

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2 October 2015

NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIPSReport of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommendation: **That Members authorise the Chief Executive (NPO), in consultation with the Chairman, to secure the execution of the necessary formalities and documents to enable Dartmoor National Park Authority to become a member of National Parks Partnerships**

1 Background

- 1.1 In December 2014 the Authority agreed to become a member of a proposed new company - National Park Enterprises Ltd (NPA/14/048). The purpose of this company is to develop commercial sponsorship/income from business.
- 1.2 The proposal (NPA/14/048) was to establish a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered in England and Wales with the purpose of developing commercial sponsorship/income from business. The members of the company (equivalent to shareholders) would be the 15 NPAs in England, Wales & Scotland. The company would be run by a Board of Directors, with not less than three and not more than seven Directors. The Board would be appointed by the Members (the NPAs) and will be accountable to the Members.
- 1.3 The key purpose of the company would be to seek, negotiate and secure sponsorship and financial support, in order to pass the proceeds back to the NPA members. The articles anticipated company profits being distributed to NPA members in equal shares.

2 Recent Developments

- 2.1 Since Members considered the report in December 2014 (NPA/14/048), DNPA has procured independent tax advice about the new company structure (on behalf of all 15 UK National Park Authorities). This advice highlighted that if the new organisation were established as a limited liability partnership (LLP) it would share the same tax advantages as its partner organisations, in particular that it would not have to pay Corporation Tax on its profits.
- 2.2 There has been a delay in registering the company whilst the tax and governance issues associated with the different options have been explored. Members were initially advised that the new organisation would be established as a company limited by guarantee; there is now a possibility that it might be formed as a limited liability partnership so that it can benefit from the same tax status as the English and Welsh NPAs.

- 2.3 Work is continuing to check and assess the practical implications for governance and day to day operation of the differences between a company limited by guarantee and a limited liability partnership. This will ensure that the Chairs of the UK NPAs can make an informed choice as to whether to register the new organisation as a company limited by guarantee or a limited liability partnership.
- 2.4 In the meantime, there has been some significant progress. A 'shadow' board of Directors has been appointed and they have met several times to start clarifying our 'offer' and potential sponsors. As soon as the legal structure for the organisation has been finalised, it is expected that the company / LLP will be incorporated.

3 Financial implications

- 3.1 Chairs of the UK NPAs agreed to allocate £10,000 from each Authority towards the costs of establishing and operating the new company.
- 3.2 The Chairs also agreed, in principle, another £10,000 per National Park to be allocated in the respective Medium Term Financial Plans but only released subject to satisfactory progress and a detailed business case for further investment.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 In an era of reducing budgets it is important that we explore and develop opportunities for new income streams. The Government are actively encouraging us to do this.
- 4.2 It is recommended that members authorise the Chief Executive (NPO) acting in consultation with the Chairman, to secure the execution of the necessary formalities and documents to enable Dartmoor National Park Authority to become a member of National Parks Partnerships – either in the form of a company limited by guarantee or a limited liability partnership – provided that this continues to appear to be in the best interests of the Authority.

KEVIN BISHOP
CHRISTOPHER WALLEGE

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2 October 2015

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2014/15, PRIORITIES for 2016/17 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOKReport of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)Recommendations: **That Members:**

- (i) **Note the Annual Review for 2014/15**
- (ii) **Note the current financial uncertainty**
- (iii) **Subject to comments, agree the vision for the Authority and the priorities for the 2016/17 Business Plan;**

1 Background

- 1.1 The Authority produces an annual Business Plan setting out its priorities and identifying key actions to achieve those priorities. The Business Plan is prepared in parallel with the revenue budget to ensure that 'our pounds support our priorities'.
- 1.2 Progress on delivering the Business Plan is monitored by the Authority's Audit and Governance Committee and we produce an Annual Review which highlights key achievements/emerging issues at the end of the year. A copy of the Annual Review for 2014/15 is attached at Appendix 1.

