



EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

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25th September 2025

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

To: All Members of the Exmoor National Park Authority

A meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority will be held in the **Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton** on **Tuesday, 7th October 2025 at 10.00am.**

The meeting will be open to the press and public subject to the passing of any resolution under s.100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

There is Public Speaking at this meeting, when the Chairperson will allow members of the public two minutes each to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition relating to any item relevant to the business of the Authority or relating to any item on the Agenda. Anyone wishing to ask questions should notify the Corporate Support Officer as soon as possible, or at the latest by 4pm on the working day before the meeting of the agenda item on which they wish to speak, indicating a brief summary of the matter or matters to be raised (contact Committees@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

The meeting will be **recorded**. By entering the Authority's Committee Room and speaking during Public Speaking you are consenting to being recorded. We will make the recording available via our website for members of the public to listen to and/or view, within 72 hours of the meeting taking place.

Members of the public may use forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting. Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairperson so that those present may be made aware.

(The agenda and papers for this meeting can be downloaded from the National Park Authority's website www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk).

Sarah Bryan
Chief Executive

As set out above, the Authority welcomes public engagement with its work and believes that everyone attending a meeting of Exmoor National Park Authority or one of its Committees has the right to be treated with respect and to feel safe at all times, including before, during and after the meeting they attend.

The Authority understands that some situations can be difficult and lead to frustration; however, the Authority is committed to promoting an environment where everyone feels listened to and respected and is not subjected to unacceptable behaviour. Further guidance is provided in our Customer Notice, available on our [website](#).

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Chairperson's Announcements

4. **Minutes** (1) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 2nd September 2025 (Item 4).

(2) To consider any Matters Arising from those Minutes.

5. **Business of Urgency:** To introduce any business which by reason of special circumstances the Chairperson, after consultation with the Chief Executive, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency and to resolve when such business should be ordered on the Agenda.

6. **Public Speaking:** The Chairperson will allow members of the public to ask questions, make statements, or present a petition. Questions of a general nature relevant to the business of the Authority can be asked under this agenda item. Any questions specific to an agenda item can be posed when that item is considered subject to the discretion of the person presiding at the meeting.

7. **Income Generation Strategy:** To consider the report of the Head of Enterprise & Operations. (Item 7.)

8. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy:** To consider the report of the Head of Climate, Nature and Communities (Item 8.)

9. **Authority Meeting Schedule for 2026:** To consider the report of the Head of Enterprise and Operations. (Item 9)

10. Personnel Update:

Starters: 27/10/2025 – Nathan Foster - Ranger

Leavers: 12/09/2025 - Daisy Collier – Pinkery Centre Cleaner
01/10/2025 – Joanne Poulton – Finance Officer
10/10/2025 – Philip Stuckey – Ranger

11. **Members' Reports:** To receive any updates and reports on meetings or events attended by Members as representatives of Exmoor National Park Authority.

Further information on any of the reports can be obtained by contacting the National Park Authority at the address and telephone numbers at the top of the agenda. Details of the decisions taken at this meeting will be set out in the formal Minutes which the Committee will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, details of the decisions can be obtained the Corporate Support Officer, at Exmoor House.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.

PRESENT

Miss A V Davis (Chairperson)	
Mr R Milton (Deputy Chairperson)	
Mr L Baker	Mrs C Lawrence
Mr T Butt Philip	Mrs F Nicholson
Mrs M Chilcott	Mr J Patrinos
Mr M Ellicott	Mr S J Pugsley
Mr W Geen	Mrs F Smith
Mr J Holtom	Miss E Stacey
Mr R Hopley	Mr N Thwaites
Dr M Kelly	Dr S Warren
Mr M Kravis	

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Bray, Mr D Elson, Miss L. Williams

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- Miss A Davis – Item 7: Family member works with Devon Assurance Partnership
- Mr R Milton – Item 9: Has worked on Devon Nature Partnership and Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy group

28. CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

29. MINUTES

- Confirmation:** The [Minutes](#) of the Authority's meeting held on 1 July 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record with one correction: Item 4-5 where Management Plan is listed, this is edited to add (Partnership Plan).
- Matters arising:** Members were advised that the Management Plan is likely to be launched to the public domain in the middle of October 2025.

30. BUSINESS OF URGENCY: There was none.

31. PUBLIC SPEAKING: There were no public speakers.

32. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/25 AND PLAN FOR 2025/26: The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head of Enterprise & Operations. Jo McCormick, Deputy Head of Devon Assurance and Lee Elson, Senior Assurance Officer from Devon Assurance Partnership were introduced and presented their reports.

The Authority's Consideration

The meeting welcomed the Annual report for 2024/25 and plan for 2025/26, which will be reported back for final recommendation at the end of the financial year. The report shows work done to look at key financial systems and looking at possible risks.

It was noted that the work done for 2024/25 was given substantial assurance. No issues have been identified which is good news.

Auditors had been working with Exmoor National Park Officers on The Audit Plan for 2025/26. Four days of time usually allocated to Cyber security will instead be focused on the processes and controls with the implementation of the Access Financial system as of 1 April 2025. With the introduction of the new finance systems in place since April 2025, auditors will assess risk and check that key controls are working well within the financial systems. A report will be provided towards the end of the financial year and plan for the next financial year.

Members raised queries and were advised as follows:

- Members were very pleased that the overall level of assurance was very high. The highest level of 'Green' Assurance was confirmed to be a unique position and demonstrated how well financial systems had been managed.
- Auditors confirmed that recommendation points will be followed up from last year such as risk in Purchasing Arrangement. Detailed testing will take place in the new system. Satisfactory assurances for 2024/25 were attained after thorough checks.
- It was confirmed surveys will be made available to Officers and to Members for completion. This will be an opportunity for feedback on the overall performance of the audit delivery and how performance and customer satisfaction is measured.
- Members agreed that Congratulations should be given to Officers on the achievement of the highest level of assurance and production of the reports, thereby recommending their approval.

RESOLVED:

1. To receive the Internal Audit Report 2024/25 and Audit Plan 2025/26 at Appendix 1.
2. To receive the Internal Audit Key Financial Systems Audit report for 2024/25 at Appendix 2.

33. 2024/25 OUTTURN – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS: The Authority considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer.

The Authority's Consideration

- The meeting welcomed the comprehensive statement of accounts 2024/25. This report details a statement of responsibilities, comprehensive income and expenditure statement, movement in reserves statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement, notes to accounts, and annual governance statement. This will be subject to an external audit in September, due for completion end of November 2025, with an aim for final accounts to be presented at a November/December Final Accounts Committee.
- This report is usually brought to the July meeting alongside the management accounts outturn and performance reporting, but was presented in September due to the timing of completion of accounts by the end of June.
- The difficulties in managing single-year settlements were noted and the importance of the promised multi-year settlement from DEFRA for 2026/27 onwards was highlighted.
- It was confirmed that debtors' fluctuations were due to differences in FIPL funding from Defra, additionally an increase in bad debt provision was due to an ongoing legal issue.

- It was confirmed that new headings had been implemented for the subjective analysis of expenditure and income, which had changed the breakdown totals. Members were assured these areas could be reviewed at a future FAPAP meeting.
- The Leadership team expenditure had been apportioned under different headings which explained why corporate management spending was higher. Reallocation from previous subjective headings had also affected totals shown for Recreation Management, these were now under new Defra headings.

RESOLVED:

(1) To Consider and Note the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.

34. DEVON LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY – PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT:

The Authority considered the [report](#) of the Head Climate Nature and Communities.

