

## **SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

### **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING 18 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Held at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, Midhurst at 1.00pm

Present: John Cross, Mark Fairweather, Melanie Hunt, Jerry Pett, Mark Potter, Steven Ridgeon, Vanessa Rowlands, Lara Sonola and Vicki Wells.

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

Independent Members of the Committee: Catriona Aves.

SDNPA Officers: Siôn McGeever (CEO), Laura Sercombe (Director of Landscape and Strategy), James Winkworth (Director of Growth and Organisational Development), Mark Alden (Nature Based Solutions Manager), Bruno Aveiro (H&S Officer), Annie Barnes (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Amanda Craig (Internal Auditor), Richard Fryer (Senior Governance Officer), Craig Garoghan (Interim Chief Finance Officer), Robert Green (Major Planning Projects and Performance Manager), Hayley Madgwick (Procurement Manager), Vicky Paterson (HR Manager), Richard Sandiford (Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer), Tim Slaney (Director of Planning), Victoria Turner (Head of Finance and Corporate Services) and Gill Welsman (Planning Project Management Officer).

Also attended by: Will Anderson and Bob Baines (Firle Estate)

#### **OPENING REMARKS**

1. The Chair opened the meeting.
2. The Chair welcomed John Cross, Vanessa Rowlands, Lara Sonola and Cameron Macdonald as new members of the Committee. The Chair also welcomed Will Anderson and Bob Baines from the Firle Estate.
3. The Chair welcomed all those present and stated that:
  - The meeting was being webcast by the Authority and would be available for subsequent on-line viewing. Anyone entering the meeting was considered to have given consent to be filmed or recorded, and for the possible use of images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purpose.
  - SDNPA Members had a primary responsibility for ensuring that the Authority furthers the National Park Purposes and Duty. Members regarded themselves first and foremost as Members of the Authority and would act in the best interests of the National Park as a whole, rather than as representatives of their appointing body or any interest groups.

#### **ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

4. Apologies were received from Peter Diplock, Chris Dowling, Tom Fourcade, Theresa Fowler, Sarah Thompson and Stephen Whale.

#### **ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

5. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **ITEM 3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JUNE 2025**

6. The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:
  - Paragraph 559, second bullet should read '£200,000' rather than '£200,00'.

#### **ITEM 4: UPDATES ON PREVIOUS COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

7. There were none.

**ITEM 5: URGENT MATTERS**

8. There were none.

**ITEM 6: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

9. There were no members of the public who had requested to speak.

**ITEM 7: NEED FOR PART II EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

10. It was noted that there were two exempt appendices for this meeting, Appendix 3 of Agenda Item 9 and Appendix 4 of Agenda Item 11. If any Member wished to discuss any matter within one of those appendices, Members would be asked at the appropriate time during those items whether they wished to consider the exclusion of the public, including the press, from the meeting.

**ITEM 8: CHAIR UPDATE**

11. The Chair provided the following verbal updates:
- The NPA meeting of 8 July 2025 agreed a delegation for the Director of Landscape and Strategy, in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, to agree arrangements for the procurement of and to authorise the entering into of contracts of a value of £0.200m or greater to deliver the Capital Programme 2025/26. It was confirmed that no contracts above the threshold had required the use of that delegated authority. An update on current projects in the pipeline was provided, noting that the Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP) Car Park works had been deferred to the following year.
  - The Chair provided an update on the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) Steering Group, noting that the most recent meeting had reviewed consultation responses from partners and the public, and that amendments had been made to the PMP as a result of this process.
  - The recruitment process for a new Director of Landscape and Operations was nearing completion.