2 Financial Context

- 2.1 The Authority faces an uncertain financial future. We have no indications of future levels of National Park Grant (NPG) and do not know when the grant for 2016/17 will be confirmed. During the last Parliament we saw our income reduce by 40 per cent in real terms and responded to this by:
 - reducing the work force;
 - successfully bidding for other funds (though it should be noted that grants such as the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership do not contribute to our core costs, take a lot of staff time to develop and require match funding); and,
 - proactively developing alternative sources of income.
- 2.2 As an organisation we have improved our productivity but the net effect of the reductions in funding, that we have already absorbed, is significantly reduced capacity to deliver our statutory purposes.
- 2.3 The 2015 Spending Review is seeking to reduce public sector expenditure by a further £20billion over the next four years. It will prioritise expenditure in the National Health Service (NHS) and defence/national security whilst also protecting spending on schools and 'honour our commitment to the poorest people in the world'. The effect of protecting budgets such as the NHS is to effectively increase the pressure on 'non-protected' Government Departments to make further savings. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), like other un-

protected Government Departments, has been asked to model two scenarios: 25% and 40% savings in real terms (i.e. taking inflation into account) by 2019/20. The Chancellor will announce the outcome from the 2015 Spending Review on 25 November. This announcement will set Departmental Expenditure Limits for each Government Department; it will not provide details about NPG (as noted above we have no timeline for the announcement of NPG).

- 2.4 A 25% cut to Dartmoor's NPG for 2015/16 would equate to a cash reduction of £893,397; a 40% reduction is equivalent to £1,429,435.
- 2.5 When Rory Stewart MP (the new Minister with responsibility for National Parks) met with the Chairs of English National Parks in July 2015) he spoke about a funding model for National Parks based on three elements: a core grant from central Government; income from sales and services; and commercial sponsorship/philanthropic donations.
- 2.6 The Authority has been actively exploring and developing opportunities to generate income through sales and charges for services. For example, we have developed a new 'Dartmoor range' of products for retail through the Visitor Centres, introduced formal car park charges at Princetown and have started to charge for pre-planning application advice for certain forms of development. Whilst the income generated is helping to reduce our service costs it has not off-set the reductions in NPG.
- 2.7 Unlike many other National Park Authorities (NPAs) we have a limited ability to generate income from any assets that we own/lease. For example, we generate circa £20,000 per annum from car park charges whilst the Lake District NPA generate £1.4m, the Yorkshire Dales NPA £0.5m and Peak District NPA £293,000. This is explained by the fact that we own very few car parks whilst other NPAs own more car parks and often in honey pot locations. There is a similar picture for rental income from building and land: we receive £6,000, the Lake District NPA generates approximately £250,000 and Exmoor NPA £230,000 – again explained by the fact that we own very little land with any rental value.
- 2.8 We are working locally and nationally on other forms of external income generation. At a national level we are participating in the establishment of National Parks Partnerships. This is separate organisation being established by all 15 UK National Park Authorities to take forward the external sponsorship/commercial income generation agenda. A shadow board has been recruited through open competition with external directors/partners from companies such as BT, Vodaphone, Moo and Think Sponsorship. A separate report (NPA/15/032) provides further information.
- 2.9 At a local level we have been in discussions with the Dartmoor Trust to see whether they are willing to develop a more active fundraising role and are actively seeking external funding partners. We currently have two 'sponsorship arrangements'. One is with Sprayway – a UK based outdoor clothing company that provides uniform free of charge to our Ranger service and the voluntary wardens. They have also sponsored the pilot junior ranger programme by providing free clothing for the junior rangers. The second agreement is with Ashburton Motorworks Ltd who are providing a 4x4 vehicle for use by the Head Ranger. This agreement is on a six month, renewable basis.

2.10 In summary, we have:

- No indication of NPG for 2016/17 and beyond.
- Few opportunities to generate significant income from the 'assets' that we own and/or lease as we have a limited asset base and the facilities that we do own often do not lend themselves to income generation due to their location, restrictions in our leases etc.

2.11 This means that we are dependent on NPG and, without the ability to invest in an income generating asset base and/or the legal powers to do so, will remain largely dependent on NPG in the foreseeable future. At present, NPG accounts for over 80 per cent of our projected expenditure for 2015/16.

2.12 Further significant cuts to our NPG will, in all probability, necessitate further reductions in our staffing levels and reduced levels of service provision. Indeed, in some areas it may mean that we have to stop providing a service altogether.

