

## Report 1: Chair's Annual Report 2022/23

### 1. Purpose of Report

This report provides an overview from the Authority's Chair of the governance of the Authority for the year ending 31 March 2023.

### 2. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- a. note the contents of this report on the governance of the Authority; and
- b. approve publication of information on members' attendances and allowances, set out in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of Appendix 1 to this report; on the Authority's website, and in relevant performance reports as part of the Authority's accounts.

### 3. Implications

- a. Financial: Financial performance for the 2022/23 financial year is discussed at Report 2 on this Agenda.
- b. Equalities: There are no direct equality implications from this report. Where possible, opportunities are taken to enhance the diversity of the Authority's governance through the inclusion of independent members on panels, working groups and task and finish groups. The conclusions of the governance review held this year approved proposals to further enhance diversity in governance.

### 4. Governance Overview

- a. This year has been another busy and engaging year for members of the Authority. During the period, member attendance at principal meetings (\*all Authority Days) was 80% (76% for the previous year, with the Defra target being 75%) and at Core Meetings (Full Authority, DMC and Review) was 80% (also 80% for the previous year, 75% for the Defra target).
- b. Appendix 1 to this report provides a summary of members' allowances; members are asked to consider this and approve its publication. Members should note that Tables 1 and 2 detail attendance at Principal Meetings (\*all Authority Days) and Core meetings (Full Authority, DMC and Review).
- c. Mr Adam Chaffer was appointed as Independent Member for Standards, his term starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for 2 years.

### 5. Committees and Task and Finish Group Reports

#### **Development Management Committee (DMC) Annual Report**

- a. The DMC formally met to consider five planning applications on four occasions during the year. A total of 91 planning applications were determined by the Authority over the year. The delegation of decisions to senior officers was 95%,

which is lower than other years with two major planning applications at Harden Quarry and the MoD at the Otterburn Training Area.

- b. The performance for planning applications remained excellent, achieving 100% performance in terms of speed of decision for major, minor and other applications. This performance is achieved through approximately 20% of applications having formal agreements of extensions of time which enables a scheme to be amended or further information provided instead of refusing the application. No applications were refused, giving an approval rate of 100%. There were four applications withdrawn, which were applications which were likely to have been refused. A total of three new houses were approved during the year, below the local plan target of 8.
- c. One planning enforcement notice was served.
- d. Planning applications brought an income of £103,953. This income is over £68,000 more than the previous year for fewer but larger applications.
- e. No complaints about the planning service were received during the year. There were no appeals received, which reflects the low refusal rate over the past few years.

#### **Authority Review Group**

- f. The Authority Review group have met three times during this period. The topic of the meeting in June was "Climate Change", in October it was "Ranger Service", and in February it was "Farming in protected Landscapes (FiPL)".
- g. External stakeholder experiences were included in all three meetings.
- h. All recommendations from Review meetings have been taken to Leadership Team for actions and timescales to be agreed and planned and signed off at the next available Authority meeting.
- i. Annual Review of Review actions were discussed at February's review meeting, with a significant number of completed actions removed.

#### **Finance and Audit Group**

- j. The Finance and Audit Group met four times during the reporting period in May, August, November, and February, to provide a steer and scrutinise in further detail finance, audit, and risk related reports.

#### **Standards & Appeals Committee**

- k. The Standards and Appeals committee met in February following their annual training. They agreed to host some Member Training in the coming Autumn which will focus on Culture and Values, and how we embed and promote the code of conduct. There have been no complaints or investigations this year.

#### **Equalities Annual Update**

- l. The Authority has a detailed EDI Action Plan in place. The Authority is developing plans for how we can become more proactive in being a welcoming and inclusive employer.

The Chief Executive is leading nationally on the Landscapes for Everybody and EDI agenda, and the Director of Business Development has been chairing the National (uk-WIDE) EDI working group which has been developing a UK wide action plan for EDI and both have been working closely through NPE to liaise with DEFRA to try to influence their EDI plan for protected landscapes.

## **6. Conclusions**

Governance within the Authority has adapted well over this year to accommodate both changes in Board membership and effective use of blended working with use of both face to face and virtual meetings.

I would like to thank members of the Authority for their support and for their continued commitment to the work of the Authority.

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## Appendix 1: MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AND ALLOWANCES 2022-2023

### Changes in membership 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

In the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, there was only one change to the Authority membership. In May 2022, Cllr Catherine Seymour was nominated by Northumberland County Council as a new NNPA member.

### Attendance

All Authority members are expected to attend the Full Authority and Policy Conference Meetings. Table 2 (within Appendix 1) illustrates individual member attendances at principal meetings (\*all Authority Days) and at core meetings (Full Authority, DMC and Review).

For the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, there were 23 meetings in total as follows: -

#### **Principal Meetings** (includes Core Meetings plus the following)

- 2 Policy Conferences
- 4 Finance and Audit
- 1 Standards & Appeals Committee
- 1 Management Plan Workshop
- 1 Health and Safety Training
- 2 DMC Training

#### **Core Meetings**

- 4 Full Authority
- 1 Special Authority Meeting
- 4 Development Management Committee
- 3 Authority Review

Some meetings continue to be held virtually where this is in keeping with local government regulations. held virtually.

Member attendance at Principal Meetings (\*all Authority Days) was 80% (Defra target being 75%) and at Core Meetings (Full Authority, DMC and Review) this was also at 80% (see Appendix 1: Table 1).

**\*Please note:** The analysis of attendance does not include ad-hoc working groups, task and finish groups and representation on other bodies which Authority members are involved with.