The Authority's Consideration

- It was confirmed that the Authority was being asked to approve the draft Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy ("LNRS") for public consultation which begins on 29 September and will be published on their website by the end of 2025.
- Next steps for the Devon LNRS. In addition to public consultation hosted on a web platform, there will be two public webinars and five in person drop-ins across the County.
- As there are 2 local nature recovery plans that encompass Exmoor National Park from Somerset and Devon, it was queried how the different approaches would be compatible and how this could affect levels of interaction and engagement with the public. Reassurances were given that although Devon LNRS has different levels of detail, particularly for species of concern, the information given overall is broadly the same as Somerset LNRS.
- Item 1.6 showed what Defra set out must be included for all LNRSs, but it was noted that it doesn't show what will be excluded.
- Members queried how the consultation would be delivered to the public, and whether this was easy enough for the public to engage with. For example, more clarity is needed on complicated aspects such as how comments could be submitted on mapping. It was noted that there is a high level of data layered within mapping.
- Members were satisfied that the plan represented Exmoor's ecology well and were encouraged that liaison with Council and ENPA teams was taking place. However a concern was raised that there would be sufficient level of involvement with smaller organisations during the next 5 weeks, this was an opportunity for them to influence the consultation process.
- Discussions on how the plan would be implemented and delivered still need to be resolved, costs need to be found for environmental management. Incoming significant changes to local government structures within Devon are currently uncertain, and will have a direct effect on who is responsible for delivery. When launched, the website will be widely available and free to access.
- It is important for both Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks to be adequately represented in the Devon LNRS. The Moorland Bird Survey should also be incorporated as well as recognition that nature doesn't see county lines and threats that cross borders such as invasive species.

2 September 2025

- Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation individually as part of the public consultation. They were reminded that the data is not new data but a compilation from many sources that are already available.
- Comments on the Devon LNRS plan had been received by a member of the public ahead of the meeting, and the individual concerned could respond to the consultation.
- Officers were asked to ensure the involvement of the Nature Conservation Advisory Panel in future discussions.
- It was confirmed that the timescales received for the Somerset LNRS public consultation had expired, and no more updates were available at this time.
- Officers were asked to send ideas for improvement and Members feedback to Devon LNRS, and recommended that the process of public consultation should be widely publicised ahead of the website going live by December.
- The Chief Executive Officer will come back to members to confirm whether a further briefing or online workshop can happen in October during the consultation period. This will depend on whether timings allow due to other committee meetings.

RESOLVED:

1. To Approve the Draft Devon Local Nature Strategy for wider public consultation.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make suggested minor final changes and corrections to the strategy following public consultation.

35. PERSONNEL UPDATE: The Authority noted the recent staff changes.

36. MEMBERS' REPORTS: None.

The meeting closed at 11am

(Chairperson)

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7 October 2025

INCOME GENERATION STRATEGY

Report of the Head of Enterprise and Operations

Purpose of Report: To present to Members a draft Exmoor National Park Authority Income Generation Strategy for 2025-2030.

RECOMMENDATION: The Authority is recommended to APPROVE the proposed Income Generation Strategy for Exmoor National Park Authority.

Authority Priority: Cross-Cutting Priority Action: Deliver strategy for income generation

Legal and Equality Implications: Section 65(4) Environment Act 1995 – provides powers to the National Park Authority to “do anything which in the opinion of the Authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to:-

(a) the accomplishment of the purposes mentioned in s. 65 (1) [National Park purposes]

(b) the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment.”

The Authority has a ‘functional power of competency’ allowing it to do anything it considers for the purposes of the carrying out of any of its functions.

The equality impact of the recommendations of this report has been assessed as follows: There are no foreseen adverse impacts on any protected group(s). Engagement through the outreach work within the plan is designed to have a positive impact on protected groups.

Consideration has been given to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and an assessment of the implications of the recommendations of this report is as follows: There are no implications for the Human Rights Act.

Financial and Risk implications: The financial and risk implications are shown throughout the report and the draft strategy.

Climate Response: The Income Generation strategy should support us in securing funding to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

1. Background

- 1.1 The 2025-26 Corporate Plan sets out a cross-cutting ‘priority’ action to deliver an Income Generation Strategy allied to the work of the Authority.
- 1.2 Income Generation is not a new topic for the Authority. Several work areas already have defined plans and strategies that include elements of income generation, and Members approve our fees and charges.

1.3 However it is a growing priority. A continued erosion of the real terms value of our core funding requires additional income to be secured to fulfil our aspirations for the work of the Authority. Government have made it clear that they wish to see National Park Authorities operating more entrepreneurially and exploring other forms of finance.

2. Background

2.1 Members will be well-aware of the continued reduction in our core funding, especially with respect to revenue as lately any additional funding has been ring fenced for capital works only. Over the last 15 years our Defra revenue funding has been reduced by over 57% when inflation is considered.

2.2 During this same period the proportion of external income generation beyond our core National Park Grant from Defra has increased both in terms of value and the proportion of our overall funding mix, estimated to be 50% of our overall income in the current financial year.

2.3 Our primary sources of external income can be broadly grouped under the following themes:

- **Fees and charges**

- Statutory Fees – for example planning fees. These are set by Central Government, but our actions can potentially influence the levels of income received.
- Discretionary fees – for example car park charges, licensing of activities on Authority owned estate, educational visits

- **Grants and giving**

- Non-core NPG public sector funding (e.g. Rights of Way support, central govt grants inc. agri-environmental schemes)
- Lottery and Trusts grants
- Donations and gifts - generally channeled via our CareMoor for Exmoor scheme

- **Commercial activity**

- Rents – from our estate (both land and premises)
- Sponsorship and Advertising sales
- Sales – e.g. retail and Pinkery Centre.

2.4 Significantly raising our external income is not easy. In recent years a number of studies and reports across the National Park family have been commissioned to support this ambition. Most recommendations and opportunities identified are already being pursued, where relevant, with few tangible new suggestions that can be easily implemented.

2.5 Specific challenges include

- A lack of dedicated resources focused on income generation
- Overall pressure on team capacity to dedicate more time to this area
- The long lead-in required to generate significant returns with no guarantees at the outset

- Limitations in our opportunities as a public sector body vs environmental NGOs (some of these limitations are legal constraints, others are more around our ways of working and not having sites with paid admissions etc.).

2.6 That said significant progress has been made. A few highlights include:

- Significant external grant income secured through a variety of sources including National Lottery Heritage Fund, Landscape Recovery, and others.
- A significant growth in CareMoor for Exmoor contributions over the last few years including successful appeal for Great Bradley, significant legacies received and giving attached to dedications such as Parkland Trees, Donate a Gate and Fingerpost dedications.
- We have started to see some bigger returns through our involvement with National Parks Partnerships (NPP) with regards to corporate sponsorship (e.g. £60k from BMW towards temperate rainforest creation in the Upper Barle and Estee Lauder towards woodland creation strategy development).
- Locally we have significantly increased NPC retail spend over the last 5 years, as well as local sponsorship, advertising sales and parking income.

2.7 An Income Generation Strategy will support the Authority's work by:

- Helping us think and act more entrepreneurially
 - Setting out our principles
 - Considering change management and training needs
 - Ensuring we align our approach and balance between our core public service provision and our need to raise new forms of income
 - Identifying risks and market opportunities
 - Setting targets and agreeing our appetite to risk.
- Drawing together disparate activity into one overview for consideration by
 - Staff (with oversight from our Leadership and Delivery Teams)
 - Members
 - Defra and other partners.
- Celebrating successes and identifying challenges
- Ensuring there is consistency in our approach to income generation.

3. Summary of draft strategy

3.1 The draft strategy, attached as Appendix 1, outlines the proposed vision, objectives, target, approach, principles and risk appetite associated with our ambitions around increasing external income.

3.2 The vision is "***To be more enterprising in our work, increasing income generation to make meaningful and measurable contributions to our purposes.***"

3.3 Our vision emphasises adopting a more enterprising approach rather than focusing solely on commercial activities. As a public body, the National Park Authority participates in few initiatives that are entirely or primarily commercial. Instead, efforts are directed at generating income to help cover core service delivery costs.