2.13 We always zero-base our budget (i.e. we scrutinise all expenditure lines) and will, in developing, the budget for 2016/17 be looking at how we can further reduce our expenditure and respond to potential additional cuts to NPG. If there is significant reduction in NPG for 2016/17 we may (as indicated in the Medium Term Financial Plan) need to use reserves to support the revenue budget as we consult on, and then implement, further staff changes. If Defra do not provide support for the transition costs (redundancy payments and pension strain costs) then this will be a further call on reserves.

3 Vision – for the National Park and the Organisation

3.1 It is important that we have a clear vision for both the National Park and the National Park Authority – to guide our priorities and shape any future organisational change programme.

3.2 The Management Plan – Your Dartmoor – outlines a clear vision for Dartmoor National Park which was consulted on extensively as part of the process of reviewing the Management Plan before the Authority approved it in 2014. The agreed vision for the National Park is:

Dartmoor, an inspirational place, where, in 2035:

- The natural beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage are conserved, sustained and enhanced
- Local people and visitors enjoy and learn more about the National Park
- 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 thinking.

3.3 In support of the vision for the National Park, the Authority developed a vision for the organisation which was first agreed as part of the Business Plan for 2014/15 (NPA/14/002):

"Dartmoor is our Passion. We will act as an **enabler** and **advocate** for Dartmoor National Park; **working with others** to deliver a National Park that is **thriving, inspirational** and **valued**".

3.4 By this we mean:

Enabler - making things happen; generating and receiving ideas; experimenting and learning; prepared to take managed risks.

Advocate - raise the profile; the 'voice' for Dartmoor National Park; leading by example

Working with others - from local communities to Ministers

Thriving - from local businesses, farming and biodiversity to cultural heritage and local services

Inspirational - through the work we do, and the special qualities of the National Park, inspire people to: engage, enjoy and help look after the National Park; support and demonstrate how to live differently (i.e. within environmental limits); encourage people to try new things, learn more.

Valued - support for the National Park; recognition by local communities, visitors, Government and partners of the importance of the National Park and the work of the Authority

3.5 In addition, we have identified a number of core values which will underpin the way in which we work.

- ensure that our relationships with the public, partners and each other are founded on honesty, transparency, impartiality and consistency, demonstrating equality and fairness in everything that we do and being open to challenge
- value the people who work for Dartmoor - our staff, Members, and volunteers and seek to involve, empower and develop them
- place the environment at the heart of everything we do

3.6 Subject to any comments from Members it is not proposed to amend the vision. The view of Leadership Team is that it remains 'fit for purpose' though we are working on an Organisational Development Strategy to guide future changes. Our focus is on 'adding value' through delivering National Park purposes.

4 **Priorities**

4.1 The Business Plan for 2015/16 identifies six priorities for the Authority, in no particular order:

- Conservation of the natural and historic environment
- Work to support a sustainable farming economy
- Promote a positive experience of Dartmoor National Park for residents and visitors
- Work towards ensuring Dartmoor has a thriving local economy

- Improve support to and engagement with local communities
- Be an excellent organisation

4.2 Our Business Plan also sets out the way we will work. Whilst our work is presented under three themes: Sustain, Enjoy and Prosper our overall goal is to work in an integrated way (often with partners) to ensure that each work area or priority action considers and delivers across all three themes. A project might be focused on sustaining the natural environment but we will always look to ensure we consider and deliver links with the prosperity and enjoyment themes.

4.3 We normally review our priorities each year starting with a member Workshop in July. However, this year we adopted a different approach to the Member Workshop and did not set a formal agenda focusing on priorities. Subject to the views of Members we are proposing that our priorities remain unchanged and provide the basis for developing the Business Plan and revenue budget for 2016/17.

5 Financial implications

5.1 The 2016/17 revenue budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will be built around the priorities identified above. We will do detailed work on a MTFP as soon as we are clear about future levels of NPG.

6 Equality and Impact Assessment

6.1 Under the Equality Act (2010) the Authority must prepare and publish one or more objectives it thinks it should achieve in pursuance of the general duty under the Act. The priorities outlined above are compliant with this requirement. In particular, the priorities around promoting a positive experience of Dartmoor National Park for residents and visitors and to be an excellent organisation will include specific actions which promote equality of access and awareness and understanding of diversity.

