ITEM 8

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

5 July 2011

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Report of the Chief Executive

Purpose of the report: In accordance with Standing Orders to set out the annual appointments to be made to the Authority's Committees, partnership boards and working groups as are necessary to carry out the work of the Authority and to set out the annual appointments to outside bodies.

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."

Local Government Acts 1972, 2000 etc. – the meetings and proceedings of a National Park Authority are regulated by local government law as if the National Park Authority was a local authority, e.g. public access to meetings, publications of agendas, Member code of conduct etc.

Financial and Risk Implications: There are no significant financial or risk implications of the recommendation of this report.

Management Plan Objectives: The Authority's annual appointments are central to the achievement of the Management Plan's objectives and targets.

RECOMMENDATION: The Authority to make appointments to all operational Committees, partnership boards, working groups and outside bodies as listed in the appendices to this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with its Standing Orders, the Authority shall at its Annual Meeting, make appointments to its Committees, panels or working groups as are necessary to carry out the work of the Authority.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, PARTNERSHIP BOARDS AND WORKING GROUPS

2.1 A schedule of the Authority's Committees, partnership boards and working groups is attached at Appendix A and includes current appointments and expressions of interest in appointments for 2011-12.

3. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

3.1 A schedule of appointments to outside bodies is attached at Appendix B and includes current appointments and expressions of interest in appointments for 2011-12.

Nigel Stone Chief Executive June 2011

MEMBER APPOINTMENTS: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 2011/12

APPENDIX A

Statutory Meetings	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
Planning Committee Under Standing Orders the Planning Committee comprises all Authority members unless any decide they do not wish to be appointed. Meets monthly.	All Authority Members	
Resources and Performance Committee Under Standing Orders this committee comprises 11 members of the Authority made up as follows:- 2 Somerset County Councillors; 2 West Somerset District Councillors; 1 Devon County Councillor; 1 North Devon District Councillor; 3 Secretary of State Appointed National Members; 2 Secretary of State Appointed Parish Members. Meets 4 times a year, plus a short meeting on the day of Annual meeting to appoint Chairman and Deputy Chairman.	Mrs F Nicholson (Deputy Chairman) (SCC) Mr W J Dyke (SCC) Mr S J Pugsley (WSDC) VACANCY (WSDC) (formerly Mr R J Webber) Miss A V Davis (DCC) Mr R C Edgell (NDDC) Mr N Holliday (SoS) Dr J Wibberley (SoS) Mr R Milton (SoS) Mr R Milton (SoS) Wr I Rigby (Parish) VACANCY (Parish) (formerly Mr M A Collins)	Mrs F Nicholson Mr W J Dyke Mr S J Pugsley Mr J Freeman Miss A V Davis Mr R C Edgell Mr N Holliday Dr J Wibberley Mr R Milton Mr I Rigby Mr R J Webber Mr A L Wright
Standards Committee Under Standing Orders this committee comprises 3 Authority Members and 5 independent members. Meets as required. The coalition government intends to effect the abolition of the Standards Board regime through the Localism Bill. It is anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent late-2011. The present conduct regime will continue until a date to be advised, probably two months after the Bill receives Royal Assent.	Mrs A M Clitheroe Mr J Freeman Mr S J Pugsley Independent Members: Mr P Dalling, Mrs J Ernest, Mrs C Hodgson (Chairman), Mr A Pierce, vacancy	Mrs A M Clitheroe Mr J Freeman Mr S J Pugsley
Exmoor Local Access Forum The statutory independent Local Access Forum is an advisory body administered by the Authority, which has 2 representatives from the Authority. The Forum currently has a total of 17 members and advises as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment and meets twice a year.	Mr R Milton [Mr J Gurney previously appointed as an independent Forum member]	Mr R Milton Mr J Gurney
External Consultation Group		
Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum Acts as a forum for consultation and discussion of matters of principle affecting the National Park and promotes better understanding between the National Park Authority and other bodies having an interest in the National Park. Meets 5 times a year.	Mr S J Pugsley (Chairman) Mrs F Nicholson (Deputy Chairman) Mr R Milton (Deputy Chairman) All Authority Members	Mr S J Pugsley Mrs F Nicholson Mr R Milton