In this context, the goal is to be more enterprising by exploring new methods and approaches.

3.4 The objectives are:

- To secure greater financial resilience through increased income generation activity.
- To deliver a balanced approach to generating new sources of income while delivering against National Park purposes as a public service.
- To develop a more enterprising culture.

3.5 A target has been proposed to achieve the goal that the National Park Grant accounts for less than 50% of our income, while maintaining real terms spending power against the 2024/25 baseline. It is noted that further classification could be undertaken, for example separating out Defra funding beyond our National Park Grant in terms of earned income (e.g. Landscape Recovery which we have to bid for) vs funding allocated to us (e.g. FIPL which Defra ask us to manage on their behalf).

3.6 The strategy sets out a four-stage approach:

- **Identification** of relevant income generation opportunities (business areas)
- **Consideration** - developing a mini business plan considering alignment with NP purposes, key challenges, opportunities and risks and the actions to be taken.
- **Implementation** of agreed business plans.
- **Evaluation.**

3.7 A series of Principles are also provided to guide our work in this area:

- A focused means to an end
- Fair, transparent and proportionate
- Sustainable
- Rationale for charging
- Resourced
- Evidence-led

4. Implementation and Monitoring

4.1 As detailed in 3.5 above our approach includes identification of relevant opportunities ('business areas') and development of a simple mini business plan for each of these areas. At the outset we would do this for current areas that we have identified:

- External Project Funding
- Retail Sales (NPCs / online)
- ENPA in-house land
- ENPA let-land
- ENPA rented premises
- Licensing of activities on ENPA land

- ENPA owned Car Parks
 - Pinkery Centre for Outdoor Learning (educational groups and private hires)
 - CareMoor for Exmoor
 - School visits (external to Pinkery)
 - Field Services Team
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Public Events (walks, activities and festivals etc.)
 - Walks and Talks for partner organisations and groups
 - Venue Hire
 - Sponsorship and Advertising
 - Planning
 - Consultancy
 - Timber harvesting
 - Print production
- 4.2 Some areas such as Green Finance are cross-cutting and would be incorporated into the relevant areas (e.g. Estates Strategy).
- 4.3 Development and implementation would be overseen by the Authority's Leadership and Delivery Teams. A critical role for senior managers and leaders will be to consider the potential risk and reward for each area and to prioritise those areas that are deemed to benefit the Authority most.
- 4.4 We would report annually to Members on implementation progress and to review the strategy.

Dan James
Enterprise and Communications Manager
September 2025

Appendix 1: Exmoor National Park Authority Income Generation Strategy 2025-30
(Final Draft)

Income Generation Strategy 2025-2030

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1) Vision

To be more enterprising in our work, increasing income generation to make meaningful and measurable contributions to our purposes.

The vision aims for a focus on becoming more enterprising, rather than specifically commercial. Enterprising refers to being *able to think of and carry out new and challenging activities, particularly those aimed at generating income*. As a public body, the National Park Authority has limited scope for activities that are solely or primarily commercial in nature. Instead, the goal is to generate income to help cover core service delivery costs, by adopting enterprising approaches and exploring alternative methods.

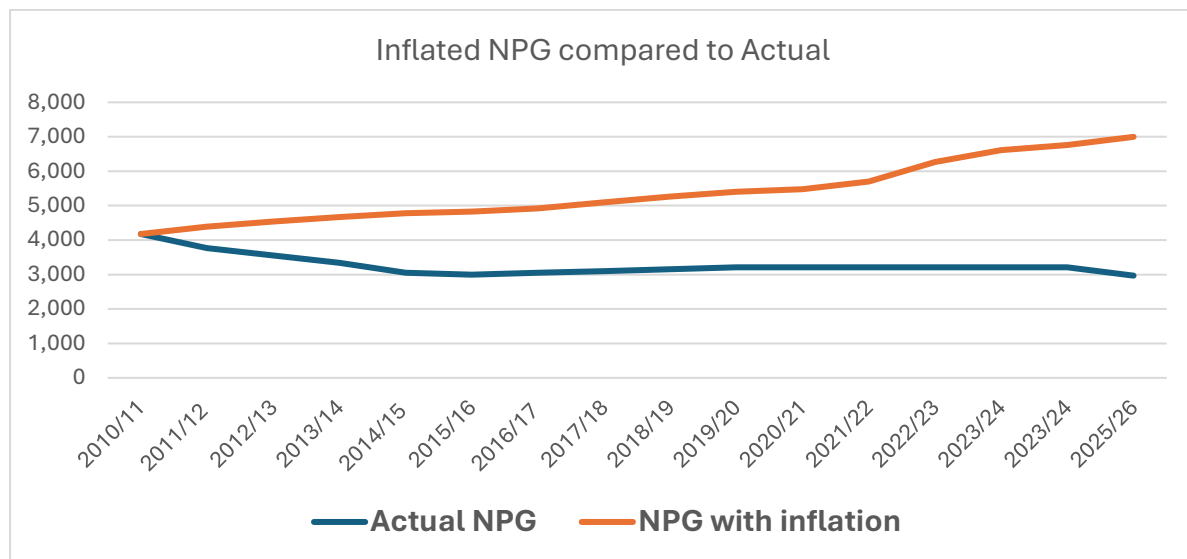
2) Introduction

For over a decade, Exmoor National Park Authority has faced increasing financial pressures due to a real-terms reduction in our National Park Grant (NPG) from Defra amidst rising costs.

The purpose of this strategy is to supplement income in addition to our Defra grant in order to continue to deliver against our statutory National Park purposes and our objectives to fulfil the vision of the Exmoor National Park Management Plan. Increasing and diversifying our income will help to build organisational resilience and increase efficiencies and effectiveness through more stable long-term funding.

In 2025/26 the Authority's National Park (revenue) Grant was reduced to £2.96m following 7 years of flatlined funding. Previous funding to the Authority was as high as £4,18m back in 2010/11.

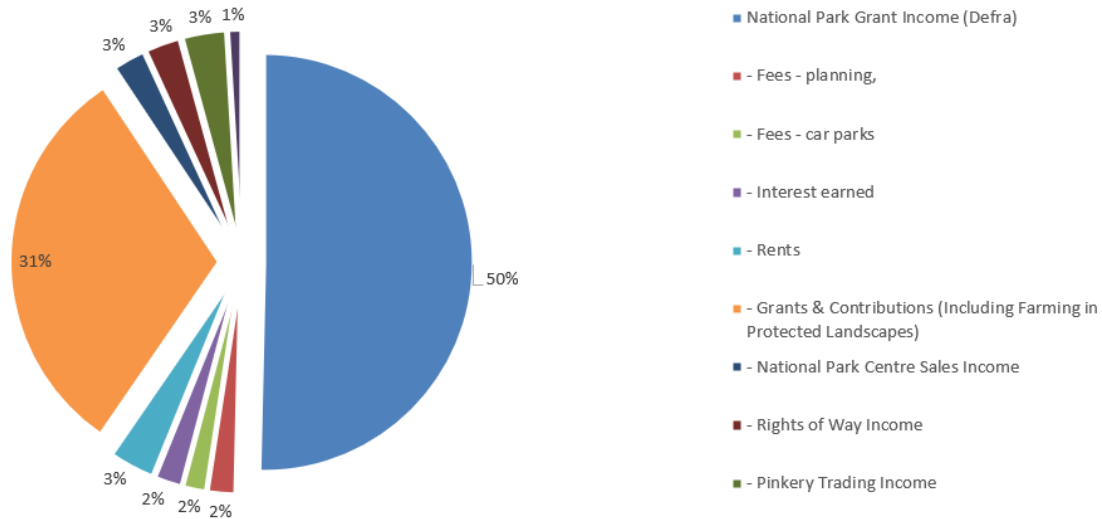
If the grant in 2010/11 had been maintained in line with inflation (based on RPI) it would have been worth almost £7m in 2025/26, representing a real terms reduction of over 57%.



