

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 4 March 2022

Present: W Dracup, G Gribble, P Harper, G Hill, S Morgan, D Moyle,
J Nutley, N Oakley, C Pannell, M Renders, L Samuel, P Sanders,
P Smerdon, P Vogel, P Woods, D Thomas J McInnes

Officers: K Bishop, Chief Executive (National Park Officer)
R Drysdale, Director of Conservation and Communities
A Stirland, Head of Business Support

Apologies: A Cooper

The Chair welcomed Mrs Shewan, Independent Person, to the meeting.

3396 Declarations of Interest

Mr Gribble declared an interest in Item 10, Bovey Tracey Neighbourhood Development Plan, due to being a member of Bovey Tracey Town Council. He advised that he would leave the meeting for the item.

Mrs Morgan declared an interest in Item 10, Bovey Tracey Neighbourhood Development Plan, due to being a member of Teignbridge District Council, which represents Bovey Tracey. She advised that she would leave the meeting for the item.

Mr Harper declared an interest in Item 13, National Parks Partnerships Limited Liability Partnership and UK Communications Team – Three Year Operating Plan, due to his being a Director of the Management Board. He advised that he would not take part in the discussion and would abstain from the vote. He would, however, make himself available to answer any questions from Members.

3397 Minutes of the Authority meeting held on Friday 4 February 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4 February 2022 were proposed by Mr Sanders, seconded by Mrs Pannell and agreed as a true record.

3398 Chair's Report

The Chair reported the following:

- Attended the National Park Forum meeting, along with several other Authority Members, to discuss the Government response to the Landscapes Review. She thanked Members and Officers for their participation in what was, she felt, a lively and fruitful discussion.
- She had recently recorded a Podcast with a group that supports Community Land Trusts. She had previously worked with the group on the Stafford Close Passivhaus development in Christow. The Podcast also included Dartmoor housing, the new Local Plan, policies etc. She confirmed that once she was notified of the date that it would be available she would advise Members and the Authority's Communication Team.

- Attended a Team Devon meeting; this meeting includes the Leaders and Chief Executives of the District and County Councils. High on the agenda was a Housing Strategy for Devon and a Declaration of a Housing Emergency for Devon. The local authorities are working very closely on this; a plan is emerging which will address issues regarding the renting and purchasing of properties. The Authority is represented at the meetings, even though it is not a housing authority.
- Sad news – Mike McKinley, Chair of the Lake District National Park Authority, had passed away following a long illness. She advised that she and the Chief Executive (National Park Officers) had sent condolences on behalf of everyone at DNPA. She asked that Members' respectful condolences be recorded.

3399 Items requiring urgent attention

The Chair introduced Charlie Arthur, new apprentice within the ICT Department. Members welcomed him to the Authority.

3400 Public Participation

None.

3401 Draft Business Plan 2022-23

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/22/011).

The Business Plan is a strategic document. It does not describe everything that the Authority does, rather it sets out the key actions that will deliver of the Members' priorities which were agreed in December 2021. The Business Plan has a very clear link through to the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan – the Dartmoor Partnership Plan - which sets out the long-term vision for the National Park; a vision for all key partners involved in the management of the National Park. The Business Plan also links to National Priorities: the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, the 30 by 30 target for nature recovery, the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Government's response to the Landscapes Review.

The Chief Executive advised Members that many of the actions pertain to programmes of external funding, e.g., the Headland Project, Peatland Restoration. They also relate to programmes that officers are trying to secure funding for e.g., 'Dynamic Dartmoor', a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Authority's operating model uses the small amount available through National Park Grant to support key services and to provide officer support to put together external bids. Many of the programmes/projects run by the Authority span more than one year.

Should the Authority receive a National Park Grant settlement for, for example, three years, this would enable the Authority to plan ahead with greater certainty and efficiently. The current one year funding settlements and late confirmation do not assist strategic planning.

Monitoring takes place on a quarterly basis and is reported to the Audit and Governance Committee.

There is an action included in the Business Plan 2022/23 to work towards developing a charitable trust as a vehicle for income generation and delivery of the vision in the Partnership Plan. This reflects the Member Workshop which took place in 2021.

The Business Plan has been developed in parallel with the Revenue Budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan. The Authority has not yet been advised of its National Park Grant for the forthcoming financial year. 'Flat Cash' has been assumed (this means the same amount as we have received for the past two years) and this is, in effect, a cut in grant year on year. A Business Review may be required in 2022/23 in order to save money and be able to set a balanced budget in future years.

The Chief Executive (National Parks Officer) explained that 'Miles Better' is a project about improved access infrastructure across the National Park, which builds on the already successful work under 'Miles Without Stiles'. This will be the focus of the Authority's external fundraising activity through Donate for Dartmoor together with a proposed crowdfunding initiative.

Members voiced the following queries / comments:

- Develop a Green Transport Strategy - A Member expressed disappointment to see that this action within the Draft Business Plan would be undertaken 'subject to staff resources' and stated that he felt it vital to prepare and put this strategy out for comment. He advised that he would like to see this removed so that the Members could enquire as to progress.
- It should be recognised that it has been extremely difficult for officers to put the Draft Business Plan together without knowing how much the National Park Grant will be for the new financial year. Members asked for their dissatisfaction regarding the lack of information and confirmation of funds, at this late stage of the current financial year, be recorded within the minutes.

Mr Sanders proposed, should Members feel it appropriate, that the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) be instructed to write to someone formally, expressing Members' grave concerns over the failure to provide any financial information at this late stage. Mrs Morgan seconded this proposal.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) concurred with the Member, agreeing that the Development of the Green Transport Strategy is an important key action. It is an action within the current Business Plan which has been placed on hold due to the Byelaws Review and the need to divert staff resource onto this. Staff resource can be diverted back to the Green Transport Strategy when the Byelaws Review permits. He gave the Member a verbal assurance that he was keen to see this action taken forward but added that there is a finite staffing resource and the Byelaws Review has taken priority.

With regard to the current financial situation, he advised that he, together with the Head of Business Support (Section 151 Officer) had asked Defra officials for an update on National Park Grant in time for this meeting but no such up-date had been forthcoming. Mr Sanders fully accepted the position of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and his officers and asked that a letter be sent to Defra, and perhaps local MPs, to express Members' discontent with the current situation.

Another Member suggested that a letter be sent to the Secretary of State, stating the current situation regarding the lack of communication from Defra and requesting clarification and confirmation of National Park Grant; the letter be copied to MPs.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer), following the Member's question, suggested that, through the Chair, the recommendation be that he drafted a letter for the Chair to consider and send to the Secretary of State, copying in local MPs

A Member, who was representative of another local authority, advised that their final settlement was received just before Christmas 2021, enabling a legal budget to be set in the New Year. He stated that the letter should perhaps include a suggestion that a protocol be set within Defra that the settlement be notified to the National Parks within a set time, allowing National Parks to make business plans for the new financial year in a timely manner.

The Chair asked Members whether they were in agreement with Mr Sanders' proposal that a letter be sent, from the Chair, stating Members' anxieties, suggesting a protocol and bringing the National Park settlements in line with other organisations. All Members were in agreement.

Mr Sanders proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by Mrs Morgan.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) reviewed the Draft Business Plan for 2022/23 and delegated authority to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair, to agree the final version.
- (ii) Agreed the additional recommendation as stated above, for a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State, copy to MPs, on behalf of all Members.

3402 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/23 and 2024/25

Members received the report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/22/012). She advised Members that this had been a difficult budget to set due to not having been advised of National Park Grant (NPG) for 2022/23. Defra has advised the Authority to assume flat cash; in addition, the Authority has been advised that indicative figures for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be supplied. Therefore, the Authority has produced this budget on the assumption of a flat cash settlement throughout the Medium-Term Financial Plan. When taking into consideration the rate of inflation, increase in national insurance and the nationally set pay awards, which are all outside of the Authority's control, the value of NPG is, in real terms, a cut. The Authority is also waiting for reimbursement from the government to alleviate the increases in external audit fees, which it is required to pay.

To ensure a balanced and robust budget for 2022/23 Members are requested to approve the Authority's call on reserves, particularly regarding the expenditure to facilitate the significant maintenance repairs required at the Princetown visitor centre.

If the Authority's settlement is more than the flat cash the need to call on the reserves would be reduced. However, if settlement was less than flat cash, officers would either have to request the use of further reserve balances or reduce the work

programme; a further report would have to be brought back to a future Authority meeting as soon as the outcome was known.

The Head of Business Support advised Members that summaries of the revenue budgets for each year of the MTFP were to be found in appendices 1-3. The main assumptions used to build the MTFP are in section 3.1. Section 4 of her report provided more detail regarding the budget and MTFP. She highlighted the Authority's intention to lease electric vehicles to replace two of the pool cars.

In Section 5 of the report a proposed standstill position in respect of fees and charges was set out. Capital strategy was detailed within Section 6; this included the deferred conservation works team vehicle.

The Authority's Reserve balances are regularly reviewed; a risk-based approach is utilised when making allocations to or from them. The majority of the reserve balances are earmarked for specific purposes and many result from the carry forward of partnership contributions and match funding. Appendices 5 & 6 provided full details. Taking money from reserves would be the right thing to do if they were to be used for the purposes that they were created for; it would not be right to build up large reserve balance without good reason. However, if there was an increase in NPG for a further 3 years (and beyond), then that could result in reserve balances being significantly reduced to meet the cost of pay awards and inflation. This could limit the Authority's ability to grasp new opportunities, apply for external funding and even affect its ability to deliver on current commitments.

The Head of Business Support (S151 Officer) is required to report on the adequacy of the Authority's reserve balances and whether its spending plans were affordable. She confirmed that she considered this to be the case for this MTFP. Reserve balances are working balances and the Authority has an adequately funded contingency (or unallocated) reserve to cover unforeseen circumstances.

The risk analysis matrix, in Section 8 of the report, reflected the assumptions and uncertainties that have been considered whilst building the current MTFP

A priority focused and robust budget for 2022/23 has been built, based on sensible assumptions. The Head of Business Support stated that it was disappointing that she had to report a budget to Members without knowing the Authority's settlement figure. A flat cash settlement represented a real terms cut; the cost base continues to rise at a faster rate than the underlying core funding; even though officers are successful in acquiring external funding streams, one-off funding is not sustainable and cannot replace core grant which enables the Authority to deliver its core business.

Members' comments / queries were as follows:

- Car parking – welcomed the commitment that fees would not increase in the new financial year and that plans were in hand to enable card transactions; pleased to read that electric vehicle charging points were planned;
- Concern expressed in relation to inflationary pressures, given the global issues at present, and the possible impact in reserves;
- Once NPG has been confirmed, if the settlement is for flat cash, there is a need to highlight to the landlord the expenses that the Authority will incur and

- to seek assistance with the work that will be required on the buildings leased by the Authority. DNPA is faced with some heavy costs;
- Highlighted that Defra has been given a 3.1% increase in budget from the Treasury for 2022/23;

The Head of Business Support accepted Member concerns regarding reserves; she confirmed that the rate of inflation had been considered when producing the budget; however, unfortunately, a lot of the work has had to be carried out using assumptions. With regard to the work required on various buildings, she reiterated that the Authority was engaged in a lease agreement which it must adhere to; the ongoing Premises Review will provide assistance when determining priorities. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that, with regard to the Premises Review, initial discussions have taken place with the landlord for Princetown premises and another meeting is scheduled for officers to meet the Keeper of the Records for the Duchy of Cornwall. The current lease runs until the end of 2026. He noted Deputy Chair's comments regarding a request for leniency and advised that he would reiterate those comments to the Keeper of the Records.

A Member expressed sadness, having read through Appendix 4, at the number of reductions/deletions needed of the tasks that the Authority would much prefer to be able to undertake, e.g., the Junior and Youth Rangers, Miles Without Stiles, erosion work. Appendix 4 highlights the reality of the situation that the Authority is in.

In a response to a Member query regarding the intention to charge Blue Badge holders, the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that, during a discussion that took place when car park charges were first introduced, it was decided that the Authority would promote access for all, but that Blue Badge holders do not necessarily equate to those without the income to pay for car parking. It was therefore determined that the Authority would charge for car parking as the revenue generated is used to maintain that access for all.

The Head of Business Support confirmed, in response to the Chair that, should there be factors e.g., greater inflation etc, that would have a negative effect on the ability of the Authority to carry out its activities, and amendments that were required, these would be brought to Members for consideration.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in response to a Member query, in consideration of the budget as it currently stands, without the confirmation from Defra of NPG, together with a finite amount in reserves, without some positive results in NPG, funds to cover NI contributions etc, the Authority would likely have no choice but to undertake a Business Review, the purpose of which would be to save money, which would require consideration of staff posts as most of the money the Authority is granted is invested in staff capacity to deliver services. The situation for the Authority at this time is very similar to the position faced in 2010/11 when we were faced with deep cuts. However, he stressed that the Authority is a viable organisation, there are reserves and the Authority is well run.

Members, together with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), recorded their thanks and congratulations to the Head of Business Support for her efforts in putting the budget and MTFP together in the uncertain circumstances that the Authority finds itself in.

Mrs Pannell proposed the recommendations, which were seconded Mrs Morgan.

- RESOLVED:** Members:
- (i) Approved the 2022/23 budget and noted the indicative budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 (Medium-Term Financial Plan) as shown in Appendices 1-3);
 - (ii) Agreed that fees and charges should remain unchanged for 2022/23 as set out in section 5 of the report;
 - (iii) Approved the use of Earmarked Reserves balances as set out in Appendix 6; and
 - (iv) Approved the Capital Investment Strategy as set out in section 6 of the report.

3403 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2022/23

Members received the report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/22/013). She advised that the report was an annual “technical report” that she was required to ask Members to approve and adopt in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management. The Code had been revised and, therefore, the Authority is required to review its Treasury Management Practices (see Appendix 1).

A key focus of the new Code is a renewed and greater emphasis on putting the security of the Authority’s financial investments above the achievement of yield and greater restrictions on the use of borrowing to fund commercial activities. The Authority’s prudent approach regarding borrowing and not investing directly in commercial property should have minimal impact on the Treasury Management Strategy. The Prudential Code has also been revised and a key component is the new indicator for the liability benchmark, which is required to show whether external borrowing is required to fund capital expenditure, and/or when it can be funded by internal borrowing. This part of the code does not apply as the Authority does not have any borrowing due to the fact that it rarely has a substantial capital programme, which requires borrowing.

The Treasury Management Code also requires the inclusion of a schedule of non-treasury investments to include commercial investments designed to achieve a return and financial investments designed to support the provision of services to the community. The Authority does not currently have a policy of making commercial investments outside of its treasury management activity. The Treasury Management & Investment Strategy can be found at Appendix 2. The overriding objective continues to be to invest prudently, with priority being given to Security & Liquidity before Yield.

There is a requirement to increase prudential indicators to facilitate the new accounting code regarding leases. All current “operating leases”, unless of low value or of less than 12 months duration, will become “finance leases”. This has the “accounting” effect of bringing lease liabilities onto the balance sheet, which counts as “debt” as far as the Prudential Code is concerned. However, as this “debt” relates to transactions that the Authority has already approved, this will be purely an administrative task to increase the Prudential Code Indicator limits equal to the newly recognised “debt”.

The Head of Business Support reported that, at the time of writing the report, CIPFA had issued an emergency code consultation, potentially deferring the implementation of this new code for a third year; future developments would be advised to Members.

However, in order to offset the risk of breaking the Authorisation limit and Operational Boundary on the 1st April, should the code be implemented, it would be prudent to increase both to £500,000. This equates to the Authority's available bank overdraft facility, plus the current operating leases and a contingency for any future liabilities.

The Authority's Treasury Management arrangements are maintained to a high standard, it has not incurred any losses and continues to consult with and receive guidance from Devon County Council's Assistant County Treasurer (Investments and Treasury management).

Members thanked the Head of Business Support for her explanation of the technical report.

Mr Sanders proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Mr Harper.

RESOLVED: Members approved and adopted the revised Treasury Management Practices (Appendix 1) and the 2022/23 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy (Appendix 2).

