

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Date of Meeting: 26th November 2001

Public

Key Decision:

No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: NOMINATION OF COUNCILLOR TO NORTH PENNINES AONB PARTNERSHIP

Report of: DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Report reference: EN.180/01

Summary:

This report sets out the background to the North Pennines AONb Partnership and the options for Council representation on the Partnership.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that a Member of the Council is nominated to represent Carlisle City Council on the North Pennines AONB Partnership

Mike Battersby

Director of Environment and Development

Report to the Chairman and Members of EN.180/01

Executive

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.1 North Pennines Partnership includes agencies, local government, community, voluntary and private sector bodies. Its vision is "to protect, enhance and promote the landscape and economy of the North Pennines by working in partnership for the benefit of the environment, local community, visitors and future generations". The Partnership comprises officer and Member representation from each constituent Local Authority in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

1.2 Agencies other than Local Authorities on the Partnership include the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, North Pennines Heritage Trust, Forestry Authority and RSPB.

1.3 Previously Councillor Ms Ridley represented Carlisle City Council at Member level however representation has not been maintained by the Council.

1.4 There are two options available to the Executive

(1) To nominate a Member to represent the Council on the Partnership

(2) To delegate representation to officers only

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 No consultation has been undertaken to date.

2.2 No consultation is proposed.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

3.1 Members would be required to attend two partnership meetings a year. Additional attendance at working groups may be required dependent upon the work programme. Officers already attend partnership meetings and have attended working groups on projects as required by the partnership.

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3.2 The City Council contributes £1,000 to the Partnership towards core costs for AONB management. Durham County Council is the host authority for the AONB management staff.

4. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

4.1 No comments

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 No comments

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Meetings are conducted in public offices no risk other than undertaking normal office duties is envisaged.

8. EQUALITY ISSUES

8.1 Any Member of the Council can be nominated.

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9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 emphasises the responsibilities for Local Authorities in AONB management. The protection and enhancement of the landscape is a prime objective of AONB designation. Representation on the Partnership will contribute to the working of the Partnership to improve and protect the high quality landscape.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that the Executive nominate a Member to represent Carlisle City Council at the North Pennines AONB Partnership meetings and on project work as required for the good management of the North Pennines AONB.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 emphasised the role Local Authorities are required to take in their responsibility for AONB management. Representation of a Member on the Partnership will indicate the Council's commitment towards the AONB. Representation will also ensure that Carlisle City Council can perform an equal role to other Local Authorities in the partnership to assist in taking forward the work of the Partnership.

Mike Battersby

Director of Environment and Development

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