

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2007**

**APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMONERS' DWELLING SCHEME PANEL**

**Report by:** Emma Rigglesworth, Head of Sustainable Development

**Summary:**

1. This report asks members to consider the appointment of Roger Heape to the Commoners' Dwelling Scheme Panel for the period until the next Annual meeting of the Authority in 2008.

**Recommendation**

**That the appointment of Roger Heape to the Commoners' Dwelling Scheme Panel for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority be approved.**

**Resources:**

None

**Corporate Plan:**

Protect the existing affordable housing stock and help increase the number of affordable houses for rent and shared ownership (SE2).

**Paper:**

**NFNPA 217/07:** Cover paper

**Contact:**

Emma Rigglesworth

Tel: 01590 646676

Email: [emma.rigglesworth@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rigglesworth@newforestnpa.gov.uk)



**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2007**

**APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE ON COMMONERS' DWELLING SCHEME PANEL**

**Report by:** Emma Rigglesworth, Head of Sustainable Development

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The New Forest Commoners' Dwelling Scheme provides a mechanism by which commoners can enter into a legal agreement to meet the requirements for obtaining planning permission to build commoners' dwellings located outside the New Forest villages. The scheme requires successful applicants to sign a legal agreement which guarantees the proper management and long term availability of the dwelling at an affordable price for use by commoners exercising their rights.
- 1.2 Members agreed to set up a panel to approve eligible applicants to the Commoners' Dwelling Scheme in July 2006. The panel was to include an Authority officer, a member of the Authority (not on the Planning Development Control Committee) and invited representatives from the Verderers and the commoners. The Panel would be advised by an officer from the Directorate of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development.
- 1.3 The panel will meet in response to applications to the scheme but should meet no more than four times per year. Panel members will be required to assess applicants to the scheme against pre-determined criteria.

**2. Appointment**

- 2.1 The Authority representative will need to develop a good understanding of the Commoners Dwelling Scheme and particularly the related financial and legal issues involved in building a dwelling under this scheme. The appointment should complement and add additional skills to the detailed commoning knowledge provided by the two other panel members covering commoning interests. To ensure separation between acceptance on to the scheme and determination of the planning application, the Authority representative should not sit on the Planning Development Control Committee.

- 2.2 An expression of interest has been received from Roger Heape who, as Chairman of the Resources and Performance Committee and not a member of the Planning Development Control Committee, would provide appropriate expertise for the Panel's deliberations.

### **Recommendation**

**That the appointment of Roger Heape to the Commoners' Dwelling Scheme Panel for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority be approved.**