Contact details:

Tel: 01730 814810

Email committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee will be held at **10.30am** on **9 J**uly **2026** at **The Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, GU29 9DH**

Siôn McGeever

Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declaration of Interests

To enable Members to declare to the meeting any disclosable interest they may have in any matter on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous Policy and Resources Committee meetings

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 19 February 2026. (page 5)

4. Updates on previous Committee Decisions

To receive any updates on previous decisions from the Policy and Resources Committee minutes that are not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

5. Urgent Matters

To consider any matter on the agenda which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency to due special circumstances.

6. Public participation

To hear questions or comments from members of the public present at the meeting.

7. Need for Part II Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee is asked to consider whether, in respect of Appendix 3 of Agenda Item 17 the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Authority and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is proposed on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings, it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by the requirement of the National Park Authority to be able to consider matters in relation to its business and fully consider the implications of its actions or proposed actions particularly in relation to decisions which may have implications on the effective day-to-day running of the Authority without the disclosure of information that could adversely impact the day-to-day running of the Authority and its ability to deliver its services.

8. Chair Update

To receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee

AUDIT

9. Update on Internal Audit Progress and Implementation of Actions

To consider a report from the Internal Auditor (PR25/26-26 page 15)

10. Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion

To consider a report from the Internal Auditor (PR25/26-27 page 27)

11. External Audit Plan

To consider a report from the External Auditor (PR25/26-28 page 41)

STRATEGIES & POLICIES

12. Changing Chalk Project Update

To receive a verbal report from the National Trust Changing Chalk Project Manager

13. Annual Review of Planning Performance: Financial Year 2025/26

To consider a report from the Director of Placemaking (PR25/26-29 page 77)

14. Q4 Corporate Performance Report 2025/26

To consider a report from the Director of Landscape and Operations (PR25/26-30 page 103)

15. Defra Capital Grant 2025/26 **– end of year review**

To consider a report from the Head of Finance and Corporate Services (PR25/26-31 page 193)

16. Q4 Seven Sisters Country Park Performance Report 2025/26

To consider a report from the Commercial and Strategic Manager (PR25/26-32 page 199)

GOVERNANCE

17. Corporate Risk Register

To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (PR25/26-33 page 207)

18. Annual Governance Statement and Updated Local Code of Corporate Governance

To receive a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (PR25/26-34 page 225)

To all Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:

John Cross, Mark Fairweather, Theresa Fowler, Melanie Hunt, Robson Peisley, Jerry Pett, Mark Potter, Steven Ridgeon, Vanessa Rowlands, Lara Sonola, Vicki Wells and Stephen Whale.

Independent Members of the Committee: Catriona Aves and Tom Fourcade.

Co-opted Members of the Committee: Cameron Macdonald and Arthur Sloman.

Members' Interests

SDNPA Members have a primary responsibility for ensuring that the Authority furthers the National Park Purposes and Duty. Members regard themselves first and foremost as Members of the Authority, and will act in the best interests of the National Park as a whole, rather than as representatives of their appointing body or any interest groups.

Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest that is not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and any personal interest and/or public service interest (as defined in Paragraph 18 of the Authority's Code of Conduct) they may consider relevant to an item of business being considered at the meeting (such disclosure to be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent)./24

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As part of the Authority's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting may be filmed for live and/ or subsequent broadcast via the internet; at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training or any other purposes by the Authority. Webcasting is undertaken in the public interest and in the exercise of our official authority, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed, recorded or photographed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this, please e-mail committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk

Public Participation

Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should register their request no later than 24 hours before the meeting by e-mailing public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk The public participation protocol is available on our website www.southdowns.gov.uk

Feedback

If you wish to give us feedback on your experience of the meeting please e-mail committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk