

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	17 December 2020
By	Head of Governance & Support Services
Title of Report Decision	Changes to Committee Membership

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to

- 1. Agree to amend the membership of the Policy and Resources Committee by removing Authority Members Helen Burton, Chris Dowling and Richard Waring from the committee, noting that the membership of this committee will now total 12 members plus Co-opted Members**
- 2. Agree to amend the membership of the Planning Committee by removing Authority Member William Meyer from the committee and appointing Authority Member Richard Waring to the committee**
- 3. Note the roles that will be performed by members removed from the committee as set out at para 3.1.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Appointments to committees is a matter reserved to the National Park Authority. This paper proposes updates to the Committee appointments previously agreed by the Authority at its AGM in 2020.
- 1.2** Under Schedule 7 Para 13 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. For these purposes parish Members are counted as Secretary of State appointees.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1** The recommendations are intended to enhance the authority's decision making and contribute to the effective delivery of the Authority's agreed outcomes and objectives

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1** It is proposed to amend the membership of the Planning Committee to enable William Meyer to join the trading company. He will be replaced by Richard Waring. Through this change the balance of committee members as described at para 1.2 will be broadly maintained. However further changes to membership of the committee will need careful consideration to ensure appropriate levels of input from Local Authority Members are maintained.

- 3.2 At its meeting in October 2020 the NPA endorsed the principle of a small number of members not being appointed to committees in order to undertake, within the parameters of the member role description, other roles to support the work of the authority. The roles to be undertaken by members not appointed to a committee are set out below. It will be a requirement that members undertaking these roles will be required to report to the NPA and maintain regular contact with appropriate officers and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.
- 3.3 The proposed removal of two Local Authority members from the P&R committee will mean that the balance on the committee is maintained. However further changes to membership of the committee will need careful consideration to ensure appropriate levels of input from Local Authority Members are maintained.
- 3.4 The Chair, Deputy Chair and Committee Chairs, working with Senior officers will continue to keep under review both the membership of the Committees and the scope for creating further “task specific” members who are not on Committees:
- Helen Burton – work with the appropriate officers to support ongoing work with voluntary sector partners to support effective partnerships and delivery across health and wellbeing and engagement agendas.
 - Chris Dowling – work with the appropriate officers to support the emerging business support agenda and develop a South Downs wide business support network to help deliver against the National Park Authority’s Duty and the “thrive” elements of the PMP / Corporate plan
 - William Meyer – to be appointed as a Director of the new Trading Company (subject to agreement by the NPA) and to act as the link between the Trading Company and project board for day to day operational matters.

4. Options & cost implications

- 4.1 There are no additional costs associated with this decision.
- 4.2 It is within the powers of the Authority to not appoint members to a committee, and there is no requirement for all Authority members to be appointed to a committee. It has previously been the practice of the Authority to appoint all members to a committee, however at its meeting in October 2020, the Authority did endorse the principle of not doing so.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 Following the NPA decision changes to committees will take place immediately.
- 5.2 Members given other roles will be expected to report back to the NPA on their activities in a timescale agreed with the Chair of the Authority.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	None
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	By making the best use of member time and expertise decision making can be enhanced and delivery improved.

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?	Yes – there are no equalities implications arising from this proposal. members will continue to be supported to undertake their roles and any specific requirements to support this will be met.
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?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	The proposal supports the principle of promoting good governance

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 7.1 There are no risks associated with this decision. By engaging members in different ways the Authority can make best use of Members skills and expertise. Members not appointed to a committee will have no individual decision making powers and their performance will be monitored through reporting back to the Authority and through annual performance appraisals with the Chair.

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Appendices None
SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management;
Director of Planning; Monitoring Officer;
External Consultees None
Background Documents **SDNPA PMP**
Corporate plan
Committee appointments report to NPA AGM July 2020

