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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 27 March 2025** at the **Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH.**

**Siôn McGeever**

Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

**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 10 December 2025**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 10 December 2024 (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 19 and 20 the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that it is likely, 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 or business affairs of any 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. It is proposed on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings, 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 adversely impact the day-to-day running of the Authority and its ability to deliver its services.

**7. Authority Chair Update**

To consider a report from the Authority Chair (Report NPA24/25-29 Page 13).

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

To consider a report from the Chief Executive (Report NPA24/25-30 Page 17).

**9. South Downs National Park Trust update**

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

**10. Updated South Downs National Park Trust and South Downs National Park Authority Memorandum of Understanding**

To consider a report from the Head of Marketing and Income Generation (Report NPA24/25-31 Page 25).

**11. Revenue Budget, Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2029/30**

To consider a report from the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Report NPA24/25-32 Page 41).

**12. Corporate Plan 2025-26**

To consider a report from the Performance and Project Manager (Report NPA24/25-33 Page 83).

**13. Seven Sisters Country Park Operating Plan 2025/26**

To consider a report from the Commercial and Strategic Manager (Report NPA24/25-34 Page 109).

**14. Responses to the Devolution Priority Programme Consultations**

To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Report NPA24/25-35 Page 127).

**15. Scheme of Members' Allowances**

To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Report NPA24/25-36 Page 177).

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**16. Planning Committee**

Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 14 November, 12 December 2024 and 13 February 2025 (Page 211).

**17. Policy & Resources Committee**

Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 21 November 2024 (Page 233).

**18. Appointment, Management and Standards Committee**

Minutes of the Appointment, Management and Standards Committee meetings held on 24 July and 9 August 2024 (Page 245).

**PART II**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**19. Policy & Resources Committee**

Part II minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meetings held on 21 November 2024.

**20. Appointment, Management and Standards Committee**

Part II Minutes of the Appointment, Management and Standards Committee meetings held on 24 July and 9 August 2024.

## **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**

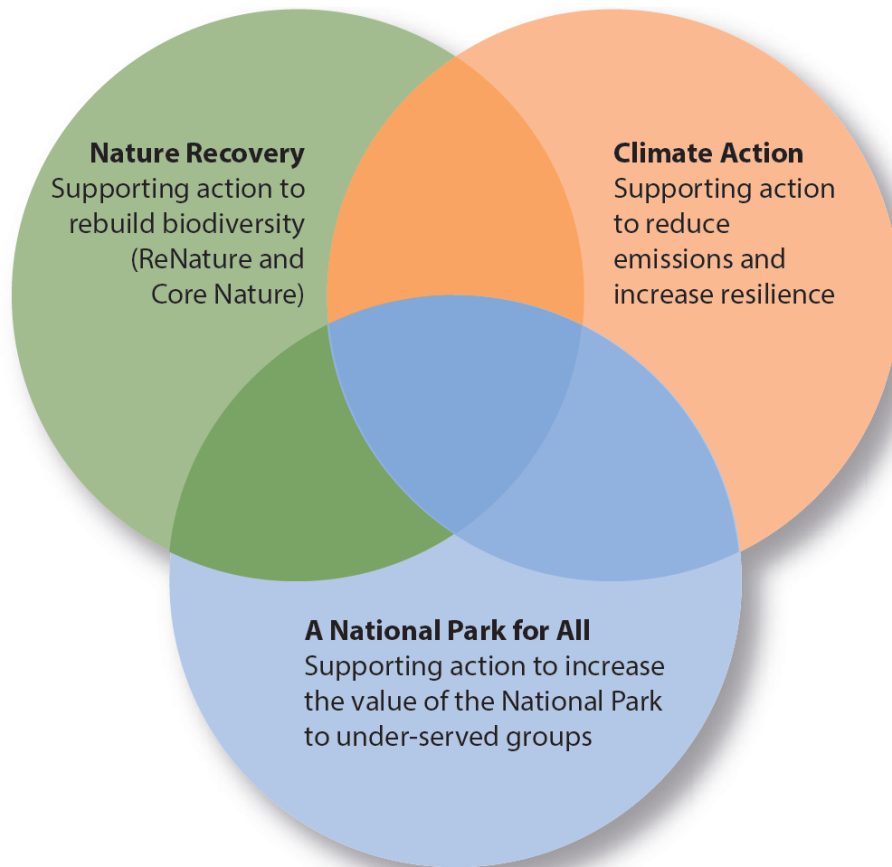
Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should register their request no later than 24 hours before the meeting by emailing [public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk). The public participation protocol is available on our website [www.southdowns.gov.uk/](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/)

### **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.