

## NFNPA 548/18

### NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – 15 JUNE 2018

#### REQUEST FOR JOINT WORKING – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RESOURCES AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 14 MAY 2018

**Report by:** Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 Members will recall that, at the Authority meeting on 22 March, the proposals for improved working arrangements set out in the letter from the Chief Executive of New Forest District Council dated 23 February 2018 were referred to the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee meeting on 14 May 2018 for assessment and recommendation back to the full Authority to agree a formal response to NFDC.
- 1.2 The report considered by the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 14 May is attached and sets out the relevant background to the request, the current level of engagement and joint working with NFDC, officers' conclusions in respect of the proposal for the creation of a single managed planning service and suggestions on other possible options for delivering improvements in joint working between the Authority and NFDC.
- 1.3 The Resources, Audit and Performance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 14 May 2018 and unanimously supported the three recommendations on the paper. The draft minutes arising from that meeting have already been circulated to all members (and are also available on the Authority's website at <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/rapc/resources-audit-and-performance-committee-14-05-2018/> )
- 1.4 As reported to the RAPC meeting on 14 May 2018, legal advice has been sought from Counsel to assist members in considering the proposal. A summary of the advice has been circulated to all members. Whilst the advice remains privileged, it does not in any way affect the recommendations of the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**In the light of the recommendations from the RAPC meeting on 14 May 2018, it is recommended that:**

- i. **Members note that, due to remit and resource constraints, the proposal for a shared Head of Service and single managed planning service across the National Park and District Council areas is not workable.**
- ii. **Members propose their preferred alternative arrangements, which may include:**

**The existing shared service arrangements continue to be supported and to actively explore with NFDC opportunities for extending these shared services as set out in Section 7 of the RAPC report.**

- iii. **The Authority's Chief Executive and Chairman work with NFDC's Chief Executive and Chairman to explore opportunities for a new Forum for NFNPA Members and NFDC Councillors to come together to discuss and agree a strategic approach to the 'big ticket' items; the constitution and terms of reference of such Forum to be ratified at a future Authority meeting.**

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**Papers:**

NFNPA 548/18  
Annex 1 – Report and annexes considered by the  
Resources, Audit and Performance Committee meeting on  
14 May 2018

**Equality Impact Assessment:**

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.