**ITEM 9: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

12. The Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer introduced report PR25/26-01 and reminded members of the report content.
13. As the Committee wished to discuss matters contained in Appendix 3, the Monitoring Officer asked Members to consider whether, in respect of Appendix 3 of Agenda Item 9, the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the appendix contained information which was proposed to be considered exempt since it was related to the financial or business affairs of the Authority and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. It was proposed on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings and corporate risks it was felt that on balance this was 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.
14. **RESOLVED:** The meeting would be moved into private session to consider Appendix 3 of Agenda Item 9 and that the public, including the press, would be excluded from the meeting at that point.
15. The Committee commented:

Risk 1.1 - Staffing

- Requested further details on staff turnover to identify any trends that might indicate underlying issues.
- Observed that a certain level of staff churn could be beneficial for an organisation.
- Discussed whether the Framework Contract for Recruitment should be considered as a mitigation for Risk 1.1 once implemented.

Risk 2.2 – Income Generation

- Queried whether there was scope to create a register of call-off contractors to mitigate the impact of insufficient in-house skills or experience for income generation.

Risk 3.2 – SSCP – H&S

- Requested further details on cliff safety in the light of increased visitor numbers over the summer and questioned whether the Cliff Safety Partnership could manage the level of associated risk.
- Noted that cliff safety had been discussed at the recent SSCP Advisory Board meeting..
- Raised concerns regarding the river mouth crossing.
- Requested an update on the status of the road crossing and expressed concern about the potential for an incident before a solution had been implemented.

Risk 8.1 – Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Raised the issue of the LGR timeline and asked for clarification as to whether the Authority intended to wait for the results of local authority votes or act before those votes had taken place.

16. Members were advised:

Risk 1.1 - Staffing

- Further details on staff turnover were included in Section 2 of the Annual Human Resources and Health and Safety Report for the year 2024 – 2025 (**Agenda Item 14**). Exit interviews were conducted to help identify any issues.

Risk 2.2 – Income Generation

- The creation of a contractor register was under consideration as part of the development of an income generation strategy around service delivery. The current focus was on structures and governance arrangements for income generation. Contractors may be necessary to reach a critical mass that would enable the expansion of in-house resourcing.

Risk 3.2 – SSCP – H&S

- Paths were clearly marked and set back from the cliff edge. On-site Officers could provide advice and social media messaging was ongoing. The Commercial and Strategic Manager and the Countryside and Policy Manager (Eastern) attend the Cliff Safety Partnership to consider strategies to improve safety. The Authority also worked with the suicide prevention group, which would review lessons learned from the summer.
- Discussions were ongoing with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Highways. ESCC had agreed to include the crossing in its workplan and funding had been identified. The Authority had completed a feasibility study and requested design work.
- The Health & Safety Committee were aware of concerns around the interim period before the road crossing was implemented. The Committee had discussed whether

further mitigations were possible, and the crossing would be a focus for the H&S Officer during their next visit to the site.

**Risk 8.1 – Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

- Officers advised that SDNPA did not need to take a position on the structure of the unitary authorities and would seek to intervene in those discussions. A report on devolution and LGR would be presented at a future NPA meeting.

17. Mark Fairweather entered the meeting.
18. The meeting was closed to the public, including the press and moved into private session at 1.24pm.
19. The meeting returned to public session at 1.29pm.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee received and considered the Corporate Risk Register as at September 2025.

**ITEM 10: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2025/26: MONTH 4**

20. The Chief Finance Officer introduced report PR25/26-02 and reminded members of the report content.
21. A correction to the published recommendation was reported, noting that recommendation 3 should read '£65,000' not '£0.65m'.
22. The Committee commented:
  - Requested clarification on the current spend on the Centurion Way scheme compared with the projected total spend.
  - Expressed a desire to discuss the entire Centurion Way project at a future date.
  - Requested clarification on the split between direct SDNPA funding and external funding for the Centurion Way project.
  - Questioned whether the full cost of the project had been considered, rather than only section costs.
  - Observed there were lessons to be learnt from the Centurion Way project that could inform the Budget Workshop and Project Development and Management Workshop.
  - Requested an update on the status of the Midhurst shoring-up works.
  - Sought clarification on whether planning progress for the Midhurst fire site was dependent upon resolution of the insurance issues.
  - Requested further details of the project titled 'Grandfather's Bottom'.
  - Requested confirmation that the Section 106 (s106) interest was not subject to the same restrictions on use as s106 receipts and asked whether there were any plans for its use.
  - Noted that s106 interest was held in escrow with the receipts, whereas Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) interest was not subject to such constraints.
23. Members were advised:
 