7 Conclusion

7.1 At a time of great uncertainty about funding and resources, it remains important to maintain a clear vision for both the National Park and the National Park Authority. This will help guide our priorities and shape any future organisational change programme.

7.2 The Management Plan – Your Dartmoor – outlines a clear vision for Dartmoor National Park, which was consulted on extensively before it was adopted in 2014. The Business Plan for 2015/16 identifies six priorities for the Authority which remain relevant and appropriate. It is proposed that these priorities remain unchanged and provide the basis for developing the Business Plan and revenue budget for 2016/17.

7.3 Dartmoor NPA does not own many assets (land, buildings etc) that it can generate a revenue from and is significantly more dependent on NPG than some other National Park Authorities who are able to generate significant amounts of income from their assets, or through additional powers to charge for certain services.. NPG accounts for over 80% of our projected expenditure for 2015/16, whereas for some NPAs the equivalent is as low as 48%.

- 7.4 If the Government's vision for National Park funding is, as outlined by the Minister, based on three elements - a small core grant from central Government; income from sales and services; and commercial sponsorship/philanthropic donations – then it will be very important to ensure that the ability of each NPA to generate income from its assets is properly taken into account when distributing NPG between the 10 English National Parks, and the National Parks given time to develop these other funding streams before any further cuts are made to NPG.

KEVIN BISHOP

Annual Review

2014/2015

Dartmoor National Park Authority



Thanks to the work of our staff, volunteers and members and the efforts of our partners we have been able to deliver significant achievements against our key themes: Sustain, Enjoy and Prosper. Whilst our core funding continues to reduce this has not diminished our commitment to deliver for Dartmoor. We are seeking to be a 'Pioneering Park' testing and developing new ways of working; reaching out to the communities we serve to engage them more effectively in helping to sustain, enjoy and prosper from the National Park.

Peter Harper (Chairman) and Kevin Bishop, Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

The future of farming

The Dartmoor Hill Farm Project [HFP] received "transitional funding" from the Rural Development Programme [RDPE] for 2014, to bridge the gap between the old RDPE and the new one with the aim of building a business plan for the HFP and identifying priorities for farmers for future funding. Disappointingly funding beyond December 2014 was not forthcoming from RDPE and new funding had to be found. This funding gap has been partially filled thanks to a grant from the Prince's Countryside Fund.

During 2014/15 over 463 farmers attended training events facilitated through the Project. A series of 'farmhouse table' discussions were facilitated by the Project Team to ensure farmers needs were fed into the Greater Dartmoor Local Development Strategy. The adopted strategy now includes a specific priority around farming with a clear focus on upland issues.

www.dartmoor.gov.uk



Spectacular landscapes, natural networks, making the most of cultural heritage

The **Dartmoor Mires Project** ended on 31 March 2015. With significant funding from South West Water, this 5 year pilot partnership project achieved its aim to test the feasibility and effect of mires restoration work on Dartmoor and was signed off by the Environment Agency as an investigation under the National Environment Programme.

During 2014/15 restoration was carried out at Flat Tor Pan. Hydrological monitoring equipment at this site will be used to assess the impact of works on a number of factors including water flow and quality. Biodiversity monitoring has also taken place and bird surveys, undertaken by the RSPB, show that Dunlin numbers have increased significantly since restoration work has been undertaken. The last count in 2014 showed the highest number of this rare bird ever recorded on Dartmoor, an increase of 38 percent since 2010. Funding to continue the biodiversity and hydro monitoring for a further 5 years, to ensure the effects of restoration are properly monitored has been agreed.

20 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have been removed from the "at risk" register. This excellent outcome was achieved through good working relationships with partner organisations (especially Historic England and Natural England) and also with local landowners, commoners associations and local volunteer groups.

The ***Moor than Meets the Eye*** Landscape Partnership Scheme (with DNPA as Lead Partner) secured £1.9m of Heritage Lottery funding in August 2014. With public, private and voluntary sector match-funding, the £3.8m Scheme will run over the next five years and will tell the story of the people and landscape over 4,000 years on Dartmoor.