Government have clearly set out their wish for National Park Authorities to raise additional income to supplement their core work, including the funding of research into opportunities. In 2015 a 'Function Specific General Power of Competence' was introduced for National Park Authorities permitting NPAs to do "anything it considers appropriate for the purposes of the carrying out of any of its functions". In practice this means we can enter into commercial delivery provided there is a link back to our core purposes. In December 24 Government announced their intention to introduce a more 'general' power of competency for NPAs which will "clarify their legal framework, removing restrictions which prevent an entrepreneurial approach...". A general competency (as opposed to a Function Specific General Competency which is tied to the delivery of our purposes) is expressed as the power "to do anything that individuals generally may do".

Over the last 10+ years the Authority has sought to pursue income generation as a corporate priority. There are many examples that have been developed and that have contributed to us significantly increasing the proportion of income from sources other than our core National Park Grant. In 2010/11 our NPG represented 75% of income, while we forecast it to be 50% in 2025/26.

MTFP Income 2025/26



Much of our income generation work has been undertaken ad hoc with varying degrees of prioritisation amongst teams and at times a lack of consistency to approach across the Authority.

This strategy will sit above the individual work streams, to ensure we maximise our non-NPG income and contribute towards mitigating future savings gaps. Income generation alone won't eradicate our financial pressures, but a more enterprising approach to our work will pay dividends.

3) Purpose of this strategy

- To help us think and act more entrepreneurially
 - Setting out our principles
 - Considering change management and training needs
 - Ensuring we align our approach and balance between the need to generate income vs our core public service provision
 - Identifies risks and market opportunities
 - Setting targets and appetite to risk
- To draw together disparate activity into one overview for consideration by
 - All staff, with oversight from Leadership and Delivery teams.
 - Members
 - Defra and partners as appropriate
- To celebrate success and consider response to challenges
- To ensure there is consistency in our approach to income generation.

4) Objectives

1. **To secure greater financial resilience through increased income generation activity.**

This will include more efficient ways of working to reduce operating costs and full cost recovery as appropriate for the Authority

2. **To deliver a balanced approach to generating new sources of income while delivering against National Park purposes as a public service.**

Income generation needs to support our core work, and not detract from it.

3. **To develop a more enterprising culture.**

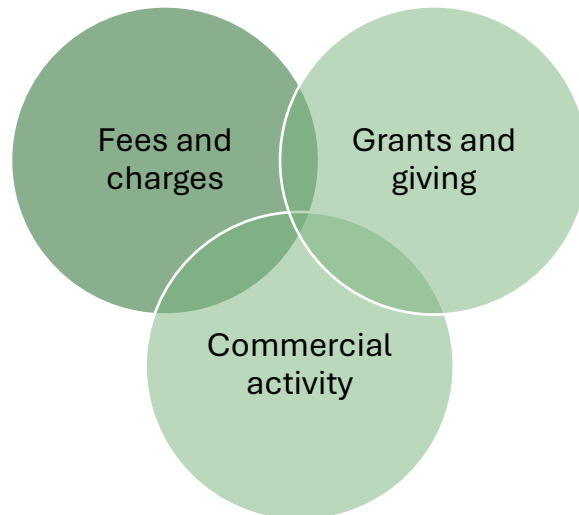
Supporting our Members, staff and volunteers to grow and develop skills to remove barriers to income generation.

Target

Our goal is that the National Park Grant (NPG) accounts for less than 50% of our income, while maintaining real terms spending power against the 2024/25 baseline.

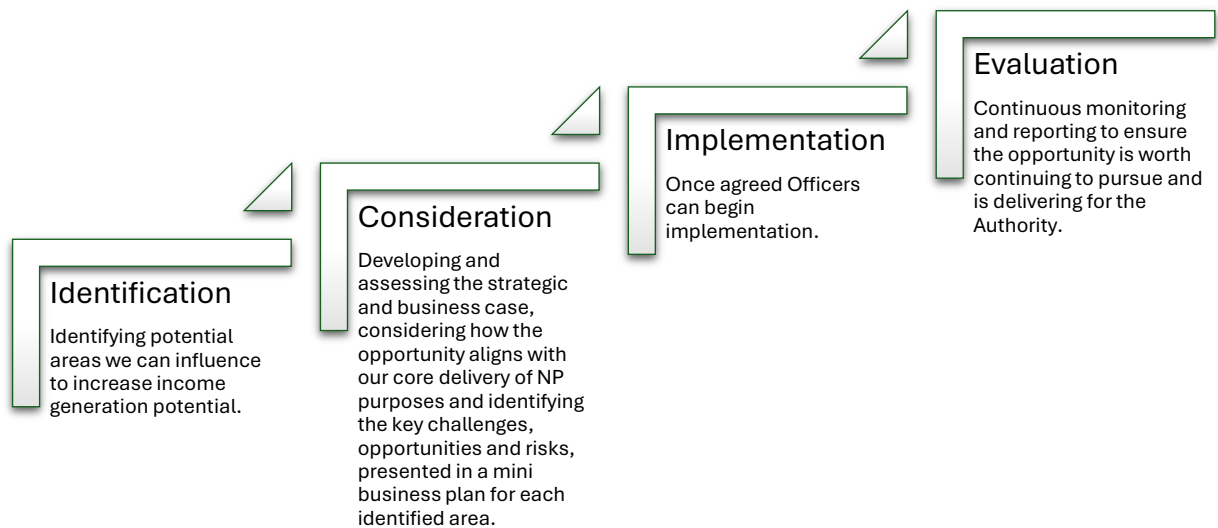
5) Approach

Below we identify the main areas where we can look to generate external income:

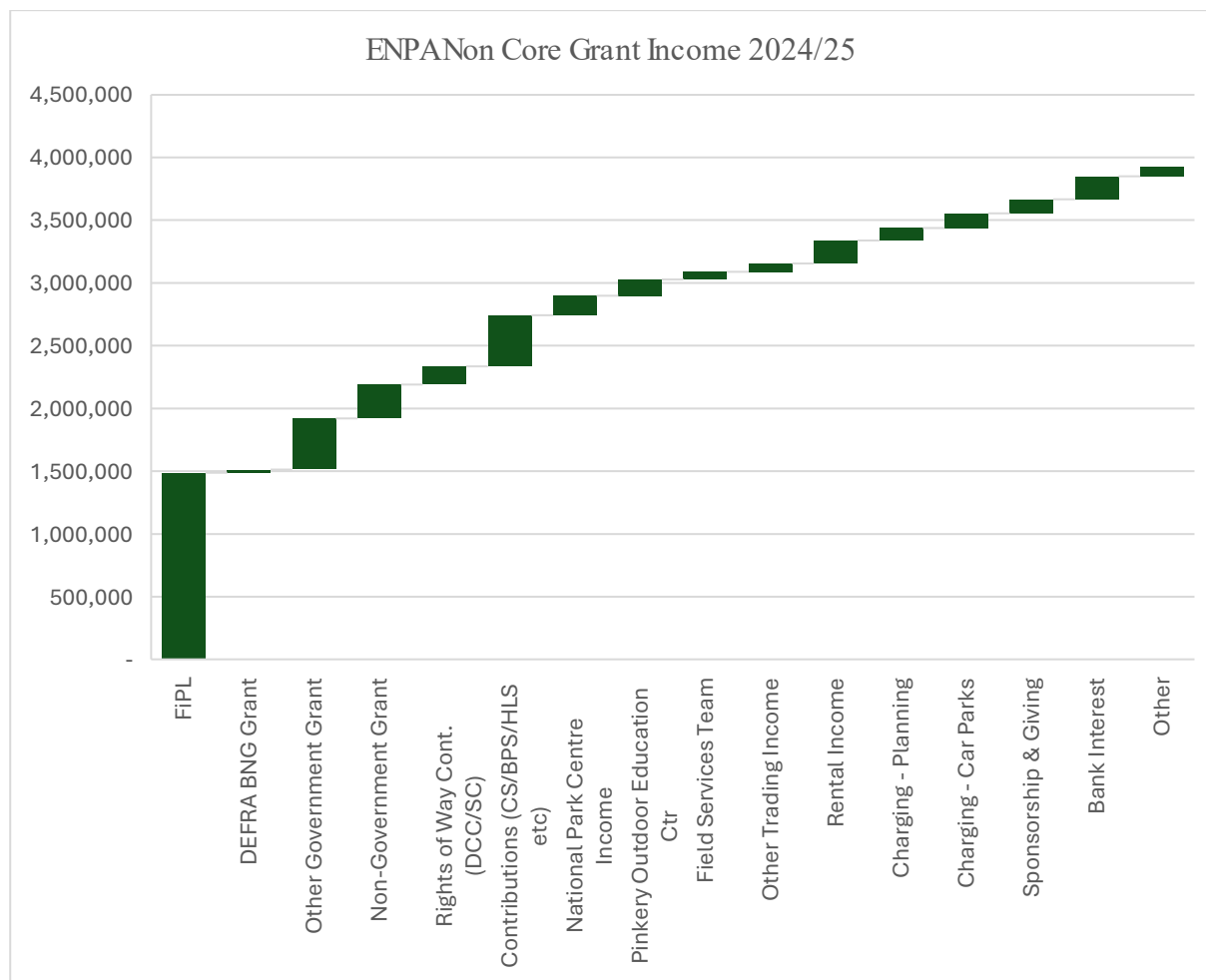


- **Fees and charges**
 - Statutory Fees – for example planning fees. These are set by Central government, but our actions can potentially influence the levels of income received.
 - Discretionary fees – for example car park charges, licensing of activities on Authority owned estate, educational visits
- **Grants and giving**
 - Non-core NPG public sector funding (e.g. Rights of Way support, central government grants)
 - Lottery and Trusts grants
 - Donations and gifts - generally channelled via our CareMoor for Exmoor scheme
- **Commercial activity**
 - Rents – from our estate (both land and premises)
 - Sponsorship and Advertising sales
 - Sales – e.g. retail and Pinkery Centre.

Our approach to developing income generation will follow the 4-steps below:



The graph below illustrates the income secured in 2024/25 from sources other than our National Park Grant. There will be some income areas where we have little to no influence over, and such areas are not considered in this strategy (for example we currently gain some income from renewable energy, e.g. Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive. These are historic opportunities, and we have no opportunity to grow these).



As part of the delivery of this strategy it is proposed to develop mini business plans for each identified income generation opportunity ('business activity') we will be pursuing, including a summary of key challenges, opportunities and risks, as well as key actions to explore over the next 18months.

Although each aspect of external income generation holds significance, upon completion of the business plans we will assess the prioritisation of these specific areas to determine which should be pursued more proactively and review this annually.

Income vs profit vs efficiencies

Our focus here is on generating external income – i.e. money received by the Authority beyond our National Park Grant. In order to generate this income, there will be costs involved. To try and accurately measure these costs in all areas would be challenging and disproportionality expensive to estimate. The bulk of costs are attributable to staff time and many of our income generation activities are also delivering against our core purposes (not solely focused on generating income).

There are a few considerations here:

- **Opportunity Costs** – i.e. what else staff could spend their time on. However, without additional income some activities can't be sustained. It will be a task for Managers and Section Heads to monitor delivery of our core work alongside income generation activity to ensure the correct balance is struck.
- There are occasions when we are undertaking more commercial work - in these instances we can measure and monitor **profit margins**.
- **Efficiencies and savings** (e.g. delivering work in house, reducing overheads etc) are important but are about how we use our income, and not in themselves generating new income into the organisation.

Example one, Planning Fees

We earn c.£85k through planning fees. These are a statutory fee, and as such the levels are set centrally by Government. However, the costs of providing a planning service are in excess of £400k, with the vast majority of these costs attributable to staffing costs. Therefore, it is an *income*, but no *profit* is made.

Example two, In-house estates work

Traditionally work on our estate has often involved the use of external contractors. In recent times, as a response to financial pressures, a greater proportion of our estates work is completed in-house by our Field Services Team (FST) with an internal recharge. This provides cost savings to those commissioning work, and helps support the financial resilience of our Field Services but is not (in itself) generating *new* income streams *into* the Authority. Rather it is a more efficient use of finite resources and a good example of a more enterprising approach to delivering our work, with other benefits in addition to cost savings.

Example three, retail sales in National Park Centres

The primary role of our Centres is to deliver our 2nd purpose of promoting understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of Exmoor. Staff are principally employed to deliver this information service and retail sales are a way of offsetting some of the costs. In this instance therefore it wouldn't be appropriate to include staff time when considering the retail function. But where goods are purchased for resale, we measure the gross profit as well as the income, with the aim of growing our income while retaining (or improving) our margins.

6) Guiding principles

The following principles are intended to guide our income generation work and ensure a consistency in approach across the Authority.

1. **A focused means to an end** – Income generation can be viewed by some as separate from our core work. It can be seen as an additional burden or contrary to the public service nature of our roles. However, income generation should be seen as integral to supporting our service delivery by staff, Members and volunteers, and not an end goal in itself. We should only pursue opportunities where it can be clearly demonstrated that the income will help us achieve our core purposes. Our Organisational Development strategy (2023-2026) highlights the need for training around entrepreneurial and commercial thinking.
2. **Fair, transparent and proportionate** – Equity needs to be factored into our decision making, and we need to ensure a standard approach to our application of charging and when we do / don't charge for specific services or offer discretionary discounts on fees etc. While there may at times be commercial sensitives we should be as open and transparent as we can. In

some cases, a sliding scale of charges may be appropriate, whereby charges are lower where other quantifiable benefits in the delivery of National Park purposes can be demonstrated.

3. **Sustainable** – Not only should we ensure that activities are environmentally sustainable and compatible with our purposes, but we also need to ensure we have sufficient staff capacity to deliver (recognising that dedicated time is often needed to generate income in addition to service delivery).
4. **Rationale for charging** - We should be able to clearly demonstrate what the rationale for charging, *or not*, is for any service. Charging should always be considered where:
 - There is a legal power (or lack of legal barrier)
 - A charging scheme is cost effective to operate
 - It is feasible to exclude nonpayers from using services
5. **Resourced** – Developing income generation activities, especially in new areas, will not be cost free and the Authority needs to be in a position to ‘invest to generate’ whether that be finances and or time/capacity.
6. **Evidence led** - Income generation activities should have a clear strategic case and a clear plan for execution. Defining the business case should draw on quality data, and an assessment of what the Authority can do in any such area.

7) Appetite for risk

Income generation is not a risk-free activity. It is often said you need to “*Speculate to Accumulate*” and there is a strong link between risk and reward. Key risks include:

- Reputational
- Capacity
- Financial

ENPA has defined its risk appetite statements as follows:

- ENPA has no appetite for safety risk exposure that could result in injury or loss of life to public, staff or members. Safety drives all major decisions in the organisation.
- ENPA is willing to accept, in some circumstances, moderate risks in additional income generation or cost saving initiatives where returns are probable or

where benefits to our core purposes remain. We do not set strict thresholds, with each opportunity considered on its merits, but it is accepted that as the value of investment increases so too should our level of cautiousness.

- ENPA will accept minimal negative impact on reputation with any of its key stakeholders, and will only tolerate minimum exposure i.e., minor negative media coverage, limited impact on employees, or political impacts. It should be noted that while risk can be assessed and managed it is unlikely that any income generation work would be completely risk-free.

