

Report to **South Downs National Park Authority**
Date **19 October 2023**
By **Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer**
Title of Report **Appointment of Committees**
Decision

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to:

- 1. Agree the appointment of Vicki Wells to the Policy and Resources Committee until the Authority AGM in 2024 as set out at Appendix I of this report;**
 - 2. Agree the appointment of Antonia Cox to the Planning Committee until the Authority AGM in 2024 as set out at Appendix I of this report; and,**
 - 3. Note the election of Steven Ridgeon as co-Deputy Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, alongside Maggie Jones who was appointed at the AGM.**
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its AGM in July 2023 the Authority agreed its annual review of arrangements for discharging its decision-making responsibilities, in particular the delegation of responsibilities, and making of appointments, to Committees. Further to the committee member appointments made at that meeting, there remained two vacancies on the Policy and Resources Committee as SDNPA Members had not at that point been appointed by the Defra Secretary of State or by Worthing Borough Council. In addition, at the AGM, only one of the two Deputy Chairs of the Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee were appointed and it was explained that, in accordance with Standing Order 8.3, that the duty to elect a further Deputy Chair would fall to the P&R Committee.
- 1.2 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 and this has been borne in mind when allocating Members to committees.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 In summary the proposed amendments to the membership of committees which are recommended for approval by the Authority are:
 - Appoint Vicki Wells to the Policy and Resources Committee.
 - Appoint Antonia Cox to the Planning Committee.
- 2.2 This change would increase the number of Members on the Planning Committee to 13 and reduce the number of Members on the Policy & Resources Committee to 11. In both cases the division of Local Authority and Secretary of State appointed Members would reflect, as near as possible, the same proportion as the Authority.

2.3 Members are also invited to note the election of Steven Ridgeon as co-Deputy Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting of the committee on 21 September 2023. Steven will work as co-Deputy Chair alongside Maggie Jones, who was appointed at the Authority AGM on 11 July 2023.

3. Options & cost implications

3.1 The Authority could decide not to make the proposed appointments to committees. However, the proposed committee appointments are in line with the Authority's approach that all Members be appointed to a committee of the Authority save for a small number of Members who are not appointed to committees in order to undertake, within the parameters of the Member role description, other roles to support the work 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 Should the appointments be approved, officers will take the necessary administrative steps to effect the change.

5. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
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 development, as set out in the 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 and members of the public to participate.

Implication	Yes*/No
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.
- 6.2 The Authority is the planning authority for the South Downs National Park, and any new appointees to the Planning Committee must undertake the required level of training before they can take part in the decision-making process.

RICHARD SANDIFORD

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South Downs National Park Authority

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Appendices	I. Committee appointments 2023/24 including new appointments for approval at this meeting
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive Officer, Director of Countryside Policy & Management, Director of Planning & Monitoring Officer.
External Consultees	None
Background Documents	Authority Standing Orders

Committee Appointments 2023/24

Planning Committee (13)	Policy & Resources Committee (11)	Appointment, Management and Standards Committee (3)
Alun Alesbury (SoS)	Annie Brown (SoS)	Vanessa Rowlands (SoS)
Heather Baker (SoS)	Tim Burr (SoS)	Tim Burr (SoS)
John Cross (LA)	Peter Diplock (LA)	Janet Duncton (LA)
Debbie Curnow-Ford (LA)	Mark Fairweather (LA)	
Janet Duncton (LA)	Theresa Fowler (LA)	Substitute members:
John Hyland (SoS)	Joan Grech (LA)	John Hyland (SoS)
Gary Marsh (LA)	Melanie Hunt (SoS)	William Meyer (SoS)
William Meyer (SoS)	Maggie Jones (SoS)	Robert Mocatta (LA)
Stephen McAuliffe (LA)	Jerry Pett (LA)	
Robert Mocatta (LA)	Steven Ridgeon (SoS)	
Andrew Shaxson (SoS)	Vicki Wells (LA)	
Daniel Stewart-Roberts (LA)	+ x5 co-opted members	
Antonia Cox (SoS)		

Members not appointed to committee:

Stephen Whale and Chris Dowling - appointed as Directors of South Downs Commercial Operations.

