

Date: 27 March 2007

Report: CHANGES TO THE AUTHORITY'S MEMBERSHIP

Purpose of report

1. To inform members of notified changes to the Authority's membership and to seek their consideration and determination of certain further membership issues.

Background

2. Members will be aware that the Authority's membership reduces in number from 26 to 22 on 8 May 2007. A comprehensive report was considered at the last meeting of the Authority which resulted in the following resolution:

"That:

- (a) a paper on future proposals for the size of the Authority's Committees is brought to the Authority meeting in May 2007;*
- (b) the date of the May 2007 Planning Committee be changed from 8 May to 1 May;*
- (c) the Audit & Review and Finance & Resources Committees meet on 4 May and 9 May 2007 respectively, as scheduled;*
- (d) the Secretary of State group meet prior to the March 2007 meeting of the Authority to nominate to fill the vacancies on the Planning and Access Committees; and*
- (e) Mr Fenten be appointed to the Planning Committee with effect from 8 May 2007 on the terms outlined in Paragraph 13 of the Chief Executive's report."*

ISSUES FOR INFORMATION

3. Members will be aware that a vacancy has existed on the Authority since mid-December 2006 following changes in Richmondshire District Council's appointees. At that Council's meeting on 27 February 2007, that vacancy was filled by Councillor Rowland Dent, although formal notification is still awaited from the Council.
4. North Yorkshire County Council has considered its representation on the Authority to accommodate, from 8 May 2007, that Council's reduction in number of appointees from six to five. At its meeting in February the County Council decided that David Ireton would be the member to stand down from its current appointees.

ISSUES FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION

5. As members were informed in January, on 31 March 2007, Jerry Pearlman's term of office as a Secretary of State appointee will terminate. As a result of his 'retirement' there will be a number of resulting vacancies on Committees and other organisations.

6. As reported in January, he is currently a member of the Authority's Planning and Access Committees and, as recorded in (d) above, nominations have been sought from the Secretary of State group of members. The nominations put forward by that group for replacements are – Planning Committee: Ms Stedman and Access Committee: A Osborne.
7. Mr Pearlman is also a member of the Pennine Bridleway Steering Group and represents the Authority on the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. Members are asked to consider replacing him on these two groups.
8. In addition Mr Pearlman, is Deputy Chairman of the Authority. Members are recommended to elect a replacement for that position, the appointment to run from 1 April to the Annual meeting in July.
9. Finally, as Deputy Chairman, Mr Pearlman represents the Authority on the following 'partnership' bodies:
 - Association of North Yorkshire Councils (where he deputises for the Chairman who represents Craven District Council)
 - Yorkshire & Humber Assembly (where he deputises for the Chairman) – the Authority has membership status in relation to planning issues only
 - York & North Yorkshire Development Board (where he deputises for the Chairman and acts as representative for both the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors NPAs.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That Members:

- (a) note the current and proposed changes in membership determined by Richmondshire and North Yorkshire County Councils;
- (b) approve the nominations from the Secretary of State group of members, for Ms Stedman and A Osborne respectively to fill the vacancies on the Planning and Access Committees;
- (c) consider filling the vacancies in Authority representation on the Pennine Bridleway Steering Group and the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum;
- (d) elect a Deputy Chairman to hold office from 1 April until the Annual meeting in July 2007;
and
- (e) considers whether it wishes the Deputy Chairman to continue deputising for the Chairman on the bodies listed in paragraph 9 above.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Background documents:

None

15 March 2007