8) Monitoring, Oversight and Delivery

We all have a responsibility to support income generation and grow income where appropriate.

Delivery Team Managers should have an oversight of areas appropriate to their teams, working with other specialists as appropriate to support staff to develop and deliver income through the course of their roles.

Leadership Team have a key role to play in terms of supporting delivery teams, setting reasonable targets and allocating resources and most importantly setting a culture that supports and encourages enterprise.

Our Members play a crucial role providing oversight and scrutiny and are ultimately responsible for the organisation. The full Authority will sign off this strategy and any future reviews and will receive an annual progress update. In addition, our Members will review and agree our fees and charges each year.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7 October 2025

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY

Report of the Head of Climate, Nature and Communities

Purpose of the report: To present to Members the Authority's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy for 2025 onwards.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt the Authority's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

Authority Priority: A welcoming place for all, that people feel connected to, improving their health and wellbeing.

Legal and Equality Implications: The Authority is required by law under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that it protects individuals from discrimination and ensures we do not unfairly discriminate in any aspects of our work. The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to all public authorities and bodies carrying out public functions.

The equality and human rights impact of the recommendation of this report has been assessed as having no adverse impact on any particular group or individual. This recommendation will provide a positive impact on many groups or individuals to ensure that Exmoor is a welcoming place for all, creating opportunities and enhancing our work, services and the experiences of people.

Financial and Risk Implications: The EDI Oversight Group meeting arrangements are intended to make best use of member and staff time and resources while ensuring Authority business is dealt with efficiently and in a manner open to public scrutiny.

Climate Response: As part of the action plan for the Climate Emergency response, EDI Oversight Group meetings will be paperless and hybrid to allow members to join on-line if needed.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As a local government organisation carrying out public duties, we are required to ensure that we meet our legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, as well as considering our responsibilities to the nation. In carrying out our National Park purposes, we also have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of our local communities.
- 1.2 The Corporate Plan has set out the six priorities for Exmoor National Park Authority and those relevant to this paper are:
 - A welcoming place for all, improving people's health and wellbeing
 - A great organisation to work for

The priority action for this year is to:

“Take positive action to support the Authority’s commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Specific focus this year on adopting an EDI Strategy and developing action plans for teams.”

1.3 A new set of values adopted earlier this year reflect our culture and includes EDI:

We are Welcoming: *We are friendly approachable and ensure a fair outcome where everyone matters.*

We:

- *Strive to achieve equity, inclusivity, reflect diversity, and accessibility for all*
- *Listen to and understand people’s experiences*
- *Are respectful*
- *Act with openness and transparency*

Members, staff and volunteers are all champions of Exmoor.

2. The Authority’s commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

2.1 Exmoor National Park Authority will put EDI at the heart of our culture and in our work and will aim to ensure that everyone can find opportunity, belonging and inspiration on Exmoor. To achieve this vision, it is vital that there is commitment from Members, Leadership Team and staff.

3. EDI Oversight Group

3.1 The Strategy was developed with the EDI Oversight Group which includes a selection of staff from across areas of the organisation and Authority Members. Initially, the Group’s aims were to:

- Look at where we are as an organisation and how we currently address EDI, as well as what is happening more widely.
- Scope issues and opportunities
- Identify ideas for actions and a framework to how we respond.

3.2 As the Group has developed, a Terms of Reference has been produced which sets out the role of the Group. Members of the Group act as Champions of EDI in their different areas of work or as a collective, and it is our intention that this will help to further embed EDI into the organisation and its culture.

The Group will also welcome external speakers to join meetings to share their experiences or knowledge and will meet at least 3 times a year.

4. EDI Strategy

4.1 The EDI Strategy (Appendix 1) provides a long-term commitment in a genuine and transparent way and sets out the following information:

- Our shared commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and what we will strive to achieve.
- Why EDI matters and the benefits it can bring.
- The aims of the Strategy.
- What we are already doing.
- What actions we need to take at both strategic and team levels.

5. Delivery and Monitoring

- 5.1 The lead officers who are responsible for delivering and monitoring the Strategy are The Head of Climate, Nature and Communities, Learning and Engagement Manager and HR Officer.
- 5.2 The Authority recognises that there will be constraints on capacity and budgets, and we may not be able to deliver everything. However, we have some great people championing this work and have existing external partnerships (and contacts for new partnerships) which puts us in good stead.
- 5.3 Progress against the Strategy will be presented to Members as part of our annual Corporate Plan reporting.

Clare Reid
Head of Climate, Nature and Communities

Ben Totterdell
Learning and Engagement Manager

Ellie Woodcock
HR Officer

October 2025



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy



Our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) will put EDI at the heart of our culture and in our work. We will ensure that everyone can find opportunity, belonging and inspiration on Exmoor.

We will strive to achieve equity, reflect diversity and be inclusive and seek to better understand, identify, challenge, and remove discrimination and barriers to participation wherever they may occur.

We will provide services that are accessible and inclusive for all.

As an employer we will understand and monitor our diversity and reflect the national and local communities we serve.

We now have a new set of values, one of which (*We are Welcoming*) will help us to drive forward our EDI work to deliver an inclusive culture.



Introduction

The Corporate Plan has set out the six priorities for Exmoor National Park Authority and those relevant to this Strategy are:

- A welcoming place for all, improving people’s health and wellbeing
- A great organisation to work for

The priority action for 2025/26 is to:

"Take positive action to support the Authority's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Specific focus this year on adopting an EDI Strategy and developing action plans for teams."

The Strategy was developed with the EDI Oversight Group which includes staff from across the organisation and Authority Members. They meet at least 3 times a year and aim to:

- Look at where we are as an organisation and how we currently address EDI, as well what is happening more widely.
- Scope issues and opportunities.
- Identify ideas for actions and a framework for how we respond.

As the Group has developed, a Terms of Reference has been produced which sets out the role of the Group:

- Acting as Champions for the EDI Strategy both collectively and within their Teams/ Sections/Board.
- Acting as a forum where EDI issues can be discussed in a supportive, open and positive way.

- Reviewing the progress of the Strategy against agreed objectives in the Corporate Plan, be a sounding board for issues and ideas to achieve our objectives and provide guidance on actions that may contribute to more effective delivery.
- Reviewing equality impact assessments, particularly for larger projects or new policies.

It is our intention that this will help to further embed EDI into the organisation and its culture.

It is vital that there is commitment from our Leadership Team, Members, and staff.

Encouraging staff and Members to discuss and explore EDI in a safe environment will be key to increasing our understanding. We are not always going to get it right, but we will do our best.

Feedback from the EDI training delivered to Members and staff in 2024 showed that:

- We recognise that *'population, visitor, and employee profiles are changing and that we need to adapt to be a modern National Park.'*
- Both staff and Members want to see *'clear and concise action when inappropriate behaviour or language is used'*
- And most of all that *'we should all think of the impact of our own words before we speak.'*

ONS data shows the diversity of Exmoor's local communities is different to the national statistics, and we recognise that. We understand that there are other forms of diversity within our communities that may not be obvious or presented. These may include socio-economic and health inequalities, as well as the protected characteristics. The South West also has a large elderly population that may feel socially isolated and excluded. Understanding local and national data will help us to focus our work in the most effective way.

Why does EDI matter?

As a local government organisation, we are required to ensure that we meet the Public Sector Equality Duty. In carrying out our National Park purposes, we have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of our local communities. Finally, as our work is directly funded from government, as a **National** Park we should also consider our responsibilities to the nation.

