

AM 604-21

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 19 AUGUST 2021

FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES – LOCAL ASSESSMENT PANEL

Report by: Paul Walton, Head of Environment & Natural Environment

Summary:

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme, part of the England Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 was launched on the 1st July 2021. Members affirmed the Authority's support for the programme at the Authority meeting on 1st July (paper AM 599-21). The programme requires the creation of a Local Assessment Panel to consider applications of a value of over £5000 and to distribute the benefits of the programme across as wide a range as possible whilst achieving its outcomes. The selection and appointment of the panel members needs to be ratified by the Authority. Membership of the proposed Local Assessment Panel is set out in this paper.

1 Local Assessment Panel (LAP)

- 1.1 The purpose, role and membership of the LAP is set out in an Annex to the National Framework for the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (Annex 1). The panel must consist of representatives of the National Park, Natural England and the farming and land management community.
- 1.2 Officers have approached a number of organisations and individuals with relevant knowledge and experience, who can represent the spread of the farming and land management community within the National Park and provide a geographic and thematic spread from across the area. There has been real enthusiasm for the programme amongst those individuals that have been approached and a great willingness to be involved in the working of the Panel.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the Local Assessment Panel should have 14 members to ensure a wide range of interests are represented.

2 Panel members

- 2.1 Following discussions with individuals and organisations it is proposed that the Local Assessment Panel is made up of the following members:

New Forest National Park Authority – John Sanger (proposed)
Natural England - Adam Bates
National Farmers Union – James Fitzgerald
CLA – Alister Cutts, Oliver Cook
CDA – Charlotte Lines

Local farming representatives:

- Richard Shirley
- Simeon Morgan
- Wendy Maughan
- Sophy Robinson

RSPB – Nick Tomalin

Local Access Forum – tbc

Wiltshire Countryside Forum – tbc

Equine forum – tbc

- 2.2 The proposed membership provides a geographical spread across the National Park, is representative of the farming community and reflects the interests across the environment and access. Additional support for the panel is available from the wider Defra network (Forestry Commission, Historic England and Environment Agency) if their advice is needed for specific applications.
- 2.3 The first meeting of the Local Assessment Panel will take place in September when the chair of the panel will be appointed by the membership. The NFNPA will provide the secretariat for the Panel and a senior officer will be able to advise the Panel on any legal and financial matters that may arise.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The NFNPA ratifies the appointment of the members of the Local Assessment Panel for the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme for the New Forest National Park.

Contact: Paul Walton, Head of Environment and Rural Economy

Annex 1: Expectations for Local Assessment Panels

Previous papers: AM 599-21

Equality Impact Assessment: There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising out of this report

Resources: