



**EXMOOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK**

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21 October 2021

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**To: All Members of the Exmoor National Park Authority**

A meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority will be held in the **Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton** on **Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 10.00am.**

The meeting will be open to the press and public subject to the passing of any resolution under s.100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

There is Public Speaking at this meeting, when the Chairperson will allow members of the public two minutes each to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition relating to any item relevant to the business of the Authority or relating to any item on the Agenda. Anyone wishing to ask questions should notify the Corporate Support Officer as soon as possible, or at the latest by 4pm on the working day before the meeting of the agenda item on which they wish to speak, indicating a brief summary of the matter or matters to be raised (contact Judy Coles on 01398 322250 or email [jcoles@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:jcoles@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)).

The meeting will be **recorded**. By entering the Authority's Committee Room and speaking during Public Speaking you are consenting to being recorded. We will make the recording available via our website for members of the public to listen to and/or view, within 72 hours of the meeting taking place.

Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairperson so that those present may be made aware.

(The agenda and papers for this meeting can be downloaded from the National Park Authority's website [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)).

Sarah Bryan  
Chief Executive

## **A G E N D A**

The meeting will be chaired by Mr R Milton, Chairperson of the Authority.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

### **2. Declarations of Interest/Lobbying of Members/Unaccompanied Site Visits**

Members are asked to declare:-

- (1) any interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting;
- (2) any lobbying by anyone concerned with a planning application and any unaccompanied site visits where contact has been made with any person concerned with a planning application.

(NB. When verbally making these declarations, members are also asked to complete the Disclosures at Meetings form – attached for members only).

### **3. Chairperson's Announcements**

4. **Minutes**
  - (1) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Authority held on 5 October 2021 (Item 4)
  - (2) To consider any Matters Arising from those Minutes.

5. **Public Speaking:** The Chairperson will allow members of the public to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition. Questions of a general nature relevant to the business of the Authority can be asked under this agenda item. Any questions specific to an agenda item can be posed when that item is considered subject to the discretion of the person presiding at the meeting.

6. **Revised Budget for 2021/22:** To consider the report of the Chief Finance Officer (Item 6)

7. **Treasury Management Mid-Year Report:** To consider the report of the Chief Finance Officer (Item 7)

8. **Exmoor National Park Authority Climate Emergency Youth Engagement:** To consider the joint report of the Head of Strategy and Performance and Learning and Engagement Officer (Item 8)

9. **Exmoor National Park Byelaws:** To consider the joint report of the Head of Conservation and Access and Access and Recreation Manager (Item 9)

10. **Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum:** To receive and note the meeting notes from the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum held on 16 September 2021 (Item 10)

### **11. Personnel Update**

#### **Moving to Permanent Contract**

01/10/2021 – Patrick Dempsey – Retail Support Officer – 14.8 hours per week

#### **Extension to Contract**

03/05/2022 – Phil Stuckey – Assistant Ranger

31/03/2022 – Holly Moser – ENNIS Project Officer

#### **Leaver**

26/10/2021 – Jen Nurse – Corporate Support Assistant - resignation

### **12. Any Other Business of Urgency**

Further information on any of the reports can be obtained by contacting the National Park Authority at the address and telephone numbers at the top of the agenda. Details of the decisions taken at this meeting will be set out in the formal Minutes which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, details of the decisions can be obtained from Judy Coles, Corporate Support Officer, at Exmoor House.

## ITEM 4

### EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday, 5 October 2021 at 10.00am at Dulverton Town Hall, Dulverton.

#### PRESENT

Mr R Milton (Chairperson)  
Miss A V Davis (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr S J Pugsley (Deputy Chairperson (Planning))

Mr M Ellicott	Mr A Milne
Mr J Holtom	Mrs F Nicholson
Mr J Hunt	Mr J Patrinos
Dr M Kelly	Mr B Revans
Mr M Kravis	Mr N Thwaites
Mrs C Lawrence	Dr S Warren
Mr E Ley	Mr V White

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Blanchard, Mr D Elson, Miss E Stacey, Mrs P Webber and Mr J Yabsley.

#### 65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

In relation to Item 10 – Risk Management Miss A V Davis declared a personal interest as her son worked for Devon Audit Partnership, mentioned in the report.

#### 66. CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr Andy Milne was welcomed to his first meeting, as a Somerset West & Taunton District Council appointed Member of the Authority
- Mrs Hazel Union was welcomed back to meetings of the Authority and would once again provide legal representation on behalf of Devon County Council.

#### 67. MINUTES

- Confirmation:** The **Minutes** of the Authority's meeting held on 7 November were agreed and signed as a correct record (**Item 4**) - subject to amendment to Minute 62 to add a final sentence to read: *"In addition, when a paper arising from the results of the consultation comes before the Authority Committee for consideration, it should include an Appendix detailing the consultation responses received."*
- Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.

**68. PUBLIC SPEAKING:** See Minute 71 and 72 for details of public speakers.

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**Items relating to the Authority's role as sole local planning authority for the National Park area including determination of planning applications.** This section of the meeting was chaired by Mr S J Pugsley, Deputy Chairperson (Planning).

## APPEALS

69. The Committee noted the **decision** of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to dismiss the Appeal in relation to Application 6/10/21/110 – The Haven, Ellicombe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6TR
70. The Committee noted the **decision** of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to allow the Appeal and grant planning permission in relation to Application 6/31/20/101 – Springwater Farm, Maunsborough Lane, Elworthy, TA4 3PY

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

### 71. Application No. 6/43/21/104

**Location: Ridgewood Cottage, Wooton Courtenay, Minehead, TA24 8RF**

**Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing buildings and erection of replacement building for stables, tack room and store, and construction of access drive, yard and associated works (Amended plans).**

The Authority considered the **report** of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

### Public Speaking

- (1) Mr D Preston, Applicant

### The Authority's Consideration

The Head of Planning and Sustainable Development updated the meeting a further letter of representation had been received from a local resident raising concerns that an arboricultural report had not been submitted by the Applicant at the time the Committee Report had been published. The concerns raised centred around the impact the development would have on trees located close to the application site, and the impact the development may have on species which may inhabit the trees.

The Authority Committee were advised that an Arboriculture Report had subsequently been submitted on behalf of the Applicant, which concluded the proposals were considered to be sustainable from an arboricultural point of view, subject to the provision of tree protection measures detailed within the Tree Protection Plans also submitted, and that all works would be undertaken in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement.

In light of the information contained within the Arboriculture Report, Planning Officers recommended that an amendment be made to Condition 10 as set out in the Committee Report, although the reason for the condition remained unchanged. It was confirmed the revised condition should read:

“The development hereby approved shall not be carried out other than in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement submitted in support of the application and provided within the Advanced Arboriculture letter dated 1 October 2021.”

Having considered all the evidence presented the Authority Committee resolved to grant planning permission.

**RESOLVED:** To grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report, with the exception of Condition 10 which was revised to read:

*The development hereby approved shall not be carried out other than in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement submitted in support of the application and provided within the Advanced Arboriculture letter dated 1 October 2021.*

**Reason:** *To ensure the continued wellbeing of the trees in the interests of the amenity and environmental quality of the locality.*

**72. Application No. 62/41/21/019**

**Location:** Valley of Rocks Picnic Site, Road from Hollerday Gate to Castle Rock, Lynton, EX35 6LH

**Proposal:** Application under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for proposed alterations to site, including the relocation and replacement of existing car parking machine, installation of a second car parking machine, formation of new parking bays, widening of vehicular entrance track and construction of grass banks.

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

**Public Speaking**

- (1) Mr B Gash, The Exmoor Society
- (2) Mr D Barnett, Applicant

**The Authority's Consideration**

The Authority Committee recognised that the Valley of Rocks was a dramatic and well visited landscape, significant for its rugged and scenic beauty. Members understood the concerns expressed about the proposed development that were made both during pre-application consultation, and through the consideration of the application. The Committee were also mindful of the challenges that management of the Authority's car parks and visitor facilities in such honeypot sites can present.

It was noted that at the Valley of Rocks Picnic Site in particular, visitors were often unsure about where they could and could not park, and the recent increase in the number of visitors to the National Park had continued to add to the overall erosion and degradation of the site.

It was the view of the majority of the Authority Committee that the proposed alterations to the site were justified in order to conserve the surrounding area. However, Members wished to ensure that all necessary steps were taken to speed up the greening over of the resurfaced areas around the parking bays, in order to soften the appearance of the development as quickly as possible.

The Committee also requested that consideration be given to introducing discreet visitor interpretation boards to promote the findings of the archaeological survey work once that had been undertaken.

**RESOLVED:** To grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report.

The meeting closed for recess at 11.24 am and reconvened at 11.34am.

**73. Application No. 6/14/21/104**

**Location:** Pinkery Centre for Outdoor Learning, Simonsbath, Minehead, TA24 7LL

**Proposal:** Application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for proposed replacement of artificial slate with natural slate, insertion of 2no. rooflights together with installation of 2no. flues for wood burning stoves and alteration of existing window to doorway.

