



Southern Area Committee

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REPORT

NEW FOREST COMMITTEE. PROPOSAL TO DISBAND THE COMMITTEE WHEN THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY COMES INTO OPERATION.

Report Summary:

The New Forest Committee was formed in June 1990, to bring together into one organisation the statutory bodies involved in the New Forest so that by co-ordinating their responsibilities the Forest and Heritage Area may be better conserved. In October 1991 the Committee decided to extend an invitation to District and County Councils who had the heritage area in their boundaries to take up observer status. This was upgraded to Member status in 1996.

Now that the National Park will soon be designated and performing some functions from April 1st 2005, the role of the Committee has come into question. Given that the Park Authority will be doing much of the same work as the Committee, it has been suggested that the New Forest Committee be disbanded as and when the National Park Authority comes into operation.

At present we contribute towards the running costs of the Committee and should it be disbanded then this budget will no longer be required and the sum can be returned to reserves.

The next meeting of the Committee is on 1st March and the voting members will be asked to vote as to whether the Committee should continue. Our representative is Cllr Randall, who would like Southern Area Committee Member feedback prior to voting on this issue.

Recommendations

1. That the Southern Area Committee considers the disbanding of the committee and gives feedback to Cllr Randall that he can convey at the meeting, and vote as appropriate.

Background Papers:

None

Implications:

Legal: None

Financial: Contained within existing budget. Should the Committee be disbanded then the budget will be returned to reserves.

Personnel: None

Environmental: None

Human Rights: None at this stage

Council's Core values: Excellent Service; Fairness and Equality; open, learning Council and a willing partner; communicating with the public; supporting the disadvantaged.

Consultation Undertaken: None

Parish Affected: Redlynch, Whiteparish and Landford.