

North York Moors National Park Authority

29 June 2026

Item 10, Co-options to Committees and Forums

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update Members on and seek approval for the extension of co-opted appointments to the National Park Authority.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following a wide-ranging governance review in 2023, the North York Moors NPA approved proposals to invite co-options to the membership of the Authority via our two policy Forums (Conservation & Climate Change and Recreation and Wellbeing). The decision was taken primarily to strengthen the diversity of input to our policy making by involving young people. Luke Holmes was appointed as our first co-opted Member in 2024, with his initial 1-year term extended by a further year in 2025.
- 2.2 Member co-options were reviewed at NPA in June 2025 with Members resolving to move to open recruitment of a second co-opted Member to support our Recreation and Wellbeing Forum and to extend the participation of co-opted Members to Member training events and attendance at NPA and FRASC meetings as observers.
- 2.3 Although the Local Government Act limits the ability co-opt Members to committees only, several other NPAs have used co-options to broaden the diversity of their governance, particularly in relation to young people. [The South Downs NPA](#) co-opts up to three Members to serve on its Policy and Resources Committee. [The Yorkshire Dales NPA](#) approved the co-option of two young people to its Finance and Resources Committee in October 2024.

3. Recruitment of co-opted Members

- 3.1 The recruitment of a second co-opted Member has recently got underway. A recruitment pack and promotional video have been put together to support the recruitment campaign. The Authority has previously resolved that selection and appointment of the co-opted Member should be delegated to the CEO, consulting with the chairs of the Authority and Recreation and Wellbeing Forum. Officers anticipate being able to update Members at the September NPA if not before.

4. Extension of existing co-option

- 4.1 With Luke Holmes second one-year term as a co-opted Member coming to an end, Members need to approve an extension to this appointment or seek to recruit another co-opted Member. Luke has indicated his willingness to continue as a co-opted Member and his support and engagement with the work of the Conservation and Climate Change Forum has been noted by the current chair.

5. Financial and staffing implications

- 5.1 Co-opted Members are paid a small allowance for participation in Authority business based on the expected pro-rata time commitment.

6. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 6.1 The co-option of young people to the Authority supports Outcome 4, Objective 14 of the Management Plan: inspire the next generation to enjoy, learn about and care for the National Park and support young people's direct involvement in decision-making about its future.

7. Legal and sustainability implications

- 7.1 The ability to co-opt Members to committees of the National Park Authority is permitted by Section 102(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Members:

- Note the progress made towards the open recruitment of a second co-opted Member
- Approve the extension of Luke Holmes' appointment as a co-opted Member for a further 12 months period

Contact Officer:

Tom Hind

Chief Executive Officer

01439 772700