That at the end of 2024-25, the Authority had spent £2.39m against a projected spend of £5.1m to complete Stage 9 of Centurion Way, which was estimated to conclude in 2027-28.

  - The figure of £2.39m included all income sources, including external funding. Expenditure could also include the use of reserves or underspends from previous years.

- The Centurion Way project had been developed incrementally as resources became available, rather than through an overall business case. Officers were of the opinion that that the project delivered positive benefits and would review the figures to ensure this view was supported by evidence.
- Noted that the Centurion Way project team reported regularly to the Centurion Way governance board. Officers suggested there could be benefit in holding a workshop with Members to share the thinking and variance reporting of the project.
- A Project Development and Management workshop would be scheduled once the new Director of Landscape and Operations was in post.
- The Authority had recovered all expected funds from the owners of the hotel in relation to the Midhurst shoring up works. The position with the owners of the adjacent building was progressing through the courts. The insurance issue had been with the ombudsman for two years and there was no clarity on when or how it would be resolved.
- The Midhurst fire site owner could progress planning if they were so minded, but they may be awaiting the insurance payout before progressing the matter.
- 'Revealing Grandfather's Bottom' was the full title of the project which was located near Butser Hill.
- It was confirmed that the s106 interest was not constrained in the same way as the s106 receipts. The interest was appended to the receipts and Officers would review whether there were any restrictions on its release.

24. **RESOLVED:** The Committee:

1. Noted the 2025/26 Revenue Forecast position as at month 4 of a net £0.005m above budget variance and that this is currently being met by a reduction in unrestricted reserves.
2. Noted the 2025/26 Capital Forecast position as at month 4 being an underspend of £2.886m as explained in paragraph 3.8 and Appendix 2 to the report.
3. Recommended that the National Park Authority approve the use of reserves totalling £65,000 set out in paragraph 3.9 to fund variations to the capital programme.
4. Noted the Reserves position as at month 4, as set out at Appendix 3.
5. Noted the Treasury Management overview and position as at month 4, as set out at Appendix 4.

**ITEM 11: UPDATE ON INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS**

25. The Internal Auditor introduced report PR25/26-3 and reminded members of the report content.
26. As the Committee wished to discuss matters contained in Appendix 4, the Monitoring Officer asked Members to consider whether, in respect of Appendix 4 of Agenda Item 11, the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the appendix contained information which was proposed to be considered exempt since it was related to the financial or business affairs of the Authority and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. It was proposed on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings and corporate risks it was felt that on balance this was 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.

27. **RESOLVED:** The meeting would be moved into private session to consider Appendix 4 of Agenda Item 11 and that the public, including the press, would be excluded from the meeting at that point.
28. The Committee commented:
- Welcomed the report and thanked the Treasury Management team in their efforts in obtaining a Substantial Assurance opinion.
  - Questioned the delay in implementing the recommendation for a second person to confirm the accuracy of reconciliations, identified in paragraph 4.6 of the Treasury Management audit (Appendix 2).
  - Requested a response on the need to improve policy review processes identified in the Governance audit (Appendix 2).
  - Requested an update on Anti-Fraud and Corruption training and Treasury Management training for Members.
  - Requested an update on high and medium-priority actions that were overdue for implementation.
29. Members were advised:
- The recommendation for a second person to confirm reconciliation had been raised with the Principal Accountant and a process for reviewing reconciliations was being implemented.
  - The Operational Management Team would now review policies and expiration dates on a six-monthly basis, and policy review would also be included in the Annual Governance Statement.
  - Treasury Management training for Members had been scheduled. The updated Anti-Fraud policy was due to be published and training would follow its release.
  - The post of Facilities and Property Manager was currently vacant which would delay progress on the overdue action on Asset Management. The issue with contractors was being addressed by the Health & Safety Officer, and a successful resolution was expected. Officers would provide a further update on the Cash Handling Policy and Procedure at a later date.
30. The meeting was closed to the public, including the press and moved into private session at 1.57pm.
31. The meeting returned to public session at 2.01pm.
32. **RESOLVED:** The Committee noted progress against the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan (2025/26).

