

NFNPA RAPC 388/19

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 4 MARCH 2019

ACCORD BETWEEN THE FORESTRY COMMISSION (ENGLAND) AND NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members will recall that a key area of discussion at the Members' Day with the Forestry Commission in June last year was partnership working between the Forestry Commission and the Authority where members considered the Accord between the Forestry Commission (England) and National Parks England (a copy of the Accord is attached as **Annex 1**). Members at the Members' Day recognised that there was a significant amount of engagement with the Forestry Commission at present which should continue but felt that there may be a good case for more formal mechanisms that would ensure more effective and collaborative working as well as early engagement and identification of opportunities and solutions.
- 1.2 The Accord was formally launched at the New Forest Show last year, and since then officers from both the Forestry Commission and Authority have been holding a number of workshops to agree local opportunities for strengthening joint working and shared ambitions in taking forward the following five shared priorities outlined in the Accord:
 - Decision-making that enhances National Park landscapes and the woodlands in them.
 - Woodland creation and expansion in National Parks.
 - Exemplary Forest Enterprise and NPA owned / managed woodlands in National Parks.
 - Woodland grant schemes fit for the future.
 - National Park woodlands for people.
- 1.3 The latest of these workshops will take place on Thursday 28 February and will finalise proposals for delivering local outcomes for the shared priorities in the year ahead. Bruce Rothnie (FC Deputy Surveyor for the New Forest area) will be attending the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 4 March and he and Alison will elaborate on the proposed outcomes from the workshops.

Recommendations

That members note and comment on the proposed local outcomes for enhancing the current level of collaboration with the Forestry Commission in terms of the five shared priorities set out in the Accord.

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Papers: NFNPA RAPC 388/19 – Cover paper
Annex 1 – Accord between the Forestry Commission
(England) and National Parks England

Equality Impact Assessment: There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.