

Report to	<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>
Date	<b>21 November 2017</b>
By	<b>Director of Planning</b>
Title of Report	<b>Reconstitution of Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1) Agree to the re-establishment of the “Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group” with the terms of reference set out at Appendix I.**
- 2) Invite written expressions of interest from Members to be part of the core group for the above, to be notified to the Head of Governance.**
- 3) Delegate authority to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Chair of P&R Committee, to appoint the membership of the group.**

**I. Summary and Background**

- I.1 It is proposed that the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group (T&FG) be re-established with the amended terms of reference set out at Appendix I.
- I.2 The T&FG will continue the work started by the previous affordable Housing Task and Finish Group which was established by the Policy and Programme Committee in July 2016 and operated through to January 2017.
- I.3 The original T&FG was established following a Member workshop in May 2016 which identified that there was a need for additional affordable housing within the park and a potential gap in delivery that the SDNPA could seek to fill/influence.
- I.4 In undertaking its work the group:
  - Reviewed and progressed the recommendations arising from the Affordable Housing Paper, prepared by Authority Officers in early 2016.
  - Oversaw the delivery of a land owners conference which brought together landowners, agents and other from across the National Park.
  - Reviewed a variety of models for delivery of affordable housing and met with representatives of providers to discuss options and risks associated with the various approaches.
- I.5 The final update from the working group was presented verbally to P&P committee on the 28 February 2017, coinciding with the publication of the Governments Housing White Paper and the departure of a key member of staff from the project.
- I.6 The 2016/17 Budget round identified a need for funding for this project and £100k per annum was approved in the budget and MTFP to progress this work.
- I.7 It is proposed that the Working Group now be reconstituted with the terms of reference set out at appendix I to conclude this work and make final recommendations to the NPA, via the P&R committee in early 2018.

## 2. Purpose of the Task and Finish Group

- 2.1 The purpose of the Task and Finish Group (T&FG) is to consider the best approach to increase the provision of affordable housing in the National Park.
- 2.2 Since the conclusion of the work of the previous T&F group a new Officer project team has been assigned to this work and a revised Strategy Paper is being developed. This Strategy Paper considers the options open to the National Park Authority and proposes new recommendations for action to be taken by the Authority and will be used to inform the work of the T&F group
- 2.3 Prior to its final submission to the T&F group the strategy paper will be evaluated by an independent peer reviewer to help ensure all options have been correctly identified and the recommendations made are realistic and achievable and reflect the best use of the Authority's powers and available resources.

## 3. 3. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Yes –P&R Committee and NPA will be required to take decisions in relation to any amendments arising from the review.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The working group will be supported from within core budgets.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The proposal sets out to ensure efficient effective and transparent decision making and to provide a direct route for Members to input their expertise and experience.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	None arising directly from this report The requirements of the equalities act will be considered by the working group when undertaking its review.
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 Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	The proposal contributes to principle 4: Promoting good governance

## 4. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 4.1 This proposal is designed to enable the Authority to undertake in depth analysis and review to inform future decision making by the Committee and full Authority .This will help mitigate risks that opportunities to act in the best interest of the National Park are missed.

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Appendices I. Proposed Terms of Reference: Affordable Housing Task and  
Finish Group  
SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive Officer; Monitoring Officer;  
External Consultees None  
Background Documents [Standing Orders](#)  
[P&P committee minutes](#)

Draft Terms of reference:

<b>Name of group</b>	Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group
<b>Purpose</b>	To consider the best approach to increase the provision of appropriate affordable housing.
<b>Outcomes &amp; Deliverables</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To consider the findings and recommendations of the emerging revised Strategy Paper on affordable housing</li> <li>2. To seek any additional evidence it feels necessary to support the development of recommendations in relation to a SDNPA approach to affordable housing</li> <li>3. To make recommendations to the P&amp;R committee in relation to the development of an SDNPA approach to affordable housing.</li> </ol>
<b>Duration</b>	The Task and Finish Group will seek to bring its work to a conclusion no later than June 2018
<b>Membership</b>	Members to be agreed (Previous T&F group Members were Jo Carr, Gill Mattock, Heather Baker, Helen Jackson and Robert Mocatta)
<b>Accountability</b>	<p>The Task and Finish Group will deliver its outcomes to its parent committee (P&amp;R).</p> <p>The Group will have no policy or formal decision making powers and will take its steer on policy matters from its parent committee and/or the NPA.</p>
<b>Review</b>	Any changes to the Membership and remit of the Task and Finish group will be agreed by the P&R committee.
<b>Working methods &amp; meetings</b>	<p>The Task and Finish Group will appoint its own Chair from amongst the core Members of the group.</p> <p>The Chair of the Task and Finish Group may call a meeting of the Group as and when required.</p> <p>The quorum of the Task and Finish group will be 3.</p> <p>The Task and Finish group may invite partners, stakeholders or others to its meetings as it feels appropriate.</p> <p>The groups final report will be submitted via an Officer to its parent committee for approval.</p> <p>The Task and Finish group will be encouraged to work virtually wherever possible.</p>
<b>Resources</b>	<p>The group will have no budget or allocated resources.</p> <p>Support will be provided by the Committee and Member Services team and the Director of Planning &amp; Major Planning Projects and Performance Manager.</p> <p>Where appropriate the group may make recommendations to the relevant officer or its parent Committee for the allocation of resources where it feels additional work may need to be undertaken</p>
<b>Amendment, modification or variation</b>	Amendment, modification or variation of these terms of reference can only be made by resolution of the parent committee