Two **Undergrounding** schemes for Dartmoor have been delivered through the OFGEM 2010 - 2015 allowance. The Holne Moor and Walkhampton Common schemes, removed nearly 6km of overhead line from open moorland. Walkhampton was the largest single scheme to be undertaken in the South West region by Western Power Distribution.



Whitehorse Hill Bronze Age burial site - the conservation of the artefacts was successfully completed so that they could be displayed in an exhibition hosted by Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition attracted over 3,000 people, with the guide to Whitehorse Hill selling over 1,500 copies.



It was a good year for **Dartmoor's key species**. The high brown fritillary has responded to habitat management work undertaken as part of the **Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project** and appeared in the highest numbers for 10 years. **Southern damselflies** were recorded in their greatest numbers since they were identified as being on Dartmoor 20 years ago.



Works to improve the fabric and representation of the National Park owned medieval longhouse at **Higher Uppacott** was begun, with re-thatching of the north elevation completed.



The Flight of the Cuckoo project once again caught the imagination of the public and revealed how important Dartmoor is for this iconic bird which is in decline nationally. The public were asked to record where they first heard or saw cuckoos during the spring and summer of 2014 and of 700 records across Devon, 600 were on Dartmoor.



Promote a positive experience of Dartmoor National Park for residents and visitors

The refurbished **National Park Visitor Centre** at Princetown re-opened in April 2014 and its inaugural exhibition, Dartmoor Timelapse, was well received. Visitor figures increased at all three centres (by over 30% at Princetown) compared to 2013/14.

Rangers are now working as part of a **Community Safety Accreditation Scheme** with Devon and Cornwall Police to create closer working links and improve joint response at times of emergency.

Working with Devon County Council and other key stakeholders, a programme of **cycling works** has been implemented on Dartmoor, funded through the Department for Transport Linking Communities fund. The **Granite and Gears** project has delivered a range of improvements for cyclists including, a new cycle bridge at Peek Hill and other improvements on the Princetown Railway cycle route.



61
school visits
2,313
children

The **Ranger Ralph Club** continues to be popular with both children and parents, offering innovative and fun family experiences in the outdoors: 329 children and 150 adults enjoyed our 11 events, including a worm charming event and a fun maths and physics day at Mary Tavy hydro – power station, delivered in partnership with South West Water.

Modifications to the **National Curriculum** have seen a change in the pattern of visits by primary schools as well as a shift in topics studied. There has been an increase in the number of visits in the autumn and winter terms with the focus shifting to 'prehistory'.

A new initiative to develop the John Muir award with local schools was successfully piloted this year and will be rolled out across the National Park in future years if resources allow. Three "train the trainer" events have been delivered to help teachers deliver their own field visits.

The public campaigns to reduce litter (**Love where you visit**) and control of dogs (**PAWS**) has resulted in newspaper, radio and television coverage. Staff on the outreach vehicle at problem and heavily used sites have helped to reinforce these messages.

The voluntary donation scheme **£ for the Park** exceeded its target for the year; the message has been strengthened to event organisers, highlighting the impact for increased wear and tear on paths, erosion of trails, or impact on local communities. There is now a greater awareness of the scheme with large event organisers.





90% approval
for planning
applications

Work towards ensuring Dartmoor has a thriving local economy

Working closely with Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS), resources have been secured for delivery of **superfast broadband across Dartmoor**. Additional money has also been secured to extend the rollout via the former Rural Community Broadband Fund. Working with Exmoor National Park Authority and Devon County Council, a total of £700,000 was secured for Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Twenty eight new **affordable houses** have been approved in total and seven new homes in Holne have been completed, which are now occupied by local people. Schemes have also been approved at Christow, Briar Tor and South Brent. The first phase of the community-led **Chagford Masterplan** has also been approved.

Working jointly with Exmoor National Park Authority a successful bid was submitted to be a **Right to Build Vanguard** Authority in 2014; the only two National Parks to be one of just 11 pilot areas in the country. At the core of the Right to Build is a requirement on local planning authorities to open and promote a register for prospective custom builders ('self-build'), and make available suitable serviced plots for those on the register, providing an opportunity to explore a different way of delivering affordable housing.

In 2014/15 we processed nearly 700 planning and related applications. The Government target of dealing with 80% of all Householder planning applications within 8 weeks was exceeded. 90% of all planning applications were granted planning permission.

