

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODY – NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That appointments to the New Forest National Park Authority, be agreed as follows, for the remainder of the four year term ending May 2023:-

Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrats (1)
Cllr Diane Andrews	Cllr Caroline Rackham
Cllr Sue Bennison	
Cllr Ann Sevier	

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to make appointments to the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) for the remainder of the four year period ending May 2023.
- 2.2 Appointments to Outside Bodies were made by the Cabinet on 5 June 2019 for a four period. A number of changes arising directly from the new Cabinet structure were agreed in June 2021.
- 2.3 This report deals solely with the NFNPA, to which the Council appoints four Members. Whilst the Cabinet, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, makes appointments to all Outside Bodies for the full term of office, the Environment Act 1995 makes specific provision for appointments to the NFNPA to be terminated for the purposes of ensuring the political balance rules in Section 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are met. Political balance rules do apply to the Council's appointments to the NFNPA and there is a duty to take into account the political groups' wishes when making appointments where political balance rules apply.
- 2.4 The Cabinet is therefore asked to take into account the wishes of the Conservative Group with regard to their three seats on the NFNPA, for the purposes of maintaining political balance rules.

3. BACKGROUND DETAIL

- 3.1 The Council's agreed criteria for representation on Outside bodies, states that:-
- (a) there will be a clear benefit to the Council and/or the inhabitants of the District through formal representation on that organisation; or
 - (b) the Council has made or is continuing to make a significant financial contribution towards the establishment or operating costs of the organisation and that appointing a representative will help ensure good governance.
- 3.2 The criteria for making appointments also suggests that where feasible, appointments to Outside Bodies should be made by office rather than by name. In the case of the New Forest National Park Authority and where political balance rules apply, this is not strictly applicable.

3.3 In making appointments, the Cabinet should also give careful consideration to selecting the most appropriate representative, taking into account the nature of the appointment and other issues such as local representation and the relevant experience and expertise of the appointee.

3.4 The current Outside Body Appointments can be viewed in full on the Council's website at the following link:-

<https://democracy.newforest.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1>

4. REPORTING BACK BY REPRESENTATIVES

4.1 As part of the Council's monitoring of representation on outside bodies, all appointed representatives are requested to produce a brief written report as and when appropriate.

5. FINANCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

6.1 The Leader is supportive of the recommendations in this report.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Matt Wisdom
Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 023 8028 5072
Email: matt.wisdom@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Environment Act 1995 / Local Government
and Housing Act 1989