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

**RESOLVED:** To grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report.

**74. Application No. 6/9/21/126LB**

**Location:** Exmoor National Park Authority, Exmoor House, Dulverton, TA22 9HL

**Proposal:** Application under Regulation 3 of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for Listed Building Consent for the installation of secondary glazing and draft proofing to doors and windows.

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

**RESOLVED:** To grant Listed Building consent subject to the conditions set out in the report.

**75. Application No. 6/9/21/129DC**

**Location:** Chypleighs, 3 Rosemary Lane, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9DP

**Proposal:** Proposed part Discharge of Condition 3 of approved application 6/9/21/117LB.

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the details and partially discharge Condition 3 of listed building consent reference 6/9/21/117LB.

**76. APPLICATION DECISIONS DELEGATED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE:** The Authority noted the [decisions of the Chief Executive determined under delegated powers](#).

**77. SITE VISITS:** There were no site visits to arrange.

The remaining section of the meeting was chaired by Mr R Milton, Chairperson of the Authority.

## **78. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Authority considered the **report** of the Head of Finance and Operations

### **The Authority's Consideration**

The Authority Committee wished to thank all staff for their efforts to ensure that the work of the Authority had continued throughout the pandemic, which confirmed that the Risk Management arrangements put in place are clearly robust.

It was requested that the Chairperson of the Standards Committee should also receive a copy of the Health & Safety Welfare Committee Minutes, in addition to the Authority's Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (Planning).

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To note that the annual review of Risk Management has been carried out.
- (2) To approve the Health, Safety & Welfare Policy set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (3) To approve the Risk Register set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
- (4) To note that the Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Plan has been reviewed.

**79. PERSONNEL UPDATE:** The Authority noted the recent staff changes as set out on the agenda.

**80. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF URGENCY:** There was none

The meeting closed at 12.03pm

(Chairperson)

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2 November 2021

### REVISED BUDGET FOR 2021/22

#### Report of the Chief Finance Officer

**Purpose of the report:** To report on the budgetary review that has been carried out at the end of the first half of the year and to agree the financial strategy for the remainder of the year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Exmoor National Park Authority is recommended to:

- (1) APPROVE the revised Core Budget for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (2) NOTE the position regarding reserves as set out in Appendix 3 and the projected balance on the General Fund at 31 March 2022 of £300,000 and APPROVE the changes to reserves set out in Section 5.
- (3) AUTHORISE the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to make such adjustments as are necessary to keep within the overall budget and with the objective of transferring underspends that arise to reserves.

**Authority Priority: Achieve** – Getting best value from our resources and improving our performance - Finance and Performance – Financial Management.

**Legal and Equality Implications:** Local Government Act 2003, Parts 1-3 (Capital Finance, Financial Administration and Grants), Sections 1-39

Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, Part 2 (Financial Management and Internal Control)

The equality and human rights impact of the recommendations of this report have been assessed as having no adverse impact on any particular group or individual.

**Financial and Risk Implications:** The revised budget is in line with the resources made available to the Authority for 2021/22. Budgeting and financial arrangements are in place to control and ensure spending is kept in line with the revised budget with a General Fund balance available to meet any unforeseen eventuality.

**Climate Change Response:** The report describes projects from within the Authority's Climate Action Plan that are a part of our response to climate change.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The net budget for 2021/22 was based on the notified National Park Grant (NPG) for the year of £3,211,500. For the second year running this did not contain any inflationary change from the previous year. For 2021/22 we received a one-year settlement.



1.2 The budget that was formulated and approved for 2021/22 was:

	£
Core Budget	2,957,100
Contributions to Reserves	155,000
Top Sliced Programmes	79,400
Small Grants Scheme	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>3,211,500</u></b>

1.3 The Authority's 2021/22 budget was set at the meeting on 2 March 2021. This was a month behind previous years as the National Park Grant notification was not received from DEFRA until the end of February. When the budget was set funds were found for pressures arising in the Land and Property Estate, to meet the costs of removing trees impacted by Ash Die-Back and to support the work of the Exmoor Hill Farming Network.

1.4 When the Authority closed the accounts for 2020/21 in July there was a further opportunity to rebalance resources and fund pressures. At this point it felt as if the pandemic was entering a new phase as the vaccination roll out was under way and services were returning to something closer to normality. The Authority used the opportunity to establish the Rural Enterprise reserve from a range of balances and find £60k for implementing the ENPA Climate Action Plan through the 'Environmental Resilience' fund and almost £30k for the Planning service.

## **2. KEY THEMES WITHIN THE REVISED BUDGET**

2.1 The approach when recommending the revised budget is to review the Core Budget, contributions to reserves and top-sliced programmes to ensure that resources can be reallocated between pressures and underspends arising in year.

2.2 There are less dramatic financial consequences of the pandemic to manage in the current year but there are still ongoing pressures within Land and Buildings and Planning. This is also the opportunity to find further funds to support the clearance of trees affected by Ash Die-Back and allocate last year's underspend in the National Park Centres to the NPC spend to save reserve.

## **3. REVIEW OF THE CORE BUDGET**

3.1 A detailed review of all the core budget headings has been carried out based on the organisational management arrangements of the Authority. The results of this review are contained in Appendix 1, which compares the revised budget with the original budget for the year.

3.2 The original budget for the year is based upon estimated or anticipated income and expenditure. The revised budget is able to adapt for actual in year financial developments. As such it reflects known changes.

3.3 There is a particular challenge this year as the final pay award for staff and Members is still to be determined (at time of writing). We budgeted 1% but it now appears more likely that the award will be between 1.5% and 2%. This will be managed within existing allocations.

- 3.4 There are no savings arising from staff vacancies in year, but car parking and NPC income is robust and additional income has been brought in to support the production of a film. For a second year running, cost related to travel is extremely low. We expect travel costs to increase given the gradual return of in-person meetings.
- 3.5 The Authority has again received money from central government related to the pandemic. In 2021/22 the NPCs and the Outdoor Education Centre have received £40k in 'Restart Grants' and there has been a reduction in Business Rates.
- 3.6 The Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre has been again running overnight educational visits since the start of the year. The centre is busy, but trading is still disrupted by CV19 outbreaks at individual schools. It is hoped that trading income for the year, the 'Restart Grant' and funds previously set aside will be enough to meet this year's costs.
- 3.7 There are also certain pressures which have arisen in year and have required additional resources. In the core budget Land and Property has been transferred £20k to fund the Ashcombe stream works and the valuation of properties by an external firm. A further £30k has also been found to support service pressures within Planning and another £5k for central legal fees. There has also been a technical transfer of budgets between Education and Volunteers and Information and Interpretation Management to reflect the posting of salaries.
- 3.8 The Revised Budget presented does not foresee other significant under or overspends for the remainder of 2021/22. Should these arise at year end, Recommendation 3 provides the mechanism whereby the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive use the General Fund and reserves to meet any overspend and receive underspend to supplement reserves for future spending periods.

#### **4. TOP- SLICED PROGRAMMES, PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESERVES**

- 4.1 When the revenue budget for the year was set, the top sliced element ('Programmes') was agreed at £79,400, £20,000 was set aside for small grants and £155,000 was added to reserves. Appendix 2 sets out the current position of the Programmes, Partnerships and Contributions to Reserves Budget. Alongside the allocations that were made for the current year, the Authority is also delivering against prior year approvals.
- 4.2 Whilst a number of projects are underway and a reasonable proportion of the available Programmes budget is committed at the time of writing, it is likely that the full budget will not be spent by 31 March 2022. The treatment of underspends will be considered as part of the year end processes.

#### **5. REVIEW OF RESERVES AND CAPITAL SPEND**

- 5.1 From a starting point for the year of £2,824,488 and with approvals currently at £3,078,888. Projections for the current and the forthcoming two-year period are shown in Appendix 3.
- 5.2 There are two allocations from reserves that Members are asked to approve as part of this revised budget process.
- 5.3 The first is £40k from General Contingency to the NPC Spend to Save. This is equivalent to the service underspend from last year, which was put into the Contingency in the first instance as the service researched opportunities for

improvement. Now that the service is clearer on the improvements that are necessary, they are requesting that the previous year's underspend be transferred to them.

- 5.4 The second allocation is £30k from General Contingency to Woodlands to assist with the costs of clearing trees affected by Ash Die-Back. This is on top of the £180k previously allocated. Most of the major work is now complete.
- 5.5 The renovation of the facilities at Ashcombe are now complete and the Authority will soon begin developing the car park at the Valley of Rocks. As part of the ENPA Climate Action Plan, energy saving measures are being implemented with funding from the Environmental Resilience reserve, including secondary glazing in sections of Exmoor House and the replacement of lighting with LEDs. A bid has been submitted to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to support a range of carbon saving measures at the Pinkery Outdoor Education Centre.
- 5.6 Members will observe that reserves will undergo further review and updating as part of the development of the 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Plan and revenue budget. This will be presented to the Authority at the National Park Authority meeting in February or March.
- 5.7 The projected balance of approximately £300,000 on the General Fund Reserve is consistent with the Medium Term Financial Plan. This is the balance held to meet any unforeseen or exceptional items of expenditure and to provide working capital and is the equivalent of one month's operating costs.

## **6. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK AND CAPABILITY**

- 6.1 The setting of the revised budget also provides the opportunity to reflect on the Authority's longer-term financial position and deliver savings or adjust priorities if the need or desire is there.
- 6.2 The original budget for the year, without any NPG inflationary increase, was balanced by removing the usual annual contribution towards the replacement of Corporate Equipment and Vehicles. This is not a tactic that can be repeated and so the Authority will again have to have a close look at priorities when the budget for 2022/23 is set. We do not yet know what the grant figure will be, but we hope for a 3-year settlement.
- 6.3 Finding sufficient capacity in the budget to meet one-off pressures and be able to withstand reductions in grant remain a challenge. We already know of the employers NI increase, and pay and non-pay inflation is returning.
- 6.4 Alongside pressures there are also the many priorities that the Authority would like to invest in. These include but are not limited to: wildlife restoration and woodland creation; improving the carbon footprint of our buildings; access improvements including new bridges and family friendly cycle trails; and restoring the historic gardens at Ashcombe.
- 6.5 However challenging the ongoing budget, financial opportunities are opening up. The Authority will receive almost £1.2m from the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL) over this and the next two years. This programme also comes with financial and reputational risks but is excellent news and is the indirect result of much lobbying behind the scenes. The development of Exmoor's Ambition and our contribution to 'Tests and Trials' no doubt informed some of the thinking around the new Environmental Land Management Schemes.

year		Original Allocation	Proposed Revised Allocation	Difference between proposed and revised Allocation
2021/22	1	507,486	257,486	-250,000
2022/23	2	335,362	485,362	150,000
2023/24	3	335,362	435,362	100,000
		<b>1,178,210</b>	<b>1,178,210</b>	<b>0</b>

- 6.6 DEFRA have recently announced that it should be possible to reschedule the FiPL money across financial years. The initial allocation was a challenge to deliver in the time available. ENPA's proposed allocation of the FiPL monies is shown above.
- 6.7 In addition the Authority currently has at its disposal £100k in capital receipts (Cutcombe and land adjoining White Cross Lodge), and two legacies totalling £425k. This provides capacity to undertake a range of schemes. A successful response to the Public Sector Decarbonisation fund will also add financial capability. When the transfer of County Gate is confirmed that will also release some of the fund set aside for it.
- 6.8 Alongside financial resources is the knowledge that the Authority can run schemes in nature recovery and woodland creation that external organisations are keen to support and members of the public wish to volunteer with.
- 6.9 The future remains uncertain, but we continue to adapt and to seek out new opportunities. The Authority has a record in adapting to challenging financial environments and meeting obligations that arise while continuing to engage, conserve and deliver excellent services.

**Gordon Bryant**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
**October 2021**

Section	Budget Heading	2021/22 Original Budget £	2021/22 Revised Expenditure £	2021/22 Revised Income £	2021/22 Revised Budget £	Variance between 20/21 Revised and 20/21 Original	Notes
Support to Land Managers	Access & Recreation	142,600	167,800	-27,500	140,300	2,300	
	Archaeology & Historic Environment	79,600	79,300	-1,200	78,100	1,500	
	Field Services	286,200	302,200	-23,500	278,700	7,500	
	Conservation Advice & Support	284,500	290,000	-4,000	286,000	-1,500	
	Rangers	100,400	122,900	-23,500	99,400	1,000	
<b>Support to Land Managers Total</b>		<b>893,300</b>	<b>962,200</b>	<b>-79,700</b>	<b>882,500</b>	<b>10,800</b>	
Support services to the Community	Development Management	307,500	425,500	-88,000	337,500	-30,000	To provide external support
	Sustainability & Economy	87,900	86,700	0	86,700	1,200	
<b>Support services to the Community Total</b>		<b>395,400</b>	<b>512,200</b>	<b>-88,000</b>	<b>424,200</b>	<b>-28,800</b>	
Support to National Park Users	Education & Volunteers	53,100	89,100	-2,000	87,100	-34,000	Transfer of salary budgets
	National Park & Information Centres	157,300	294,800	-137,500	157,300	0	
	Information & Interpretation Management	204,500	161,200	0	161,200	43,300	Transfer of salary budgets
	Pinkery	0	112,200	-112,200	0	0	
	Visitor Facilities	21,400	91,400	-85,000	6,400	15,000	Increased car parking income targets
<b>Support to National Park Users Total</b>		<b>436,300</b>	<b>748,700</b>	<b>-336,700</b>	<b>412,000</b>	<b>24,300</b>	
Corporate & Customer Support	Legal Support	70,000	75,000	0	75,000	-5,000	
	Strategy & Performance	325,500	316,500	0	316,500	9,000	
Finance and ICT Services	Finance and ICT Services	389,000	406,100	-16,000	390,100	-1,100	
Land and Property Services	Land and Property Services	26,500	298,500	-252,000	46,500	-20,000	External Valuation and Ashcombe stream works
<b>Support Services Total</b>		<b>811,000</b>	<b>1,096,100</b>	<b>-268,000</b>	<b>828,100</b>	<b>-17,100</b>	
Corporate Management	Corporate Management	152,500	147,900	0	147,900	4,600	
	Historic Pensions Contributions	140,000	140,000	0	140,000	0	
	Corporate Subscriptions	32,000	32,000	0	32,000	0	
	Members	96,600	90,400	0	90,400	6,200	
<b>Corporate Management Total</b>		<b>421,100</b>	<b>410,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>410,300</b>	<b>10,800</b>	
<b>Total Core Budget</b>		<b>2,957,100</b>	<b>3,729,500</b>	<b>-772,400</b>	<b>2,957,100</b>	<b>0</b>	

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMMES, PARTNERSHIPS  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESERVES**

2021/22

ORIGINAL BUDGET	<b>254,400</b>
 <b>LESS: Contributions to Reserves</b>	
Woodlands	60,000
Estates Reserve - Lynmouth Pavilion external works	15,000
Estates Reserve - Pinkery Roof	70,000
Internship and Trainee Fund	10,000
	<b>155,000</b>
 <b>LESS: Top sliced Programmes</b>	
Tourism	20,000
Hill Farm Network	19,000
Potential Pinkery overspend	20,000
Naturally Active in Later Life	5,000
Website Development	5,000
SERC/DBRC Bio-records	5,000
STEAM	4,000
Joint committee	1,400
	<b>79,400</b>
 <b>Partnership Fund - small grants scheme</b>	<b>20,000</b>
 <b>2021/22 Programmes &amp; Partnership Fund</b>	<b>254,400</b>

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
ANALYSIS OF RESERVES**

	Balance 31/03/21	2021/22 Budget Allocations	2021/22 In year Budget Transfers	Current Balance	Transfers (from) Reserves 2021/22	Transfers (from) Reserves 2022/23	Transfers (from) Reserves 2023/24	Projected Balance 31/03/24
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>REVENUE EARMARKED RESERVES</b>								
<b>Support to Land Managers</b>								
Ashcombe Garden Restoration	6,679			6,679	-4,000			2,679
Mire - Archaeology	29,758			29,758	-10,000			19,758
Heritage Projects	22,617			22,617	-3,000			19,617
Deer Monitoring Study	13,424			13,424				13,424
Woodland Mgt Reserve	17,516	60,000	30,000	107,516	-80,000	-10,000		17,516
Ennis	6,117			6,117	-6,117			0
Tests & Trials	4,137			4,137	-4,137			(0)
Rights of Way	221,663			221,663	-40,000	-60,000		121,663
Simonsbath Project Delivery	30,113			30,113	-30,000			113
<b>Support to National Park Users</b>								
Caremoor For Exmoor	71,792			71,792	-15,000			56,792
National Park Centres spend to save	37,336		40,000	77,336	-5,000	-25,000		47,336
Get Involved Programme	4,745			4,745	-2,000	-2,000		745
Toilet Upgrade Programme	15,000			15,000				15,000
Health & Well-being	21,330			21,330	-15,000	-5,000		1,330
Engagement & Outreach	25,911			25,911	-5,000	-5,000		15,911
<b>Support to the Community and Business</b>								
Development of Planning Service	83,259			83,259	-50,000	-30,000		3,259
Conserv Area Appraisals & Neighbourhd Plan	12,283			12,283				12,283
Dunster Action Plan	20,891			20,891				20,891
Rural Enterprise	70,586			70,586	-25,000	-25,000		20,586
<b>Strategy &amp; Performance</b>								
Environmental Resilience	98,731			98,731	-40,000	-30,000		28,731
IT and Web Development	55,875			55,875	-15,000	-20,000		20,875
Corporate Equipment & Vehicle Replacement	170,625			170,625	-25,000	-50,000		95,625
Planning Policy	145,356			145,356		-40,000		105,356
Research & Development	41,701			41,701	-10,000	-25,000		6,701
Modernisation ( <i>Spend to Save</i> )	99,306			99,306	-1,000			98,306
Internship and Trainee Fund	46,399	10,000		56,399	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	11,399
Authority Estate	304,828	85,000		389,828	-50,000	-130,000		209,828
	1,677,978	155,000	70,000	1,902,978	-450,254	-472,000	-15,000	965,724
<b>PROGRAMMES &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>								
Programmes - fixed term	157,609	79,400		237,009	-80,000			157,009
Partnership Fund/ small grants scheme	53,935	20,000		73,935	-10,000			63,935
Programmes & Partnership Earmarked - County Gate	90,000			90,000				90,000
	301,545	99,400	0	400,945	-90,000	0	0	310,945
<b>GENERAL FUND AND CONTINGENCIES</b>								
General Fund	300,000			300,000				300,000
Contingency Fund - General (pf uncommit)	444,966		-70,000	374,966				374,966
Contingency Fund - Legal	100,000			100,000				100,000
	844,965	0	-70,000	774,965	0	0	0	774,965
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>2,824,488</b>	<b>254,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,078,888</b>	<b>-540,254</b>	<b>-472,000</b>	<b>-15,000</b>	<b>2,051,634</b>

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2 November 2021

### TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT

#### Report of the Chief Finance Officer

**Purpose of Report:** To report to Members on Treasury Management Performance for the first six months of the 2021-22 financial year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The National Park Authority is recommended to NOTE the Treasury Management Outturn for the first six months of the 2021-22 financial year.

**Authority Priority:** Achieve by providing core services; getting best value from our resources and improving our performance.

**Legal and Equality Implications:** Local Government Act 2003, Parts 1-3 (Capital Finance, Financial Administration and Grants), Sections 1-39.

Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, Part 2 (Financial Management and Internal Control).

The equality and human rights impact of the recommendations of this report have been assessed as having no adverse impact on any particular group or individual.

Background Papers: -

- The Local Government Act 2003 (LGA 2003)
- The CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-
- Sectoral Guidance Notes Revised Edition 2017 (CIPFA TM Code).
- The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities: Revised Edition 2017 (CIPFA Prudential Code).

**Financial and Risk Implications:** The implications are identified throughout the report.

**Climate Change Response:** It has been assessed that this report does not have an adverse impact on our ability to respond to climate change.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2021-22 is underpinned by the adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (Revised 2017), which includes the requirement for determining a treasury strategy on the likely financing and investment activity for the forthcoming financial year. The Code also recommends that the Authority is informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year.



- 1.2 CIPFA published new versions of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code) and the Treasury Management Code of Practice. MHCLG also published revised Investment Guidance which came into effect from April 2018. This report gives a summarised account of Treasury Management activity and outturn for the first half of the year, and ensures the Authority is embracing best practice in accordance with CIPFA recommendations.
- 1.3 During the reporting period, Somerset County Council (SCC) has managed Treasury Management activities under an agreed Service Level Agreement. Investments were made on the basis of aggregating funds in order to maximise the benefits for both bodies (including using SCC's "Comfund"). Accounting arrangements were in place to divide the interest gained (and charged) between the Authorities.
- 1.4 The Authority delegates responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices, and the execution of administration of treasury management decisions, to me as Chief Finance Officer.

## 2. INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

- 2.1 A total of £3,984 has been earned in Comfund gross interest in the first six months of the year on an average balance of £2.997m (£11,649 on £2.937m for the same period 2020-21). Comfund administration charges were £80, giving net income of £3,904 for the period.
- 2.2 The average revenue balance has remained consistent when compared to the same period last year, at £287k, from £286k the previous year. The average Comfund investment increased slightly by £60k from £2.937m for the same period 2020-21 to £2.997m this year. The benefit of using Comfund over revenue has been £3,904 for the year-to-date.
- 2.3 The combined return of Comfund and Revenue has been 0.24% on an average balance of £3.28m. When compared to the market, this represents a return 22 basis points in excess of the average 6-month LIBID figure for the year-to-date on an investment with an effective average duration of 2 weeks. The table below highlights these figures: -

	<b>Balance on 31/03/2021 £000</b>	<b>Rate as at 31/03 %</b>	<b>Balance on 30/09/2021 £000</b>	<b>Rate as at 30/09 %</b>	<b>Average Balance for period £000</b>	<b>Average Rate for period %</b>
Revenue Balances	28	0.00	140	0.00	286	0.00
Comfund Balances	2,900	0.34	3,200	0.20	2,997	0.26
<b>Total Balances</b>	<b>2,928</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>0.24</b>

- 2.4 The Guidance on Local Government Investments in England gives priority to security and liquidity and the Authority's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.

- 2.5 As mentioned in 1.3, SCC has managed Treasury Management activities under an agreed Service Level Agreement. Investments were made on the basis of aggregating funds in order to maximise the benefits for both bodies (including using SCC's "Comfund"). The current arrangement strategy of lending all surplus funds to SCC represents an investment that is virtually free from risk of counterparty default, as SCC is the only counterparty.
- 2.6 Security of capital remained SCC's main investment objective. Current SCC approved deposit counterparties are listed below. Those used during the first half of the year are denoted with a star.

<b>Bank or Building Society</b>		<b>Bank or Building Society</b>	
Australia & NZ Bank	*	Standard Chartered Bank	*
Bank of Scotland		Handelsbanken Plc	*
Bank of Montreal		Toronto-Dominion Bank	
Bank of Nova Scotia		United Overseas Bank	
Barclays Bank Plc			
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce		<b>Sterling CNAV Money Market Funds</b>	
Close Brothers Ltd		Goldman Sachs MMF	
Commonwealth Bank of Australia		Deutsche MMF	
DBS Bank Ltd	*	Invesco Aim MMF	*
DZ Bank		Federated Prime MMF	*
Goldman Sachs International Bank		JP Morgan MMF	
HSBC Bank	*	Insight MMF	
Landesbank Hessen- Thuringen		Aberdeen Standard MMF	*
Lloyds Bank		LGIM MMF	
National Australia Bank		SSGA MMF	*
National Westminster	*	Aviva MMF	*
Nationwide BS	*		
Nordea Bank		<b>Other Counterparties</b>	
OP Corporate Bank		Other Local Authorities	* (26)
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation		Debt Management Office	*
Rabobank		CCLA Property Fund	*
Royal Bank of Scotland		RLAM Credit Fund	*
Santander UK	*	M&G Corporate Bond Fund	*

- 2.7 During the period SCC has continuously monitored counterparties, and all ratings of proposed counterparties have been subject to verification on the day, immediately prior to investment. Other indicators taken into account have been:

- Credit Default Swaps and Government Bond Spreads.
- GDP and Net Debt as a Percentage of GDP for sovereign countries.
- Likelihood and strength of Parental Support.
- Banking resolution mechanisms for the restructure of failing financial institutions i.e. bail-in.
- Share Price.
- Market information on corporate developments and market sentiment towards the counterparties and sovereigns.

- 2.8 **Counterparty Update.** Over the period, Fitch and Moody's upwardly revised to stable the outlook on a number of UK banks and building societies on our counterparty list, recognising their improved capital positions compared to last year and better economic growth prospects in the UK.
- 2.9 Fitch also revised the outlooks for Nordea, Svenska Handelsbanken and Handelsbanken plc to stable from negative. The rating agency considered the improved economic prospects in the Nordic region to have reduced the baseline downside risks it previously assigned to the lenders.
- 2.10 The successful vaccine rollout programme is credit positive for the financial services sector in general and the improved economic outlook has meant some institutions have been able to reduce provisions for bad loans. While there is still uncertainty around the full extent of the losses banks and building societies will suffer due to the pandemic-related economic slowdown, the sector is in a generally better position now compared to earlier this year and 2020.
- 2.11 At the end of the period SCC Advisors Arlingclose had completed a full review of their credit advice on unsecured deposits. The outcome of this review included the addition of NatWest Markets plc to the counterparty list together with the removal of the suspension of Handelsbanken plc. In addition, the maximum duration for all recommended UK counterparties was extended to 100 days.

### 3. THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic continued to dominate the first half of the financial year. By the end of the period, over 48 million people in the UK had received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and almost 45 million their second dose.
- 3.2 The easing of restrictions boosted activity in the second quarter of the calendar year, helping push GDP up by 5.5% quarter-on-quarter. Household consumption was the largest contributor. Within the sector breakdown, production contributed 1.0%, construction 3.8% and services 6.5%, taking all of these close to their pre-pandemic levels.
- 3.3 Annual CPI inflation rose to 3.2% in August, exceeding expectations of 2.9%, with the largest upward contribution coming from restaurants and hotels. The Bank of England now expects inflation to exceed 4% by the end of the calendar year owing largely to developments in energy and goods prices. The Office of National Statistics' (ONS') preferred measure of CPIH which includes owner-occupied housing was 3.0% year-on-year, marginally higher than expectations for 2.7%.
- 3.4 The latest labour market data showed that in the three months to August 2021 the unemployment rate fell to 4.5%. The employment rate increased, and economic

activity rates decreased, suggesting an improving labour market picture. Latest data showed growth in average total pay (including bonuses) and regular pay (excluding bonuses) among employees was 7.2% and 6.0% respectively over the period. However, part of the robust growth figures is due to a base effect from a decline in average pay in the spring of last year associated with the furlough scheme.

- 3.5 The Bank of England (BoE) held Bank Rate at 0.1% throughout the period and maintained its Quantitative Easing programme at £895 billion, unchanged since the November 2020 meeting. In its September 2021 policy announcement, the BoE noted it now expected the UK economy to grow at a slower pace than was predicted in August, as the pace of the global recovery had shown signs of slowing and there were concerns inflationary pressures may be more persistent.
- 3.6 Monetary and fiscal stimulus together with rising economic growth and the ongoing vaccine rollout programmes continued to support equity markets over most of the period, albeit with a bumpy ride towards the end. The Dow Jones hit another record high while the UK-focused FTSE 250 index continued making gains over pre-pandemic levels. The more internationally focused FTSE 100 saw more modest gains over the period and remains below its pre-crisis peak.
- 3.7 The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield began the financial year at 0.36% before declining to 0.33% by the end of June 2021 and then climbing to 0.64% on 30th September. Over the same period the 10-year gilt yield fell from 0.80% to 0.71% before rising to 1.03% and the 20-year yield declined from 1.31% to 1.21% and then increased to 1.37%. Gilt yields have a direct correlation to Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates. The gradual fall from the beginning of the year turned into a sudden rise in PWLB borrowing rates at the end of September, and can be seen in Tables 2 and 3 in Appendix A.
- 3.8 London Interbank Bid (LIBID) rates based on the Intercontinental Exchange London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) fixings show that there was hardly any movement from April until the middle of September, with most periods up to 6 months spending the entire 6-months in negative territory. The 12-month figure hovered between 0.04% and 0.06% for most of the period but shot up to 0.25% in the last week of September, as the case for an interest rate rise was being increasingly considered. The 1-month, 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month LIBID rates averaged -0.07%, -0.05%, 0.02%, and 0.07% respectively over the period, and ended the period at -0.08%, -0.04, 0.05%, and 0.25% respectively.
- 3.9 Rates from banks to Local Authorities have generally followed LIBID rates, but with Arlingclose advice stating a maximum duration of 35-days with banks, this avenue of lending has been very restricted. Lending rates between Local Authorities have remained suppressed, as supply has outstripped demand, with many Authorities still holding large balances from Government Covid support grants. The effect that economic conditions had on money market rates during the period, can be seen in Table 1, Appendix A.

#### **4. DEBT MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The Authority is currently debt free. Any potential borrowing is driven by the capital plan. There are no plans that would necessitate borrowing during the remainder of 2021-22 or in the foreseeable future.

## 5. COMPLIANCE WITH PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

- 5.1 The Authority has no borrowing, and all lending remains at a maximum of one month duration, therefore all Prudential Indicators remain at zero. For completeness of reporting, and in line with the CIPFA code, the Authority can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2021-22. Those agreed by Full Authority and actual figures as at 30<sup>th</sup> September are included below: -

	2021-22 £thousand	As at 30-09-21 £thousand
Authorised limit (borrowing only)	100	0
Operational boundary (borrowing only)	100	0

### Maturity structure of borrowing

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	As at 30-09-21
Under 12 months	100%	0%	0%
>12 months and within 24 months	0%	0%	0%
>24 months and within 5 years	0%	0%	0%
>5 years and within 10 years	0%	0%	0%
>10 years	0%	0%	0%

	2021-22 £thousand	As at 30-09-21 £thousand
Prudential Limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 365 days	0	0

### Credit Risk Indicator

SCC has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating / credit score of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk (in conjunction with Arlingclose) and will be calculated quarterly.

Credit risk indicator (to be below target)	Target	Actual
Portfolio average credit rating (score)	A (6)	A+ (4.65)

CIPFA no longer recommends setting upper limits on fixed and variable rate exposures, so these are no longer calculated for this paper.

## 6. OUTLOOK FOR QUARTERS 3 & 4

- 6.1 Arlingclose expects Bank Rate to rise in Q2 2022. They believe this is driven as much by the Bank of England's desire to move away from emergency levels as by fears of inflationary pressure. Investors have priced in multiple rises in Bank Rate, to 1% by 2024. While Arlingclose believes Bank Rate will rise, it is by a lesser extent than expected by markets.

- 6.2 While Q2 UK GDP expanded more quickly than initially thought, the ‘pingdemic’ and more latterly supply disruption will leave Q3 GDP broadly stagnant. The outlook also appears weaker. Household spending, the driver of the recovery to date, is under pressure from a combination of retail energy price rises, the end of government support programmes and soon, tax rises. Government spending, the other driver of recovery, will slow considerably as the economy is taken off life support.
- 6.3 Government bond yields increased sharply following the September FOMC and MPC minutes, in which both central banks communicated a lower tolerance for higher inflation than previously thought. The MPC in particular has doubled down on these signals in spite of softer economic data. Bond investors expect higher near-term interest rates but are also clearly uncertain about central bank policy.
- 6.4 The MPC has made clear its intentions to tighten policy, possibly driven by a desire to move away from emergency levels. While the economic outlook will be challenging, the signals from policymakers suggest Bank Rate will rise unless data indicates a more severe slowdown.

A table of forecast rates to September 2024 is shown below: -

	Dec 21	Mar 22	Jun 22	Sep 22	Dec 22	Mar 23
Upside Risk	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25
Base Rate	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50
Downside Risk	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.40

	Jun 23	Sep 23	Dec 23	Mar 24	Jun 24	Sept 24
Upside Risk	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Base Rate	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Downside Risk	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40

## 7. SUMMARY

- 7.1 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during the first six months of 2021-22. As indicated in this report none of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

## 8. OTHER ISSUES

- 8.1 Changes to PWLB Terms and Conditions and Revised PWLB Guidance: From the 8th September 2021 the settlement time for a PWLB loan has been extended from two working days (T+2) to five working days (T+5). In a move to protect the PWLB against negative interest rates, the minimum interest rate for PWLB loans has also been set at 0.01% and the interest charged on late repayments will be the higher of Bank of England Base Rate or 0.1%.

HM Treasury published further guidance on PWLB borrowing in August 2021 providing additional detail and clarifications predominantly around the definition of an ‘investment asset primarily for yield’.

- 8.2 In February 2021 CIPFA launched two consultations on changes to its Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code of Practice. These followed the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that the prudential framework should be further tightened following continued borrowing by some authorities for investment purposes. In June, CIPFA provided feedback from this consultation. In September CIPFA issued the revised Codes and Guidance Notes in draft form and opened the latest consultation process on their proposed changes. The changes include:
- Clarification that (a) local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return (b) it is not prudent for authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority.
  - Categorising investments as those (a) for treasury management purposes, (b) for service purposes and (c) for commercial purposes.
  - Defining acceptable reasons to borrow money: (i) financing capital expenditure primarily related to delivering a local authority's functions, (ii) temporary management of cash flow within the context of a balanced budget, (iii) securing affordability by removing exposure to future interest rate rises and (iv) refinancing current borrowing, including replacing internal borrowing.
  - For service and commercial investments, in addition to assessments of affordability and prudence, an assessment of proportionality in respect of the authority's overall financial capacity (i.e. whether plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services).
  - Prudential Indicators
    - New indicator for net income from commercial and service investments to the budgeted net revenue stream.
    - Inclusion of the liability benchmark as a mandatory treasury management prudential indicator. CIPFA recommends this is presented as a chart of four balances – existing loan debt outstanding; loans CFR, net loans requirement, liability benchmark – over at least 10 years and ideally cover the authority's full debt maturity profile.
    - Excluding investment income from the definition of financing costs.
    - Incorporating ESG issues as a consideration within TMP 1 Risk Management.
    - Additional focus on the knowledge and skills of officers and elected members involved in decision making
- 8.3 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to continue to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield.
- 8.4 The Authority's objective when investing money remains to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

**Gordon Bryant**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
**October 2021**

## Appendix A

### Money Market Data and PWLB Rates

The average low and high rates correspond to the rates during the financial year-to-date, rather than those in the tables below.

