

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
8 October 2013

Subject: NATIONAL PARKS GOVERNANCE REVIEW

**Broughton & Greenhow, Great Ayton, Osmotherley, Rudby, Swainby,
Whitstonecliffe and White Horse Wards**

Portfolio Holder for Customer Services and Asset Management: Councillor N Knapton

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet if it wishes to make any comments on a proposed National Parks Governance Review that affects the North York Moors National Park.

2.0 THE REVIEW:

2.1 The Government has been reviewing governance arrangements for National Parks in order to increase local accountability. The purpose of the review and associated consultation was to:-

- look for ways in which the governance of the National Parks could be made more effective;
- look for ways in which the Park Authorities could be more responsive to the concerns of their local communities; and
- consider the extent to which different arrangements might be appropriate for different National Park Authorities.

2.2 One of the key questions asked was whether the membership of Park Authorities, both the size and composition, should be changed. Following a consultation in respect of the North York Moors National Park it is being proposed to change the number of members of the National Park Authority. Currently the National Park Authority comprises 22 members, made up of Local Authorities - 12 (North Yorkshire CC 5, Hambleton DC 1, Redcar & Cleveland BC 2, Ryedale DC 2, Scarborough BC 2), Parish Councils - 4, Secretary of State - 6.

2.3 The new proposal is for a membership of 20 comprising Local Authorities - 11 (North Yorkshire CC 4, Hambleton DC 1, Redcar & Cleveland BC 2, Ryedale DC 2 and Scarborough BC 2), Parish Councils - 4 and Secretary of State - 5.

2.4 The District Council is being asked for any views on the proposed changes. In particular, the Council is being asked the following questions:-

- Does the Council agree to the proposed reduction in the overall number of members? If not, please explain why.

- Does the Council agree with the proposed number of members in each of the Local Authority, Parish and Secretary of State categories? If a different mix is appropriate please explain why.
- Does the Council agree with the number proposed for each of the Local Authority representatives. If the mix should be different please explain why.

2.5 The proposals for the National Park maintain the District Council's representation at 1 Member, although the overall number of representatives has been reduced from 22 to 20. Given the area of the National Park which is within the district, this representation seems reasonable.

3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:

3.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 There are no financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 There are no equality/diversity issues.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION:

7.1 It is recommended that the Council support the proposed changes to representation on the North York Moors National Park.

MARTYN RICHARDS

Background papers: Letter dated 12 September 2013 from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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