

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

8 January 2016

FEES AND CHARGESReport of the Head of Business Support

Recommendation : That subject to any amendments proposed at the meeting, Members:

- (i) approve the recommendations made in section 3 of this report; and**
- (ii) approve the 2016/17 schedule of fees and charges contained in Appendix 2**

1 Background

- 1.1 The Authority is responsible for a number of services for which fees are permitted to be charged in order to offset the costs involved. The Government requires that Local Authorities should raise revenue wherever possible to cover costs, which means that fees and charges (which include suggested donations) are reviewed and approved on an annual basis.

2 Current Situation

- 2.1 The Authority needs to consider the fees and charges for each financial year when setting its budget. Whilst not a major source of income, fees and charges do assist the Authority in setting a balanced budget and in covering the costs of delivering some services. The charges applied may be the difference between providing a service and having to withdraw it all together.
- 2.2 The fees and charges for the current year were approved by the Authority in February 2015 (NPA/15/004). Changes included:
 - Photocopying charges (static since 2008) and hospitality (static since 2011) were increased marginally to cover the cost of officer time
 - Charges for the repair/replacement of gateways/posts were revised to cover the cost of materials and officer time to reach the site and affect the repair
 - Education guided walks and private talks (static since 2011)
 - Annual Ranger Ralph membership fee (first introduced in 2011 at £5) was increased to £6 (medium-term aim of £10)
 - Pre Application Advice fees were introduced from 1 April 2015 (NPA/14/047)
 - Under the heading of 'Miscellaneous' there are a range of charges for filming, use of car parks for events and associated officer support. These rates were set as the 'minimum charge' to enable negotiation in respect of event type and scale
 - The car parking charge at Princetown was increased to £2 per car for 24 hours
- 2.3 This report does not include Planning Application Fees as these are set centrally by Government.

2.4 Appendix 1 provides information on the budgeted level of income expected from fees and charges for 2015/16, i.e. the level achieved for the first nine months; the projected outturn; and the outturn comparator for the previous financial year.

3 Recommendations for 2016/17

3.1 The proposed schedule of fees and charges for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 2. Many of these charges often remain unchanged for a few years at a time, as they are individually so small that by increasing them annually, by just inflation, would be inefficient.

3.2 The annual Ranger Ralph membership fee was first introduced in 2011 at £5 and was increased to £6 last year; attendance at events (12 per annum) is still free, as is the quarterly newsletter. Officers and Members agreed last year that it was reasonable to increase the membership fee on a phased basis to reach a target price of £10; it is therefore proposed to increase the membership fee to £8 next year.

3.3 We piloted a Junior Ranger Programme this year, and had 12 young people took part. The charge was set at £25 to cover officer time, materials and equipment. We also received sponsorship in the form of tools, uniform and in-kind / volunteer support. It has been decided to run the programme for a second year and up to six of the current cohorts have offered their support to mentor the new in-take (which will be a maximum of 12 once more).

3.4 It is proposed that the charges associated with the making of Public Path Orders be increased to reflect the considerable officer time taken. A new charge has been added to cover the cost of informal consultations.

3.5 The charges for filming and commercial photography on Authority owned or managed land, have also been revised. The fees set out in the attached schedule are set as minimum or indicative charges; they are negotiated on an individual basis to reflect the nature of the request, location, crew and cast size, environmental sensitivity and officer time. It should be noted that other landowners can set and charge their fees for filming.

3.6 We adopted Pre Application Advice Charges last year and Members agreed that a review of these charges would be undertaken at the end of a full year of operation. This will take place during the Summer of 2016.

3.7 The Authority started formally charging for car parking at Princetown in 2013 and has a service level agreement with West Devon Borough Council to manage the machines, collect the money and for enforcement. It is not proposed to amend the parking charges at this time, as we are currently undertaking a fundamental review of all parking charges, car park donation cairns and signage.

3.8 Taking account of the wide range of "car parks" that we manage (own, lease and license) the aim is to achieve a set of principles or a framework that we could apply in future decision making. The objectives of this review are:

- To maximise income from our car parks without incurring new or additional management costs and / or land management issues
- To increase the level of contribution made by each car park visitor
- To encourage visits throughout the calendar year (not just the holiday period)
- To encourage sustainability in visiting and using the Moor
- To encourage more from one-off and infrequent visitors, rather than being seen as "penalising the locals"
- Encourage Children and future Moor use
- To maximise opportunities to promote the work of the Authority and the special qualities of the National Park

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As previously stated, fees and charges (excluding planning fees) are not a major income source for the Authority and the income projected for the current financial year is £84, 433 (£82,407 in 2014/15).
- 4.2 The schedule of fees and charges will be incorporated into the 2016/17 Revenue Budget, which will be presented to you in February or March (dependent on Defra confirming National Park Grant allocations).

5 Equality and Impact Assessment

- 5.1 The implications for access to services and the economy of the area are fully considered and addressed in all of the Authority's policies, especially when considering charging for services. Consideration is given to proactively engaging those who may not otherwise access Dartmoor, being mindful of potential barriers and balancing the need to generate income and maintaining budgets that are flexible and responsive to the needs of service users.

DONNA HEALY

Background Papers: NPA/15/004, NPA/14/047

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Income to date for 2015/16
Appendix 2 - Proposed fees and charges 2016/17

Sales, Fees and Charges	2014/15 Outturn	2015/16 Budget	2015/16 Actual at Month 9	2015/16 Forecast Outturn	2015/16 Variance Under (Over)	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Sale of Wood & Logs	(168)	0	0	0	0	
Pre Application Advice	0	(25,000)	(13,392)	(15,000)	10,000	New in 2015/16
Discharge of Conditions	(6,748)	(6,000)	(3,847)	(6,000)	0	
Wayleaves etc	(5,542)	(4,069)	(160)	(4,069)	0	
Filming	0	0	0	0	0	
Preparation of Traffic Regulations	0	0	(500)	(500)	(500)	
Farm Environmental Plans	(450)	0	0	(1,000)	(1,000)	
Talks	(595)	0	(260)	(260)	(260)	
Room Hire & refreshments (Parke)	(295)	0	(739)	(739)	(739)	
Work Recharged to 3rd Parties	(4,003)	0	(2,357)	(2,357)	(2,357)	
Events: Uppcaott	(1,572)	0	0	0	0	
Events: Education	(285)	0	0	0	0	
Events: SPAB	(5,385)	0	0	0	0	One off in 2014/15
Photocopying	(154)	(100)	(64)	(100)	0	
Legal Costs recovered	(7,885)	(4,500)	(6,670)	(7,000)	(2,500)	
Other donations (All services)	(4,535)	(3,000)	(5,733)	(6,000)	(3,000)	
Donations made at Car Park Cairns	(13,066)	(15,000)	(10,257)	(13,000)	2,000	Postbridge, Haytor, Meldon, Dartmeet, Newbridge
Car Parking charges at Princetown	(20,442)	(18,000)	(14,143)	(18,000)	0	Less SLA commission/charges approx £5,000
Guided Walks	(1,115)	0	(1,550)	(2,000)	(2,000)	
Educational Walks	(4,775)	(5,000)	(2,100)	(4,000)	1,000	
Ranger Ralph	(721)	(650)	(646)	(650)	0	
Junior Ranger programme	(275)	0	0	0	0	Pilot this year
£ for the Park	(4,396)	0	(3,758)	(3,758)	(3,758)	
Total	(82,407)	(81,319)	(66,176)	(84,433)	(3,114)	

**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15**

Appendix 2 of Report No. NPA/16/001

Description of Charges Levied (or Donations suggested)	Unit	Proposed 2015/16 Rates (VAT @ 20%) £			Proposed 2016/17 Rates (VAT @ 20%) £		
		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Administration							
Photocopying - Black and White	A4 per side	0.21	0.04	0.25	0.21	0.04	0.25
(charges for sizes over A3 as for plans below)	A3 per side	0.21	0.04	0.25	0.21	0.04	0.25
Photocopying - Colour	A4 per side	0.33	0.07	0.40	0.33	0.07	0.40
(charges for sizes over A3 as for plans below)	A3 per side	0.33	0.07	0.40	0.33	0.07	0.40
Plan Copying – Colour (subject to copyright)	A4 per side	0.33	0.07	0.40	0.33	0.07	0.40
	A3 per side	0.33	0.07	0.40	0.33	0.07	0.40
	A2 per side	0.63	0.13	0.75	0.63	0.13	0.75
	A1 per side	1.08	0.22	1.30	1.08	0.22	1.30
	A0 per side	2.04	0.41	2.45	2.04	0.41	2.45
NB: Copying charges that total less than £1 will be waived							
Microfilm Copying		As photocopying			As photocopying		
Private Telephone Calls		Actual time			Actual time		
Private Faxes		Actual time			Actual time		
Development Management							
Planning Application Fees		See "Government Scale Charges"			See "Government Scale Charges"		
Class A: Residential between 10-30 dwellings / Non-residential floor space 1,000-4,999 sq.m - 1 meeting		500.00	100.00	600.00	500.00	100.00	600.00
Class A: Additional meeting fee		250.00	50.00	300.00	250.00	50.00	300.00
Class B: Residential between 10-30 dwellings / Non-residential floor space 1,000-4,999 sq.m - 1 meeting		333.34	66.66	4000.00	333.34	66.66	4000.00
Class B: Additional meeting fee		166.67	33.33	200.00	166.67	33.33	200.00
Class C: Residential (including holiday lets) between 3-9 dwellings / Non-residential floor space 500-999 sq.m - 1 meeting		250.00	50.00	300.00	250.00	50.00	300.00
Class C: Additional meeting fee		125.00	25.00	150.00	125.00	25.00	150.00
Class D: Residential 1-2 dwellings (including replacement dwellings) including change of use to, conversion & holiday lets / Non-residential floor space up to 499 sq.m - 1 meeting		125.00	25.00	150.00	125.00	25.00	150.00
Class D: Additional meeting fee		41.67	8.33	50.00	41.67	8.33	50.00
Class E: Advertisements / telecommunications proposals/ Change of use where no operational development (except residential / holiday let) - 1 meeting		83.33	16.67	100.00	83.33	16.67	100.00
Class F: Listed Building where site visit involved		100.00	20.00	120.00	100.00	20.00	120.00
Class F: Additional meeting fee		50.00	10.00	60.00	50.00	10.00	60.00
Class G: Other minor development including agricultural based development - 1 meeting		66.67	13.33	80.00	66.67	13.33	80.00
Class G: Additional meeting fee		33.33	6.67	40.00	33.33	6.67	40.00
Class H: Domestic Scale Renewable energy - solar, wind, hydro Free unless site visits required		100.00	20.00	120.00	100.00	20.00	120.00
Class H: Non Domestic Scale Renewable energy - solar, wind, hydro		125.00	25.00	150.00	125.00	25.00	150.00
Class H: Additional meeting fee		41.67	8.33	50.00	41.67	8.33	50.00
Copy of Section 52/106 Agreement		Charge per page in scale of photocopying charges above subject to maximum charge of £10.00 (inc VAT)			Charge per page in scale of photocopying charges above subject to maximum charge of £10.00 (inc VAT)		
Copy of Decision Notice							
Copy of Enforcement Notice							
Copy of Appeal Decisions							
Copy of Appeal Statement							
Copy of Tree Preservation Order							
Planning Search		10.00	2.00	12.00	10.00	2.00	12.00
All postal requests carry a minimum £2 postage/administration charge. Actual postage will be charged if in excess of £2		1.67	0.33	2.00	1.67	0.33	2.00
Agenda – Copies of Minutes/Reports/One off requests		Charge per page (inc VAT)			Charge per page (inc VAT)		

