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**SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING**

All Members are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the South Downs National Park Authority to be held at **1.00pm on 28 March 2024** at the **Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH.**

**Tim Slaney**

Chief Executive (National Park Officer)(Interim)

**AGENDA**

**PART I**

**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 the previous meeting held on 12 December 2023**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12 December 2023 (Page 5).

**4. 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 (if Members have any urgent matters they are asked to consult the Chair before the meeting commences).

**5. Public Participation**

The Chair will allow members of the public to ask questions, make statements or present a petition on any matter on the agenda for this meeting or on any matter that falls within the Authority's powers, subject to procedures set out in Appendix 3 to the Authority's Standing Orders.

**6. Need for Part II Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Authority is asked to consider whether, in respect of Agenda Items 20 and 21, 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 paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Authority (Agenda Item 20) and information relating to any individual (Agenda Item 21) 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. It is proposed that this conclusion be reached for the following reasons:

- In respect of Agenda Item 20, this conclusion is reached on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in maintaining the transparency of Authority proceedings relating to the delivery of its planning service, it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by the need for the Authority to be able to consider matters in relation to its business and fully consider the implications of its proposed actions which will have implications for the agreements regarding the ongoing delivery of its planning service without the disclosure

of information that could undermine its position or its ability to deliver value for money through these arrangements.

- In respect of Agenda Item 21, this conclusion is reached on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in maintaining the transparency of Authority proceedings, it is felt that on balance the individual's right to privacy outweighs any public interest in releasing this information at this time.

**7. Authority Chair Update**

To consider a report from the Authority Chair (Report NPA23/24-23 Page 15).

**8. Chief Executive's Progress Report**

To consider a report from the Chief Executive (Interim) (Report NPA23/24-24 Page 19).

**9. South Downs National Park Trust Annual Update**

To consider a verbal report from the Chair of the Trust and the Head of the Trust.

**10. 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) (Report NPA23/24-25 Page 27).

**11. Revenue Budget, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2028/29**

To consider a report from the Chief Finance Officer (Report NPA23/24-26 Page 73).

**12. Update on South Downs Green Finance Summit**

To consider a report from the Communications and Engagement Manager (Report NPA23/24-27 Page 111)

**13. Revised Corporate Plan Measures**

To consider a report from the Performance and Project Manager (Report NPA23/24-28 Page 123).

**14. Recruitment of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)**

To consider a report from the HR Manager (Report NPA23/24-29 Page 127).

**15. Appointments to Outside Bodies**

To consider a report from Head of Governance (Report NPA23/24-30 Page 131).

**16. Revisions to Authority Standing Orders**

To consider a report from the Head of Governance (Report NPA23/24-31 Page 135).

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**17. Planning Committee**

Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9 November, 14 December 2023 and 15 February 2024 (Page 151).

**18. Policy & Resources Committee**

Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 23 November 2023 (Page 173).

**19. Appointment, Management & Standards Committee**

Minutes of the Appointment, Management & Standards Committee meetings held on 25 May, 19 September and 14 December 2023 (Page 183).

## PART II

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ONLY

#### 20. SI01 Host Authority Arrangements – Lewes District Council

To consider a report from the Director of Planning (Report NPA23/24-32).

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

#### 21. Appointment, Management & Standards Committee

Part II Minutes of the Appointment, Management & Standards Committee meetings held on 25 May and 14 December 2023.

### TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

#### 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

If you would like a copy of this agenda in large print or an alternative format/language please contact the Committee Officer at [committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk) or 01730 814810

#### Recording of Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations give a right to members of the public to record (film, photograph and audio-record) and report on proceedings at committee meetings. The Authority has a protocol on 'Filming, Recording and Reporting of South Downs National Park Authority Meetings' which is available [on our website](#).

As part of the Authority's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will 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. By entering the virtual meeting room 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 contact the Governance Officer [committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk)

#### Public Participation and Meeting Attendance

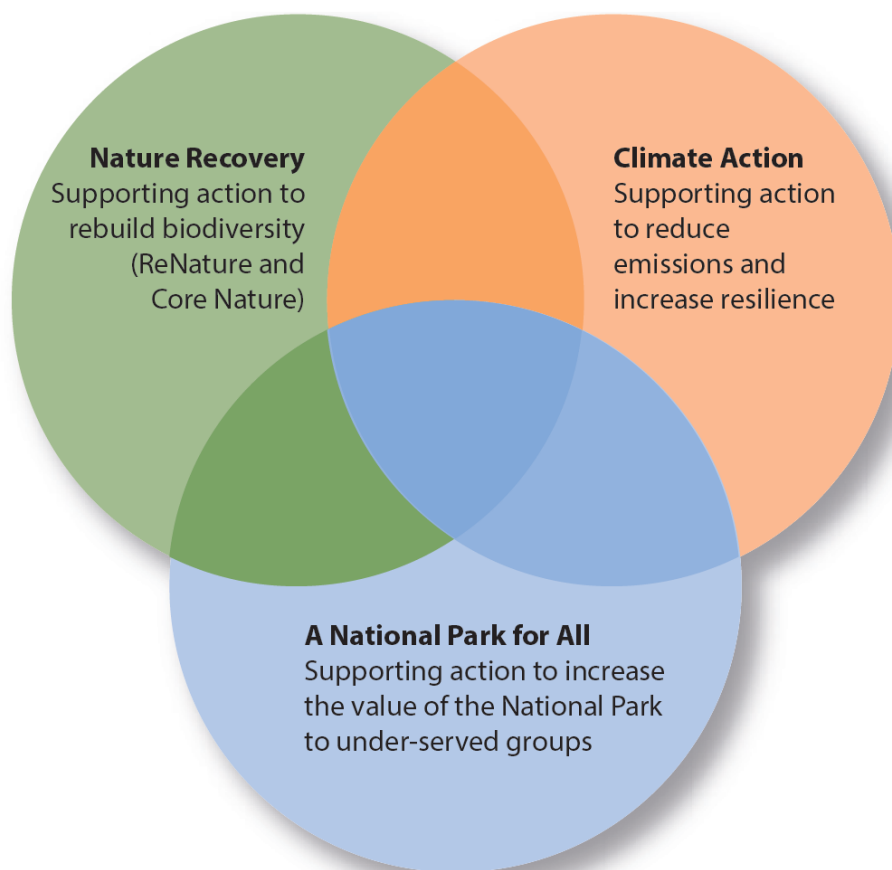
Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should register their request no later than 24 hours before the meeting by emailing [public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk). The public participation protocol is available on our website [www.southdowns.gov.uk/](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/)

#### Feedback

If you wish to give us feedback on your experience of the meeting please e-mail [committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk)

## South Downs National Park Authority Corporate Plan

### High Level Targets



#### NATURE RECOVERY

Supporting action rebuild biodiversity (ReNature and Core Nature).

- To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%.
- Maintain, enhance and/or restore existing key sites, habitats and species.

#### CLIMATE ACTION

Supporting action to reduce emissions and increase resilience.

- South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tons per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target.
- 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019.

#### A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

Supporting action to increase the value of the National Park to under-served groups.

- Increase diversity of visitors to, and those engaging with, the South Downs National Park.
- 'Your National Park' campaign reaches 20,000 people by 2025.
- Impact measure for direct engagement.