Partnership Boards and Working Groups	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
Chairman's Group (This comprises The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority, the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Planning and Resources and Performance Committees and the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum). Advisory group only, advising the Chief Executive. Usually meets monthly.	The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee, Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum	
Carbon Neutral Exmoor Steering Group The group provides direction for the Carbon Neutral Exmoor project which aims to support communities and land managers in developing low carbon initiatives that will contribute to the aspiration of achieving carbon neutrality for the National Park - includes 2 Member appointments.	Miss A V Davis Mr J Freeman	Miss A V Davis Mr J Freeman
Dark Sky Discovery Project Steering Group New initiative with multiple partners which aims to encourage the celebration and enjoyment of Dark Skies. Exmoor is a focus for activities and funding is available in 2011/12. A steering group to be established to include 1 Member of the Authority.	VACANCY	Mrs A M Clitheroe Mr J Freeman Dr S Head Mr I Rigby
Deer Management Group The group's focus is a stable and healthy population of red deer in balance with its impact on the natural environment. Meets occasionally, as required and includes 3 Members of the Authority.	Mr R C Edgell Dr J Wibberley VACANCY (formerly Mr M J Pile)	Mr R C Edgell Dr J Wibberley Mr I Rigby Mr R J Webber
Dunster Working Group (This comprises 3 members of the Authority plus representation from various external organisations). The role of the Dunster Working Group is to develop a vision for environmental quality, economic viability and social well-being for Dunster Village and the surrounding area, together with a programme for consultation and implementation of the vision. Meets as required.	Chairman of the Planning Committee Mrs F Nicholson Ms D Kershaw Mrs C M Lawrence (also as local County Councillor)	Mrs C M Lawrence
Exmoor Moorland Initiative Board (<i>This comprises 3 members of the Authority plus 8 – 10 people nominated by other organisations with a particular interest in Exmoor's moorlands</i>) In 2004, to mark the 50 th anniversary of the designation of Exmoor as a National Park, the Authority launched a comprehensive review of the moorlands of Exmoor culminating in a major conference in Lynton in October of that year. One of the key outputs was the publication of <i>Moorlands at a Crossroads – the State of the Moorlands of Exmoor –</i> a report by Land Use Consultants commissioned by the Exmoor Society. The Authority set up the Exmoor Moorland Initiative Board in 2005 to keep up the momentum generated during the anniversary year and to help address the issues raised. The Board usually meets two or three times a year.	VACANCY (formerly M A Collins) Mr R J Webber Dr J Wibberley	Dr S Head Mr R Milton Mr R J Webber Dr J Wibberley

Partnership Boards and Working Groups	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
Local Development Framework Advisory Group The Local Development Framework will replace the policies of the Exmoor National Park Local Plan 2001-2011. The Advisory Group assists Officers with the programme to prepare the Local Development Framework, which will contain the policies and programmes to guide the development and use of land in the National Park, and inform decisions on planning applications and appeals. Meets as required, usually 4 times a year.	Authority Chairman and Deputy Chairman, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mrs A M Clitheroe Mr R C Edgell Mr J Freeman Mr N Holliday Ms D Kershaw Mrs C Lawrence Mrs B Maitland-Walker Mr I Rigby VACANCY (formerly Mr M A Collins) VACANCY (formerly Mr S Hibbert) VACANCY (formerly Mr F Rawle)	Mrs A M Clitheroe Mr R C Edgell Mr J Freeman Mr N Holliday Ms D Kershaw Mrs C Lawrence Mrs B Maitland-Walker Mr R J Webber
Low Carbon Staff and Member Travel Group (Established by the Resources and Performance Committee on 10 November 2009 as part of the Carbon Neutral Action Plan). The Group's role is to support a task force comprising all sections of the Authority to develop and manage a corporate approach to carbon neutrality.	Mr W J Dyke Miss A V Davis	Task and finish group - no longer required.
Lynmouth Pavilion Project Member Panel (<i>Established at the Authority meeting on 21 April 2009 and comprises 2 Members</i>) The Panel's role is to assist with the many strands of this project including public consultation, planning considerations and the development of an interpretation plan. Meets as required.	Miss A V Davis Dr S Head	Miss A V Davis Dr S Head
Lynton and Lynmouth Neighbourhood Planning Project Steering Group Following the successful application to the Department of Communities and Local Government for Lynton & Lynmouth to become a neighbourhood planning vanguard, one of 17 communities to be led by their local planning authority to prepare draft plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders, a Lynton and Lynmouth Neighbourhood Planning Project Steering Group is to be established to include two members of the Authority.	VACANCY VACANCY	Miss A V Davis Mr J Gurney Ms D Kershaw Mr I Rigby
National Park Authority Performance Assessment Group (Established at the Authority meeting on 19 January 2010) The role of the Group is to assist the Chief Executive in preparing for the National Park Authority Performance Assessment in autumn 2012. Meets as required.	Mr W J Dyke Miss A V Davis	Mr W J Dyke Miss A V Davis