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		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Meeting Room Hire							
Parke							
Meeting Room	Half Day (up to 4 hrs)	75.00	EXE	75.00	75.00	EXE	75.00
	All Day (over 4 hrs)	150.00	EXE	150.00	150.00	EXE	150.00
	Refreshments per delegate:						
	1st serving	1.67	0.33	2.00	1.67	0.33	2.00
	2nd serving	1.25	0.25	1.50	1.25	0.25	1.50
Cancellation charges	Notice of cancellation of 48 hours or more	No Charge			No Charge		
	Notice of cancellation 24 to 48 hours	50% Charge			50% Charge		
	Notice of cancellation less than 24 hours	Full Charge			Full Charge		
High Moorland Office		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Room 1	1 hour	15.00	EXE	15.00	15.00	EXE	15.00
	Half Day (up to 4 hrs)	40.00	EXE	40.00	40.00	EXE	40.00
	All Day (over 4 hrs)	65.00	EXE	65.00	65.00	EXE	65.00
	Evening Room Hire (per hour)	N/A			N/A		
	Refreshments per delegate:						
	1st serving	1.67	0.33	2.00	1.67	0.33	2.00
	2nd serving	1.25	0.25	1.50	1.25	0.25	1.50
Honesty Cairns (Donations)		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Cars		2.00	OOS	2.00	2.00	OOS	2.00
Coaches		5.00	OOS	5.00	5.00	OOS	5.00
Car Parking at Princetown							
Cars - Per Day (24 hours)		1.67	0.33	2.00	1.67	0.33	2.00
Cars - Per half Day (up to 3 hours)		0.83	0.17	1.00	0.83	0.17	1.00
Coaches - Per Day		4.17	0.83	5.00	4.17	0.83	5.00
Woodlands		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Cordwood	Trailer load	All forestry products to be sold at current market rates (plus VAT)			All forestry products to be sold at current market rates (plus VAT)		
	Cubic metre						
Chippings	Bag						
Sign Arms (fingers) single	420 x 114 x 21mm	5.00	1.00	6.00	5.00	1.00	6.00
(Minimum 10 boards) single	530 x 114 x 21mm	5.40	1.08	6.48	5.40	1.08	6.48
Single	710 x 114 x 21mm	7.00	1.40	8.40	7.00	1.40	8.40
Double	1320 x 114 x 21mm	15.40	3.08	18.48	15.40	3.08	18.48
Single	760 x 171 x 21mm	9.50	1.90	11.40	9.50	1.90	11.40
Double	1370 x 171 x 21mm	17.50	3.50	21.00	17.50	3.50	21.00
Signboards A	530 x 80 x 21mm	4.30	0.86	5.16	4.30	0.86	5.16
(Minimum 10 boards) B	400 x 300 x 21mm	17.00	3.40	20.40	17.00	3.40	20.40
C	600 x 300 x 21mm	22.00	4.40	26.40	22.00	4.40	26.40
D	300 x 200 x 21mm	5.75	1.15	6.90	5.75	1.15	6.90
E	600 x 200 x 21mm	10.25	2.05	12.30	10.25	2.05	12.30

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Guided Walks and Education Walks		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Guided Walks	Adult	5.00	EXE	5.00	5.00	EXE	5.00
	14 years & under	FREE OF CHARGE			FREE OF CHARGE		
Children's Activities	Children (accompanying adult free)	4.00	EXE	4.00	4.00	EXE	4.00
Private talks	Higher Uppacott - per group (max 20)	60.00	EXE	60.00	60.00	EXE	60.00
Education Walks	Walks up to 3 hours (per guide = 25 children)	55.00	EXE	55.00	55.00	EXE	55.00
	Walks up to 6 hours (per guide = 25 children)	70.00	EXE	70.00	70.00	EXE	70.00
Ranger Ralph	Annual subscription (per child)	6.00	ZERO	6.00	8.00	ZERO	8.00
	Events	FREE OF CHARGE			FREE OF CHARGE		
Junior Ranger Programme	Annual subscription (per child)	25.00	ZERO	25.00	25.00	ZERO	25.00
Higher Uppacott	Bespoke Events	Delegated to Director of Conservation and			Delegated to Director of Conservation and		
Legal Services		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Public Path Orders:		See Below			See Below		
Public path orders: Advertisements x 2 Preparing order, all officer time, administration, postage, legal costs, site visits, notices, negotiations with users etc	Per advert	See Below			See Below		
	Unopposed orders	£850.00 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)			£900.00 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)		
	Additional orders linked to above	£300.00 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)			£350.00 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)		
	Opposed orders	£1,000 - £2,000 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)			£1,500 - £2,500 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)		
	Temporary closures	£500.00 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)			£550.00 plus advertising costs (plus VAT)		
	Extending a Temporary closure & submission to Secretary of State	£50 per hour + Advertising costs + VAT (minimum charge £250)			£50 per hour + Advertising costs + VAT (minimum charge £250)		
Informal Consultations (includes consulting with interested parties, summarising reponses and Authority Report)				£400 (plus VAT) - New charge			
Legal charges	Per hour	80-140	OOS	80-140	80-140	OOS	80-140
Copy / Inspection of Deeds or Documents (held in secure storage)	Per document	37.50	7.50	45.00	37.50	7.50	45.00
Section 106 agreements	Per hour	£80-£140 per hour (Minimum £160)			£80-£140 per hour (Minimum £160)		
Certification of a document	Per document	4.17	0.83	5.00	4.17	0.83	5.00
Supply data to:	Non Public Body	40.00	8.00	48.00	40.00	8.00	48.00
Environmental Information Regulations		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Disbursement Costs:							
Photocopying - Black and White (charges for sizes over A3 as for plans below)	A4 per side	0.21	0.04	0.25	0.21	0.04	0.25
	A3 per side	0.21	0.04	0.25	0.21	0.04	0.25
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	A0 per side	2.04	0.41	2.45	2.04	0.41	2.45
Microfilm Copying		As photocopying			As photocopying		
Staff Time: For every members of staff or agency staff involved in considering or dealing with a request for information	Search for Information. Identification & location of information. Retrieval of information. Copying of information. Collating & despatching of information.	£25 per hour (pro rata) VAT will only be charged if the information could Be obtained elsewhere			£25 per hour (pro rata) VAT will only be charged if the information could Be obtained elsewhere		

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		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Filming on DNP Land (owned or managed)							
Filming Charges: Location Fees for Stills		Minimum £100 (plus VAT)			See new charges below		
Filming Charges: Location Fees for Film		See below			See new charges below		
Educational, students, or films that are promoting NPA messages		Free of charge			See new charges below		
Ranger/Officer's fees (if presence required on site)		Minimum fee is £160 per 1/2 day inclusive of VAT			See new charges below		
Small commercial films (minimum charge)		500.00	100.00	600.00	See new charges below		
Television/large scale advertising campaigns (minimum charge)	Set fee	1000.00	200.00	1,200.00	See new charges below		
	Officer time if more than 1 day required	Per half day rate as above			See new charges below		
Feature films		2500.00	500.00	3,000.00	From £2,500 plus VAT		
TV Feature / Mini series / Drama		New charges replacing those above			From £500 to £1,500 plus VAT		
TV Documentary / Children's					From £250 to £1,000 plus VAT		
Advertising / Promotional					£,1.200 plus VAT		
Commercial Photo Shoot					From £1,000 to £2,000 plus VAT		
National Park staff time					£50 per hour / £300 per day plus VAT		
Aerial Footage (including stock footage)					Price on application		
News, current affairs or educational / schools		Free of charge			Free of charge		
Miscellaneous		NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)	NET (£)	VAT (£)	GROSS (£)
Closure of car parks for filming, large scale or other events (minimum charge)	Low season (1 Oct - 31 March)	150.00	30.00	180.00	150.00	30.00	180.00
	High season (1 April - 30 Sept)	300.00	60.00	360.00	300.00	60.00	360.00
Creation of maps for external bodies (GIS)	Fixed cost based on half day	41.67	8.33	50.00	41.67	8.33	50.00
	Hourly rate above half day	16.67	3.33	20.00	16.67	3.33	20.00
Gateway Repair	Per Gateway (per hour - minimum 2hrs)	45.00	9.00	54.00	45.00	9.00	54.00
	Drilling/Glueing per fixing	20.00	4.00	24.00	20.00	4.00	24.00
	Fittings	6.00	1.20	7.20	6.00	1.20	7.20
Gateposts	Repair per post - or individually priced	75.00	15.00	90.00	75.00	15.00	90.00
	Replacement - plus cost of commercially sourced post	75.00	15.00	90.00	75.00	15.00	90.00

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

8 January 2016

RENEWAL OF MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTSReport of the Director of Conservation and CommunitiesRecommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) **note the significant achievements of the three management agreements for Rhôs pastures on Dartmoor as outlined in the report; and**
- (ii) **approve renewal of these management agreements for a further five years**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Authority still has a small number of management agreements in place to support the land owner in conservation management of the land, these are generally small sites which are of both local and national importance but not eligible for agri-environment schemes or protected through national or international designations.
- 1.2 Three existing management agreements will be expiring over the next 12 months. None of these sites have SSSI/SAC protection, but all three are worthy of these designations. All three sites are Rhôs pasture and are part of designated wildlife sites. Rhôs pastures are enclosed species-rich purple moor-grass and rush pastures. On Dartmoor they are found in valley systems away from the open moor, usually in a mosaic together with wet woodland, other species-rich grasslands and oakwood. Dartmoor has 1,200 hectares of this habitat, representing 20% of the English resource.
- 1.3 The most distinctive plants of this habitat on Dartmoor are the meadow thistle, devil's-bit scabious, heath spotted orchid and saw-wort, all colourful plants. Rhôs pasture is home to marbled white butterflies, which can be abundant, small pearl-bordered fritillary and the highly protected marsh fritillary which is found in colonies representing about 20% of the English resource. One of Britain's rarest damselflies, the southern damselfly, also occurs in a single Rhôs pasture on Dartmoor. The rare narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth, which feeds on devil's bit scabious can also be found, often in association with marsh fritillary.

2 Site 1

- 2.1 The Authority has had an agreement on this site since 1997. At this time the rest of farm went into an Agri-Environment scheme but two fields were excluded as they had been abandoned agriculturally. The site comprises 9.1 hectares of good quality Rhôs pasture. The fields are a part of a network which together form a County Wildlife Site which holds 9% of the Dartmoor Rhôs pasture resource.

- 2.2 Over the 18 years of DNPA involvement at this site the habitat has progressively improved botanically and in recent years has held colonies of small pearl-bordered and marsh fritillaries – both national priority species. Works have been carried out by DNPA staff and volunteers working with the landowners and we have used Dartmoor pony herds to help graze the land and restore the habitat.
- 2.3 If the agreement is not extended it is very likely that the fields would be slowly abandoned to willow scrub as was occurring in 1997 when we started the agreement, leading to a loss of high quality Rhôs pasture and associated species, and the cessation of the volunteer input.
- 2.4 The agreement expired 9/12/15 and there have been discussions about a further five year agreement. This agreement would attract an annual payment of £864.00 which is in line with current payments offered through agri-environment schemes .

