

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY****3 SEPTEMBER 2002****EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN – FIRST ALTERATION****Report of the Head of the National Park Authority****Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on progress with the preparation of the Local Plan Review and set out the next stages in the process.

**Legal and Human Rights Act 1998 Implications:**

Statutory requirement to prepare a local plan to replace the existing plan and provide a planning policy framework for the Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**Financial Implications:**

The Local Plan Review process has been budgeted and remains a corporate priority for the Authority.

**National Park Objectives:**

The Local Plan is the principle policy document guiding new development to achieve National Park purposes in ways that contribute to the social and economic well-being of local communities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Authority NOTES the current progress on the Local Plan Review, AGREES the future timetable for the next stages of the process and a date for the next meeting of the Local Plan Review Working Group.

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**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The content of the Draft Deposit Local Plan has been influenced by the outcome of the extensive public consultation through ‘Planning for Real’ events held between November 1999 and November 2000, the Local Plan questionnaire in ‘Park Life’ and the Local Plan ‘Issues Report’. Other considerations have included the Joint Structure Plan, Regional Planning Guidance for the South West, Government planning policy, the National Park Management Plan and National Park Action Plans. Members will recall that the Plan was published for public comment in October 2001 and attracted 1029 individual comments, 465 of which were supporting statements.
- 1.2 During the first half of this year officers contacted and met with objectors to try to agree on potential changes to the Draft Plan to meet their concerns. This process has taken longer than originally envisaged due to staff changes in the Local Plan team which has time implications due to recruitment and induction of new staff. A new Principal Planning Policy Officer (Trevor Saunders) has now been appointed and is due to start employment on 1 October 2002. During

the last three months the bulk of the Local Plan work has fallen to the Planning Officer (Policy and Community) who already has a considerable workload. As a consequence the timescale has slipped by three months and the future time-table has been amended accordingly.

## **2. REVISED INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

2.1 **19 November 2002 – ENPA Meeting to agree Revised Deposit Plan.** The proposed changes to be published as the Revised Deposit Plan together with a Schedule of Representations to the Draft Deposit Plan will be considered. Recommendations on each objection will form the basis of the text for the Revised Deposit Plan. The Schedule of Representations will include an officer response to each objection, based on meetings with objectors, recommendations from the Local Plan Review Working Group and existing policy and legislative frameworks. Many changes have been proposed, though naturally, there are some objections which cannot be met without significantly altering the principle or desired effect of a policy approach.

- **November – January – Preparation and printing of Revised Deposit Plan**
- **7 February 2003 – 21 March 2003 – Public consultation on Revised Deposit Plan**
- **Public Local Inquiry – September 2003**
- **Publication of Inspector’s Report – November 2003**
- **Modifications to the Local Plan (if any) – Spring 2004**
- **Final Adoption of Local Plan – Autumn 2004**

2.2 Prior to the meeting on 19 November 2002 there is a need for a further meeting of the Local Plan Review Working Group (open to all Members to attend) to provide an opportunity to discuss the proposed responses and recommendations to objections. Possible dates for this are October 21(pm), 22 or 23 (am). Before the end of the year it is suggested that a Members’ seminar be held on the Local Plan generally, and the housing policies specifically to encourage full understanding and ‘ownership’ of the Plan.

**Chris France**  
**Head of Planning and Community**  
**22 August 2002**

### **Background Papers :**

**Exmoor National Park Local Plan Review**  
**Public Representations received to the Draft Deposit Local Plan**

**File Ref. P6/14/10**