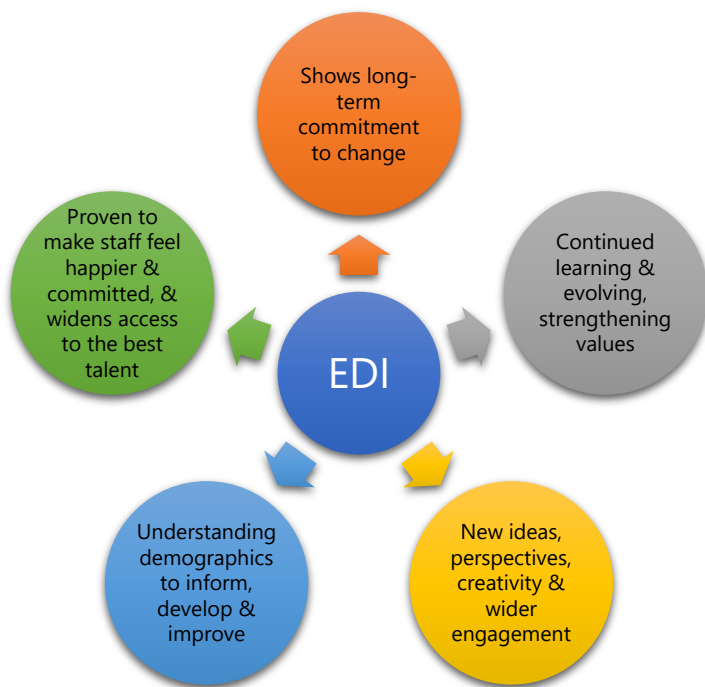
Raising awareness and understanding of EDI helps us be mindful of equity and diversity as an employer, across all our work and services. Embedding EDI across all our work ensures staff, Members, partners, and customers feel valued and respected.

Having clear objectives and goals will help everyone be involved and committed to addressing EDI.

What are the benefits?

Having a strategy, monitoring progress, and reviewing it annually provides a long-term commitment in a genuine and transparent way.

Embracing EDI enables us to continue learning, evolving, and adjusting for a fair and inclusive culture and strengthens our values.



Understanding our internal and external demographics enables us to inform, develop and improve our workplace and services. A diverse workforce and collaboration with partners and customers from differing backgrounds bring new ideas, perspectives, and creativity, enhancing decision-making and service delivery. It also provides opportunities for wider engagement with international communities of protected areas.

Exmoor National Park is seen and understood to be a welcoming place for all to visit.

Openness to diversity is proven to make staff feel happier and committed to their work and widens access to the best talent.

What do we mean by Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion?

Equality means each individual or group of people are given the same resources or opportunities. Therefore, everyone benefits from the same support, and this is equal treatment.

Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and that we do not all start from the same place. This requires the allocation of resources and opportunities to reflect people's differing needs, to achieve an equal outcome.

Paula Dressel, Race Matters Institute, describes this well *'The route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally. It will be achieved by treating everyone justly according to their circumstances.'*

We have decided to use the word 'equity' rather than 'equality' as we feel this describes a process rather than an endpoint. It requires us to be mindful in all our work, to reflect on how we can achieve greater fairness.

Diversity relates to the full range of human differences. Differences could be in relation to a protected characteristic or something else such as socio-economic background, working pattern or having caring responsibilities. It recognises that everyone is different, and that diverse teams, boards and workforces produce better outcomes because they have considered, reflected on, and respected broader experiences and perspectives.

Inclusion ensures all people feel valued and supported. Without inclusion the benefits of diversity (such as creativity, innovation and problem solving) cannot be realised.

Our EDI Statement on the first page sets out our commitment to EDI and will inform all our work. This commitment must be demonstrated in practice.

What are we doing already?



At a strategic level, we have created the table in Appendix 1 which sets out where we are in meeting our EDI objectives relating to legal requirements, raising awareness, gaining understanding and application, integrating and sustaining it. The document also shows the things we need to undertake to meet all these criteria.

We are already doing some great work, and the list below does not cover everything. In addition to this, we work with and support our partners who are also active in EDI.

- ✓ Renewed ENPA values.
- ✓ Representation on national EDI working groups which enables a good understanding of national work and priorities which will be fed into our own EDI work.
- ✓ Two members of staff are trained as National Park Accessibility Champions by Access and Inclusion UK. Part of the role of the South West Partnership is to report back directly to the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work through an accessibility champion.
- ✓ EDI Champions across the Authority who are passionate about this work.
- ✓ Creating a 'Youth Board' to get younger people involved in the Authority's work.
- ✓ Developed a new 'Volunteer Strategy' which echoes our commitment to EDI.
- ✓ Recruitment and selection policies that provide for a fair recruitment process, which are updated to reflect current best practice.
- ✓ We have options in place to help with the cost of attending an interview.
- ✓ We make reasonable adjustments during recruitment and employment as they are required.

- ✓ Robust and fair employment policies provide work-life balance and enable people to raise concerns about discrimination/inappropriate behaviour, and for them to be dealt with effectively.
- ✓ Monitor data in terms of recruitment, workforce, sickness absence and exit interview information.
- ✓ A Disability Confident Employer and a Chartered Signatory to Mindful Employer. We have also signed up to the Menopause Workplace Pledge.
- ✓ Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans are available should they be required.
- ✓ Support for people to fill in forms if they have difficulty.
- ✓ A suite of e-Learning courses including mandatory courses on Equality and Diversity in the Workplace.
- ✓ Authority papers include an equalities statement.
- ✓ EDI training for all staff and Members.
- ✓ The Learning and Engagement team hosted the Health and Wellbeing Officers conference in November – the action plan from this will add to what we can do.
- ✓ Supported visits from black women's walking group and Muslim walkers' group.
- ✓ Collecting data for education to provide more information on inclusion, e.g., free school meals.
- ✓ Our Young Rangers Programme is available specifically for young people eligible to Free School Meals and is free to participants.
- ✓ Offer discounted rates for free school meals at Pinkery Outdoor Learning Centre residential.
- ✓ Accessible toilet and accessible walking routes at Pinkery Outdoor Learning Centre.
- ✓ Identified funding for access improvements and audit of accessible routes.
- ✓ A new website which is 100% accessible.
- ✓ Rooms to pray if required.
- ✓ We welcome large groups from overseas (e.g., SOL) at our National Park Centres.

What are the aims of the Strategy?

Using the feedback from the EDI training last year and from the discussions at the EDI Oversight Group meetings, a set of aims were developed:

1. Adopt and commit to an Authority EDI statement.
2. Incorporate EDI into all our work and communicate this both internally and externally.
3. Raise awareness and understanding of EDI.
4. Increase diversity on our Board and within our workforce.
5. Engage with new audiences and partners and encourage a diverse range of visitors that reflects the nation.
6. Provide services that are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming for all.
7. Provide clear goals and targets for teams to work towards.

How will the Strategy be delivered and monitored?

The Head of Climate, Nature and Communities, Learning and Engagement Manager and HR Officer, with support from all managers, are responsible for delivering and monitoring this work. Working with the EDI Oversight Group, we will discuss ideas for championing the Strategy and embedding it into the work and culture of the Authority.

In delivering this work, we recognise that there will be constraints on capacity and budgets, and we may not be able to deliver everything. However, we have some great people championing this work and have existing external partnerships (and contacts for new partnerships) which puts us in good stead.

We will monitor and review progress, particularly updating what we have delivered, where we are improving, and identifying new opportunities or actions. Members will be presented with progress as part of the annual Corporate Plan reporting.



