

North York Moors National Park Authority Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Monday 20 May 2013.

Present: M Bowes, B Briggs, D Hugill, D C Jeffels, E Sanderson, R I Thompson, P Wheeler

Apologies: Mrs J Mitchell

Officers in attendance: Andy Wilson (Chief Executive), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Services), Irene Brannon (Director of Corporate Service), Stephen Croft (External Funding Officer), Ian Nicholls (Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer) Vanessa Burgess

Copies of All Documents Considered Are In The Minute Book

21/13 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22/13 Members Interests

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interests relating to any agenda item prior to its consideration.

23/13 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of each of the items of business shown in column 1 of the following table on the grounds that each involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 specified in column 2:-

Item No on the Agenda	Paragraph No
11	1, 2, 3, 4
12	1, 2

24/13 Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

Considered:

The report of the Treasurer. The Director of Corporate Services presented this item.

Resolved:

That Members noted the performance of the Treasury Management operation during 2012/13 and the outturn position on Prudential Indicators.

25/13 Draft Financial Outturn

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services. A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Officer updated Members that Catherine Raistrick had been appointed to the position of Business and Performance Support Officer from the 1 June 2013; the S151 Officer was preparing the Statement of Final Accounts; the year 2012/13 had a financial under spend of £85k, current levels of reserves were £1.5 million; the current York Potash application was beginning to have an impact on reserves.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the family of National Parks were pulling together a document to put to Defra setting out details of how another round of cuts would impact on the level of service at each National Park. The Chief Executive advised that Directors were minded to give two random areas of work and then to put forward the sale of Levisham Estate and asked for Members views.

Members had a good debate about what areas to put to Defra and decided to let officers pull the list together, but noted that staff working in the areas put forward needed to be informed of the process.

Officers answered Members questions as follows:

- An independent valuation of the Levisham Estate 2 years ago was £2 million, this would give the Authority medium to long term interest of £30k a year. However a restriction would be applied with regards to how the land could be worked.
- The potash application had significant financial implications and Officer were thinking of asking Defra again if they are able to assist financially.
- The Esk Pearl Mussel project is externally funded
- Most of the under spend had occurred due to weather conditions; staff capacity and the farm scheme under spend.

Recommendation:

That Members:

1. Note the content of this report and the draft financial outturn detailed in Appendix 1.
2. Approve the virements detailed in Column 5 of Appendix 1
3. Approve the current allocation of reserves and the transfers detailed in Appendix 1 and paragraph 3.4 and 3.5.

Resolved:

That Members:

1. Noted the content of this report and the draft financial outturn detailed in Appendix 1.
2. Approved the virements detailed in Column 5 of Appendix 1
3. Approved the current allocation of reserves and the transfers detailed in Appendix 1 and paragraph 3.4 and 3.5.
4. Members instructed Officers to make a without prejudice submission to Defra.

26/13 **Draft Performance Indicator Outturn**

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services.

The Officer informed Members that the Authority had again retained 'Customer Service Excellent' being fully compliant in all 57 areas, with 5 compliance pluses and had gained a further compliance plus for the work the authority has done with apprentices and communities. Members congratulated officers on their achievement.

The Officer answered Members questions as follows:

- Volunteer reductions were in the area of under-represented groups due to cuts in budgets from outside agencies. Officers were currently working on a social enterprise opportunity around under-represented groups with the expectation being on getting this particular group of people back out and about in the Park volunteering.
- Unable to confirm if Community Pay Back groups were being used within the Park
- The website figures were for the old website not the new one.

Members noted how good the planning figures were given the pressure on that department during the course of the year.

Resolved:

That Members commented on the provisional year end performance figures for 2012/13 and provisional performance targets for 2013/14, making recommendations for action as appropriate.

27/13 **External Funding**

Considered:

The report of the External Fundraising Officer

The Officer confirmed that a bid to the Department of Transport (DfT) to encourage cycling within National Parks had been submitted and much work had been done with partner organisations. Officers were hopeful that the bid would be successful, however the officer noted that many of the partner organisation were willing to move forward with some projects even if the bid was not.

A Member noted that at the recent Awareness, Recreation and Business Forum the group focused on the DfT bid, which had been an excellent meeting.

The Officer confirmed that the heritage lottery bid needed to be submitted by the 31 May, with the outcome being announced in October 2013.

Resolved:

That Members approved the external fundraising work currently being undertaken.

28/13 **Staffing Update**

Considered:

The report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Services

Members agreed that the result of the staff survey was encouraging given the difficult times that the Authority was going through. A Member noted that it may be useful to have half hour sessions for members before meetings to go into different departments and see the staff at work and gain a better understanding of what that department does.

The Officer confirmed that the Authority does have an appraisal scheme in place.

Resolved:

That Members:

1. Noted the comments made in paragraph 3 to 6 inclusive
2. Asked officers to prepare a more detailed paper regarding the Leadership Development programme for consideration at the meeting of the National Park Authority in June.

29/13 **Members Allowances**

Considered:

The report of the Committees Officer

Recommendation:

That Members confirm which option from section 6.1 of the report they wish to adopt and instruct officers to act accordingly.

Resolved:

That Members agreed a continuation of the scheme in its current form with the index link for a further 4 years.

**Public Summary of Items considered "in private"
at the meeting of the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee
on 20 May 2013**

Private Minutes of the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 8 April having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Complaints and Compliments Update

Members considered the report of the Committees Officer which set out the details of the complaints and compliments received since the last report and gave figures for the full year 2012/13

Officers informed Members that one complainant had taken their case to the Independent Complaints Commissioner and that a further complex complaint had been received.

Members agreed the recommendation.