

# DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 2 November 2018

**Present:** K Ball; S Barker, W Cann; J Christophers, A Cooper; G Gribble; P Harper; S, Hill; P W Hitchins; M Jeffery; J McInnes; D Moyse, N Oakley, C Pannell; R Parkinson; M Retallick; P Sanders; P Woods

**Apologies:** A Cooper, D Webber

## **3389 Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 5 October 2018**

The Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 5 October 2018 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **3390 Declarations of Interest**

None

## **3391 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that the public consultation of the next Government Review has commenced.

Members were reminded of the Joint Member Workshop with Exmoor National Park Authority on 12 November 2018.

## **3392 Items requiring urgent attention**

None

## **3393 Public Participation**

None

## **3394 Local Development Scheme (LDS)**

Members received the report of the Head of Forward Planning and Economy (NPA/18/032). He advised that there are a number of documents required for the preparation of the Local Plan.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the Authority's public statement of the local plan preparation programme. It sets out the timetable for preparing the Local Plan. It is a procedural document but ensures that the Authority's processes are transparent. The Statement of Community Involvement is also a procedural document which is required by Government

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 07/12/18 .....

Members requested that a briefing, providing an overview of the LDS, SCI and Local Plan structure/process, be drawn up for Parish Clerks who, in turn, would then be able to ensure clarification of the documents and processes at Parish Council meetings. In addition, a list explaining the major changes which have so far been made to the Draft Local Plan was requested. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) confirmed that these items would be drawn up and would accompany future communications.

**RESOLVED:** Members adopted the Local Development Scheme with immediate effect.

### **3395 Statement of Community Involvement**

Members received the report of the Assistant Forward Planner (NPA/18/033).

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and makes up part of the Local Plan. It describes how the Authority engages with communities, businesses, organisations and individuals in the planning application process, and how they are involved in preparing planning policy documents.

The majority of the document has remained unchanged; the areas that have been updated are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Development plans section has been updated to reflect new legislation brought in by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. It now specifies the process for making a Neighbourhood Development Plan and the support offered to Neighbourhood Planning Groups by Dartmoor National Park Authority;
- more detail around engagement with 'hard to reach' groups is included; and
- a more electronic way of working is promoted throughout the document, with the aim of moving away from producing large numbers of printed documents.

No responses were received during the six week consultation period, which commenced in early September 2018.

Members felt that it would be beneficial to include a description of the work which has been undertaken so far in order to get to this stage in the Local Plan; this would help the public to understand that this is a culmination of previous consultation and engagement.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) reminded Members that a workshop with Parish representatives is planned for early December; this would also provide a platform to explain the work undertaken so far.

**RESOLVED:** Members adopted the updated Statement of Community Involvement with immediate effect.

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 07/12/18 .....

**3396 Local Plan – Consultation Draft (Regulation 18)**

Members received the report of the Head of Forward Planning and Economy (NPA/18/034).

The Local Plan is the starting point for all planning decisions within the National Park. It is the strategic policy document which will influence development in the coming years (2018-2033) and will be reviewed every five years. The document before Members today is the culmination of two years work; Members are requested to approve the 'Regulation 18' version of the Local Plan for public consultation an - important next step in the process.

A significant amount of work has gone into the preparation of the plan, including evidence gathering, the production of topic papers which sit behind the Local Plan, parish consultations etc. The Duty to Co-operate Statement of Common Ground is a formal requirement which Members are asked to endorse, as well as to note the Sustainability Appraisal, the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

There are a number of key issues for the plan to address some strategic and some more 'Development Management' details, as follows:

Strategic issues include:

- Housing number
- Settlement strategy
- Affordable housing
- Exception sites
- Local needs, custom and self-build

With regard to Development Management issues:

- Extensions
- Agricultural workers, barn conversions through diversification, agri annex, size restrictions
- Biodiversity enhancement
- Electric vehicle charging

Officers also noted specific changes arising from recommendations in the HRA, in particular the need for evidence to inform appropriate assessment for allocated sites in Ashburton and Buckfastleigh.

The Head of Forward Planning and Economy requested that the Recommendation, specifically item (i) be amended to read as follows:

*"That Members:*

*(i) Agree to publish the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) and delegate to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chairman, authority to make minor changes to the Plan if considered necessary;"*

Signed .....  ..... Date 07/12/18 .....

The consultation period, if agreed today, will last for a period of nine weeks, having taken the Christmas period into consideration. The second draft is due to be produced in the Autumn, 2019.

Discussion followed and Members made the following comments and suggestions:

- Officers and Members should not overestimate the weight of the emerging plan; recommended caution; Officers will revise in the use of emerging policy as necessary;
- Page 166/7 – suggested a list of how new policies will supersede current policies, for ease of reference;
- Pg 78 (Extensions) – suggested addition of where to find the definition of affordable housing – "see page 64";
- Consideration to be given to the definition of the term 'rural worker';
- Some terminology may be 'tightened up' – to be discussed during the consultation period;

Members thanked all of the staff involved in the process to-date.

**RESOLVED:** Subject to the amendment as detailed above, Members:

- (i) **AGREED** to publish the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) and delegate to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chairman, authority to make minor changes to the Plan if considered necessary;
- (ii) **NOTED** the appraisal reports (SE/SEA, HRA, EqIA) (Appendix 2); and
- (iii) **ENDORSED** the Duty to Co-operate Statement of Common Ground and delegated to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chairman, authority to make minor changes to the Statement if considered necessary following discussion with other signatories.

**3397 Tree Preservation Orders and Section 211 Notifications (Works to Trees in Conservation Areas) Determined Under Delegated Powers**

Members received the report of the Trees and Landscape Officer (NPA/18/035).

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the content of the report.

Signed .....  ..... Date .....  .....