

BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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Dear Member

An **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** of the **NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY** will be held in **THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, PLAS Y FFYNNON, CAMBRIAN WAY, BRECON** on **TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 2005 AT 1.30PM OR ON THE RISING OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE** when your attendance is requested.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTOPHER GLEDHILL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1.0 CORRESPONDENCE

To receive the attached Schedule of Correspondence and make any recommendations thereon. (Below).

2.0 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interests from members regarding items to be considered on the agenda. (Members' attention is drawn to the sheet circulating with the Attendance Sheet, and the need to declare any interests both in writing and verbally at the meeting).

3.0 PUBLIC SPEAKING

To give opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee in accordance with the Authority's Public Speaking Scheme.

4.0 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – RESPONSE FROM WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Members may recall the resolution at the National Park Authority (NPA) meeting on 17th December that officers would contact the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)

for clarification as to how any representations received to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) should be dealt with.

The Interim Good Practice Guide for the SEA of Unitary Development Plan (UDP) published by WAG in 2004, suggests that ideally the SEA should be consulted on alongside the Deposit UDP. However the NPA was not in a position to do this since the Deposit version was published for consultation before consultants were appointed to carry out the SEA. Indeed the timetable for producing the Deposit UDP was already in motion prior to the SEA legislation becoming effective.

Your officers therefore advised on 17th December of their intention to publish and consult on the SEA report alongside the Pre-Inquiry Changes in order to best fulfil the SEA regulations. WAG were contacted and appraised of the situation and asked for their view. Their response is included below;

“SEA remains uncharted territory; in the spirit of assistance rather than objection or instruction, our considered view is that the Environmental Report should not be sent out/publicised in isolation but that the deposit UDP should be publicised again with the Report. We would suggest that you do not amend the UDP until after you have had comments on the Environmental Report. This does not imply that we think you need to go through a formal re deposit of the UDP. However, it would be sensible for you to consider as valid any objections to the deposit version of the UDP that occur when you publicise it with the Environmental Report”

Officers consider that WAG's suggestion is unreasonable since the financial and time implications are identical to a re-deposit which would be costly with no clear benefit to the UDP process. It seems entirely reasonable to publish the SEA with the Pre-Inquiry Changes as intended to enable full public consultation. If necessary from the comments we receive, the NPA may decide it is appropriate to have a further suggested changes stage prior to the Inquiry.

- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: No financial or staffing implications.**
- b) **Equality Issues: None**
- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: The UDP has been subject to a strategic Environmental Assessment.**
- d) **Human Rights: No implications**
- e) **Background Papers: None**

Recommendation: To publish the SEA for public consultation with the Pre-Inquiry Changes to the UDP;

5.0 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN: DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

The UDP Working Group advised that it would benefit implementation of the UDP if development principles for key allocated sites were included in the UDP. The Development Principles would then be subject to full public consultation as part of the Pre-Inquiry Changes.

A consultant was engaged to carry out the work for the following sites; Brecon Regional Employment site; two sites in Talgarth – Hay Road adjacent to Talgarth Joinery and the former DSO/Wireguards factory site; and Cwrt Y Gollen. The draft reports including site maps are contained at **Enclosure 1**. The final versions of the reports will be presented at the Authority meeting.

- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: No financial or staffing implications.**
- b) **Equality Issues: None**
- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: The UDP has been subject to a strategic Environmental Assessment.**
- d) **Human Rights: No implications**
- e) **Background Papers: None**

Recommendation: To endorse the content of the Development Principles for publication as part of the Pre-Inquiry Changes to the UDP

SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Such other correspondence as, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.