Partnership Boards and Working Groups	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
National Park Management Plan Implementation Board (Established at the Authority meeting on 5 February 2008 and comprises 9 Members: Chair and 8 Lead Member Roles). The Board is a mechanism for driving forward achievement and maintaining focus on the Authority's priorities and objectives. Meets 3 times a year. Chairman Landscape Wildlife / Biodiversity Historic Environment Natural Resources Farming & Land Management Understanding and Enjoyment Recreation & Tourism People & Communities Pony Panel (Established at the Resources & Performance Committee meeting on 3 March 2009, to comprise 2 members of the Authority and 3 or 4 particularly knowledgeable people). The Panel's role is to advise on the management of the Authority's pony herds. Meets as required.	 Mr R Milton (Chairman) VACANCY (formerly Mr M A Collins) Dr S Head Mr W J Dyke Mr J Freeman Dr J Wibberley Mr I Rigby Mr J Yabsley Mr R J Webber Mrs B Maitland-Walker Mr R Milton	 Mr R Milton Dr S Head Mr W J Dyke Mr J Freeman Dr J Wibberley Mr I Rigby Mr J Yabsley Mr R J Webber Mrs B Maitland-Walker Mr R Milton
Rural Housing Enabler Project Steering Group (This comprises 2 members of the Authority plus representation from North Devon and West Somerset District Councils, local housing associations and the Countryside Agency) The Rural Housing Project aims to provide new affordable housing for people with a strong local connection to the area and provides independent advice on delivering affordable rural housing across the whole of North Devon and West Somerset, including Exmoor. It is managed by a Steering Group reflecting its membership, which meets 4 times a year.	Miss A V Davis Mr R J Webber	Miss A V Davis Mr R J Webber
Spending Review Advisory Group (Established by the Resources and Performance Committee at its meeting on 22 June 2010 and comprising the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee, and a Secretary of State appointed Member of the Resources and Performance Committee. Meets as required.	 Chairman of the Authority Deputy Chairman of the Authority Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee Deputy Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee Secretary of State appointed Member of the Resources and Performance Committee – Mr N Holliday 	 Authority Chairman Deputy Chairman R&P Chairman R&P Deputy Chairman Mr N Holliday

Partnership Boards and Working Groups	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
West Somerset Mineral Railway Executive Committee (This comprises 1 member from the Authority (plus representation from a number of other interests). From 2005, the Authority led a partnership including include West Somerset District Council, the Forestry Commission, Somerset County Council, Watchet Town Council, English Heritage, Watchet Market House Museum, the Exmoor Mines Research Group and the Somerset Rural Youth Project to conserve and make accessible key sites of the West Somerset Mineral Railway. An independent successor body has been established to represent the interests of the West Somerset Mineral Railway and its associated sites and history and to maintain the focus that the Project has created. The Executive Committee is therefore currently inactive but will meet if required.	Mr J Freeman	Mr J Freeman
Woodlands and Carbon Project Steering Group (Lead Officer: Woodland Officer) In partnership with the Forestry Commission, a new joint pilot project for the next three years will focus on the role of woodlands in mitigating and adapting to climate change using the National Park as a case study. The aim will be to identify local actions that will benefit land managers, for example by reducing costs and increasing income, and also increasing carbon stores and reducing carbon emissions. The project will also look at other ways to add value to woodland produce, for example, by developing timber designs for new buildings and looking at the whole area of local sourcing of timber for local sustainable construction. A steering group to be established to include 1 member of the Authority.	VACANCY	Mrs A M Clitheroe Mr J Freeman Mr J Gurney Dr S Head Dr J Wibberley

APPENDIX B

Appointments to Outside Bodies	Current Appointments	Expressions of
		Interest 2011/12
UK Association of National Park Authorities Executive Committee (Lead officer: Chief Executive) UK ANPA is the Association of the 15 Chairmen and Convenors of the UK National Park Authorities. The UK ANPA vision is to raise the profile, understanding and relevance of these protected landscapes and to facilitate training and development opportunities for NPA Members and staff.	The Chairman of the Authority, sub Deputy Chairman	
English National Park Authorities Association Executive (Lead officer: Chief Executive) ENPAA exists to promote and further the needs of the ten English National Park Authorities by providing a collective voice; representing their interests to a range of policy makers, Parliamentarians and other decision makers; and raising the profile of the work of the authorities and facilitating discussion on issues of common concern.	The Chairman of the Authority, sub Deputy Chairman	
All Parks E-Government Group (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The group monitors the development of the National Parks Portal and Extranet.	Mrs F Nicholson	
Campaign for National Parks (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Campaign for National Parks is a national charity that campaigns and speaks out to protect and promote National Parks.	Miss A V Davis	Miss A V Davis
Community Council for Somerset Board of Trustees (Lead officer: Policy and Community Manager) As part of a nationwide network of charitable organisations, the Community Council works with and supports rural people and aims to enhance life throughout Somerset by equipping rural communities to effect positive change.	Mr R J Webber	Mrs C Lawrence
Dunster Area Panel (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Panel provides liaison between all tiers of local government and other agencies. It meets quarterly and membership includes the Police, Highways, County, District and Parish Councillors, together with other local organisations.	No formal appointment previously made as Authority representation has been by way of invitation.	
Exmoor Area Panel (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Panel provides liaison between all tiers of local government and other agencies. It meets quarterly and membership includes the Police, Highway Authority, County, District and Parish Councillors, together with other local organisations.	No formal appointment previously made as Authority representation has been by way of invitation.	
Exmoor Hill Farm Project (Lead officer: Natural Environment Manager) Based in Wheddon Cross at the market site and funded through the SW Regional Development Agency, the Exmoor Hill Farm Project supports livestock farming on Exmoor. The project team helps livestock farmers to improve the profitability of their businesses, including the development of strategic projects as well as encouraging access to support and funding available through the Rural Development Programme for England. The project covers the geographical area of Exmoor, was launched in 2009 and will operate until the end of June 2013. The current chair is National Park Authority Member, Dr J Wibberley.	Dr J Wibberley	Dr J Wibberley

Appointments to Outside Bodies	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
Local Action Group for the Leader 4 Torridge and North Devon Programme (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Local Action Group comprises representatives from a wide range of local stakeholders and has responsibility for the management, co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the Leader 4 Torridge and North Devon Programme which provides funding and support to address rural development challenges in the area.	Mr I Rigby	Mr I Rigby
Local Government Association Rural Commission (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Commission provides the forum in which rural authorities can discuss matters of common concern and exchange good practice and experience and assists the LGA to take into account the needs, priorities and aspirations of rural authorities.	Miss A V Davis	Miss A V Davis
Lynton and Lynmouth Traffic Management Group (Lead officer: Head of Support to the Community) The Group is made up of representatives of the National Park Authority, Town Council, Chamber of Trade, District Council and County Highways to consider the management of traffic and parking in Lynton and Lynmouth.	Miss A V Davis VACANCY (formerly Mrs S Hibbert)	Miss A V Davis Mr J Gurney Mr I Rigby
Minehead Area Panel (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Panel provides liaison between all tiers of local government and other agencies. It meets quarterly and membership includes, the Police, Highway Authority, County, District and Parish Councillors, together with other local organisations.	Mrs B Maitland-Walker	Mrs B Maitland-Walker
North Devon AONB Partnership (Lead Officer: Head of Support to Land Managers) The North Devon AONB Partnership's primary task is taking forward the objective of conserving the natural beauty of the landscape of the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	Miss A V Davis	Miss A V Davis
North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan: North Devon and Somerset Coastal Advisory Group (Lead officer: Head of Support to the Community) The Group consists of representatives from the County and District Councils, Environment Agency, English Heritage, National Trust, Natural England, Exmoor National Park Authority and provides forums for discussion and co-operation, and plays an important role in the development of the Shoreline Management Plan.	Mr J Freeman Dr S Head	Mr J Freeman Dr S Head
North Devon + (Lead Officer: Chief Executive) North Devon+ is a not-for-profit membership organisation formed in May 2007. The vision of ND+ and its partners is for North Devon to be an attractive and vibrant place to live, learn, work and visit, based upon a high quality environment and a prosperous and sustainable economy, and its aim is to create the conditions in which that vision can be achieved.	Mr J Yabsley (sub Miss A V Davis)	Mr J Yabsley (sub Miss A V Davis)

