

National Parks Policy and Sponsorship Branch
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Zone 1/03, Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6EB

Monday, 24 August 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Consultation on the membership of the future South Downs National Park Authority

Please find enclosed our response to the above consultation document which answers in order those questions raised in the publication.

1. What is your preferred overall size for the Authority?

The council view is that 29 members on the National Park Authority will provide sufficient accountability and effective leadership. However, if that membership is increased for other local authorities, Brighton & Hove City Council's membership should also be increased commensurately to reflect the following:

- the city has the largest population bordering the National Park;
- over 40% of the area of the city will be in the National Park;
- the council is a major landowner in the National Park;
- as a unitary authority the city would not benefit from two tier membership of the National Park Authority;
- with only one parish (Rottingdean) the parish council membership from within the city will be low (if not zero as the main settlement of Rottingdean is not in the National Park); and
- the city is likely to be a major access point for visitors to the South Downs National Park.

2. Within your preferred overall total, how many seats would you want to have for local authority members; for national members; and for parish members?

We advocate the model proposed in the consultation document for a 29 member NPA which includes 15 local authority members, 8 national members and 6 parish members.

3. If you are advocating more than 15 local authority seats (so that there is more than the statutory minimum of one per Council available) how would you allocate those additional seats?

We do not advocate more than 15 local Authority seats but please refer to our answer to question 1.

4. For local authority respondents only: Do you wish to be excluded from the list of Councils appointing to the National Park Authority (this option is given to you by paragraph 2 (3) of Schedule 7 to the 1995 Act)

Brighton and Hove City Council wish to be represented on the National Park Authority.

I hope this response is sufficient but should you require any further information from the council please do not hesitate to make contact.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Geoffrey Theobald OBE
Cabinet Member for Environment