and/or public service interest (as defined in Paragraph 18 of the Authority's Code of Conduct) they may consider relevant to an item of business being considered at the meeting (such disclosure to be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent)./24

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Public Participation

Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should register their request no later than 24 hours before the meeting by e-mailing public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk The public participation protocol is available on our website www.southdowns.gov.uk

Feedback

If you wish to give us feedback on your experience of the meeting please e-mail committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk

