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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 29 February 2024** at **Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE.**

Tim Slaney

Chief Executive (Interim)(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 23 November 2023. (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 Authority is asked to consider whether, in respect of Appendices 3, 4, & 5 of Agenda Item 17, 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 and business affairs of a 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. This conclusion was reached on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings and of audit results, 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 impact the day-to-day running of the Authority and its ability to deliver its services..

STRATEGIES & POLICIES

- 8. Update on Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework**
To receive a verbal update from the Director of Landscape and Strategy.
- 9. The Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve: proposal to extend Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve to include land at Seven Sisters Country Park**
To consider a report from the Countryside and Policy Manager (Eastern Downs) (PR23/24-27 page 15)
- 10. Direction of Travel for the approach to Cultural Heritage in the SDNPA**
To consider a report from the Cultural Heritage Lead (PR23/24-28 page 61)
- 11. Revised Corporate Plan Measures**
To consider a report from the Performance and Project Manager (PR23/24-29 page 73)
- 12. Q3 South Downs Commercial Operations Limited Performance Report 2023/24**
To consider a report from the Head of Governance (PR23/24-30 page 77)
- 13. Procurement of Planning Administration System**
To consider a report from the Procurement Manager (PR23/24-31 page 83)

GOVERNANCE

- 14. Corporate Risk Register**
To consider a report from the Head of Governance (PR23/24-32 page 89)
- 15. Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24: Month 9**
To consider a report from the Chief Finance Officer (PR23/24-33 page 105)
- 16. Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25**
To consider a report from the Chief Finance Officer (PR23/24-34 page 129)
- 17. Audited Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and Letter of Representation**
To consider a report from the Chief Finance Officer (PR23/24-35 page 157)
- 18. External Audit Findings and Opinion**
To consider a report from the External Auditor (PR23/24-36 page 231)
- 19. Value for Money – Auditors Annual Report 2022/23**
To consider a report from the External Auditor (PR23/24-37 page 263)
- 20. Internal Audit Strategy, Annual Audit Plan and Charter**
To consider a report from the Chief Internal Auditor (PR23/24-38 page 291)
- 21. Internal Audit Progress and Implementation**
To consider a report from the Chief Internal Auditor (PR23/24-39 page 309)

To all Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:

Annie Brown, Tim Burr, Peter Diplock, Mark Fairweather, Theresa Fowler, Joan Grech, Melanie Hunt, Baroness Jones of Whitchurch, Jerry Pett, Steven Ridgeon and Vicki Wells.

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

Co-opted Members of the Committee: Morris Findley, OlaOlu Adedayo.

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).

Access to Information

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Recording of Meetings

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As part of the Authority's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting may be filmed for live and/ or subsequent broadcast via the internet; at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training or any other purposes by the Authority. Webcasting is undertaken in the public interest and in the exercise of our official authority, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed, recorded or photographed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this, please e-mail committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk

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