Appointments to Outside Bodies	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
Regional Environment Network (REN) (Lead officer: Natural Environment Manager) The South West Environment Network is an independent network of environmental agencies, organisations and groups in the South West of England, which aims to make an important contribution to the regional agenda by adding real value to the efforts of those involved in protecting and enhancing the environment of the South West, in the context of sustainable development.	Mr J Freeman Dr S Head	Dr S Head
South West Councils (Lead officer: Head of Transition) South West Councils brings together the 41 local authorities in the region to provide a voice for constituent local authorities on major issues affecting the South West.	The Chairman of the Authority	
Somerset Strategic Partnership (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The Somerset Strategic Partnership is a single body that brings together, at a local level, councils and statutory agencies.	The Chief Executive	
Somerset Strategic Planning Conference (Lead officer: Policy and Community Manager) Somerset Strategic Planning Conference is a voluntary partnership between Somerset County Council and Somerset District Councils, The National Park Authority, the Regional Development Agency, Regional Assembly and Local Government Office. It is a mechanism for coordination of strategic land use, transport and economic planning and forms part of the Somerset Local Strategic Partnership. Meets as required.	Mrs B Maitland-Walker Mr R J Webber	The Somerset Strategic Planning Conference is currently suspended.
Somerset Public Transport Forum (Lead officer: Head of Support to the Community) The Forum provides a focal point for communication between officers and Members of Somerset County Council, train operating companies and bus operators.	Mr J Freeman	
South West Coast Path Forum (Lead officer: Access and Recreation Manager) The Forum draws in a wide range of interests, raising awareness of issues and approaches and keeping the South West Coast Path on the agenda of its members. Forum members meet once a year.	Mr J Freeman Dr S Head	Mr J Freeman Mr J Gurney Dr S Head
South West Water Recreation and Conservation Forum (Lead officer: Access and Recreation Manager) This Forum consists of representatives of South West Water, local authorities, Exmoor National Park Authority, conservation bodies and recreation user groups. It advises South West Water on recreation and conservation issues on its land water holding and meets twice a year.	Mrs F Nicholson	

Appointments to Outside Bodies	Current Appointments	Expressions of Interest 2011/12
South West Uplands Task Force (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The primary focus of the Task Force is to help to achieve sustainable livestock farming and environmental management in the region's upland areas and includes representatives from Natural England, Defra, Government Office South West, Environment Agency, RSPB, South West Regional Development Agency, South West Uplands Federation, National Farmers Union. Meets as required.	Dr J Wibberley	Dr J Wibberley
Torridge and North Devon Joint Local Strategic Partnership (Lead officer: Chief Executive) The joint LSP operates over the two districts, driven by North Devon and Torridge District Councils, and working with Devon County Council and other partners to bring key organisations and local strategies together and to identify the communities' top priorities and needs, and then work with local people to address them.	Miss A V Davis (sub Mr J Yabsley)	Miss A V Davis (sub Mr J Yabsley)
West Somerset Strategic Partnership (Lead officer: Policy and Community Manager) The West Somerset Strategic Partnership brings together leaders from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to establish priorities for joint action and to develop a long-term strategic direction for the area. The main purpose of the Partnership is to provide the strategic direction needed to drive through changes that will improve the quality of life in West Somerset with a vision that by 2020, West Somerset will be a vibrant, balanced and sustainable community. Usually meets 4 times a year.	Mr J Freeman with Chief Executive as sub	Mr J Freeman
Western Somerset Local Action for Rural Communities (Lead officer: Sustainability and Economy Manager) The Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) follows the 'Leader' approach as a community based delivery mechanism – this is an area specific, bottom up approach led by a local partnership. Its vision is towards a low carbon economy and its aim is to enable rural communities to diversify and strengthen their quality of life. Usually meets approximately every 6 weeks.	Mr J Freeman	Mr J Freeman