Improve support to and engagement with local communities

The **Dartmoor Communities Fund** was established with New Homes Bonus funding secured from West Devon Borough and South Hams District Councils. Nearly £40,000 has been committed to support nine community projects across West Devon and South Hams. The total value of these projects is in excess of £200,000; the fund is helping to retain and enhance valued community facilities on Dartmoor.

A **Communications Strategy** has been developed for the organisation to encourage better two-way communication and engagement. Social media tools have also been developed, with the number of followers growing daily, reaching new audiences. More National Park events have been fully booked as a direct result of social media promotion.

The Authority has continued to offer **volunteering opportunities**. Over 2,573 days. These range from archaeological and ecological conservation tasks to education work on the outreach vehicle and work on public rights of way. Support and networking to local conservation groups has continued with six groups receiving grants.

Four **Neighbourhood Development Planning Areas** have been designated on Dartmoor, leading the way for Dartmoor communities to develop local planning policies for their own parishes. These are: Ashburton; Buckfastleigh; Buckland Monachorum; Bridestowe and Sourton



Be an excellent organisation

National Park Visitor Centres received a Gold Award and were recognised as being the best visitor information service in Devon in 2014 and furthermore collected a Silver award in the South West Tourism Awards.

The introduction and promotion of the Dartmoor Range [from local suppliers] in Visitor Centres, as part of the retail strategy, has increased average visitor spend by 40%.

40%
increase in
visitor spend

The target for reducing carbon emissions has been exceeded, achieving a 7.9% reduction during the year. A biomass boiler that was installed at Princetown Visitor Centre has contributed significantly to this reduction. In addition, energy consumption has been reduced through measures such as more efficient lighting and hand dryers.

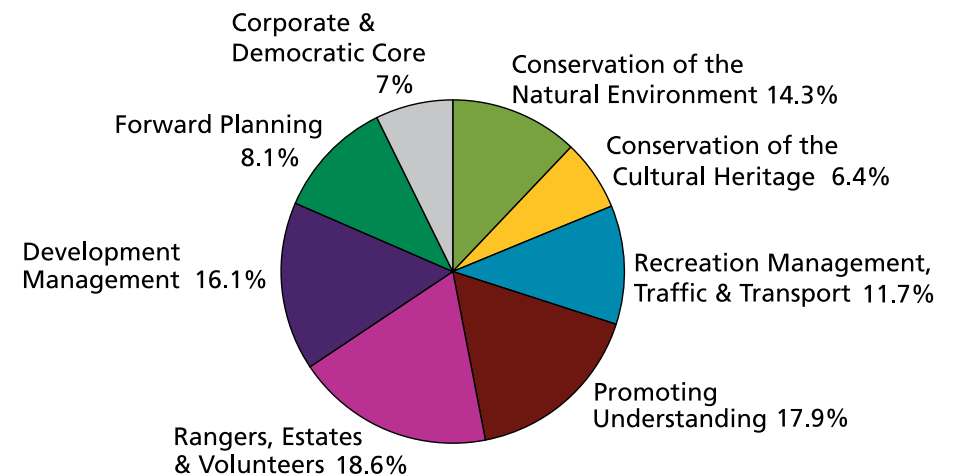
A Sponsorship policy has been adopted, with works to update interpretation at the National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown, being sponsored by John Lewis in the form of a large screen TV. The sponsorship arrangement with Sprayway continues. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of free waterproof clothing for the Voluntary Wardens and the new Junior Ranger programme.



2014/15 Income

Sources	2014/2015 Actual Income	
National Park Grant (Defra)	£3,637,835	75.8%
Grants from External Partners & other Government Departments	£615,255	12.8%
Treasury Management	£17,998	0.4%
Sales	£135,499	2.8%
Fees & Charges	£390,029	8.2%
Total funds available	£4,796,616	100%

