

AM 621/22

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### AUTHORITY MEETING – 24 MARCH 2022

#### NATIONAL PARKS PARTNERSHIPS

**Report by:** Alison Barnes, Chief Executive and Nigel Stone, Head of Resources (CFO)

## 1 Summary

- 1.1 The Authority has been contacted by National Parks Partnerships (NPP) with a proposal for investment by the Authority in the shared delivery of both National Parks Partnerships and the UK Comms Team (UKCT) for a further three years up to 2024/25.
- 1.2 The officer recommendation is that we initially confirm for one year (2022/23), due to further information/clarifications being required of both the overall benefit(s) received and the terms of reference / operating parameters of UKCT.
- 1.3 This decision requires formal approval by the Authority; a draft of this paper was considered by the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 7 March 2022 and they also recommend that a one-year confirmation be given.

## 2 NPP / UKCT Draft Proposals

- 2.1 During 2021/22, and previous years, we invested roughly £10,000 into NPP and approximately £6,000 into UKCT. The future draft funding proposals are:

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
NPP Requirement	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
UKCT Requirement	£8,067	£8,228	£8,393
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£18,067</b>	<b>£18,228</b>	<b>£18,393</b>

- 2.2 In the last three complete financial years (2018/19 – 2020/21), our Authority received around £20,000 in cash grants / dividends from NPP and a further £49,000 in Columbia clothing (at Recommended Retail Price). We have also taken part in the £100,000 Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund pilot over the last year alongside NPP.
- 2.3 Over the last three years, the UK Comms Team have led collective UK positioning and messaging strategies on behalf of the whole National Park family. They have represented the NPAs within Festival UK 2022, COP26, Generation Green and have acted as a useful conduit between the 15 NPA Comms Teams.

2.4 The new NPP/UKCT Operating Plan sets out its Strategic Framework as:

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>To catalyse and amplify UK National Parks collaborations and increase their collective impact, resources and influence</b>			
<b>Priorities</b> <i>(tbd, from NPAs)</i>	<b>Climate change, Nature, Access, Young People and Health/Wellbeing</b>			
<b>Pillars of delivery</b>	<div style="border: 1px dashed blue; padding: 10px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px dashed blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Collaborate</div> <div style="border: 1px dashed blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Capitalise</div> <div style="border: 1px dashed blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Communicate</div> </div>			
<b>Resources and Enablers</b>	Licence to Operate <i>(from NPs)</i>	NPA/NPP inter-relationship	Governance	Funding

### 3 Officer Consideration and Recommendation

- 3.1 Whilst officers are generally very supportive of both NPP and UKCT, there is some uncertainty about how the work will develop with the Government’s response on the Landscape Review out for consultation and with an increased focus on working together at a national level, income generation and green finance. The way this will work will become clearer in the coming year and we need assurances about benefits and engagement with the New Forest National Park as this develops.
- 3.2 Given this uncertainty, and that over our Defra grant for the next three years, we feel the Authority should not at this stage sign up to the full three-year agreement requested but should still give NPP/UKCT the certainty of its 2022/23 funding.

### 4 Recommendation

**To approve one year (2022/23) of further funding for National Parks Partnerships and the UK Comms Team, whilst further information and assurances are sought by officers prior to any longer-term agreement.**

**Papers:**

**NFNPA AM 621/22:** National Parks Partnerships

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising out of this report

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