

To: National Park Authority, 30 September 2022
From: Gareth Jones, Director of Planning & Place

Appointment of Members to Corporate Joint Committee Sub-Committees

Decision Required	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Agenda Item	9
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Authority:

Delegates authority to the Chair and Vice Chair in consultation with the Chief Executive to make further appointments or changes to the National Park Authority's membership of Corporate Joint Committee Sub-Committees as may be required from time to time.

Key Messages

Four Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) have now been established as regional governance structures across Wales. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) is a member of three regional CJCs – Mid Wales, South East Wales and South West Wales.

Additional BBNPA nominations have been requested to provide representation on the Mid Wales CJC sub-committees to meet governance and membership requirements.

It is envisaged that further nominations will be required for the South East and South West CJC sub committees in the future.

Background

1. Corporate Joint Committees

- 1.1 CJCs are regional corporate bodies, with broadly similar powers and duties to local authorities. They also have similar governance and administrative structures but have a level of discretion on constitutional and operational arrangements. In February 2021, Welsh Government laid regulations establishing four regional CJCs across Wales.
- 1.2 CJCs are made up of the local authorities named in the regulations that establish them, and membership is made up of the elected council leaders of the local authorities within that region. National Park authorities are also included where one sits wholly or partially within a CJC area.

1.3 CJs are responsible for strategic development planning, regional transport planning and promoting the economic well-being of their area. The core functions of CJs commenced on 30 June 2022.

2. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority CJC Appointments

2.1 The BBNPA is a member of three regional Corporate Joint Committees – Mid Wales, South East Wales and South West Wales. The officeholders who are eligible to be the Brecon Beacons members on the main committee are:

- the chairman of the Authority,
- the deputy chairman of the Authority, or
- the chairperson of a committee with responsibility for planning matters as may be established by the Authority.

2.2 At the NPA meeting on 1st July 2022, Members agreed the followings appointments as the Authority's representative on the respective CJs and sub-committees:

- Mid Wales CJC - Cllr Gareth Radcliffe
- South West Wales CJC - Aled Edwards
- South East CJC - Julian Stedman

3. Mid Wales CJC Sub Committee Nominations

3.1 The constitution and governance structures for the Mid Wales CJC were approved at its meeting on 4th July 2022. Nominations are subsequently requested from BBNPA for the following additional vacancies:

- Strategic Development Planning Sub Committee – Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe & 1 x Vacancy
- Standards Sub Committee – 1 x member BBNPA, 1 x independent member (BBNPA)
- Governance & Audit Sub Committee – 2 x member BBNPA, 1 x independent member (BBNPA)

3.2 The Monitoring Officer has advised that Welsh Government appointed members meet the definition of an 'independent member'.

4. Other CJC Appointments

4.1 Governance arrangements for the South East and South West CJs have not progressed to the same stage as the Mid Wales CJC and are still being finalised. Consequently, there is no requirement for additional nominations to these CJs at the current time, however future appointments are anticipated.

Relation to Authority Priorities

This is a procedural matter for the appointment of representation on outside bodies which requires NPA approval.

Impact Analysis

Financial – N/A

Legal – N/A

Diversity – N/A

Human Resources – N/A

Sustainability – N/A

Risk

Key internal challenges include:

The Authority currently has only two Welsh Government appointed members. Representation and attendance on CJC sub-committees is likely to be constrained by member capacity until additional Welsh Government appointed members are appointed.

Conclusion and Next Steps

BBNPA is a member of three regional CJCs. The Authority has been asked to nominate additional members to the Mid Wales CJC sub committees as set out in this report to meet the CJC's governance requirements. Additional nominations are also likely to be required to the South East and South West sub committees in the future.

Once appointed, members will be asked to attend meetings to represent the Authority on the respective CJC sub committees as resources allow.