<p>Levels</p>	<p>Basic We meet the legal requirements set out in the Equalities Act 2010.</p>	<p>Awareness Equity, diversity and inclusion are recognised as essential to our overall success and initiatives are in place to improve.</p>	<p>Understanding & Application Our Members, Leaders, Managers and staff recognise and embrace the benefits of diversity. ENPA implement EDI into projects, programmes, strategies and policies and monitor the outcomes.</p>	<p>Integration EDI is completely integrated into our organisation, is continually monitored and reviewed to ensure outcomes are met and we continuously challenge ourselves to do more.</p>	<p>Sustained EDI is central to how we think and work over the long and medium term. This is reflected in resource allocation, staffing, strategy, partnerships and service delivery. We can clearly demonstrate and evidence positive and sustained change.</p>
<p>Culture & Values</p>	<p>We meet the legal requirements.</p>	<p>An EDI Strategy is being developed, and progress will be monitored and reported. We have EDI vision in place to define our overall objective. All staff and Members (including new) are provided with EDI training. We have a some understanding of where we are with EDI through monitoring, research and available data.</p>	<p>An equality statement is provided on our Authority reports, and it is considered at decision making at Leadership Team level. EDI is incorporated into our values.</p>	<p>There is no systematic monitoring in place across the organisation, except for recruitment and outreach work, and visitor surveys.</p>	<p>Equality Impact Assessments are completed as part of any staffing review. Resources are available to ensure reasonable adjustments are in place for staff.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Continually review legislative changes and incorporate into work.</p>	<p>Complete the EDI Strategy and adopt it for the organisation. Follow up on regular training. Create central space for data. Survey staff. Communication.</p>	<p>More evidence needs to be provided to demonstrate equality, and diversity is embraced and considered and is not just a 'tick box' exercise. Embed into values work.</p>	<p>Consider methods to regularly monitor EDI across the organisation.</p>	<p>Training to be provided for completing EIAs at all levels across the organisation. Evidence of positive and sustained change needs to be gathered.</p>



Levels	Basic We meet the legal requirements set out in the Equalities Act 2010.	Awareness Equity, diversity and inclusion are recognised as essential to our overall success and initiatives are in place to improve.	Understanding & Application Our Members, Leaders, Managers and staff recognise and embrace the benefits of diversity. ENPA implement EDI into projects, programmes, strategies and policies and monitor the outcomes.	Integration EDI is completely integrated into our organisation, is continually monitored and reviewed to ensure outcomes are met and we continuously challenge ourselves to do more.	Sustained EDI is central to how we think and work over the long and medium term. This is reflected in resource allocation, staffing, strategy, partnerships and service delivery. We can clearly demonstrate and evidence positive and sustained change.
Services	We meet the legal requirements, including the website.	We have begun to define what success in EDI would look like and staff and members will be engaged in developing actions and ideas to deliver EDI in ALL our services	There are EIAs for all services on file, but they are out of date.	There are areas of the organisation that monitor service delivery, e.g., recruitment, visitor surveys, and outreach work.	Further work is required to ensure that EDI is considered in the development and long-term view of our services.
Actions	Continually review legislative changes and incorporate into work.	Messaging and training.	Review of EIAs across services. EIAs have been completed for some of our policies, but others need to be completed.	Consider our approaches to monitoring equality in service delivery.	Decision makers should question EDI when discussions take place and be aware of these before decisions are taken.
Resources	We meet the legal requirements.	Resources are available to support our EDI work.	Leadership Team recognise the need to resource the application of EDI.	Whilst resources are available, we need to ensure that there is capacity to deliver this work.	Whilst resources are available for the EDI work, we still need to ensure that resources and capacity are available in long-term to sustain this work.
Actions	Continually review legislative changes and incorporate into work.	None	None	The approach to the Strategy has been a collaborative one across the organisation and Members to ensure that everyone can take positive action and act as Champions.	Further discussion will need to take place with regard to resourcing in the long-term.



Levels	Basic We meet the legal requirements set out in the Equalities Act 2010.	Awareness Equity, diversity and inclusion are recognised as essential to our overall success and initiatives are in place to improve.	Understanding & Application Our Members, Leaders, Managers and staff recognise and embrace the benefits of diversity. ENPA implement EDI into projects, programmes, strategies and policies and monitor the outcomes.	Integration EDI is completely integrated into our organisation, is continually monitored and reviewed to ensure outcomes are met and we continuously challenge ourselves to do more.	Sustained EDI is central to how we think and work over the long and medium term. This is reflected in resource allocation, staffing, strategy, partnerships and service delivery. We can clearly demonstrate and evidence positive and sustained change.
Strategy	We meet the legal requirements.	EDI is clearly defined and highlighted as a priority within key documents Clear targets / outcomes are identified	Staff and Members involved in the Strategy's development will be aware of this work. However, wider communication is required once the Strategy has been completed.	The Strategy has not yet been integrated into the work we do.	The Strategy will need to be monitored for effectiveness and further developed for the longer-term.
Actions	Continually review legislative changes and ensure the EDI Strategy is updated accordingly.	Adopt the Strategy.	Raise awareness and understanding of the Strategy.	Workshops with teams to integrate the Strategy into their work.	Consider how and when we monitor effectiveness.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

7 October 2025

AUTHORITY MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Report of the Head of Enterprise and Operations

Purpose of the report: To present to Members a schedule of meetings of the Authority and its Committees for 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt a schedule of meetings of the Authority and its Committees for 2026 attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

Authority Priority: Develop and maintain effective and efficient services.

Legal and Equality Implications: The Authority's Standing Orders provide that each year the Authority shall approve a calendar of meetings of the Authority and its Committees and Sub Committees.

The equality and human rights impact of the recommendation of this report has been assessed as having no adverse impact on any particular group or individual.

Financial and Risk Implications: The Authority's meeting arrangements are intended to make best use of member time and resources while ensuring Authority business is dealt with efficiently and in a manner open to public scrutiny.

Climate Response: As part of the action plan for the Climate Emergency response, and the return to in-person meetings, the Authority moved back to paperless meetings from March 2022.

1. 2026 Authority Meetings Schedule

- 1.1 The Authority Meetings Schedule for 2026 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The schedule provides for monthly Authority Committee and Planning Committee meetings, with January and August being reserve dates, and two meetings of the Standards Committee (April and November). Additionally, the Exmoor Forum has been included within June 2026 (as an annual forum meeting).
- 1.3 Member training and briefing sessions will be scheduled throughout the year when time permits and members will receive prior notice of these as appropriate.
- 1.4 Dates for meetings of the Final Accounts Committee and any additional meetings of the Authority's Standards Committee will be agreed and notified depending upon the business requirements of each Committee.
- 1.5 As is usual practice, the schedule has been shared with the constituent County and District Councils.

Ben Barrett

Head of Enterprise and Operations

October 2025

Appendix 1

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES 2026

Day	Date	Time	Meeting
JANUARY			
Friday	2 January	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	6 January	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	6 January	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting (Reserve Date)
Friday	30 January	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
FEBRUARY			
Tuesday	3 February	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	3 February	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	27 February	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
MARCH			
Tuesday	3 March	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	3 March	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
APRIL			
tbc	tbc	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	7 April	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	7 April	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	7 April	tbc	Standards Committee Meeting
MAY			
Friday	1 May	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	5 May	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	5 May	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	29 May	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
JUNE			
Tuesday	2 June	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority ANNUAL Meeting
Tuesday	2 June	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
tbc	tbc	tbc	Exmoor Forum

Appendix 1

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES 2026

JULY			
Friday	3 July	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	7 July	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Annual Meeting
Tuesday	7 July	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	31 July	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
AUGUST			
Tuesday	4 August	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	4 August	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting (Reserve Date)
Friday	28 August	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
SEPTEMBER			
Tuesday	1 September	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	1 September	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
OCTOBER			
Friday	2 October	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
Tuesday	6 October	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	6 October	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Friday	30 October	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
NOVEMBER			
Tuesday	3 November	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	3 November	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	3 November	tbc	Standards Committee Meeting
Friday	27 November	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)
DECEMBER			
Tuesday	1 December	10.00am	Exmoor National Park Authority Meeting
Tuesday	1 December	1.30pm	Planning Committee Meeting
tbc	tbc	am	Pre-Meeting Planning Site Visit (Reserve Date)