Table 1: Bank Rate, Money Market Rates (LIBID Rates based on Intercontinental Exchange LIBOR rates)

Date	Bank Rate	O/N LIBID	7-day LIBID	1-month LIBID	3-month LIBID	6-month LIBID	12-month LIBID	2-yr SWAP Bid
01/04/2021	0.10	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	-0.04	-0.01	0.04	0.28
30/04/2021	0.10	-0.09	-0.08	-0.08	-0.04	-0.01	0.04	0.31
31/05/2021	0.10	-0.08	-0.08	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	0.04	0.31
30/06/2021	0.10	-0.08	-0.08	-0.07	-0.05	-0.02	0.06	0.37
31/07/2021	0.10	-0.09	-0.08	-0.07	-0.05	-0.04	0.06	0.43
31/08/2021	0.10	-0.08	-0.09	-0.07	-0.06	-0.02	0.09	0.48
30/09/2021	0.10	-0.09	-0.08	-0.08	-0.04	0.05	0.25	0.72
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>-0.07</b>	<b>-0.05</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>-0.07</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.73</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-0.09</b>	<b>-0.08</b>	<b>-0.07</b>	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.26</b>
<b>Spread</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.47</b>

Table 2: PWLB Borrowing Rates – Fixed Rate, Maturity Loans

Change Date	Notice No	4½-5 yrs	9½-10 yrs	19½-20 yrs	29½-30 yrs	39½-40 yrs	49½-50 yrs
01/04/2021	128/21	1.40	1.93	2.38	2.41	2.31	2.22
30/04/2021	167/21	1.40	1.91	2.32	2.34	2.24	2.13
31/05/2021	205/21	1.38	1.90	2.32	2.34	2.25	2.15
30/06/2021	249/21	1.36	1.81	2.23	2.25	2.16	2.07
31/07/2021	293/21	1.30	1.65	2.00	2.00	1.90	1.80
31/08/2021	335/21	1.32	1.66	2.02	2.01	1.90	1.80
30/09/2021	379/21	1.61	2.01	2.37	2.37	2.26	2.16
	<b>Low</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>1.93</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.69</b>
	<b>Average</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2.00</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>2.25</b>
	<b>Spread</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.56</b>



Table 3: PWLB Borrowing Rates – Fixed Rate, Equal Instalment of Principal (EIP) Loans

<b>Change Date</b>	<b>Notice No</b>	<b>4½-5 yrs</b>	<b>9½-10 yrs</b>	<b>19½-20 yrs</b>	<b>29½-30 yrs</b>	<b>39½-40 yrs</b>	<b>49½-50 yrs</b>
01/04/2021	128/21	1.16	1.43	1.95	2.24	2.38	2.42
30/04/2021	167/21	1.16	1.43	1.93	2.20	2.32	2.36
31/05/2021	205/21	1.15	1.41	1.92	2.20	2.32	2.36
30/06/2021	249/21	1.15	1.39	1.83	2.11	2.23	2.26
31/07/2021	293/21	1.14	1.31	1.66	1.89	2.00	2.02
31/08/2021	335/21	1.18	1.34	1.68	1.91	2.02	2.04
30/09/2021	379/21	1.39	1.63	2.03	2.27	2.37	2.39
	<b>Low</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.95</b>
	<b>Average</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>1.81</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.22</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>2.47</b>
	<b>Spread</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.52</b>

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2 November 2021

### EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY CLIMATE EMERGENCY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

#### Report of the Head of Strategy and Performance and Learning and Engagement Officer

**Purpose of Report:** To report to Members the outputs from engagement with young people regarding the climate emergency

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Authority is recommended to note the contents of the Plan and identify up to 3 Members to join a working group to look at future youth engagement.

**Authority Priority:** The Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan and Local Plan both include the Vision *'We are closer to achieving a carbon-neutral National Park to help mitigate climate change, and have introduced measures to adapt to changes in climate that are already happening'*.

**Legal and Equality Implications:** Section 65(4) Environment Act 1995 – provides powers to the National Park Authority to *"do anything which in the opinion of the Authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to:-*

- (a) the accomplishment of the purposes mentioned in s. 65 (1) [National Park purposes]*
- (b) the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment."*

**The equality impact of the recommendations of this report has been assessed as follows:** There are no foreseen adverse impacts on any protected group(s).

**Consideration has been given to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and an assessment of the implications of the recommendations of this report is as follows:** There are no implications for the Human Rights Act.

**Financial and Risk implications:** No financial or risk implications have been identified. The ENPA climate response action plan will need to be costed and included in the Authority's Corporate Planning and budgeting processes.

**Climate Response:** As set out in the report.

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In October 2019 the Authority declared a climate emergency and in August 2020 Members were updated on a range of work that is taking place. This included a series of climate change engagement activities ENPA's education team are leading with young people to gather their views on climate change: what they see as the key issues and what needs to be done globally, nationally and locally in relation to the issues relevant to the National Park. The outputs from this work are given below.

## **2. Survey**

- 2.1 A survey has been sent out to local secondary schools to start to build a generalised picture of the views of young people and the climate emergency. They were asked on a scale of 1 – 10 how serious they believe the climate emergency to be globally, nationally and locally. On average they believed the global crisis to be approximately a 7.6, nationally 5.9 and locally 4.8. Of the young people surveyed 53% disclosed that they had suffered with eco anxiety of which, 15% said that it was on a frequent basis. They were asked to rank world issues in order of importance, 28% ranked climate change as their top issue, taking the biggest number of votes, with racism at 22% and gender equality at 18%, as the other top choices. 59.4% of young people do not believe the UK government is taking the climate emergency seriously, 57.7% believe that environmental organisations, such as National Parks have a duty to put the climate emergency above all other organisational aims and 46% would like more targeted information about what environmental organisations such as National Parks are doing to tackle the climate emergency. They were given the chance to leave anecdotal feedback with some interesting responses. A select few given below.

'Climate change is really important and it needs to be shown more. People are not doing enough work to change the climate change out in the world and the message needs to be out more and inspire people to support climate change action. There are not enough signs/facts/posters about climate change so I feel that that needs to be done to interest people to help the climate change movement. Young people belong out in the fresh air so I feel that inspiring young people about climate change will help more with their mental and physical health.'

'I think the environment is really important, we should all do our bit to protect it, reduce consumerism, waste and wasteful energy consumption. Climate change is a problem and is having a global impact. I don't believe it is a climate "emergency" however, although countries like America and China should do more to reduce their pollution and over-exploitation of natural resources. I believe we have done and do a lot more in this country than other countries around the world to reduce greenhouse gasses, invest in sustainable energy and protect our natural environment. People need to take personal responsibility for their behaviour and think about whether they waste resources and what steps they can take to live more sustainably. National Parks have a duty to manage their land and to look after the environment they are responsible for.'

### **3. Workshops**

- 3.1 A series of workshops are being held with Year 10 pupils in secondary schools around the National Park. To date, 12 workshops have taken place with around 350 students. The workshops are approx. an hour in length and address topics such as the fundamentals of a National Park and the current work that is being addressed in relation to climate change specific to ENP, simplistic work around calculating the size of our carbon footprint and the major contributing factors, a discussion around eco anxiety, how to ease that feeling and the barriers that are created because of this psychology. Green Careers were also addressed, allowing young people to consider how green pathways can be bought into future careers. With an excess of options and choices, navigating a suitable career path can be daunting, especially with more than half of young Britons wanting to choose more sustainable business sectors.
- 3.2 The workshops aimed to inspire young people to be more conscious and deliberate with their green thinking by getting them to offer solutions to environmental challenges that they faced within their school environments. Students were encouraged to consider their passions and how these could be framed to address environmental issues, for example, looking at how a chef could cut food waste within a restaurant, or how a fashion designer may aim for circular economy models. Students were encouraged to consider their own skills and passions, as well as their influence, particularly on social media, for encouraging others to become more engaged in environmental protection.
- 3.3 Through these mass workshops we were able to identify the young people who had a passion and voice on this important topic, and we invited these students back for a more in-depth focus group. Though our time was limited in these sessions we were able to initiate a series of discussions, to understand what climate change meant to them in relation to their lives and what they believed were the biggest contributing factors to the emergency. The answers were unsurprising and mirrored topics covered frequently covered in the media, such as vehicle emissions, single use plastic and reducing meat and dairy consumption. The overarching theme seemed to be frustration that the next generation was being held responsible for the future of the planet and not enough was being done right now. With vocabulary such as 'emergency' and 'before it's too late' being used as standard, the young people we have engaged with are discouraged with the time scale policies are being driven by.
- 3.4 This was even more evident when we instigated a debate on tree planting. We very clearly described the pros and cons of conifers vs broad leaves and the majority were very clear that the right now, the fast-acting conifers are their preference. We were able to examine topics directly related to the National Park such as sustainable tourism, biodiversity, and farming. Whilst their views were based on simplistic information, their ability to form and articulate an opinion was well thought out.

## 4. Young Rangers

- 4.1 For the first time, Exmoor National Park will be offering a Young Rangers programme as an extension of this work, providing real and hands on experiences of working for the National Park and facing the challenges of combating climate change first-hand. They will take part in social-action activities such as tree seed collecting directly for our new tree nursery, delivering activities for members of the public during our Dark Skies Festival, visiting a farm practicing sustainable farming techniques, spending time in the field with the Ranger team as well as meeting Authority Members, the Chief Executive and other staff members for an informal discussion about their time spent with us. We are thrilled to have these young people who are clearly very passionate about the future of our planet.

## 5. Wider context

- 5.1 The outputs from the survey and workshop highlight increasing levels of 'eco-anxiety' amongst young people as well as a lack of clear information targeted at younger audiences. This mirrors research recently carried out by Mala Rao and Richard Powell, of Imperial College London's Department of Primary Care and Public Health and reported in the British Medical Journal, and national press. In their article, they said it was important to consider what could be done to alleviate the rising levels of climate anxiety. The conclusions of their research illustrate how ENPA's engagement work can best be targeted to help respond, particularly in terms of engagement with nature. *"The best chance of increasing optimism and hope in the eco-anxious young and old is to ensure they have access to the best and most reliable information on climate mitigation and adaptation. Especially important is information on how they could connect more strongly with nature, contribute to greener choices at an individual level, and join forces with like-minded communities and groups."*  
['Eco-anxiety': fear of environmental doom weighs on young people | Anxiety | The Guardian](#)

## 6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The work carried out with young people to date has highlighted the importance of engaging with young people on the issues that will impact on their future. The Education Team at Exmoor National Park will continue to discuss the climate change and nature emergencies with young people in schools and at Pinkery during residential stays. In addition, the team is working in partnership with Generation Green, a multi-agency project, designed to balance the growing disconnect between young people and the natural world. The aim is to make nature more accessible by removing barriers, not just financial but knowledge and skills in the outdoor environment. It's extremely exciting to be part of such a large coalition of outdoor education partners, including a research project from the University of Derby, who have developed a structure to engage people to build more meaningful and emotional connections with the environment. The funding for this piece of work is time limited but it is hoped that this work can become embedded as part of our core education offer in future.

