

NFNPA RAPC 250/15

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 2 FEBRUARY 2015

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT ANPA INDUCTION COURSES

Report by: John Sanger, NPA member

Summary

It is clear that over time, uptake by new members attending the free induction course run by Association of National Parks Authorities (ANPA) has significantly declined. Having discussed this with the Chairman we agreed that I would raise this matter at the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee.

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The three day ANPA Induction Course is held twice each year (in January and September) and course programmes include information and advice around the member's role as well as sessions on unique issues concerning NPAs. There is no cost to NPAs other than accommodation and travel. Members attending the events are also able to interact and discuss aspects of their new roles informally with each other and with the course facilitators.
- 1.2 The normal practice is for Member Services to notify new members of the next scheduled induction courses when this information is received from ANPA; details of those members wishing to attend the course are then passed on to ANPA who in turn provide an itinerary, as well as accommodation and travel information for onward transmission to the members concerned.
- 1.3 Although ANPA does not keep records of attendance further back than 2008, it would appear that a significant proportion of the current 22 members of the Authority have not attended the ANPA Induction Course. Induction courses were initially very well attended by new members of the NPA especially on the establishment of the Authority in 2005 and the course is an excellent opportunity to learn about the functions of National Park Authorities and the responsibilities of members. ANPA recognise that the course is highly valuable in equipping members for this new role.
- 1.4 Attendance at an ANPA induction course is currently not a requirement on new members but in view of the value and benefits in attending Members are asked to support the recommendation.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- 1) All existing members be offered an opportunity to attend or re-do the course.
- 2) All new members selected for appointment be requested to express a willingness on their appointment to attend the course.

Papers:

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Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.