3 Site 2

- 3.1 The Authority has had an agreement on this site since 1996. The owners do not have stock or manage it for agriculture. The field is central to the Long Lane County Wildlife Site and supports a strong population of the globally threatened marsh fritillary butterfly. It is regarded as one of the best sites in the country to see the nationally scarce Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth and has been used regularly for training days over the past eight years for members of the public and volunteers to see and identify both species and become monitors themselves.
- 3.2 The 1.5 hectare Rhôs pasture field was graded 'A' in 1994 and again in 2009. It has been grazed annually by one of our Dartmoor pony herds since 2005, when it proved impossible to persuade the local farmer to put cattle onto the site again.
- 3.3 The agreement attracts an annual payment of £325. It is recommended that the Authority renews this agreement for a further five years.

4 Site 3

- 4.1 The Authority has had an agreement on this 10.2 hectare site since 1995. The site is part of a County Wildlife Site that holds strong populations of both Marsh fritillary butterfly and Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth, along with other national priority species such as Willow tit and Dormouse. The northern field holds one of the three Dartmoor populations of the globally threatened Southern damselfly, being the site where they were first recorded in the National Park when the agreement was being signed in 1995.
- 4.2 The grazing and site management we have undertaken has transformed the habitat over the years and the population of Southern damselflies has increased from an average peak count of 23 between 1995-99 (when it was threatened with extinction), to 181 between 2011-15 (with a highest ever peak count of 302 in 2015).
- 4.3 In the absence of a new agreement, the site is likely to revert to being grazed by cattle as was occurring when we entered the agreement in 1995. A reversion to this management is likely to lead to the extinction of the Southern damselfly colony and

a steady scrubbing over of the site. It would also lead to a loss of volunteer and research involvement.

- 4.4 The agreement attracts an annual payment of £967 and it is recommended that the Authority extend this agreement for five years.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The annual cost if the agreements are renewed would be approximately £2,325. These are not new costs but would commit resources for a further five years and at a level above that approved for officer determination under the scheme of delegation.

6 Conclusion and recommendation

- 6.1 The three Rhôs pasture sites are very important both as key habitats and for the species they support which are of national significance. They contribute to larger valley systems but individually are too small currently to be eligible for agri-environment funding.
- 6.2 The Authority has invested officer time and financial resources to these sites over 20 years. It is recommended that these agreements are extended to maintain the investment and gains already made at these sites; to continue to involve the public and contribute significantly towards a number of Living Dartmoor delivery plans (Rhôs pasture, Southern damselfly, Marsh fritillary) and thereby Biodiversity 2020 targets nationally. Recently Defra's Terrestrial Biodiversity Group have identified wet grasslands as a key habitat and as such have prioritised it for national action.
- 6.3 The annual payments to ensure ongoing positive management of these sites total £2,325 for all three. Over the five years the total financial commitment will be £11,625.
- 6.4 It is recommended that all three agreements are renewed for a period of five years.

ALISON KOHLER

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

8 January 2016

LAND AT GALLANT LE BOWERReport of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services**Recommendation: That Members:**

- (i) note the terms of the proposed disposal of certain land at Gallant le Bower (part only)**
- (ii) approve the disposal, subject only to statutory advertisement**
- (iii) authorise the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to finalise the terms of the disposal and complete the conveyance**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Dartmoor National Park Authority came into being as a special purpose local authority on 1 April 1997 by virtue of section 61 and Schedule 7 of the Environment Act 1995 and the National Park Authorities (England) Order 1996.
- 1.2 By virtue of a Deed of Transfer dated April 1997, the new Authority received a transfer from Devon County Council of the legal title in a number of parcels of land, including land at Gallant le Bower, Holne. The boundaries of the land are shown edged in red on the plan appended to this report.
- 1.3 Gallant le Bower was acquired by the County Council in June 1988 at no cost (Deed of Gift).

2 The Land

- 2.1 The land has no particular beneficial use. It has the character of scrubland and has occasionally been used as rough grazing. Part of the land has also been used for memorial tree planting.
- 2.2 The most notable feature is that the land is crossed by a public highway (road) running east - west. There is also a vehicular access track which runs south from the public highway towards Stoodley Farm & Stoodley.
- 2.3 The condition of this track has been a matter of concern to the residents of Stoodley for several years. It is in private ownership for the majority of its length, but the last section which crosses Gallant le Bower to join the public highway is owned by the Authority. This section is quite badly potholed and the estimate for the repair to the track is £4,400 including a contingency and fees.

3 The Proposed Transfer

- 3.1 It is proposed to transfer part of the land, forming the track and its verges, into the ownership of Mr M, a local resident. The land is to be transferred on the basis that

the current residential properties and farm, who currently make use of the track, will continue to have the benefit of a shared right of access for the purpose of access and egress to their respective properties

- 3.2 It is proposed that the land will be transferred for the sum of £1. Mr M has agreed to pay a contribution of £500 towards the Authority's conveyancing and legal costs.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that prior to the transfer of the land the Authority will carry out works to repair the surface of the track. The residents have agreed to make a contribution of £1,750 towards the cost of these works. This means that each household will pay about £400. Whilst this does not cover the full cost of the works - £1,750 is around 50% of the net cost of the works, without fees and contingency – it is believed to be a reasonable contribution in the circumstances.
- 3.4 The transfer will include an overage clause and expressly exclude the right for any additional dwelling(s) to use the track without the written consent of the Authority and payment of an overage sum.
- 3.5 The proposed overage arrangement is that if planning consent is obtained for any additional dwelling (including any conversion of existing buildings to provide additional residential dwellings) the Authority would be entitled to receive an overage payment of 60% of the development value for each additional residential unit.
- 3.6 As the proposed transfer constitutes a sale of public open land, the Authority is required to advertise the proposed sale in accordance with the provisions of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 Other Considerations

- 4.1 Although this parcel of land appears on the Authority's asset register, the recurring maintenance liability associate with the track, coupled with the lack of any realistic income potential, means that the land parcel is essentially a liability.
- 4.2 The status of the land as public open space and the use of part of the land for memorial tree planting means that disposal of the whole of Gallant le Bower is not considered to be appropriate or compatible with National Park purposes.
- 4.3 Disposal of the track and its verges represents an opportunity to remove the financial and insurance liabilities associated with the condition and use of the track, without significantly impacting upon public enjoyment.
- 4.4 Although there will be a cost of around £2,000 to the Authority in making good the track prior to transfer, and legal expenses associated with the conveyance, this cost is only 50% of the amount the Authority would otherwise be required to pay to repair the track if the transfer did not proceed.
- 4.5 The terms of the proposed transfer have been discussed with the residents of Stoodley and Stoodley Farm and all are in agreement.
- 4.6 The overage provisions should ensure that in the event of a future windfall residential development, there will not be any loss of windfall payment by the Authority.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the terms of the proposed disposal of certain land at Gallant le Bower (part only) and approve the disposal, subject only to statutory advertisement.
- 5.2 Members are further requested to authorise the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to finalise the terms of the disposal and execute the conveyance.

CHRISTOPHER WALLEGE

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Plan

20160108 CRW Gallant le Bower

Gallant le Bower



Scale 1:2,500

Compiled by cwalledge on 21/12/2015



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

8 January 2016

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTReport of the Assistant Forward Planner

Recommendations: That Members adopt the Statement of Community Involvement with immediate effect

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report introduces a revised 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI) which has been updated and streamlined. It is recommended that this document be adopted with immediate effect. The SCI is a requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The Authority's current SCI was produced prior to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act. The local plan must be prepared in a way consistent with the approach set out in the SCI.

2 Background

- 2.1 The SCI is a procedural document which makes up part of the local plan. It describes the way we engage with communities, businesses, organisations and individuals about planning. This SCI sets out our plans for involving the public in considering planning applications and preparing the Local Plan for Dartmoor National Park. The SCI will be accompanied by an online working list of consultation bodies who will be contacted as required throughout the preparation of planning policy documents. This list is separate to the SCI so groups can be changed, added or removed to ensure we have an accurate record of who to contact.
- 2.2 The proposed SCI is appended to this report. It is also available on the Authority's website at: <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/planning/pl-forwardplanning/pl-localdevscheme>.

3 Contents of the SCI

- 3.1 The SCI has been split into seven sections. Throughout the document there are a number of 'top tips' which aim to provide further detail. The first section, introduction and key principles, sets out our aims of the document. These have been summarised below.
- 3.2 The introduction and key principles set out the principles of good communication and engagement:
- We will be clear about how people can be involved, and ensure that our processes are understandable
 - We will be open about what can and cannot change and why, and ensure we provide information to help people understand

- We will be responsive to peoples' concerns and demonstrate how we have listened to these concerns in our decisions
- We will communicate our decisions clearly

3.3 The SCI has the following aims:

- To ensure that everyone has the maximum opportunity to participate in and contribute to the review and preparation of planning policy and other planning guidance
- To consult in a way which meets the needs of different groups so that public participation is helpful, effective and relevant
- To target engagement to ensure the appropriate statutory consulted parties and interest groups are involved

4 Consultation

4.1 Although regulations do not require a period of consultation for the SCI we ran a formal period from 28 August 2015 to 16 October 2015. We received a total of eight responses. There were a number of comments that did not relate to the SCI but were general administrative or procedural recommendations. These will be noted and considered when reviewing the local plan or other relevant documents or procedures. The full list of comments received can be viewed in our 'You said We did' document, which will be published online. This document will set out our response to and any changes made as a result of each comment.

4.2 Below is a summary of the comments received that referred to the SCI:

- A couple of responses stated that the SCI was clear and well written, and if followed would improve consultation with the public, however there were some questions raised regarding our ability to deliver the aspirations
- A couple of responses related to specific consultees requesting to be added to the consultee list which has been completed
- Some questions were raised over Parish Councils with one respondent suggesting that we should not rely on their comments as representative of the local community and another suggesting that we should
- Some specific text changes were suggested which have been implemented
- A number of points for clarification were suggested. These included extra information on the process of a community referendum, what are deemed to be 'material' planning considerations and how members of the Development Management Committee are chosen. These issues have been clarified and signposts to further information have been added.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The SCI will be reviewed every five years, or before if changes to regulations or circumstances require.

5.2 The updated SCI reflects new planning regulations, the new Local Development Scheme and current best practice. It has been designed to give flexibility but reflect current resources.

6 Equality and sustainability impact

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken using the Authority's proforma. It highlights the risk of excluding some members of community. However by using a variety of consultation methods the potential for exclusion is reduced. It does not identify any necessary amendment or action.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 At various stages of document production it may be appropriate to undertake particular activities to promote engagement, for example the production of marketing material for consultation events. There is likely to be a cost associated with venue hire and marketing materials, in addition to staff time. However there will also be some significant cost savings due to policy documents being primarily available online therefore reducing printing costs. Savings are also expected to be realised by investing time in engagement at an early stage of plan making as we are more likely to get buy in, reduce objections and potential delays.

CHLOE NIELSEN

JANUARY 2016

Planning Having your say

Statement of Community
Involvement



DARTMOOR

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1 Introduction and key principles

Dartmoor National Park Authority recognises the importance of good communication and engagement. This isn't just how we tell you what we're doing, or ask for your views, but also how we listen to you and how we explain the reasons for the decisions we have made.

We have principles of good communication and engagement which state:

- We will be clear about how people can be involved, and ensure that our processes are understandable;
- We will be open about what can and cannot change and why, and ensure we provide information to help people understand;
- We will be responsive to peoples' concerns and demonstrate how we have listened to these concerns in our decisions;
- We will communicate our decisions clearly.

This document sets the main ways in which we engage with communities, business, organisations and individuals around planning. This *Statement of Community Involvement* (SCI) sets out our plans for involving the public in considering planning applications and preparing the Local Plan for Dartmoor National Park. The SCI has the following aims:

- To ensure that everyone has the maximum opportunity to participate in and contribute to the review and preparation of planning policy and other planning guidance;
- To consult in a way which meets the needs of different groups so that public participation is helpful, effective and relevant;
- To target engagement to ensure the appropriate statutory consulted parties and interest groups are involved.

2 What do we actively engage on?

Planning Policy: Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the whole of the National Park and has to prepare and maintain an up to date 'Local Plan' for the area. The policies in the Local Plan are the basis for making decisions on planning applications in the National Park. Other documents and plans at a local level such as Supplementary Planning Documents and community plans (e.g. Parish and Neighbourhood Development Plans) are also important in linking with the Local Plan, and can be relevant or 'material considerations' in decision making. There are three different types of local planning documents:

- **Development Plan Documents** (e.g. the Local Plan): are formal planning documents containing policies and objectives for development in the local planning area. These documents are formal plans subject to rigorous procedures including several consultation stages and an independent examination. They also require a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - an assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts of a plan.
- **Neighbourhood Development Plans:** Communities have the opportunity to supplement the Local Plan with their own Neighbourhood Development Plans. Neighbourhood Development Plans are normally led by Town/ Parish Councils and enable communities to play a greater role in determining the future of their area. They are examined by an independent examiner and are also subject to a community referendum before being formally adopted.
- **Supplementary Planning Documents:** provide additional guidance on the implementation of Local Plan policies. These need to be consulted on and are agreed by the Authority without the need for independent examination.

Planning and related applications¹ (Development Management): Planning Applications relate to specific, detailed decisions being made about what happens to a piece of land or building. Applications are judged against the relevant adopted policies in the local plan, neighbourhood development plans, guidance in any supplementary planning documents, government guidance on policy and any other matters 'material' to the application.

It is important to make comments on policy documents as these are the foundation of all our decisions on planning applications

¹ Planning Applications include; applications for planning permission, listed building consent, change of use and certificates of lawfulness

Dartmoor National Park Local Plan Structure



3 How and when do we engage?

	General News	Planning Policy	Planning or listed building application	Masterplan or Development Brief	Neighbourhood planning	
Website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	www.dartmoor.gov.uk
Print copies		✓		✓	✓	Contact our Forward Planning Team
News release	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Visit www.dartmoor.gov.uk and sign up to our news releases to receive email notification
Social media	✓	✓		✓	✓	Follow us on twitter @dartmoornpa
Direct mail			✓	✓		We will write to properties adjoining the proposal site and may write to others affected by the proposal
Specific newsletter		✓		✓		We may prepare newsletters for some specific pieces of work or consultations
Email/mail circulation		✓		✓	✓	We will hold a list of names and addresses of people who wish to be notified about a specific issue
Public meeting or exhibition		✓		✓		We will sometimes hold meetings or exhibitions to raise awareness and get public views. These will be advertised locally
Formal consultation		Minimum 6 weeks	21 days	Minimum 4 weeks	✓	Some will have a formal consultation period
Special interest groups		✓	✓	✓	✓	Certain groups, organisations or agencies working locally or nationally will be notified of issues which we think may be relevant to them
Parish Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Parish Councils will be notified or consulted directly on a range of issues in their area
Authority Member	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Authority Members will be notified or made aware of a range of issues

4 Who we engage with?

Who we engage with depends on the type of planning document or application being considered. There are a number of bodies that the Authority is required to engage with and invite to participate.

Planning Policy

- Those on the [Local Plan Regulations list](#) who must be consulted at certain key stages of plan production, these are known as the 'specific consultation bodies'. This list is not prescriptive but shows the broad range of people that are consulted. An up-to-date list of all the organisations on the database is available on our website.
- We may also wish to identify a number of other bodies at key stages, these are known as the 'general consultation bodies'.
- We are committed to involving a wide range of other individuals and organisations including members of the community and 'hard-to-reach' groups. We will use a range of consultative methods, tailored to the audience.
- We will maintain a database of individuals, groups and other interested parties wishing to be informed when documents are published, which will be updated regularly. To add your information to this list please contact the forward planning team at forwardplanning@dartmoor.gov.uk
- The following groups will be consulted as required throughout the preparation of Planning Policy. They are also indicated in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.

- The Coal Authority
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- Highways England
- Relevant Telecommunications Companies
- Relevant utility companies
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- The Homes and Communities Agency
- Local Authorities (Devon County Council, Teignbridge District Council, Mid Devon District Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council)
- Parish and town councils within or next to the Dartmoor National Park

- There are many other groups and organisations that have an interest. Listed are some of the people that we will keep informed and involve where appropriate.

- Developers and Planning Agents
- Environmental groups (local and regional)
- Voluntary bodies
- Business groups and forums
- Sport and open space organisations
- Transport representatives and organisations
- Local civic and amenity societies
- Fire and Police services
- Youth organisations
- Community Groups/Organisations

Neighbourhood Development Plans

- Neighbourhood Development Plans are prepared by communities for their own parishes or areas and community engagement and consultation will have been carried out at all stages of preparation.
- There are several key formal consultation stages that a Neighbourhood Development Plan must go through before it is 'made' and becomes planning policy. These include a 6 week consultation undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning Group, followed by a further 6 week consultation undertaken by the Local Planning Authority. A referendum that allows those who live and work in the area to vote on whether they want to accept or reject the proposed Plan will also be carried out.

Planning Applications

- We are required to consult various organisations and bodies and are advised to consult others depending on the type of application². A complete list can be accessed on the [Government's website](#).
- Officers will use their professional judgement to contact the relevant organisations for specific planning applications.

² as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (DMPO)

5 Preparing Planning Policy

What is involved in creating a plan?

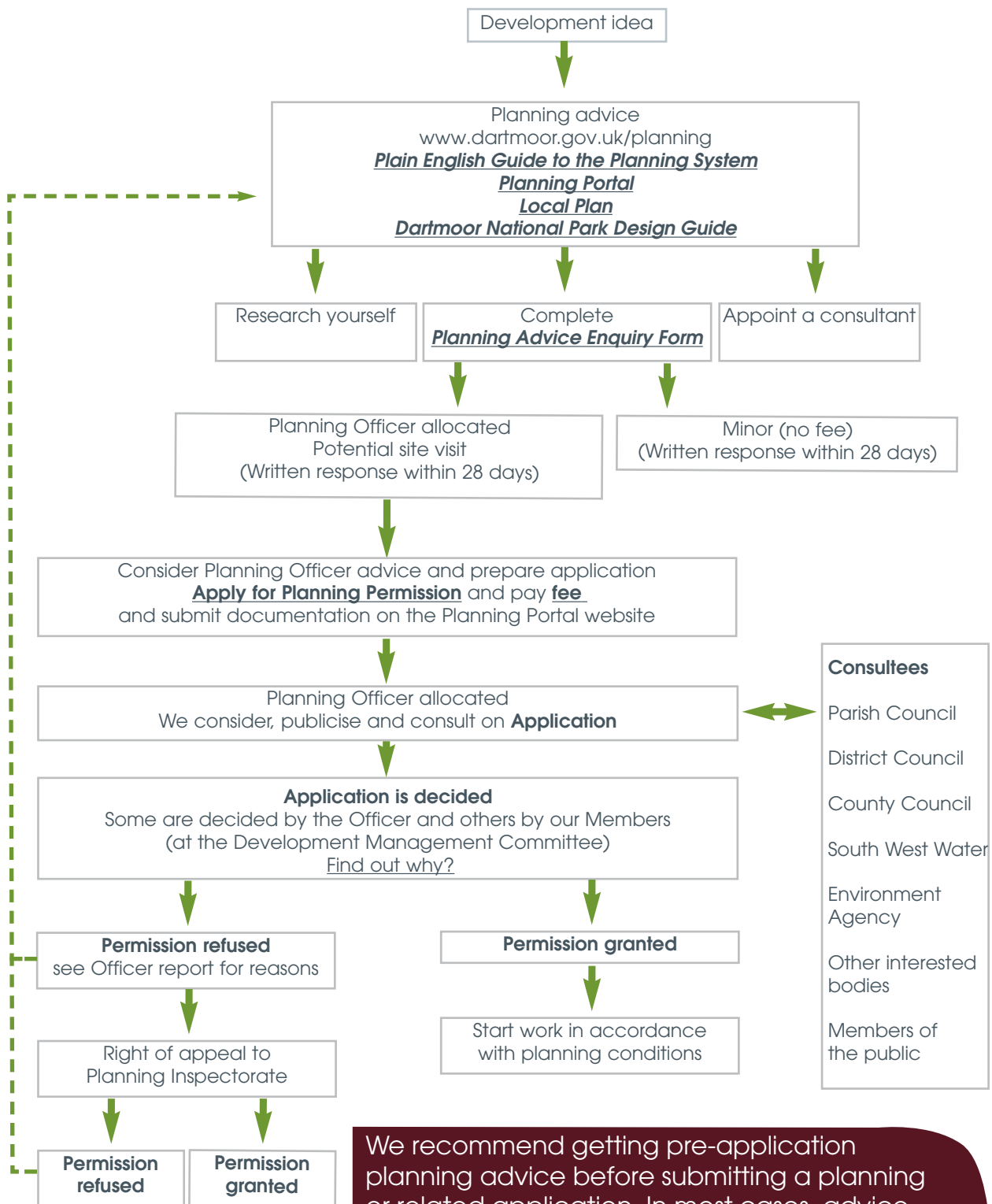


The Local Development Scheme is updated regularly and sets out the timetable and processes for each part of the Local Plan that is being developed or reviewed. Have a look at the latest copy on our website so you know what is happening and when. The earlier you can get involved in the process of creating a plan the more influence you can have.

The main stages in preparing Planning Policy

	What is it?	Who is consulted?	How does consultation happen?	What is the outcome of the consultation?
Stage 1 Issues and Options (Topic Papers)	A continuous process of informal discussion on the topic papers (housing, economy, sustainable communities, minerals/ resources and environment)	Informal discussions will be targeted towards specific groups depending on the topic paper being considered. Everyone who wants to get involve should do at this stage; it is important to raise issues early in the process	Topic and Issue papers will be published in stages; there is no statutory timescale	A full range of issues and options is considered to make sure all the important spatial planning issues are highlighted
Stage 2 Preferred Options Stage	A wide-ranging public consultation exercise. The approach and detail of the relevant Local Plan document will be clear	Everyone who commented under stage 1	See sections 3 and 4. For 6 weeks from when it is published	The comments received will be formally registered and considered by us before changing the document as necessary. If significant changes are required further consultation may be needed before moving to the next stage
Stage 3 Submission Stage	We formally submit the document to the Secretary of State	Everyone who commented under stage 1 and 2	For 6 weeks from publication. The document is then submitted to the Secretary of State together with any comments received	The comments received will be considered as part of the examination
Stage 4 Examination in Public	The plan is examined by an independent Planning Inspector (there may be public hearings)	The Examination is publicised and those who submitted a formal representation at the submission stage with be notified	Notifications will be sent at the start of the Examination	If the Independent Planning Inspector finds the Local Plan sound, the Plan can be adopted by the Authority

6 The main stages in considering a planning application



We recommend getting pre-application planning advice before submitting a planning or related application. In most cases, advice on the majority of small scale development is free of charge; however we do operate a charging system for more significant proposals. To see our charging schedule and what development is exempt from charges please visit our website.

It is important to make comments on planning applications if you support or object to something which affects you. Comments should consider 'material' planning considerations; including for example:

- Amenity (e.g. loss of sunlight, outlook, privacy and overshadowing)
- Highway issues (e.g. traffic generation, vehicular access, highway safety)
- Capacity of physical infrastructure (e.g. in the public drainage or water systems)
- Deficiencies in social facilities (e.g. spaces in schools and health facilities)
- Environmental Health (e.g. noise, disturbance, smells, hazardous materials)
- Loss or effect on trees
- Adverse impact on natural conservation interests and biodiversity opportunities
- Effect on listed buildings and conservation areas
- Layout and density of building design, visual appearance and finishing materials

7 Are we doing what we promised?

We are committed to good quality engagement and to provide opportunities for you to be involved. If you have any comments about our engagement please get in touch with the Forward Planning team at forwardplanning@dartmoor.gov.uk

If you feel we have not been doing what we promised and would like to send us a complaint please see our complaints procedure, which is available on our website. Before making a formal complaint we would encourage you to discuss your concerns with a senior manager of the Planning Team.

We will review the Statement of Community Involvement every 5 years. However it may be reviewed sooner if necessary.

All documents, and their supporting evidence base, are available on our website. We are committed to using material wisely to protect the environment and costs. As such, we have to charge for paper documents at the more formal stages of plan production. You can order these from our Forward Planning Team.

Contact us

Dartmoor National Park Authority
Parke, Bovey Tracey,
Newton Abbot,
TQ13 9JQ

Tel: (01626) 832093

Email: hq@dartmoor.gov.uk

Website: www.dartmoor.gov.uk

Where can I get further help?

The Planning Portal

The Planning Portal is the Government gateway to planning information throughout the UK. It provides information on plans, appeals, applications, contact details and research areas. You can access the Planning Portal online: www.planningportal.gov.uk

Planning Aid

Planning Aid offers free and independent professional planning advice to community groups and individuals who cannot afford to pay professional fees.

You can contact Planning Aid England (general enquiries) at:

Helpline: 0203 206 1880

Email: info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Web: www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

8 January 2016

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY IN DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AND HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST DEVOLUTION DEALReport of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)Recommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) **Note and offer comments on the work the Authority is doing, in partnership with Exmoor National Park Authority, to support economic growth and productivity within the two National Parks**
- (ii) **Provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, to endorse the final devolution submission to Government and to enter into negotiations with Government towards a deal**
- (iii) **Note that the National Park Authority's support for any future deal would be subject to formal approval by the Authority**

1 Background

- 1.1 This report is concerned with two separate but related issues. The first issue pertains to how the Authority is supporting economic growth and productivity in the National Park. The second issue concerns the proposed 'Devolution Deal' for the Heart of the South West. Whilst separate, work on the former has helped inform our thinking on the second and influence the content of the proposed 'Devolution Deal'.

2 Supporting Economic Growth and Productivity in Dartmoor National Park

- 2.1 The Government's vision is "...to harness the enormous economic potential England's rural areas have to offer, both for the prosperity of those living in rural areas and for the benefit of the UK economy overall" ([Rural Productivity Plan, 2015](#)). When people think about National Parks they tend to think spectacular landscapes and places to enjoy. They do not always think about National Parks as living, working landscapes – as economic areas, home to important businesses, sources of innovation and production. The Authority, working with Exmoor National Park Authority published an economic prospectus for the two National Parks in October 2015. The prospectus "World-class environments – Enjoyed by millions, generating millions" (see Appendix 1) demonstrates that the two National Parks are home to over 3,000 businesses with a turnover in excess of £770m and that 52% of the business turnover is from micro businesses.
- 2.2 The prospectus highlights the following 'offers' of the National Parks:
 - An internationally recognised brand and high profile visitor destination - both National Parks attract over 5million visitors with an economic value of £237m per annum.

- Iconic, treasured landscapes offering unrivalled opportunities for leisure, recreation and enjoyment.
- A world class environment to aid inward investment to the region.
- Essential life and business support systems for the region (and beyond) – 45% of South West Water’s drinking water supply emanates from Dartmoor.

2.3 A supporting document provides more detail on the role the two National Park Authorities play in helping to develop diverse and sustainable rural economies, working in partnership across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

2.4 The prospectus also highlights four key investment opportunities to help fulfil the potential detailed in the table below.

	Our ask: We need funding to	Enabling support provided by Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities	Benefit to Immediate area and region
Place	<p>1. Improve Connectivity: Superfast broadband – building on CDS rollout to deliver coverage to all settlements, visitor facilities and employment sites</p> <p>Improved mobile coverage Enhancing MP coverage to deliver 4G service to all settlements and key recreational areas</p> <p>Improved rail and road Infrastructure – to ensure economic potential is unlocked sustainably</p>	<p>Help to facilitate the rollout of superfast broadband to enable full connectivity in rural areas by 2017. Piloting new technology that works with the landscape</p>	<p>Rural businesses, communities and visitors will not be disadvantaged by poor connectivity.</p> <p>This will help the rural economy, enable people to work from home and improve the education prospects of young people living in rural communities.</p>
Business	<p>2. Promote the Place and Product Recognising the value of the National Park and local supply chains, including food and drink, as quality destination ‘brands’ and the unique distinctive product they offer to the region/</p>	<p>Providing a good quality infrastructure including public rights of way, cycling routes and visitor centres.</p> <p>Helping to support the diversification of rural businesses by positive planning, recognising the importance to the local economy.</p>	<p>A high quality environment that supports good local supply chains, excellent recreational opportunities and a strong international brand. A key part of the tourism economy and providing a highly valued ‘quality of life’ offer to regional inward investment</p>

	Our ask: We need funding to	Enabling support provided by Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities	Benefit to Immediate area and region
People	3 Support key sectors - such as farming, forestry, food and tourism. The creation of rural growth hubs, support for working collaboratively to increase productivity, develop rural skills and brand recognition	Facilitating role in the creation of rural growth hubs. Connecting and supporting key sectors to develop skills and retain rural workforce.	Networking and the development of improved business skills for SMEs, including making good use of technology Rural skills development through apprenticeships and work based learning programmes, retaining skills within the region.
People, Business and Place	4 Sustain the resource – There is a need for continued investment managing the National Park resource: The environment; Access to it and; promotion. Without this the resource will degrade and opportunities for sustainable rural growth lost.	A proven track record of supporting good management of these special places over the last 60 plus years in partnership with land managers, communities and users	Key natural resources safeguarded. Tourism and farming livelihoods maintained. Inward investment to the wider region attracted given the high quality landscapes and recreational offer. Internationally renowned brands are maintained. The National parks are an essential foundation for growth in the ‘Heart of the South West’.

- 2.5 A key objective for producing the prospectus was to ensure that organisations like the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) recognise the economic importance of the two National Parks and the need to develop ‘placed-based approaches to growing the rural economy’. The prospectus gained valuable press coverage including a front page headline, double page feature and a positive opinion piece in the Western Morning News. The prospectus formed the basis for a meeting between the Chairs and Chief Executives of the two National Park Authorities and their counterparts on the LEP. The LEP encouraged us to develop our thinking on rural development and have provided support through Somerset and Devon County Councils. Emma Buckman Associates were commissioned to develop the prospectus into an ‘economic growth deal’ for the two National Parks.
- 2.6 The primary output from this work is a draft proposition for government to pilot a new form of Rural Productivity Network across Exmoor and Dartmoor. Such a network would build on the success of our experiences to date with the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project and the potential to extend this to other sectors such as tourism. The overall network would be developed through collaboration both between and across business clusters using a facilitated approach to support key sectors, maximise the opportunity provided by improved broadband coverage, develop supply chain integration, market the National Park brand and explore the opportunity for shared services across the private sector.
- 2.7 The draft proposition paper is attached at Appendix B and is aligned with the [“Rural Productivity Plan”](#) published by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in August 2015. The paper highlights five key areas for action outlining the current situation within Dartmoor and Exmoor, the opportunities available to develop and key asks of government to achieve this. The proposition has been developed in consultation with other organisations and a stakeholder workshop involving representatives from over 20 different organisations and companies. The draft document has been shared with Defra officials and submitted to the Programme Office for the devolution deal (see below).

- 2.8 The intention is to send the final document to Rory Stewart MP, Minister with responsibility for National Parks and to seek a meeting to discuss our ideas and the potential for Government support. We are also in discussions with the LEP to see how they might help us implement the ideas in the paper.

3 Devolution Deal

- 3.1 [“Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation”](#) sets out a long-term agenda for economic, and wider reform, to support economic growth and improved productivity. The latter is described as the ‘challenge of our time’. This Command Paper, presented to Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills makes the case for a national recovery that benefits all parts of the country and recognises the need for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to English cities and non-metropolitan areas to help drive the growth and productivity agenda but at the same time providing financial savings or at least being ‘fiscally neutral’. It is clear, from the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s speech on the recent Comprehensive Spending Review that devolution arrangements are increasingly becoming the core mechanism for negotiation with Government.
- 3.2 A Statement of Intent was submitted to central Government by 20 partners covering the Heart of the South West – the spatial areas of Devon, Somerset, Torbay and Plymouth. The partnership included all of the local authorities, the two National Park Authorities and the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This statement of intent set out the desire for powers and responsibilities in three areas:
- Economic growth and productivity
 - Health, social care and wellbeing
 - Infrastructure and local resilience
- 3.3 The Statement of Intent is being developed into a draft ‘Devolution Deal’ or proposition by a programme office led by Cllr John Osman (Leader, Somerset County Council) and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive, Plymouth City Council). All local authorities (including the two National Park Authorities) have contributed to the costs of developing the ‘Devolution Deal’. A series of task and finish groups have been established to help draft the deal and various iterations of the deal have been circulated for comment and input. There has been a series of regular meetings involving Leaders and/or Chief Executives from the original 20 partners plus the Chairs of the Clinical Commissioning Groups who are now participating in the process to develop the draft deal.
- 3.4 The latest draft Devolution Deal is based on the following vision:

Our vision for productivity-led growth:

People: healthy and with the skills they need to access higher value jobs and grow their careers with Heart of the South West businesses

Business: creating an additional 80,000 jobs and GVA (Gross Value Added) uplift of £4billion for UK PLC

Place: a long term plan for sustainable growth supported by accelerated housing delivery

- 3.5 The draft Deal identifies six 'golden opportunities' that will be used to drive productivity and economic growth:
- Marine
 - Nuclear
 - Aerospace and advanced engineering
 - Health and social care
 - Environmental futures
 - Rural productivity
- 3.6 There is a close correlation between these 'opportunities' and the growth areas identified in the Local Enterprise Partnership's strategy. The last two 'opportunities' have been added through the drafting stage due, in large part by the work of the two National Park Authorities. The rural productivity 'opportunity' picks up some of our thinking on a Rural Productivity Network (see above).
- 3.7 The draft Deal sets out a series of 'Asks and Offers' under each theme. For example, the ask under the rural productivity theme includes devolved Defra funding for rural growth network type activity, the use of the National parks (and AONBs) as test beds for innovative models that boost rural productivity and work to develop protected geographical status products. The offer includes a targeted engagement programme to ensure rural business benefits and co-ordination with the National Park Authorities to deliver 'change for the better'.
- 3.8 The intention is to seek 'sign off' on a final draft 'Deal' early in 2016 and then to submit it to central Government. The submission will not be a formal 'deal' but a document to open up discussions with Government about a potential deal.
- 3.9 The Government's clear preference, in terms of governance for devolution deals, is for a directly elected mayor as they believe that this model can 'cut through' the difficulties caused by 'fragmented decision-making and blurred accountability' across different levels of governance. "Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation" could not be clearer in terms of the Government's preference: "the government also remains open to any further proposals from local areas for devolution of significant powers in return for a mayor...". The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, which is expected to get Royal Assent early in 2016, provides the statutory framework for the Government's policy of devolving powers and budgets. The Bill provides for directly elected mayors and combined authorities.
- 3.10 At a meeting on 25 November 2015, the Leaders of the local authorities considered a number of options for the governance of any devolution deal. The option agreed by

Leaders was to submit a proposal based on a combined authority the submission would also set out that, as part of any deal, the Heart of the South West would wish to undertake a full governance review to ensure the right governance model was adopted to maximise the deal from Government and deliver the best deal for the people of Devon, Somerset, Torbay and Plymouth. This approach ensures maximum flexibility.

- 3.11 A combined authority would be constituted to deliver the content of the deal. Each constituent authority would appoint an elected councillor to be a member and decision making would be based on one member one vote. The National Park Authorities would be co-opted/associate members as would the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Groups. It will be important for the Authority to clarify the governance arrangements and its role in these before supporting any deal.
- 3.12 The statutory functions delegated to any combined authority would depend on the enactment of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill and the substance of any deal for the Heart of the South West.
- 3.13 The proposal to be submitted to Government will include a commitment to identifying and agreeing a leader visible to the public with channels for engagement and communication between the leaders, public and other partners. There is also a commitment to identifying and agreeing opportunities to delegate or devolve to parish and town councils and community groups in order to bring decision making closer to communities and service users.
- 3.14 The Authority has indicated that it would not agree to any 'mandatory delegation of powers' to a combined authority. National Parks were designated by the nation for the benefit of the nation and it is felt that a specific purpose Authority is the best mechanism to lead and co-ordinate delivery of national park purposes. Nevertheless, it is important for the Authority to engage in the devolution process.
- 3.15 The draft devolution deal offers some potential opportunities for the National Park. For example:
- the rural productivity theme may provide some support to develop the rural productivity network (see Appendix B);
 - the ask to devolve Homes and Communities Agency funding into a Housing Delivery Fund might provide some assistance for affordable rural housing; and
 - the devolution of commissioning of some health budgets may provide an opportunity to extend the Naturally Healthy Dartmoor project.
- 3.16 It also raises some potential challenges, for example:
- The focus on growth around Exeter and Plymouth will create further recreational pressures on the National Park – it is important that we find a mechanism for such growth to contribute to the management of the National Park, perhaps a wider approach to Defra's model of 'biodiversity off-setting'
 - The proposed rail link Exeter – Okehampton – Tavistock – Plymouth may feature in the devolution deal and part of this route will run through the National Park. Whilst offering opportunities the reinstatement of this former railway line will not be without

challenges: how to minimise the environmental impact, deliver local growth and sustain the current recreational opportunities are but some.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Authority has contributed £5,000 to the operating costs of the programme office that is co-ordinating the drafting of the devolution deal. As noted above, there is no proposal or agreement to delegate any element of National Park Grant to a combined authority.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The work we have pursued on rural growth has been in support of the vision for the National Park as a living and working landscape:

Dartmoor – an inspirational place where, in 2034:

- The natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage are conserved, sustained and enhanced;
- Local people and visitors enjoy and learn more about the National Park; and
- Local communities and businesses prosper and benefit from Dartmoor’s human and natural resources.

-
The National Park is an exemplar in delivering a range of public benefits, and leading the way in developing new approaches and think.

Your Dartmoor, National Park Management Plan 2014 - 2019

- 5.2 The Authority has sought to provide active leadership for Dartmoor businesses and communities in terms of the provision of superfast broadband and supporting key sectors (e.g farming).
- 5.3 The emerging concept of a ‘rural productivity network’ builds on the success of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project (and the ‘sister’ project on Exmoor) but will be dependent on securing funding to facilitate the network.
- 5.4 It is important that the Authority remains engaged in the devolution deal process to ensure that the interests of Dartmoor National Park and the communities that live within the National Park are represented. The devolution deal offers the potential for new freedoms, flexibilities and financial incentives. It is important that the deal recognises that the Heart of the South West is a predominantly rural area; that the rural economy is dominated by micro businesses that can help deliver wider growth and productivity improvements; and that the quality of the environment both within and beyond the two National Parks needs to be sustained and not sacrificed on the altar of economic growth – growth within environmental limits.

KEVIN BISHOP

Attachments: Appendix A – Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks Economic Prospectus: World-class environments – Enjoyed by millions, generating millions
Appendix B – Draft proposal for a Rural Productivity Network

Economic Prospectus SUMMARY



EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK



Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks

*World-class environments -
Enjoyed by millions, generating millions*

Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks are special. They are environmental, social and economic assets; their benefits extend beyond their boundaries. They help deliver health, happiness and wealth to millions. They are also living, working landscapes that are home to approximately 44,000 people and 3,145 businesses.

Both National Park Authorities understand that the high quality environment underpins economic activity. We support the economic wellbeing of our communities while maintaining a high quality natural environment and encouraging the sustainable enjoyment of our landscapes.

Our National Parks offer:

- **An internationally recognised brand and high profile visitor destinations:**
The National Park brand is recognised across the world for the quality of the environment and, through this, the visitor experience.
- **Iconic, treasured landscapes offering unrivalled opportunities for leisure, recreation and enjoyment.**
- **A world-class environment to aid inward investment to the region:**
The quality of the environment and life associated with the National Parks is a key driver for inward investment to the region and an ingredient for retaining existing businesses.
- **Essential life and business support systems for the region (and beyond);** this includes water supply, carbon storage, food production and health benefits.



Both
National Parks
attract
5 million visitors
economic value of
£237 million



Economic
Landscapes
3,145
businesses
annual turnover
£770 million

Outdoor
recreation is one
of the nations'
favourite pastimes
75% regularly enjoy
active recreation

Our economic potential

Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities

are keen to continue to support the economic growth of our rural communities, which, in turn, contributes to wider regional growth. There are four key areas we have identified to help develop opportunities for growth.

3,145 businesses
£770 million
turnover

52%
business turnover
from micro business

21%
self employed

15%
residents
are directors,
senior officials
and managers

18%
skilled trade
occupations

Estimated
10%

increase in GVA in rural
areas with broadband
access for all

(CLA, Importance of the
Rural Economy 2014)

93%

businesses have
9 or fewer employees,
with 51% employment
in small businesses
(14% England)

(Valuing England's
National Parks 2013)

1

Improve Connectivity

- Superfast broadband - building on the **Connecting Devon and Somerset** rollout to deliver coverage to all settlements, visitor facilities and employment sites
 - Improved mobile coverage that does not damage the landscape to deliver 4G service to all settlements and key recreational areas
- Improved rail and road infrastructure - to ensure economic potential is unlocked sustainably.

2

Promote the Place and Product

Recognising the value of the National Park and local supply chains, including food and drink, as quality destination 'brands' and the unique distinctive product they offer to the region.

The Greater
Dartmoor and
Exmoor areas over
8 million visitor days
£428 million

(STEAM tourism
data 2014)

43%

of UK overnight domestic
tourism involves
outdoor recreation

(Reconomics 2014)



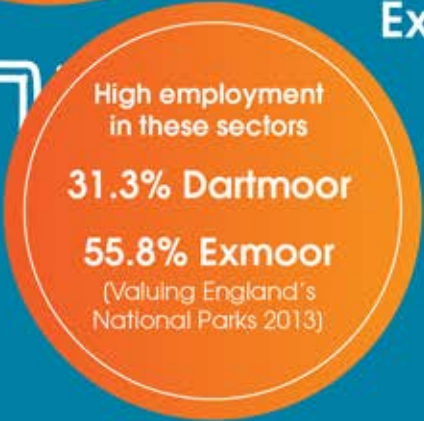
3

Support for key sectors

(such as farming, food and tourism)

There is a need to invest in the development of skills, productivity and 'making the connections' eg linking farming, food and tourism.

This investment is not just about grants or loans or access to advice. It also needs to be in the form of facilitation-investing in a resource that helps businesses 'make the connection' and promote collaborative action. Locally based schemes (such as the two Hill Farm Projects) have a proven record of project delivery in remote rural areas - they can help the LEP 'reach parts that other initiatives can not reach'.



Household income lower than regional average,
Dartmoor 2%
Exmoor 15%

House prices higher than regional average,
Dartmoor +27%
Exmoor +39%

2% unemployment
4,473 employed in tourism sector

Average **92%** of planning applications approved

Only National Parks to be in Government
'vanguard' self-build pilot,
supporting local housing need

4

Sustain the resource

There needs to be an investment in managing the National Park resource - the environment, access to it and its promotion.

Without this continued investment the resource will degrade and the opportunities for sustainable rural growth considerably reduced. Investment in managing the resource is not an optional extra it is an essential foundation for future growth.



Some of our success stories



Ashburton Cookery School, Dartmoor

- One of UK's top private cookery schools, attracting over 3,000 cooks a year
- Chefs Academy trains around 200 entrepreneurial chefs each year
- Supports local sourcing and supply chains



Singer instruments, Exmoor

- A high tech, high value company
- Designs and manufactures laboratory robotics for cancer research, exporting to over 60 countries across the globe
- In 2010 it was estimated the company was worth over £2m to the local rural economy



Grey Matter, Dartmoor

- Multi-award winning software company based in Ashburton. Founded in 1983, it was one of the first businesses of its kind in the UK
- £35m turnover and 85 staff, it is a partner with global giants such as Microsoft, Dell and Intel
- Recently awarded a grant through the GAIN Growth Fund to support expansion plans and create 22 jobs for local people
- Long term ambitions to increase turnover to £100m - one of the South West's fastest growing businesses



Shearwell Data, Exmoor

- Based on a working farm, one of the largest employers on Exmoor
- Provides a range of electronic identification products for livestock
- Exports products and services to more than 30 countries worldwide.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Planning and Housing Minister Brandon Lewis said:

"Perhaps the most welcome bid was a joint bid for vanguard status from the Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities. I am delighted that the National Park Authorities are actively engaging with our proposals. We have no intention of using the right to build as a means of encouraging unacceptable development in our most precious landscapes. However, the National Park Authorities are keen to explore how the register could be used to identify and address local housing demand from long-standing residents who work and live in their National Parks."

"At Visit England, we know from experiences across the country that the National Parks brand is recognised and trusted by both domestic and overseas visitors, that it can draw a significant number of visitors... stimulate rural economies and jobs in the long term whilst helping protect and celebrate the country's most stunning and unique natural landscapes for generations to come".

James Berresford,
Chief Executive,
Visit England

WE'RE
SUPPORTING
devon
delivers

into
Somerset

[DRAFT] Driving Productivity on Dartmoor and Exmoor

PROPOSITION PAPER

Introduction

In August 2015, DEFRA published 'A 10 point plan for boosting productivity in rural areas'. The plan recognises the substantial and vitally important contribution made to the national economy by England's rural areas. It complements the Government's wider efforts to promote access in rural areas to high quality public services, focusing on ten specific areas that government believes could make a real difference to productivity.

At the same time, within the LEP area, wider discussions have been underway to formulate a 'Devolution Deal' with Government to secure local control of national resources, in order to deliver better outcomes for less.

It is within this context that the two South West National Parks have been exploring their role in the Heart of the SW economy, how further growth can be stimulated and the support required from national and local stakeholders to achieve this.

Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks are unique and special places that make a positive contribution to the sustainable economic growth of their surrounding areas. There is a strong opportunity to increase their contribution; however, mainstream economic tools tend to have an urban bias where high business densities make them more effective.

Our aim is to develop a new rural growth model, designed by rural areas, for rural areas – '**The Rural Productivity Network**'.

This builds on activity already underway in the two National Parks and builds on the distinctive opportunities within our unique environments.

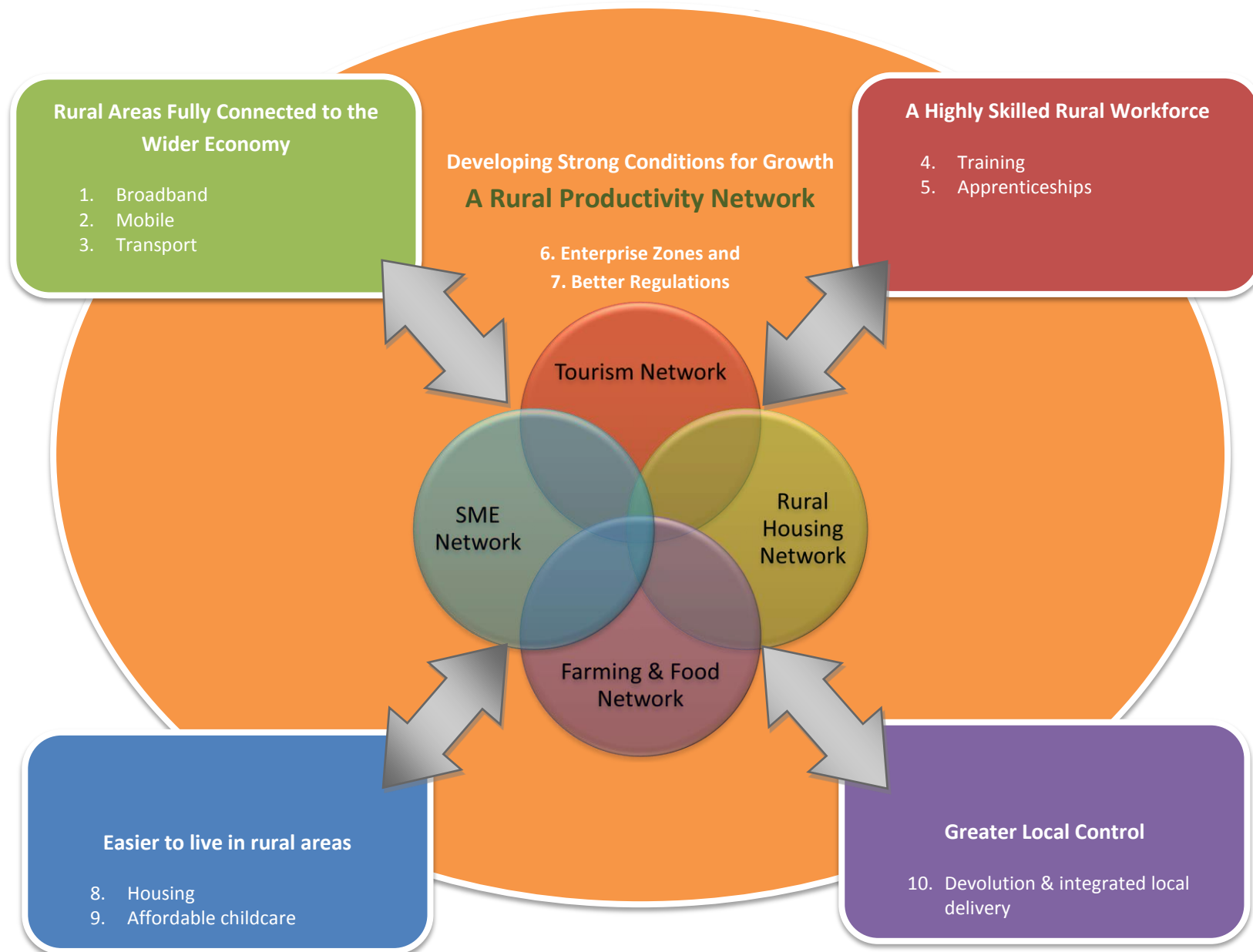
Our **Rural Productivity Network** will be developed through collaboration both between and across business clusters using a facilitated approach to support key sectors, maximise the digital opportunity, maximise local supply chains, explore shared services and cross-promote the unique brand. It is fully aligned with Defra's 10-point action plan for boosting productivity in rural areas (August 2015) and is illustrated overleaf.

Our proposition builds on the internationally recognised 'National Park' brand which denotes quality of environment, stunning landscapes, heritage and diverse wildlife. The Parks play a vital role in acting as the "green lungs" for the wider area, providing essential ecosystem services such as water catchment management. They also offer a great place to live and work and include a range of distinctive local businesses and products with a strong history of successful collaboration. With a number of exciting projects already underway to improve communications and the conditions for productivity, the proposition seeks to exploit existing opportunities whilst also collaboratively addressing the issues that are currently acting as a brake to growth in productivity.

In the following pages, we set out our current position, the opportunity and our 'ask' in relation to these themes. In many cases the solution lies with local partners who can unlock opportunities - with help from government - and we ask for the flexibility to continue to experiment and use our National Parks as a test-bed for innovative approaches to boosting rural productivity.

Our Proposition

Figure 1: Our Proposition, aligned with DEFRA's 10 Point Plan



Our Actions and Asks

RURAL AREAS FULLY CONNECTED TO THE WIDER ECONOMY (broadband, mobile, transport)

Our position:

- Superfast broadband at 75% on Dartmoor and 69% on Exmoor, but rising to 97% through the 'Airband' contract. Challenge is ensuring businesses are able to exploit fully
- Poor mobile phone coverage in places and MIP project being discontinued
- Issues of rural inaccessibility, particularly on Exmoor
- High quality recreational infrastructure

Our offer:

Through the Rural Productivity Network we will:

- Exploit opportunities presented by superfast broadband coverage to over 97% of premises by encouraging business and household take-up of digital technologies to drive productivity improvements (e.g. digital livestock monitoring) and skills development
- Seek private sector investment in innovative and integrated mobile solutions linked to superfast broadband network
- Explore innovative transport solutions in support of economic activity

The two National Park Authorities will:

- Manage and enhance recreational routes as driver to the visitor economy
- Engage with broadband and mobile infrastructure providers to extend coverage

Our asks:

- DCMS - Be a test-bed for innovative solutions to ultrafast broadband in rural areas (including driving up Airband speeds through software improvements)
- LEP – Planned digital business support to recognise the unique challenge of delivery in the National Parks
- LEP – To engage with the National Parks in the deployment of Mobile 4G infrastructure project
- DCMS - Gap funding from discontinued MIP budget to pilot integration of mobile telephony with superfast broadband
- DfT/LEP - Improved signage for National Parks from major trunk roads, improved strategic connectivity for Exmoor (A358 and Taunton) and investigating fully rail infrastructure options around Dartmoor
- DfT/LEP - Seed funding for innovative transport solutions to improve rural accessibility within the productivity network (e.g. wheels to work, community transport solutions, on-line training materials)

- Innovate UK/Local Partners – A test-bed for applied digital innovation (rural)
- DEFRA – Make EAFRD tourism infrastructure funds open to public and voluntary sector applications.

A HIGHLY SKILLED RURAL WORKFORCE (training, apprenticeships)

Our position:

- Known skills gaps and shortages in relation to key sectors that are currently inhibiting business growth but some examples of good practice in the Hill Farming Networks (e.g. the moorskills model, where a group of Dartmoor farmers, came together to set up an apprenticeships scheme, focusing on the skills of moorland farming).
- Lack of young people being trained in relevant areas
- Farm profitability low

Our offer:

Through the Rural Productivity Network we will:

- Increase participation of farming, tourism and other businesses in training and development programmes and provide opportunities for knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice
- Stimulate an employer-led solution to the skills shortages through the SME network
- Bring together businesses, education and FE sectors to train the next generation workforce (collaboratively and in partnership with local providers such as the Colleges and Skills Group) to meet the needs of the area

The two National Park Authorities will:

- Play an active role in the Hill Farm and Tourism networks, in particular, for example through local product branding and quality schemes

Our ask:

- DEFRA - Devolution of Countryside Productivity skills funding to roll-out the successful 'Moor Skills' model to ALL key sectors in the moor
- DEFRA – to consider how EAFRD growth programme could be used to support an employer-led training model and work with the LEP to bring forward this activity
- LEP - Representation of the Rural Productivity Network on the LEP's people group to articulate needs of employers within the zone

- DEFRA – support for Farm and Food Network to deliver integrated actions to increase farm profitability within environmental limits.

FOCAL POINT OF PROPOSITION - DEVELOPING STRONG CONDITIONS FOR BUSINESS GROWTH (Enterprise Zone, better regulation)

Our position:

Distinctive local businesses and products that build on the unique environment within the Parks and have a strong history of successful local collaboration (e.g. farming and tourism networks).

Our offer:

To develop a new type of **Rural Productivity Network** based on collaboration both between and across clusters. The network will utilise a cluster facilitation approach (similar to that employed by the successful Hill Farms Projects) to support key sectors, working with businesses to:

- Maximise the digital opportunity
- Maximise local supply chains and distinctive products
- Address skills challenges
- Explore shared services and marketing
- Cross-promote the unique brand and reach new markets

The networks will utilise existing enterprise infrastructure across the parks (such as the Enterprise Hubs developed by the Rural Growth Network) and also establish the need for additional workspace.

The networks will benefit from the proactive approach of the two National Park Authorities to effective regulation such as flexible planning policies, engagement and facilitation.

Our ask:

- DEFRA - to support the LEP and wider ESIF committee to bring forward a call under measure 16.4 (co-operation in supply chains) to allow the Parks to bid in for EAFRD resources for revenue funding to facilitate the establishment of the Network
- DEFRA – commitment to use SW National Parks as test beds for development of innovative models to boost rural productivity
- DEFRA – work with us to explore Protected Geographical Status products
- Local partners – to work with us to explore options for long-term financial sustainability through local devolution process
- LEP – LGF funding to unlock workspace infrastructure requirements
- DCMS / Visit England – DMO recognition for Exmoor / Dartmoor

EASIER TO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS (housing, affordable childcare)

Our position:

- Lack of affordable housing is restricting labour supply but positive planning practices are in place and the National Parks are part of the government's vanguard self-build project
- Underemployment within the Parks is compounded by limited childcare options
- Housing stock old and difficult to treat for energy efficiency, leading to fuel poverty

Our offer:

Through the Rural Productivity Network we will:

- Develop collaborative childcare solutions in support of employment
- Continue and develop innovative approaches to energy in homes and communities (including woodfuel)

The two National Park Authorities will:

- Continue to provide a flexible planning policy framework to help deliver new homes that meet the needs of local communities and employers
- Develop a collaborative approach to rural housing delivery and respond positively to the strong demand for self-build housing as part of the vanguard pilot

Our ask:

- HCA - Access to any under-utilised self-build vanguard funding to create revolving self-build fund
- HCA - funding for site-acquisition to support new and affordable homes including a revolving fund (already being discussed)
- DCLG Exemption from 'right to buy' as it will erode limited social housing stock
- DfE/Local Partners - Seed funding to develop collaborate childcare models
- LEP/ESIF committee to bring forward call in relation to rural renewables

GREATER LOCAL CONTROL (devolution) and working with our neighbours

Our position:

- National Parks provide a model of integrated delivery combining the management of ecosystem services (such as biodiversity, public access and water management) with wider economic development.
- Existing Farming Futures pilot project has successfully devolved responsibility from DEFRA agencies to a group of local managers
- Existing 'Green Prescription' models being pilotied to enhance the health and wellbeing benefits provided by experience in National Park landscapes

Our offer:

The two National Park Authorities will:

- Integrate local delivery of land management initiatives - Expand scope of Farming Futures approach to integrate other agencies and approaches
- Actively work with Local Nature Partnerships and the voluntary sector to enhance biodiversity and support the aims of Defra's 25 year Environment Plan and link this with the Food and farming Strategy
- Expand provision of health and well-being services within the National Parks, supporting the health of the wider area.
- Engage with businesses and communities through the Rural Productivity Network to realise the opportunities for growth and productivity provided by high quality natural environment; developing a model where rural growth and productivity applies not just to the economy but also to the environment
- Monitor natural capital in the National Parks and the contribution it makes to the wider economy and quality of life in the Heart of the South West area

Our ask:

- DEFRA and agencies - To work with us to join-up nationally led activity (including RDPE) at a local level, following the Farming Futures model
- DEFRA – To allow local schemes such as LEADER to set local priorities and criteria for EU funding streams within EU eligibility framework.
- Neighbouring Authorities – To work with us to develop a new model for bio-diversity offsetting associated with new developments in neighbouring areas
- Neighbouring Authorities – To work with us to further develop health and

well-being proposals, building on the Green Prescription pilot work and devolution opportunities.