## **ITEM 12: GLOBAL INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (GIAS) SELF-ASSESSMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (QAIP)**

33. The Internal Auditor introduced report PR25/26-04 and reminded members of the report content
34. The Committee commented:
- Welcomed the QAIP and its clarity and were reassured that the Internal Auditors were meeting GIAS.

- Requested clarification on whether the separate formal internal audit risk assessment, referenced at Action 12 of the Internal Audit QAIP (Appendix 2), would be shared with the Authority as part of the internal audit planning process for 26/27.
  - The Chair indicated her willingness to provide input for Action 25 of the Internal Audit QAIP (Appendix 2) if requested.
35. Members were advised:
- It was confirmed that the separate formal internal audit risk assessment could be shared with the Authority as part of the planning process.
36. **RESOLVED:** The Committee:
1. Noted the results of the self-assessment, as set out at paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 against the new Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) and the resulting Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP); and
  2. Approved the updated Internal Audit Charter as set out in Appendix 3.
37. The meeting adjourned for a short comfort break at 2.07pm.
38. Mark Potter left the meeting.

### **ITEM 13: FIRLE ESTATE WHOLE ESTATE PLAN ENDORSEMENT**

39. The Nature Based Solutions Manager introduced report PR25/26-05 and reminded members of the report content. He noted two corrections to the report:
- The scheduled 18 March 2020 site visit was cancelled due to Covid.
  - The third consultation commenced on 11 June (not 9 May) and ended on 9 July (not 6 June) 2025.
40. Will Anderson and Bob Baines of the Firle Estate addressed the Committee.
41. The Committee commented:
- Considered that the Whole Estate Plan (WEP) could serve as a valuable educational resource as well as a guide for all parties in supporting the Firle Estate to achieve its goals.
  - Requested further details on the community consultation process and questioned whether the process had been positive and contributed to community cohesion.
  - Asked whether the community had been able to broaden the narrative of Firle and whether there were examples of how this process had improved the WEP.
  - Welcomed the transparency regarding the challenges faced by the estate, the embrace of the duty to care for nature and response to the biodiversity crisis. Requested further detail on the challenges anticipated in delivering the WEP.
  - Praised the estate's leadership in encouraging regenerative farming and carbon capture and requested clarification on the methodology and processes to be used to achieve it.
  - Noted the clarity of aspiration and timelines set out in the WEP and asked whether further detail was available on specific timings and costings. Questioned what measures would be used to allow the Estate to ensure progress was monitored effectively.
  - Questioned whether the estate experienced difficulty in sourcing specialists with the necessary skills to maintain the listed buildings of historic importance and asked whether any training initiatives were planned to upskill the next generation of workers.
42. Members were advised:

- The community consultation process was based on a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis (SWOT) of the estate, which had been presented to Parish Councils for consideration and comment. The draft WEP was then subject to consultation, which remained an ongoing informal process involving a mix of communities and individuals. The process had been generally positive, with input received from across the Firle estate.
- The WEP process had highlighted a number of community concerns such as parking, congestions, commerciality in a rural setting, housing affordability and pressures on village schools. The WEP had worked, in part, like a Parish or Neighbourhood Plan and incorporated similar elements.
- Structural changes had been implemented so funding and financing were identified as the most significant challenges in delivering the WEPs aspirations.
- The estate comprised a variety of farms and the farmers on the Firle estate were part of a local farming cluster which was the primary driver to implement regenerative processes. The estate expressed interest in participating in wider initiatives such as the Weald to Waves project.
- The WEP was intentionally broad on timings and costings. Commercial justifications were often required for environmental work and progress was expected to be gradual, though confidence remained that the WEPs aspirations could be achieved.
- Estates no longer maintained large internal teams and relied primarily upon external contractors for heritage work. Collaboration with external specialists had enabled some upskilling of internal staff. Creativity and flexibility were required to deliver within budget constraints.

43. **RESOLVED:** The Committee endorsed the Firle Estate Whole Estate Plan at Appendix I.

**ITEM 14: ANNUAL HUMAN RESOURCES AND HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024-25**

44. The HR Manager introduced report PR25/26-06 and reminded members of the report content.

Recruitment

45. The Committee commented:

- Congratulated the HR team on their efforts with recruitment over the year.
- Requested clarification on whether any patterns had been identified in staff turnover.

46. Members were advised:

- Exit interviews were held when Officers left the Authority and no concerns had been identified through that process. It was noted that, as a small authority, opportunities for internal promotion were limited. Turnover in 2024/25 was lower than the average rate of 12–13%.

Health & Safety (H&S)

47. The Committee commented:

- Asked whether skin testing or protective measures had been considered for outdoor workers following the heatstroke incident.
- Sought confirmation that new Rangers were informed of risks associated with their work.

- Expressed concern over the issue of crossing of the Cuckmere river mouth near Seven Sisters Country Park.
- Requested further details on the scheduled H&S staff survey
- Noted the Authority Chair would be meeting with Seaford Town Council and would reiterate the Authority's messaging.

48. Members were advised:

- All health and safety incidents were reviewed quarterly by the H&S Committee. Skin testing had not been raised in response to the heatstroke incident, but the H&S Officer would explore whether it should be considered.
- H&S formed part of the induction process for all new staff, and H&S information was shared regularly with officers.
- The Authority's Comms team had been working to improve signage and messaging. Meetings with partners, Seaford Town Council and Wealden District Council, had been scheduled to review H&S and messaging, as the Authority did not own the land. Providing information on crossing points could expose the Authority to liability, but consideration had been given to providing tidal times via QR codes.
- The H&S Survey was not part of the broader survey, which ran every three years, but was a more detailed survey focused on officer safety.

Wellbeing

49. The Committee commented:

- Noted the benefit of Operational Management Team members being trained as mental first aiders to provide the option of peer support for senior staff.

50. Members were advised:

- It was confirmed that the Chief Executive Officer and HR Manager were trained mental health first aiders and that the Head of Communications and Engagement would be receiving mental health first aid training.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

51. The Committee commented:

- Welcomed the EDI hub on the intranet and asked whether it was being actively used.

52. Members were advised:

- Officers were unable to confirm whether web traffic to the EDI hub was being monitored. It was noted that Officers had delivered lunch and learn sessions and that engagement with these sessions had been positive.

Learning & Development

53. The Committee commented:

- Noted the impressive range of core skills training available and asked whether training on the use of Artificial Intelligence should be included in the programme for officers.
- Observed that professional development could be costly and acknowledged the Authority's support for officers undertaking such training. Questioned whether there was any payback expectation if an officer received training and subsequently left the Authority.

54. Members were advised:

- A training agreement was required for any course costing over £1,000, which included a payback period.

Priorities and Actions for 2025/26

55. The Committee commented:
- Requested clarification on the number of apprentices currently with the Authority.
56. Members were advised:
- The Authority currently had one apprentice ranger, and three additional apprentice rangers were scheduled to start before the end of September.
57. **RESOLVED:** The Committee:
1. Noted the update on the Authority's key work areas in Human Resources during 2024-25; and
  2. Agreed that it was satisfied that the Authority's Health and Safety activity over the last 12 months complied with its Health and Safety policy.

