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To: All Members
of the Dartmoor National Park Authority
Standards Sub Committee (see below)

Please quote: NPA/SC/26/Agenda
All press enquiries to:
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Date: 28 October 2026

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday 6 November 2026

A meeting of the Standards Sub-Committee will be held on the above date, on the rising of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting, in the **Ian Mercer Meeting Room at Parke, Bovey Tracey** to consider the following matters.

Registered speakers are able to participate remotely or in person by following our procedure.

Members of the public may attend in person or can follow proceedings by listening to the live audio of meetings: DNPA Virtual Meetings - YouTube

Tom Surrey
Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Access to Information - Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Agenda and Reports
Copies of the Agenda and Part I reports are available for inspection by members of the public on the Authority's website Standards Sub-Committee | Dartmoor. They are also available at the Authority's main office at Parke, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9JQ during office opening times five clear days prior to the meeting.

Background Papers
The Background Papers relating to Part I reports, except any containing exempt information, are available on our website Standards Sub-Committee | Dartmoor

AGENDA

PART I - OPEN PROCEEDINGS

1 **Welcome and Apologies**

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5 June 2026**

3 **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any pecuniary, registerable or personal interest(s) relating to any agenda item at this stage in the meeting.

4 **Public Participation**

To answer any questions or to receive any statements, representations or petitions which relate to the business of the sub-Committee.

5 **Monitoring Officer's Update**

To inform Members of relevant issues and developments (verbal report)

6 **Observation Reports**

Discussion of issues arising from observation reports and implications and recommendations for Member training.

7 **Next Meeting:** Friday 4 June 2027

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED.

NIL

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership: Mrs G Hill, Mrs S Morgan, Mr J Major, Mr J Nutley, Dr M Seddon, Mr M Williams

Ex-officio: Mr W Dracup, Mr M Renders

Independent Persons: Mrs C Shewan, Mrs C Farrell

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Public Minutes of Standards Sub-Committee Meeting held on Friday 5 June 2026

Present: Sally Morgan (Chair), Will Dracup, Gay Hill, Mark Renders, John Nutley, Mark Williams, Pamela Woods, Catherine Shewan (Independent Person)

Apologies: Corinne Farrell (Independent Person)

Officers in attendance: Neil White (Monitoring Officer) Penny Bailey (Minute Taker)

285 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

286 Declarations of Interest

None.

287 Public Participation

None.

288 Monitoring Officer's Update

The Monitoring Officer reported that no formal complaints relating to Members of the Authority had been received since the previous meeting and that it had been a relatively quiet period in respect of concerns raised.

Members were advised that recruitment was underway for one Secretary of State appointed Member. The process had been delayed and, as Ms Woods' term was due to end at the end of June, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had been approached to seek a short extension to her term. A response from the Department or Minister was awaited. The Chair thanked Ms Woods for agreeing to remain available during this period.

RESOLVED: Members noted the update.

289 Standards Sub-Committee Annual Report 2025/26

Members considered the Annual Report for 2025/26, which covered the Sub-Committee's membership, the Code of Conduct, Members' responsibilities and the role of the Authority's Independent Persons. Members thanked the Monitoring Officer and the Independent Persons for their work.

A Member asked whether attendance falling below a specified percentage should be identified in the Annual Report. The Monitoring Officer agreed to give the suggestion further consideration.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Independent Persons had continued to observe meetings and submit reports. It was noted that Mrs Farrell intended to stand down later in the year. Recruitment for an additional Independent Person to work alongside Mrs Shewan would begin in the coming weeks.

RESOLVED: Members noted the Annual Report for 2025/26**.**

290 Observation Reports 2025/26

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that observation reports were received after each meeting, carefully reviewed and addressed as appropriate, often in consultation with the Chief Executive. A small number of minor issues had arisen during the previous six months, but no significant concerns had been identified.

Mrs Shewan spoke on behalf of herself and Mrs Farrell. She thanked Members and officers for welcoming the Independent Persons to meetings and thanked the Monitoring Officer for considering their reports and raising matters sensitively so that progress could be seen between meetings.

The Independent Persons' principal observation concerned transparency in the use of laptops and mobile telephones during meetings. Although electronic devices were necessary to reduce paper use, Members were asked to remain mindful that their use should not give members of the public the impression that full attention was not being given to proceedings.

Members discussed the value of Independent Persons' observations and the generally high standard of conduct at Authority meetings. The Sub-Committee discussed the experience of following meetings through the live audio stream. It could be difficult for remote listeners to identify speakers or understand when people joined or left the meeting. Members and officers were therefore encouraged to identify speakers clearly, record arrivals and departures verbally and ensure microphones were positioned correctly.

Members also discussed remote attendance and proxy voting. The Monitoring Officer advised that the Government had accepted proposals in principle following consultation, but the necessary legislation and guidance had not yet been introduced. Work on improving meeting technology, including possible video streaming, had been paused and the future timetable was being considered by the Leadership Team and the Chair of the Authority.

RESOLVED: Members noted the observation reports and the matters raised.

291 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 6 November 2026.

There being no other business, the Standards Sub-Committee meeting closed.