

North York Moors National Park Authority

24 September 2012

Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) Conference 2013

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the preparatory work in relation to the hosting of the ANPA Conference in 2013.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority was originally scheduled to host the conference in 2011; however, a decision was taken at a national level to cancel. The Authority will now host the Conference in 2013. The mandate, collectively agreed by all National Park Authorities at the ANPA meeting, is that the model for the conference should be changed and that it should be on a significantly reduced scale, and consequently at lower cost, and focus on a specific theme.

- 2.2 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress made to date in relation to the planning of the conference.

3. Venue, cost and Theme

- 3.1 The Hawkhills Conference venue at Easingwold has been booked for the dates 25, 26 and 27 September 2013 at a cost per delegate which was more than 50% cheaper than the next best alternative. This decision means that despite the limited ability to obtain funding from other sources the costs can be contained within £500 per delegate.

- 3.2 The venue itself has recently been modernised and there are plans to do further work between now and the conference. The facilities have been visited by Judith Seaton and Jane Mitchell and will meet the requirements for the event.

- 3.3 The Authority now has significantly less administrative resource to organise the conference. This, and the need to find savings for speaker costs etc, led to a decision to revisit the theme of the conference. Officers consulted with the Chair and with colleagues from other National Park Authorities, and it is considered that the theme of **Landscape** should form the central focus of the conference. Officers are currently approaching prominent individuals to seek a keynote speaker on this theme. Consideration has been given to the potential for top quality and spectacular field trips; ideas include; Landscape and Art, Landscape and the Spirit, Landscape Rocks, Seascapes, Eating the Landscape and Down under the Landscape.

- 3.4 In 2009 it was established that a Steering Group be established to provide strategic direction to the conference planning process. At the time it was agreed that this would consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair and three nominees, David Jeffels, Jane Mitchell and Janet Frank. A meeting of this Group will be convened shortly.

4. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 4.1 The budget for the conference is self-financing and has been considerably reduced by minimising costs such as website and delegate packs, however, there will inevitably be a need to utilise internal staff resources to organise the conference. A proportion of the additional costs will be recouped.

5. **Sustainability and Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no sustainability or legal implications arising from this report.

6. **Recommendation**

- 6.1 That Members note the contents of this report in relation to the venue and theme.
- 6.2 That Members approve the proposal that the steering group be revived with either the same constitution or with alternative nominees if the original three nominees no longer wish to act.

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Background documents to this report

File Ref.

None