Expenditure 2014/15



Measuring our Performance
www.dartmoor.gov.uk/PI-report

visit devon tourism awards 2014 GOLD

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

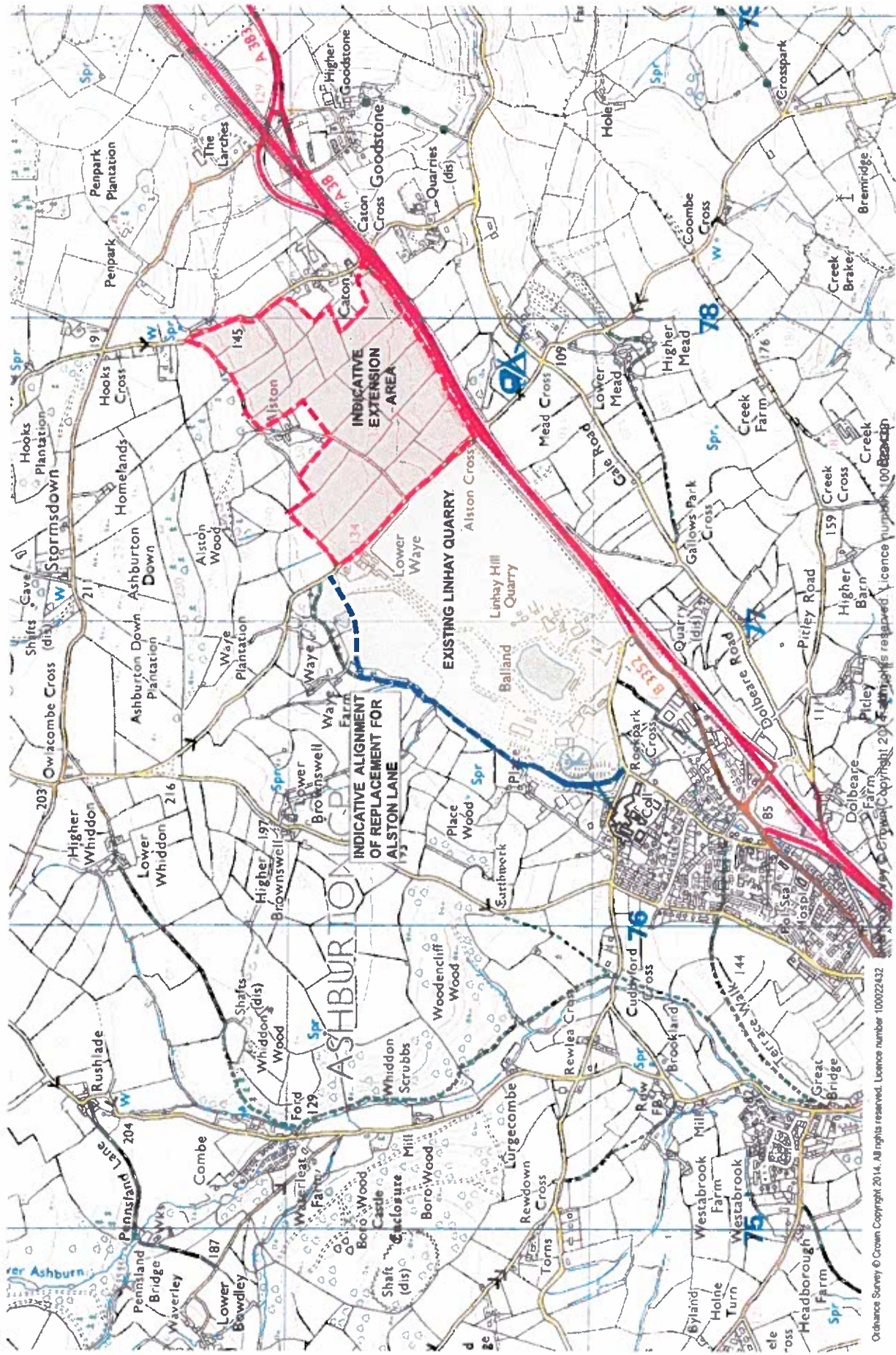
2 October 2015

**APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALIST CONSULTANT CONTRACTOR TO DEAL WITH
LINHAY QUARRY PLANNING APPLICATION, FOR EXTENSION OF THE QUARRY
AND ASSOCIATED WORKS**Report of the Head of Planning

Recommendation: That Members note the proposed appointment of external assistance in this matter.

