

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

18 NOVEMBER 2003

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Purpose of Report:

To receive updates and reports on meeting and events attended by Members as representatives of the National Park Authority.

1. Meeting of the Regional Spatial Strategy Steering Group 5 September 2003 – Report from Arabella Amory

- 1.1 Much time was spent discussing the role of the Regional Spatial Strategy Steering Group (RSSSG) which will change as a result of the Planning Bill currently going through Parliament. It will make regional planning a statutory function and give that responsibility to Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs). Regional Planning Bodies will also become statutory consultees on significant planning applications. We also discussed the re-organisation of all the Regional Assembly sub-groups and how they relate to each other and how to avoid duplication, e.g. how the Transport Group will feed into the RSSS Group which has the job of producing the final Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 1.2 The future of GOSW was discussed. It will stay involved in order to safeguard on behalf of the Secretary of State and to monitor the RPB. However, as more responsibility is devolved to the Regions there will be a lighter touch from the Government Offices.
- 1.3 We looked at the draft 'Agency Agreements' with County, Unitary and NPAs. These agency agreements are being drawn up between the Regional Assembly and selected strategic Authorities of which the Exmoor NPA is one. This will enable the RPB and the Authorities to agree how they can work together on delivering the new regional planning agenda and particularly the sub regional components. It expects these agency agreements to be circulated before the start of the new financial year.
- 1.4 It was confirmed that Peter Brown from the RSSSG will be seeking a meeting with Chris France and Graham Wall (DNPA) to discuss Regional Planning and NPA involvement. *(This meeting took place 6.10.03. Report on ENPA Agenda).*
- 1.5 We had break out group discussions about Regional issues in preparation for the Draft Issues Report which will seek views of the public and stakeholders in the Region. The purpose of the Issues Report is to develop a common understanding of recent and future trends affecting the South West. These include the urban/rural balance, changing environment, population growth (elderly/young etc), economic performance and competitiveness, inequality and social exclusion, changes in housing stock (affordable housing) etc.

If anyone would like any further information on the above report please contact Arabella Amory, Deputy Chairman of the Exmoor National Park Authority.

2. ANPA Conference Feedback

- 2.1 Verbal report back from those who attended the Conference from 1 – 30 October 2003

31 October 2003