

North York Moors National Park Authority

17 December 2012

Governance Review

<p>1. Purpose of the Report</p>
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<p>1.1 To update Members on the progress of the Community Forum.</p>
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2. **Background**

2.1 At the September meeting of the Authority, Members agreed to hold a trial Community Forum, organised in conjunction with Parish Councils. The aim would be to engage with people who live in the Park but who are not actively involved in their Parish Council or the National Park Authority to promote the notion of civic duty more widely.

3. **Present**

3.1 **Community Forum**

3.1.1 A small working group of staff including the Chief Executive and Committee Officer has been set up to take the forum forward. A theme of 'Social Media' has been identified for the first forum, which it is hoped will appeal to a wider audience and be sufficiently interesting to encourage participation by younger people. A letter has been sent to all Parish Clerks within the Park informing them of the forum and asking for volunteers to help plan (as we feel it is important to make it a parish inclusive event) and run the event, as well as identifying possible community groups within their Parish to invite. The plans for the Community Forum have also been mentioned at all the recent parish forum meetings.

3.1.2 It is intended to hold the Community Forum in October 2013.

3.1.3 It would be helpful if one or more Members were involved with the organisation of the forum. If there are any volunteers please let Fiona Farnell know.

4. **Other Governance Issues**

4.1 At a national level, decisions are awaited on the two trails of direct elections in the Peak and New Forest, which seem likely to be delayed. A further consultation on issues such as the size of the Authorities has been promised and is becoming urgent, but no date is yet known.

4.2 At a local level further discussions are due on the two issues postponed from the local governance review – evening meetings and better involvement of young people, Officers hope these issues can be considered over the next six months.

5. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

5.1 There are only minimal financial implications and the small level of staff time can be covered by existing deployments.

6. **Sustainability Appraisal**

6.1 A Sustainability Assessment is not required because the report is an information report.

7. **Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. **Recommendation**

8.1 That Members note the work of Officers and the outstanding items from previous reviews.

Contact Officer
Fiona Farnell
Committees Officer
Tel No 01439 772700

Background papers to this Report

File ref

1. Governance Review (September 2011)
2. Review of the Committee Structure (December 2011)
3. Authority Forums (September 2012)