- 1 Members will be aware that the Authority is shortly expecting a major planning application for the extension of Linhay Quarry at Ashburton (Glendinning Ltd.). The application which is expected at the end of October 2015 is likely to be the largest and most complex minerals planning application the Authority has received for many years. Members are referred to the plan attached to this report (Appendix 1).
- 2 At the present time the Authority is engaged with the applicant in pre-application discussions. It is clear from the nature and complexity of the application that the Planning Service will require significant external support to deal effectively with the application.
- 3 To that end a formal tender and procurement exercise has commenced but, at the time of writing, not yet concluded. A number of tenders have been received from specialist minerals planning contractors and these are currently under consideration. What is clear is that the value of the contract may be in excess of the threshold which can be dealt with under delegated powers by the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) i.e. more than £30,000.
- 4 Officers anticipate that it will be possible to complete the tender evaluation process and formulate a recommendation by 30 September 2015.
- 5 It is considered highly desirable to award a contract as soon as possible, so that the appointed contractor can begin background preparation and steer any further pre-application issues.
- 6 Members will therefore be invited to consider a supplementary report on 2 October 2015, setting out the officer recommendation and identifying the costs and budgetary implications for the Authority. It is hoped that this supplementary report will be available before the meeting, rather than being tabled on the day.
- 7 Given that contractual issues will not have been resolved by 2 October 2015, Members should also be advised that it may be necessary to issue any supplementary report and debate its content under Part II (proceedings not open to the press and public). Legal advice will be secured when the situation is more clear.

STEPHEN BELLI



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LINHAY QUARRY, ASHBURTON - Indicative Proposed Extension SITE LOCATION PLAN

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AUTHORITY

2 October 2015

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS, SECTION 211 NOTIFICATIONS
(WORKS TO TREES IN CONSERVATION AREAS)
AND HEDGEROW REMOVAL NOTICES
DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

Report of the Trees and Landscape Officer

Recommendation : **That the decisions be noted**

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Teignbridge

Ref: 15/0018

Beckwood Cottage, Manaton

SX 7609 8000

Application to fell a western red cedar, leyland cypress and an ash, and to pollard a willow. The trees are in poor condition and the felling will have minimal impact on the amenity of the area. Consent was granted subject to the following conditions:

- 1 Five working days notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
- 2 All works to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.
- 3 Replacement planting of three half standard English oak trees within the crown spread of the originals during the first planting season following felling.

South Hams

Ref: 15/0023

Deanbrook, South Brent

SX 6995 5996

Application to remove two low limbs from a horse chestnut. The works will have minimal impact on the health or appearance of the tree. Consent was granted subject to the following conditions:

- 1 Five working days notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
- 2 All works to be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.

SECTION 211 NOTICES

Teignbridge

Ref: 15/0019 **51 East Street, Ashburton** **SX 7572 7004**

Notification to fell a spruce tree. The tree is in poor condition with a short life expectancy.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0020 **16 Court Street, Moretonhampstead** **SX 7523 8609**

Notification to fell a fir tree. The tree is hidden from public view and the felling will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0022 **49 Jordan Street, Buckfastleigh** **SX 7343 6615**

Notification to fell a western red cedar. The tree is a large specimen that dominates the small garden and house. The upper parts of the crown have been removed and the tree has poor form.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

Ref: 15/0024 **The Fire Station , Buckfastleigh** **SX 7365 6600**

Notification to fell a lime tree. The tree is infected with honey fungus and is liable to fail in high winds.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

West Devon

Ref: 15/0021 **Olde Stone, Lydford** **SX 5105 8485**

Notification to fell a laburnum tree. The tree has limited public amenity value and felling will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

HEDGEROW REMOVAL NOTICES

Teignbridge

Ref: 27/15/1/52 **Seven Acre Lane, Bridford** **SX 8076 8676**

Notification to remove 5m of hedgerow to create a new gateway. The works will have minimal impact on the integrity of the hedge or hedgerow system.

A Hedgerow Retention Notice has not been served.

Ref: 27/15/1/53

Kelly Farm, Lustleigh

SX 7902 8155

Notification to remove 4m of hedgerow to create a new gateway. The works will have minimal impact on the integrity of the hedge or hedgerow system.

A Hedgerow Retention Notice has not been served.

BRIAN BEASLEY