Concluding Statement

We believe that our proposed **Rural Productivity Network** provides the right mechanism for driving the productivity agenda in the National Parks.

As a model, it builds on our strongest assets: the people, communities and spectacular environment of the National Parks. Our current networks are pioneers of collaborative approaches (e.g. hill farming & tourism) and local businesses clearly have an appetite to come together to tackle problems. We believe that our collaborative approach, with a little seed funding, can deliver benefits across the whole productivity agenda as well as adding value to LEP wide initiatives.

However, to be truly successful, our Rural Productivity Network needs to be empowered by the devolution process to bring about better, integrated solutions that deliver better value for the taxpayer. The SW National Parks have experience of delivering these integrated solutions and the appetite to take on the challenge.

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

6 March 2015

OUR COMMON CAUSE: OUR UPLAND COMMONS

Report of the Director of Conservation and Communities and the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Recommendation: **That Members:**

- (i) **note the intention for Dartmoor to be one of five ‘action research areas’ in the proposed Our Common Cause bid for Heritage Lottery funding; and**
- (ii) **agree to provide £8,000 match funding for the Development Phase.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Dartmoor was one of five case study areas that were involved in “[Better Outcomes for Upland Commons](#)”. The overarching purpose of this initiative, which was inspired by HRH The Prince of Wales, was to improve long-term working relationships between organisations to strengthen our ability to manage the uplands to deliver multiple outcomes concurrently.
- 1.2 The focus was on common land as it encompasses many of the conflicts and challenges of the wider upland countryside debates and is of intrinsic importance. Commons can also be complex areas to manage given the variety of parties and/or persons with differing legal rights.
- 1.3 Following an initial workshop, attended by the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), three objectives were agreed for the Better Outcomes project:
 - How better outcomes for each stakeholder can be delivered simultaneously on the same area of upland common.
 - How grazing commoners and common owners can be paid for the delivery of ecosystem services on common land by the market as well as the state.
 - How the respective rights and responsibilities of all parties active on common land can be understood and recognised and then incorporated into management practice.
- 1.4 The maintenance of viable businesses for farming commoners and common land owners was noted as a pre-requisite for successful outcomes. The five case study areas were used to assess how to deliver ‘better outcomes’.
- 1.5 The Dartmoor case study was focused on the Forest of Dartmoor and picked up the experience of the Dartmoor [Moorland Vision](#), [Dartmoor Farming Futures](#), the [Mires Project](#) and the [Hill Farm Project](#). This case study highlighted the value of the Hill Farm Project (a joint initiative between the National Park Authority and the Duchy of

Cornwall) in terms of engaging farmers in co-operative working. This co-operation was furthered by the Moorland Vision process which involved farmers/commoners and relevant statutory bodies in a process to agree what moorland on Dartmoor should look like in the future – a grazed landscape to deliver multiple benefits requiring farmers and their stock. The Vision was completed in 2006 and used to influence agri-environment schemes. Under the Farming Futures initiative commoners from the Forest and the principal landowner were invited to design and then pilot a new approach to agri-environment: one predicated on a series of outcomes that the commoners developed. The process began to empower those directly responsible for managing the common and this increased engagement by the farmers led to requests for greater clarity on what the agencies, especially Natural England, required them to do and why. Natural England responded by reviewing the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and its condition units to provide clearer information to the graziers. Simple maps were produced for each management unit showing the vegetation types and photographs of the key species together with photographs that indicate what ‘good condition’ and ‘poor condition’ look like. Over 40 commoners have now been trained in SSSI condition surveys by Natural England and undertake the surveys on a regular basis.

1.6 The project as a whole identified shared attributes that characterise the successful delivery of multiple outcomes on upland commons. These are:

- Strong and adaptive leadership and co-ordination
- Good and regular communication
- Effective and well established networks
- Respectful attitudes
- Clarity on rights and outcomes
- Trade-offs negotiated fairly
- Fair and transparent administration
- Payments that reflect respective contributions and benefits
- Value local knowledge and provide local discretion over prescriptions
- Time; continuity of service, time for negotiations and duration of interventions

1.7 In writing the forward to the final report HRH the Prince of Wales posed the question ‘What next?’ and stated in response “I can only pray that all the conversations which have been held in the process of producing this report will lead to genuinely better, longer term outcomes on our precious upland commons. Rather than rely solely on prayer, the project partners are developing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the initiative through a project called ‘Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons’.

2 Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons

2.1 Our Common Cause will seek to build on the findings of the Better Outcomes study and address the following issues identified by the evaluation that underpinned this report, namely:

- Lack of understanding of different interests and outcomes and lack of motivation to deliver public goods.

- Need for conflict resolution where long standing disputes act as a barrier to better outcomes.
- The narrow focus of upland policy and protection on a limited number of outcomes, with the cultural landscape and the cultural heritage provided by commoners and owners often undervalued.
- Loss of skills among commoners, conservation bodies and owners, including loss of 'institutional memory' when succession of individuals occurs.
- Lack of awareness of the role commoning plays in delivering numerous public goods.

2.2 The lead partner is the Foundation for Common Land and the National Trust has agreed to act as the accountable body (ie will manage the finances of the project) if the application is successful. The bid process is similar to that for a Landscape Partnership: a stage 1 application which if successful will provide some money for a 'development phase' to work up the full bid and then a second application which, if successful, will secure finance for the 'delivery phase'. The intention is to submit the first application (for funding for the development phase) in February 2016 for decision in early summer 2016. This funding will provide for the appointment of a facilitator to take forward work on Dartmoor. It is envisaged that the facilitator will be employed by or contracted to the Foundation for Common Land but be guided by a Local Advisory Group (see below) and have access to National Park Authority resources.

2.3 The project is trans-regional with sites in five areas: Dartmoor, North York Moors, the Shropshire Hills, Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria. There are two key tasks that will be completed during the development stage alongside research and planning for the delivery phase. These are:

- The establishment of a Charter for Common Land Management. This will sit alongside a more formal partnership agreement which outlines the mechanics of joint working. The Charter will seek to embed the ten attributes of success identified in the Better Outcomes work in each organisation and move to a better understanding of what a 'good common' looks like.
- The involvement of a range of stakeholders in the development of a vision for each common using the process to build consensus on the outcomes to be delivered and the management required to achieve this.

2.4 The vision process is based on the Dartmoor [Moorland Vision](#) which was identified as an example of good practice through the Better Outcomes work and also in Defra's [Upland Policy Review](#) (2013). At a Dartmoor level, the intention is to pilot the vision process at an individual common level during the development phase and then roll it out across a wider area of commons during the delivery phase (subject to funding). This approach was endorsed at the recent Steering Groups meeting for the Management Plan and is supported by a Local Advisory Group that we have established to guide the bid development at a Dartmoor level. The Local Advisory

Group includes representatives from the Dartmoor Commoners' Council, local commoners associations, representatives from the Hill Farm Project, Dartmoor Common Owners' Association, National Trust, RSPB, Natural England and Devon Wildlife Trust.

2.5 The delivery phase will also include work on:

- Addressing the loss of and lack of understanding of the 'culture of commoning';
- Improving the delivery of public goods from the heritage of commons
- Increasing the understanding of those with an interest in the management of commons and how to improve the public's knowledge of commons

3 Financial Implications

3.1 The total budget for the full project is in the region of 2.5 million pounds including a two year development phase with a budget of approximately £450,000. The Authority has indicated that it will contribute £8,000 to the development phase with the Dartmoor Commoners' Council contributing £2,000. If the stage 1 application is successful we will need to consider a potential contribution to the delivery phase but this will be determined after the outcome of the initial application is known ie during the development phase. Other funders at a national level include: Natural England, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and South West Water and local contributions from other National Park Authorities.

4 Conclusion

4.1 The Common Cause bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund provides potential funding to assist in delivering a number of priorities in the National Park Management Plan – Your Dartmoor (2014 – 2019), namely:

- Spectacular landscapes and natural networks – it will assist in the conservation and enhancement of the Dartmoor Commons, helping to sustain the landscape and natural ecosystems.
- Future of farming and forestry – supporting sustainable farming businesses involved in commoning through skills development and work on developing new products and markets for public goods.
- Making the most of cultural heritage – the project is focused on conserving and developing the 'social capital' of commoning – examining the social impact of traditional agri-environment schemes and developing better understanding of how commons operate as a 'social unit'.
- Enjoying Dartmoor – helping people to understand and enjoy the commons in ways that support local businesses.
- Community focus – the project is focused on supporting and empowering local communities.

4.2 If the funding bid is successful the project will enable us to develop the Moorland Vision at a common by common level: a long held aspiration of the partners involved in the

original vision exercise. It is envisaged that the project will deliver the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate to the public and land managers the link between the management of commons and the valuable public goods they produce.
- Increase the capacity to manage the heritage of commons by facilitating cross boundary learning and the promotion of best practice between a wide range of stakeholders.
- Bring together a cross section of players to work on a shared vision and collective delivery of a wide range of public benefits.

ALISON KOHLER & KEVIN BISHOP

Ref: 15/0033 **Christ Church, Bentor** **SX 4821 8140**

Notification to reduce a beech and cherry tree. Both trees are in very poor health with a short life expectancy.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0034 **Cherrytree Cottage, Horrabridge** **SX 5121 6972**

Notification to fell a cypress tree. The tree is damaging the roadside boundary wall.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0035 **Tawside House, Sticklepath** **SX 6439 9405**

Notification to reduce the crowns of a sycamore, ash and oak tree by 2m and to fell three semi-mature sycamore trees. The works will have minimal impact of the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0037 **St Olaves Cottage, Murchington** **SX 6876 8825**

Notification to fell two cypress trees. The trees are in poor condition and have suffered multiple branch failure.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0038 **Wayside, Throwleigh** **SX 6681 9079**

Notification to pollard an elm tree. The tree is showing signs of Dutch elm disease.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0039 **Huish, Chagford** **SX 6983 8772**

Notification to pollard two sycamore trees. The trees are growing close to adjacent properties and the works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

BRIAN BEASLEY