**ITEM 15: PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIST PLANNING ADVICE FOR LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

58. The Procurement Manager introduced report PR25/26-07 and reminded members of the report content.
59. The Committee commented:
- Requested clarification as to whether these services would be billed on an hourly basis.
  - Sought confirmation that the scheduled publication of the tender notice and associated documents could be achieved.
  - Questioned whether the total value for the lots could exceed £65,000 per annum.
  - Asked whether applications requiring additional surveys were charged at a higher rate.
  - Requested clarification on whether West Sussex was included within the Sussex lot structure.
60. Members were advised:
- It was confirmed that these services would be billed on an hourly basis.
  - Officers were confident that the published timetable for the tender process could be achieved.
  - Market research had been used for the estimate of £65,000 per annum for the value of the combined lots, but the actual cost could only be known once bids had been received. Evaluation criteria would include both quality and cost. A contingency had been factored into the estimate. It was noted that the Authority's demand for these services would depend upon the volume of planning applications received.
  - Planning application fees were set nationally at a flat rate. Local fee setting powers were expected to be introduced in the future, which would allow some variation.
  - The lot structure had been designed with devolution in mind, combining East and West Sussex into a single parcel. If Members were minded to divide the lots between East and West Sussex, that could be achieved but would increase workload by one-third. Hampshire currently provided these services for the West Sussex area.
61. **RESOLVED:** The Committee:

1. Approved the commencement of a procurement process leading to the establishment of a framework agreement, or agreements, to provide specialist planning advice for landscape, ecology and archaeology to SDNPA for a period of up to 4 years.
2. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to award a framework agreement, or agreements, for the above, following a competitive process carried out under the terms of the Procurement Act 2023.

62. The meeting adjourned for a short break at 3.33pm.

#### **ITEM 16: Q1 SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK PERFORMANCE REPORT**

63. The Director of Planning introduced report PR25/26-08 and reminded members of the report content.

64. The Committee commented:

- Thanked Officers for their efforts over the summer in meeting demand.
- Requested clarification as to whether the reduction in staff capacity during Quarter I had been resolved.
- Suggested that consideration be given to placing the surplus budget generated in Quarter I into a reserve to offset less profitable quarters in future.
- Expressed enthusiasm for the number of mobility hire bookings.
- Requested clarification on the mitigations in place for parking non-compliance.
- Suggested that camping occupancy rates should be reported as a separate line in future SSCP Key Performance Indicators, rather than being included within cottage occupancy rates.
- Asked whether there were mechanisms to capture visitor contact details, such as through the use of QR codes, to enable follow-up engagement.
- Questioned what lessons could be drawn from other high-volume visitor attractions, such as Stonehenge, to assist with seasonal planning and managing the impact of large visitor numbers on the landscape.

65. Members were advised:

- The reduction in staff capacity had been resolved and there was now a full complement of staff complement at Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP). An exercise was underway to consider how additional income could be used to maintain appropriate staffing levels to meet cyclical surges in demand.
- Officers had been baselining quarterly figures and expressed increased confidence in SSCP income profiles. It was noted that the Countryside Act 1968 restricted the use of surplus income generated by country parks.
- Recently appointed car parking officers were expected to improve compliance, particularly in relation to coach parking.
- The Authority did not maintain a visitor database for SSCP, and many visitors did not use the visitor centre. The National Trails and Countryside Access Lead Officer was exploring the use of telemetry data to record accurate visitor numbers across the Park, and consideration would be given to the idea of using QR codes to capture visitor contact details.

66. **RESOLVED:** The Committee received and considered the Q1 Seven Sisters Country Park Performance Report 2025/26.

67. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.55pm.

**CHAIR**