3404 Bovey Tracey Neighbourhood Development Plan

Mr Gribble and Mrs Morgan left the meeting room

Members received the report of the Head of Forward Planning and Economy (NPA/22/014). He advised Members that this was the second Plan to be brought before Members for adoption. The Neighbourhood Development Plan was examined from October through December 2021. A successful referendum was held in February 2022; 86% of the turnout voted in favour of the Plan. He added that the members of the community were to be congratulated for their efforts; the process was not an easy one for the lay person to understand and work through.

The Plan affects a relatively small area of the National Park. It contains a list of policies which are consistent with the strategic policies within the Authority's new Local Plan and would therefore complement the Authority's own decision making. Upon 'making' (adopting) the Plan it would become part of the Authority's Development Plan and, therefore, Planning Officers would be required to take their policies into account when considering a planning application within the area covered.

A Member commented that he was in awe of the amount of work undertaken by the volunteers who have written the Neighbourhood Development Plan and asked that they be warmly congratulated for their efforts. He asked that the Authority consider what assistance could be offered to local communities in an effort to increase turnout at the referendums.

Mrs Pannell proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Thomas.

Members congratulated the group of people who had worked hard together to produce the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

RESOLVED: Members approved the making (adoption) of the Bovey Tracey Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Mr Gribble and Mrs Morgan returned to the meeting room.

3405 Government Response to the Landscapes Review

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/22/015).

The Government published its response to the Landscapes Review on 15 January 2022. The response combines a statement of how some of the proposals would be taken forward and a public consultation of changes that would require primary legislation. The consultation closes on 9 April 2022. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) provided a brief background setting out the reasons for the Landscapes Review.

The Government's response is structured around four themes, detailed within the report.

With regard to creating a more coherent national network, the Government is not proposing a new National Landscape 'Service' but it is proposing a National Landscape 'Partnership'. This would not be a new statutory body but would build on the existing collaboration between National Parks England and the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Also involved would be National Trails, e.g., South West Coast Paths, and National Parks Partnerships.

A new National Landscapes Strategy is also proposed, to be prepared by Defra, together with an Outcomes Framework for other protected landscapes. The key theme is a levelling up of the AONBs – they would share the same statutory purposes as National Parks; they have been awarded an extra 15% in core grant. The name, AONB, would change to National Landscapes..

Nature and Climate – proposals to change the National Park Authority's first purpose in order to better reflect the need for nature recovery. Specific outcomes will be set out for the NPA to deliver.

New Environmental Land Management Schemes for 2024 – Glover stated that the NPAs and AONBs should have a central role; the Government has not directly addressed this proposal. It has advised that it intends to learn from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.

People and Place – there is a proposal by the Government to change the wording to our second purpose so that it is explicit about improving the opportunities for all and the removal of barriers for access to National Parks, with specific reference to health and well-being. There is reference to an increase in Ranger numbers but no detail on this has been provided.

Within the consultation paper there are a number of questions regarding Visitor Management – these, unfortunately, relate to enforcement rather than how to better inform, educate and engage which, the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) stated, should be the main focus of the Authority's work.

Supporting local delivery focuses on changes to governance. It is proposed that Chairs should be appointed by the Secretary of State; new performance standards

and agreed expectations for Board Members, performance reviews, fixed term appointments and a streamlined process for under-performing Members. However, no detail has been provided. There is a proposal to reduce Board sizes in order to improve efficiency, simplify decision making and to follow best practice.

The response considers an enhanced role for local partnerships within statutory Management Plans, together with a strengthened legal duty for public bodies to have regard to National Park Purposes.

The Government acknowledges that its proposals are ambitious; however, it states within its response that there is limited scope to increase the core grant, adding that we have missed an opportunity to lever in private investment over the last few years.

It is proposed that the Authority is given a 'general' power of competency, rather than 'functional' as at present; 'general' competency would bring the Authority in line with other local authorities.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) stated that, overall, he felt that the proposals were positive. However, there were concerns regarding the proposed changes to governance. Changes to the Purposes could be positive but there is a risk that the phrase 'special qualities' could be lost; a phrase that allows the Authority to identify what is really important about the National Park and embed it into policies. It is also a phrase that is used within the planning system. In addition, the plan to lever in private sector investment is not without risks.

Mr Sanders declared a personal interest in this item due to his being Vice Chairman of the Tamar Valley AONB, appointed by Devon County Council.

Member comments/queries were as follows:

- Re: page 83 – The design of ELM and what can be learned from FiPL – there have been some issues regarding FiPL regarding transparency and scalability that should be noted;
- Page 72 – governance – creeping centralization – concerns expressed regarding respect for local democracy;
- Governance – changes have been made before by the previous government; much of what is suggested in the response is already being undertaken by Members; there is already Secretary of State representation;
- Farmers, as well as the Authority, need to know where money is coming from over a longer period of time; private sector monies can disappear on a whim and is unsettling for all;
- Perhaps the NPAs should move towards the USA model and start charging for entrance to the National Park;
- Concerns that the National Park Authority should have to rely on private individuals' finances; loss of socio-economic role;
- Commercial activities – would this tie in with the Dartmoor Foundation? Should the NPA use this as a vehicle to lever in private funding?
- Countryside Code – the National Curriculum makes great emphasis of British Values;

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) responded that the comments regarding Farming in Protected Landscapes not being the solution, the farming community needing certainty would be reflected in the Authority's response, as well as a greater emphasis on British values. Natural England has a statutory role to provide advice to Government on landscape issues, Finance, the appointment of some Members and Chief Executives. The Government's response suggests that Natural England will be more active in these roles going forward.

He confirmed that the papers before Members had been shared with Chief Executives (National Park Officers) of other National Parks; there would be a formal response from National Parks England as representative of all of the English National Parks.

A Member commented that it had been heartening, at the recent National Park Forum meeting, to hear like-minded ideas and comments from Forum members; this created the feeling that everyone was moving in the same direction.

With regard to the reference about Traffic Orders possible possible additional powers a Member commented that this would require additional resource; they expressed concerns over a need for better support.

With regard to the Authority's draft response the Chair asked Members whether there was anything they would like to add; Members commented as follows:

- Local Governance – DNPA Members already have a voluntary process in relation to annual reviews for Members, training, performance etc. Suggests that Members agree with the principle but that this should be left to be considered locally, possibly providing an example of what is undertaken by DNPA – The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that this would be included in his response, adding that Secretary of State Members' annual reviews are sent to Defra and that the model is used for other Members; this is undertaken with everyone's consent and is very constructive.
- A Secretary of State appointee could have greater difficulty relating to, and being accepted by, local organisations. Having a direct and local link with the communities of the National Park is very important. Local people know how the Authority works; an appointment of a Chair by the Secretary of State may not be seen as a positive outcome. Another Member asked for clarification as to why this is proposed. Local accountability is referred to within the Government's response as important, but it appears that overall control is proposed to be brought in by government. It should be made clear that we have a very clear governance model and accountability model.
- Reduced Board size – concern expressed – more responsibility and accountability placed on fewer Members – this would result in Members being less accessible to the public.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) noted the Member comments, amendments and suggestions. He asked Members to confirm that they were in agreement for the response to state that the Authority would support fixed penalty notices for Byelaw infringements. Members confirmed that they were in agreement.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) confirmed that a link to the draft response would be sent out to all Members for them to forward on

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Noted the Government's response to the Landscapes Review; and
- (ii) Commented on the draft Authority response to the public consultation linked to the Government's response to the Landscapes Review, suggesting any additional points that the Authority may wish to make in its response and delegated authority to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to agree and submit the final response.

3406 Tree Preservation Orders, Section 211 Notifications (Works to Trees in Conservation Areas) and Hedgerow Removal Notices Determined Under Delegated Powers

Members received the report of the Trees and Landscape Officer (NPA/22/016).

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the report.

The Part I business completed, Mr McInnes proposed that the Committee move to Part II, business to be undertaken in the absence of press and public, which was seconded by Mr Harper.

3407 National Parks Partnership Limited Liability Partnership and UK Communications Plan – Three Year Operating Plan

Members received the report of the Head of Communications and Fundraising and the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/22/017).

Following discussion the recommendations were proposed by Mr Sanders and seconded by Mr McInnes.

RESOLVED: Members AGREED the recommendations.