6.2 Further consideration is being given as to how to enable the youth voice to reach the right people and how to create a forum for this feedback so that their opinions can strengthen decision making. It is proposed that a couple of members are identified to join officers in a task and finish group to look into options which can be brought back to the Authority at a future date. Initially this would be focused on how to continue engagement on the climate and nature emergencies but it is something that in due course could be extended to other issues.

**Sophie Tyler**  
**Learning and Engagement Officer**

**Clare Reid**  
**Head of Strategy and Performance**

**October 2021**

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2 November 2021

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK BYELAWS

### Report of the Head of Conservation and Access and Access and Recreation Manager

**Purpose of Report:** To update Members on the potential to create new byelaws and agree how to proceed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Authority is recommended to:

- (1) Agree to begin informal consultation on the byelaws as set out in the attached document.
- (2) If there are no unresolvable objections following the informal consultation, to continue with formal consultation and submit the proposed Byelaws to DEFRA for Secretary of State approval.

#### Authority Priority:

Partnership Plan Ambitions:

- More people enjoy Exmoor, are inspired, get involved and learn about its special qualities
- Exmoor has a first-class rights of way network. Our paths, open access and recreational facilities are enhanced to offer more and better experiences for people who want to explore the National Park
- The tourism economy is vibrant, innovative, and growing and celebrates Exmoor's

#### Legal and Equality Implications:

**The equality impact of the recommendation(s) of this report has been assessed as follows:** There are no equality impacts for this decision.

**Consideration has been given to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and an assessment of the implications of the recommendation(s) of this report is as follows:** There are considered to be no human rights issues in relation to this report.

**Financial and Risk Implications:** The proposed byelaws relate to our ability to charge for parking on some of our own car parks and therefore this has implications for our income generation. The topic of charging for parking can often draw out some negative public response.

**Climate Change Response:** It has been assessed that this report does not have an adverse impact on our ability to respond to climate change.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION**

- 1.1. Byelaws are local laws made by a local council under an enabling power contained in a public general act or a local act requiring something to be done – or not done – in a specified area. They are accompanied by some sanction or penalty for their non-observance.
- 1.2. Byelaws are considered measures of last resort after a local council has tried to address the local issue the byelaw applies to through other means. A byelaw cannot be made where alternative legislative measures already exist that could be used to address the problem. Byelaws should always be proportionate and reasonable. Where a byelaw is no longer necessary, it should be revoked
- 1.3. Following the changes in visitor numbers and activities during 2020 we have investigated the potential development and use of byelaws to help manage visitor behaviour. There have been some complaints and concerns raised around inconsiderate parking, overnight camping and stays in motorhomes, litter and other matters, especially following the 2020 season and we have considered whether byelaws could be a useful tool to help manage this. Byelaws have some potential to help control activity relating to camping, campervans, dogs, shooting, fishing, noise disturbance, wildlife disturbance, and flying drones for example but cannot be created where existing legislation is already in place.
- 1.4. Byelaws are also a potential avenue to enable a more cost-effective legal process for charging for parking in our own public car parks, avoiding any need for support from local councils which can be a lengthy and costly process.
- 1.5. National Park Authorities have powers to create byelaws through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the CROW Act 2000. Byelaws can be created within any National Park owned land and on land where there is public access. Some byelaws already exist on Exmoor which were put in place by Somerset County Council (SCC) before the ENPA existed. These byelaws can be enforced by SCC or the police, but not by ENPA
- 1.6. The public must be made aware of byelaws in place using notices on site and on the website. We are advised that byelaws are difficult to enforce but could result in a fine of £500 through court action. Evidence would need to be collected and satisfy the court that the person was guilty in the balance of probability.
- 1.7. The expectation of enforcing and policing any byelaws needs to be carefully considered, particularly given the difficulty in enforcing them. ENPA Rangers provide a welcoming presence and, as access professionals, offer advice and information. Work to deal with visitor behavior is only a small part of their role and additional specialist resources would be necessary to enforce any byelaws effectively.
- 1.8. This matter was raised at Members Forum in September 2021 and the following points were made:
  - Focus should be given to education rather than enforcement and the possible use of byelaws should be looked at with great care.
  - Byelaws should perhaps only be created where there is a specific and substantial problem, in the spirit of minimising regulation.
  - However, byelaws could be created and put in place ready to be used only should there be an issue, as they take a long time to create.



- To ensure a uniform approach, it would be important to work in partnership with other relevant groups and organisations, such as the National Trust, Brendon Commoners and Local Access Forum.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1. Given the likely difficulties in making effective use of byelaws to manage visitor behaviour it is not recommended that we pursue this element further at this time.
- 2.2. However, it is recommended that we draft byelaws to allow car park charging on ENPA owned or leased land and begin informal consultation. If no unresolvable objections are received, we should then proceed to formal consultation and follow the legal process to have the byelaws confirmed by the Secretary of State. It should be noted that any specific proposals for car park charging should always come before Members for approval.
- 2.3. As a separate piece of work we should monitor how effectively other National Parks, such as Dartmoor National Park Authority, use their new byelaws over next Summer, and then discuss further with Members and with relevant parties such as the National Trust, Brendon Commoners and Local Access Forum the potential for use of byelaws to address visitor management issues.

**Dan Barnett**  
**Access and Recreation Manager**  
**October 2021**



# EXMOOR

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## NATIONAL PARK

### Car Parking Byelaws

**National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949**

**BYELAWS made under Section 90 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by Exmoor National Park Authority with respect to land within the Exmoor National Park.**

#### 1 Interpretation

Throughout the byelaws set out below the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereinafter respectively assigned to them:

“Authority” means the Exmoor National Park Authority any other body which substantially performs any of the functions that previously had been performed by the Exmoor National Park Authority

“Emergency Personnel” means any person or persons employed by the emergency services (such as the fire service, the police service, the emergency medical service and the search and rescue service)

“Coach” means any Vehicles adapted to carry not less than twenty passengers;

“Cycle” means a bicycle, a tricycle or a cycle having four or more wheels not being in any case a Motor Cycle or Motor Vehicle

“Invalid Carriage” means a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not, the unladen weight of which does not exceed 150 kilograms, the width of which does not exceed 0.85 metres and which has been constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of one person being a person suffering from some physical defect or disability and is used solely by such a person

“Land” means the land at Exmoor National Park to be subject to these Byelaws and shown [XXX] on the Map

“Map” means the map attached to these Byelaws at the Schedule hereto

“Motor Cycle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle not being an Invalid Carriage with fewer than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kilograms

“Motor Vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle not being an Invalid Carriage intended or adapted for use on roads

“Vehicle” means any Motor Vehicle or Motor Cycle, or any animal propelled or drawn vehicle together with any caravan or trailer, whether towed or not

## 2 Extent of Byelaws

Nothing in these byelaws shall apply to the owner of any part of the Land as respects any act done on that part by him or by any person acting with his consent

## 3 Previous Byelaws

The Byelaws made by Somerset County Council (acting as Park Authority for Exmoor National Park) on 20 December 1973 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 17 March 1974 relating to the Access Land shall remain in full force and effect.

In the event of any conflict between these Byelaws and those Byelaws made on 20 December 1973 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on 17 March 1974 and relating to the Access Land, then these Byelaws shall take precedence.

## 4 Parking

(i) No person shall cause or permit a Vehicle to be parked on the Land unless they have parked in accordance with the Authority’s conditions (including the payment of any fee) for the time being in force and displayed on a notice to that effect on the Land.

(ii) The right to park a Vehicle within 15 yards (13.75 metres) of a road as permitted under Section 34 Road Traffic Act 1988 shall not apply to those verges where the Authority has erected signs indicating that parking off the highway at those points is prohibited.

(iii) No person shall park any Vehicle other than a coach on the part or parts of the Land set aside for the parking of coaches

(iv) No person shall park a coach other than on a part of the Land set aside for the parking of coaches

(v) No person shall without reasonable excuse park or cause to remain on the Land a caravan or trailer attached or unattached to a towing vehicle, except on any area which is set apart and indicated by notice as a place where the parking of such caravans or trailers is permitted

(vi) No person shall park any Vehicle on the Land in such a manner as to impede the flow of agricultural traffic or livestock, to block (in whole or part) gateways or cattlegrid entrances.

This Byelaw 4 shall not apply to Emergency Personnel who are on duty and responding to an emergency event on or near the Land.

