

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2008

LOCAL PROCEDURES FOR THE HANDLING AND DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINTS UNDER LOCAL PROTOCOLS

Report by: Kevin Gardner, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Summary

At its last meeting, the Authority considered a report concerning revised procedures for the handling and determination of a complaint that a member of the Authority has failed to comply with the Authority's "Local Protocol for Members and Officers dealing with Planning Matters" or "Protocol for Member and Officer Relations" (together referred to in this report as the "Local Protocol"). Revision was necessary to ensure consistency with procedures for local handling of complaints under the Members' Code of Conduct. In a full discussion, one issue was identified for further investigation, namely whether the member the subject of an investigation and the investigating officer should both have the right to request that parts of the investigation report, or other documents, should be withheld from the public. The position has been checked with the Standards Board guidance and a provision now included to confirm that both would have this right. The draft procedures have therefore been amended, with a new paragraph 18.1.7 added, reflecting the wording in paragraph 18.2.4. With this clarification, it is proposed that the procedures now be approved.

Recommendation

To adopt and implement the procedures set out in Annex 1 of this report.

Resources

Routine

Corporate Plan: Objective A1

Papers

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| NFNPA 273/08: | Local Procedures for Determination of Complaint under a Local Protocol |
| NFNPA 273/08 Annex 1: | Procedures for assessment, investigation and determination of a complaint that a member has failed to comply with a Local Protocol |

Contact

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