

**Date: 26 January 2010**

**Report: REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

1. Since the last meeting of the Authority, the Chief Executive has been involved in the following:-

### **Media**

- An interview with the Darlington & Stockton Times on current developments in the National Park and National Park Authority.

### **Events**

- The Authority has been undertaking the Investors in People [IiP] Award re-assessment. This will be reported to members in due course.
- Hosted a Hydro Seminar at Yoredale for local businesses/organisations/individuals looking at the prospects for hydro development within the National Park.
- A parish council event, hosted by Barbon Parish Council to discuss the implications of the North West Boundary review.
- Along with the Chairman, attended a Natural England Stakeholders' meeting to discuss the Boundary Review.
- A public meeting in Sedbergh to discuss the implications of the Boundary Review.

### **Meetings**

- Along with the Chairman, a meeting with officials from the Yorkshire Dales Society where the following matters were discussed: Outdoor Providers Workshop; Update on CIC public transport services; National Park Boundary Review; Future Funding; housing sites in the National Park; Aggregates Levy; The inclusion of dry stone wall maintenance within the new Upland Entry Level Support Scheme; private car parking in Ribblesdale problems and the possibilities of introducing access management; possibility of developing a sustainable tourism partnership with the Forest of Bowland AONB and extending YDNPA support for the Society's Dales and Bowland CIC transport initiative; The YDNPA's new draft integrated access strategy as a whole; Mosaic; Legal Development Certificates / Established Use Certificates & YDS/YDMT SDF Project to place weather stations in primary schools within, or very near to, the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

- Along with the Chairman & Deputy Chairman, a meeting with the Chief Executive, Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the North York Moors NPA where the following were discussed: Local Government York & North Yorkshire; Future of NYSP; Shared Services; update on Parish Council Appointments & Member Development/Appraisal.
- A meeting of the Europarc Atlantic Isles Board Meeting where the following were discussed: AONBs, Scottish Regional Parks Federation membership; Vision; latest position and next steps; Recruitment of new Board members; EAI work and communications strategy 2010-2011 & Future seminar programme.
- A meeting with officers from the newly designated South Downs NPA Establishment Team to discuss a range of practical issues around managing a National Park Authority.
- Chaired a meeting of the UK Joint Improvement Group [JIG] where the following issues were considered: Presentation on Business Continuity – Compliance with the Standard; NPAPA Update; Feedback on Shared Services event in the Peak District; update on Validation of PIs; State of the Park Reports; Sharing experiences to help the establishment of the South Downs NPA; Possibility of joint sponsorship & reporting on the delivery of the People and Landscapes programme
- Hosted a visit from an officer of Natural England to discuss the practicalities of the Boundary Review consultation
- A discussion with a representative from MOSAIC to discuss the development programme for this National Park Authority
- Along with the Chairman and Mr Armitage, a meeting to discuss the future process for National Park Authority Performance Assessment [NPAPA].
- Along with the Chairman a meeting of the Craven One Planet Living Group [*Agenda not known at the time of this paper's production*]
- A public meeting at DCM to discuss the National Park Authority's proposals for the museum.
- A meeting of the North of England Civic Trust [*Agenda not known at the time of this paper's production*]
- Along with the Champion for Promoting Understanding, a meeting to discuss the NPA's role in Sustainable Tourism

## **ISSUES FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION**

### **Appointment to Regional Spatial Planning Board**

2. Members will be aware, from previous reports, that the Authority has successfully secured representation on a number of sub regional bodies that were established following the sub national review. In addition, the Authority was seeking representation on the Regional Spatial Planning Board. This has now been agreed and the Authority has been asked to nominate a representative to this group.

3. Following discussions between the Chairman and the member champions for Development Control and Planning, it is suggested that Mr Blackie be appointed as the Authority's representative with Mrs Peacock as substitute representative.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

4. That Mr Blackie is appointed as the Authority's representative to the Regional Spatial Planning Board.

## **ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE**

### **Membership of the Authority**

5. I have received an indication from Adam Barker of his intention to resign his membership of the Authority. As members will be aware, recently Mr Barker has been unable to carry out his full duties as a member due to illness. In advising me of his intention, he added that - *"This is with regret as I have very much enjoyed my brief time with the Authority and am grateful for the support of officers and members."*

6. Defra officials have indicated that any replacement would not be appointed until April 2011.

### **"Loo of the Year Award"**

7. A review of the public toilets in 2008 concluded that the current standard of toilets facilities around the park could be significantly improved. The Member Officer Working Group established a programme of refurbishments and identified that improvements that could be made to the cleaning contract and maintenance programme.

8. In July 2009, even though the refurbishment programme had not been completed it was decided it would be appropriate to apply for the 'Loo of the Year Awards 2010' to establish a baseline assessment of each of the facilities. Assessments are conducted by an independent inspector and the results have been very pleasing with seven of the public toilets being awarded four out of five stars and the remaining three receiving a three-star rating.

9. Although pleasing there is still room for improvement and we will be working towards higher ratings in the coming years. Grassington, Linton Falls, Kettlewell, Hawes, Clapham, Stainforth, Malham received four stars and Buckden, Horton and Aysgarth received three stars (Please note: the assessments of Aysgarth and Buckden took place before the completion of recent or current refurbishments).

**David Butterworth**  
**Chief Executive**

Background documents: None  
12 January 2010