## 5 Car Parking Charges

For the purposes of the institution of proceedings in respect of the offence of failure to comply with Byelaw 4 it shall be conclusively presumed (notwithstanding that that person may not be an individual) that the owner of the Vehicle was the driver of the Vehicle at the relevant time and, accordingly, that acts or omissions of the driver of the Vehicle at that time were his acts or omissions

## 6 Savings for Officers

An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the land by an Officer of the Authority or by any person or servant of any person employed by or acting with the authority of the Authority shall not be deemed an offence against these Byelaws.

## 7 Penalty

Any person who offends against any of these Byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine on level 2 on the Standard Scale and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine for each day during which the offence continues after the said conviction.

## Schedule 1

*Land.*

Given under the Common Seal of the Exmoor National Park Authority

this                                  day of                                  20

EXECUTED as a Deed by                  )  
affixing the Common Seal of                  )  
EXMOOR NATIONAL                                  )  
PARK AUTHORITY                                  )  
in the presence of:-                                  )

Authorised officer

Name of authorised officer

Document No: .....

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY EXMOOR CONSULTATIVE AND PARISH FORUM NOTES

of the meeting of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum held  
on Thursday 16 September 2021 at 7pm by Video Conference

### PRESENT

Mike Ellicott	Exmoor National Park Authority and Chairman of the Forum
Vivian White	Exmoor National Park Authority and Deputy Chair of the Forum
Liz Bulled	North Devon District Council
Frances Nicholson	Exmoor National Park Authority
Alan Collins	Withypool and Hawkridge Parish Council
John Anson	Cutcombe Parish Council
Rachel Thomas	Exmoor Society
Christine Lawrence	ENPA Member
Ian Cowling	Trustee Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust
Jeremy Yabsley	ENPA Member
Caitlin Collins	Timberscombe Parish Council
Max Lawrence	Selworthy and Minehead without Parish Council
Paul Jobin	Resident
Frances Nicholson	ENPA Member
Robin Wichard	Nettlecombe Parish Council

### 1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Dr Susan Warren	ENPA Member
Sir Richard Peek	North Molton Parish Council
Kevin Connell	Winsford Parish Council
Robin Milton	ENPA Member
Penny Webber	ENPA Member

### National Park Authority staff in attendance:

Dean Kinsella, Head of Planning & Sustainable Development  
Clare Reid, Head of Strategy and Performance  
Alex Farris, Conservation and Wildlife Manager  
Hazel Malcolm, Business Support Officer (Note Taker)

2. **MINUTES:** The [minutes](#) of the Forum meeting held on 10 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising

### 3. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR (Submitted in advance):

**Question:** Would it be possible to have an update on the health of Exmoor Heather, Heather beetle control etc?

**Answer:** This will be discussed in Item 5.

**Question:** Please could we have an update on relevant activities or developments pertaining to the climate and environmental emergency?

**Answer:** This question will be answered under Item 11.

#### **4. UPDATE ON FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES**

Alex Farris, Conservation Manager for ENPA updated the forum on the new Defra funding scheme called Farming in Protected Landscapes.

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) is a three-year investment programme. Grants are available to any landowner or anyone who has landowner permission for projects on land in or very near Exmoor National Park. An example of someone applying for a grant with landowner permission could be an environmental third sector organisation.

The FiPL funding is available across all protected landscapes in England. Each protected landscape has its own allocation of FiPL funding. ENPA has been granted £500,000 in the first year of the FiPL programme. £415,000 of which is available as programme spend. This Programme spend needs to be spent by March 2022.

There are a wide range of outcomes under FiPL broadly based on climate, nature, people and place. ENPA have a FiPL Local Assessment Panel consisting of 10 people on which three ENPA Authority Members will sit along with 3 members of the Exmoor Hill Farm Network, a representative of Natural England, a panel member from the National Trust, a representative of the environmental third sector, some floating panel members who provide certain expertise depending on the applications received, and ENPA Officers will also sit on the panel.

Currently ENPA have received 50 Expressions of Interest from over 40 different applicants.

More information can be found on the ENPA website:

[Exmoor - Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme \(exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk\)](https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/exmoor-farming-in-protected-landscapes-programme)

#### **5. HEALTH OF EXMOOR HEATHER**

Alex Farris, Conservation Manager for ENPA discussed the issue of the health of heather on Exmoor with the Forum. This is not something that ENPA has all the answers on and would require proper funded research programme to look into the issue. The vitality of the heather is affected by the changing climate and changing methods of managing the land along with other factors such as atmospheric nitrogen deposition.

In conclusion there was no definite answer. Forum Members were concerned any future research would be too late. There was some criticism of public bodies, not just ENPA but Natural England too that they were not acting fast enough on issues raised by local communities.

#### **6. MOBILE HOMES ON EXMOOR**

Paul Jobin raised the issue of an increasing number of mobile homes appearing across Exmoor without planning permission. There was criticism of the ENPA planning system which is seen as allowing this to happen. In reply Dean Kinsella ENPA's Head

of Planning pointed out that this is not just a National Park issue but happens widely across all land. Dean Kinsella recognised and accepted some Exmoor residents may be frustrated by what they see as a lack of action from ENPA and reiterated cases of mobile or static homes without planning permission are investigated through the correct planning enforcement procedures.

Mr Jobin's presentation can be found [Paul-Jobin-to-ECPF-FINAL-Sept-16-2021.pdf \(exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk\)](#)

## **7. PLANNING ISSUES**

Dean Kinsella Head of Planning for ENPA outlined discussed that there was some suggestions in the media that there may be some changes to the proposed Government Planning White Paper. However, A formal response to the White Paper is expected towards the end of the year.. There is also a consultation from Central Government regarding changes to the permitted development rights. These include whether the current temporary changes to allow 56 days for the temporary use of land or temporary buildings should become a permanent change. Also included in the consultation was whether the temporary change to allow for outdoor seating outside restaurants and public houses and local markets should be permanent. Dean Kinsella set out that the latter two consultations would have less impact on Exmoor but there was need to consider the impact of these changes.

## **8. FARMING ISSUES**

It was noted by Forum Members that livestock prices were buoyant despite doom and gloom around Brexit and other issues.

## **9. EMERGING ISSUES OR TOPICS FOR WIDER DEBATE**

There were no issues raised. Forum Members were reminded to send any issues for discussion at future Forum meetings to Hazel Malcolm [hamalcolm@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:hamalcolm@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

## **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18 November. Time and place dependent on Corona Virus restrictions. Should you wish to register for the next meeting please contact Hazel Malcolm at [hmalcolm@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:hmalcolm@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS OF URGENCY**

Clare Reid, Head of Strategy and Performance outlined some of the work ENPA is undertaking in response to the climate emergency.

Following the declaration of a climate emergency, and the commitment to work towards being carbon neutral by 2030, Exmoor National Park Authority's Climate Action Plan was signed off by members at the August Authority and is now available on our [website](#). This includes analysis of the Authority's carbon footprint, identifies objectives and actions for reducing carbon emissions, and provides a trajectory for meeting the carbon neutral target by 2030. Further details are available in the Authority [Report](#) .



Plans are now being developed to develop an Exmoor National Park climate response, to feed into the next Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan review. This is likely to include updating the carbon footprint metrics for the National Park, establishing a climate neutral target, undertaking a climate adaptation assessment, and identifying partnership actions to respond to these.

With the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) being hosted by the UK in November 2021, we are preparing a social media campaign and activities including working with local schools to highlight the National Park's response to the climate emergency and encourage everyone to take action. If you have plans for local actions on climate change then please contact Clare Reid [creid@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk](mailto:creid@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk)

In the meantime, much of Exmoor NPA's work is part of our response to climate change.

You may have seen in the media recently the report published highlighting the sad rise in eco-anxiety amongst young people regarding climate change.

### **Four in 10 young people fear having children due to climate crisis**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/14/four-in-10-young-people-fear-having-children-due-to-climate-crisis>

This is echoed in the work Exmoor NPA's Education team have been doing with young people from local schools to explore their concerns about climate change and the future

However, there are some positive actions taking place on Exmoor:

- funding has recently been secured by the Exmoor Mires Partnership for further peatland restoration work, adding to the 2,500 hectares of peat bog already restored.
- 13K trees will be planted on Exmoor this winter as part of a new woodland we are creating towards a goal of 17% tree cover - the amount recommended by the IPCC. People can support the effort by donating to CareMoor for Exmoor.
- 1 million tonnes of carbon are stored in Exmoor's hedgerows and free-standing trees alone and funding through the new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme could help to boost this further.
- On Exmoor you'll already find grass-fed beef and lamb, plus organic fruit and vegetables. The Eat Exmoor project is supporting local producers to promote their products. Consumer buying power can help to lower the carbon footprint of our food and support a greener economy.
- The Nature Recovery Vision for Exmoor includes nature and people thriving across the landscape with landowners, communities and resilient farm businesses at the heart of delivery.
- Local communities across Exmoor are taking action, for example Lyn Climate Action and West Somerset Together and have events planned in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November
- We are supporting local businesses and community groups to sign up to Plastic Free Exmoor to minimise single use plastic