**Remuneration**

Appendix 1, Table 3 includes payments to members made between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 based on the figures recorded in the Authority's financial system. Members travel and subsistence costs are also detailed within Table 3.

The use of public transport and attendance at external conferences, workshops, and seminars, which are undertaken on behalf of the Authority, are not included in the individual breakdown as these are paid for directly by the Authority.

**Appendix 1: Members' Attendance at the Authority's Principal and Core Meetings from 1 April 2022 – 30 March 2023**

**Please note:** the figures below represent the meetings attended by representatives in their capacity as a member of that committee. The meetings attended in a capacity other than committee member, for example a voluntary attendance out of personal interest for a topic being discussed, are not included.

**Table 1:** Percentage of Core and Principal Meetings attended by members from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	<b>Defra Target</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
<b>Member Attendance at Principal Meetings (*all Authority Days)</b>	75%	68%	87%	76%	<b>80%</b>
<b>Member Attendance at Core Meetings (Full Authority, DMC and Review)</b>	75%	68%	86%	80%	<b>80%</b>

**Table 2: Members' Attendance at the Authority's Principal and Core meetings from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

Attendance	Core				Principal						
	Authority Review	DMC Committee	Full Authority	Total Core	DMC Training	Finance & Audit	H&S Training	Management Plan	Policy Conference	Standards	Total Principal
Alan Sharp	3/3	4/4	5/5	12/12	1/2	4/4	1/1	1/1	2/2	0/1	9/11
Andy Saunders	1/3	NR	4/5	5/8	NR	4/4	1/1	1/1	2/2	NR	8/8
Catherine Seymour	1/3	2/2	4/5	7/10	0/2	NR	1/1	0/1	2/2	0/1	3/7
Chris Mullin	2/3	3/4	5/5	10/12	0/2	NR	1/1	1/1	1/2	NR	3/6
Denis Mullan	3/3	NR	5/5	8/8	NR	4/4	1/1	1/1	2/2	NR	8/8
Eileen Cartie	NR	NR	4/5	4/5	NR	NR	1/1	0/1	0/2	0/1	1/5
Fiona Gough	2/3	NR	4/5	6/8	NR	4/4	1/1	1/1	2/2	NR	8/8
Jean Davidson	NR	NR	5/5	5/5	NR	4/4	0/1	1/1	2/2	NR	7/8
John Riddle	NR	3/4	3/5	6/9	1/2	NR	1/1	1/1	1/2	NR	4/6
Julian Morrison-Bell	NR	3/4	3/5	6/9	2/2	NR	1/1	0/1	0/2	NR	3/6
Len Glen-Davison	NR	4/4	4/5	8/9	2/2	NR	1/1	1/1	2/2	NR	6/6
Liz Ellis	3/3	NR	3/5	6/8	NR	NR	1/1	1/1	2/2	1/1	5/5
Marie Fallon	2/3	3/4	3/5	8/12	2/2	NR	0/1	1/1	2/2	1/1	6/7
Mark Mather	NR	NR	5/5	5/5	NR	NR	1/1	1/1	1/2	NR	3/4
Mark Purvis	NR	NR	3/5	3/5	NR	1/4	0/1	1/1	0/2	NR	2/8
Pippa Ross	3/3	NR	5/5	8/8	NR	NR	1/1	1/1	2/2	1/1	5/5
Sue Bolam	NR	3/4	4/5	7/9	2/2	4/4	1/1	1/1	2/2	NR	10/10
Val Gibson	2/3	3/4	4/5	9/12	1/2	NR	1/1	1/1	2/2	1/1	6/7

**Table 3:** Member Allowances and Expenses Paid from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Members	Allowances	Expenses	Total	Notes
Bolam SE	£ 1,962.00	£ 421.20	£ 2,383.20	
Cartie E	£ 1,962.00	£ 133.20	£ 2,095.20	
Davidson LG	£ 1,962.00	£ 108.90	£ 2,070.90	
Davidson J *	£ 7,848.72	£ 903.51	£ 8,752.23	
Ellis L	£ 1,962.00	£ -	£ 1,962.00	
Fallon M	£ 1,962.00	£ 82.60	£ 2,044.60	
Gibson V	£ 1,962.00	£ -	£ 1,962.00	
Gough F	£ 1,962.00	£ 103.77	£ 2,065.77	
Marber S	£ 346.45	£ -	£ 346.45	Independent member: Left 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Mather M	£ 1,962.00	£ -	£ 1,962.00	
Morrison Bell J ***	£ 2,943.00	£ -	£ 2,943.00	
Mullan D **	£ 3,488.07	£ 504.35	£ 3,992.42	
Mullin C	£ 2,727.51	£ 439.20	£ 3,166.71	
Purvis M	£ 1,962.00	£ 69.30	£ 2,031.30	
Riddle J	£ 2,414.01	£ -	£ 2,414.01	
Ross P	£ 2,190.58	£ 353.70	£ 2,544.28	
Saunders A	£ 1,962.00	£ -	£ 1,962.00	
Seymour C	£ 1,782.68	£ -	£ 1,782.68	Joined May 2022
Sharp A	£ 1,962.00	£ 247.50	£ 2,209.50	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£ 45,323.02</b>	<b>£ 3,367.23</b>	<b>£ 48,690.25</b>	

**Key for Special Responsibility Allowances:**

- \* NNPA Chair
- \*\* NNPA Vice Chair
- \*\*\* DMC Chair

**Note:** The comparable member allowances and expenses figure for 2021/22 was **£44,849** (comprising of £43,058 for allowances, and £1,791 for expenses).