

## Committee Minutes

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# **Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee**

**Regional Park Headquarters, Biggar Road, Edinburgh  
26 July 2012**

**Present:-**

**Members:-**

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillors Henderson and Walker.

**Midlothian Council** – Councillor Imrie.

**West Lothian Council** – Councillor Toner.

**Scottish Natural Heritage** – J O’Keefe (substituting for J Winning)

**Scottish Water** – A Fail

**In Attendance:-**

A McGregor (Regional Park Manager); G O’Connor (Midlothian Council), C Alcorn (West Lothian Council) and D Emerson (City of Edinburgh Council).

## **1 Appointment of Convener and Vice-Convener**

The Joint Committee made appointments as follows –

Convener - Councillor Henderson (City of Edinburgh Council)

Vice-Convener - Councillor Heslop (City of Edinburgh Council)

## **2 Minutes – Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee of 16 March 2012**

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record.

## **2 Introduction to Pentland Hills Regional Park**

Following a welcome to members by the Convener, the Regional Park Manager was invited to give a background report to the Regional Park, explaining its aims, the governance arrangements, the Ranger Service and funding issues.

### **Decision**

To note the background report.

(Reference – report by Parks and Greenspace Manager, 26 July 2012, submitted.)

## **3 Social Return on Investment Study**

The City of Edinburgh Council intended to undertake a 'Social Return on Investment' study relative to the Regional Park. The exercise was intended to attempt to quantify and value the contribution to social welfare of local communities and stakeholders of the services provided through the Regional Park authority. The Council had allocated £6000 towards the cost of the study.

The Convener then invited K Carrick, from Greenspace Scotland, as consultant, to explain further the methodology of the study and the exercises involved, including the methods of attribute monetary values to the social benefits to individuals and stakeholders, to arrive at a 'ratio' of investment to return. The consultations with stakeholders would include landowners, farmers, community and user groups and visitors to the Park, to ascertain their expectations and their views as to what had been realised through the Regional Park.

The findings would be reported to the Joint Committee.

### **Decision**

To note the study and that the outcome would be reported to the Joint Committee in due course.

(Reference – report by the Parks and Greenspace Manager, 26 July 2012, submitted)

## **4 Review of Governance and Consultative Mechanisms**

The Parks and Greenspace Manager submitted a report proposing that the governance arrangements for the Regional Park be streamlined, in keeping with changes in the operation and funding of the Regional Park over recent years. In terms of committee meetings, he considered that there was duplication between

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the business on agendas for the Joint Committee and the Consultative Forum and that it would be preferable for the two bodies to meet at the same time, as one body, in a re-formed 'Pentlands Partnership'. He also suggested that the representation on the Consultative Forum required to be reviewed, in terms of stakeholders and user groups.

It was also suggested that the frequency of inter-authority officer meetings be reduced, and also certain other meetings involving stakeholders.

Following discussion, members were of the view that in total the number of meetings should be reduced, commensurate with the reduced resources. They also agreed that all members of the Joint Committee should attend the Consultative Forum to discuss items together with stakeholders; however the Joint Committee should remain as a separate body of elected members and partner funders, as currently constituted.

### **Decision**

To agree –

1. that the Joint Committee should remain as currently constituted;
2. that the Joint Committee members be included in the Consultative Forum membership, in order that the two groups meet together to discuss forthcoming items of business, with a view to recommendations, or views expressed for the following consideration and final decision by the Joint Committee.
3. that meetings be reduced to 4 in total over a year, with two meetings of the Consultative Committee and two meetings of the Joint Committee per annum;
5. that a programme of meetings be arranged by the Clerk in consultation with the Convener, for the next year, with the Joint Committee to be scheduled to meet three weeks after a meeting of the Consultative Forum.
6. that the matter of representation on the Consultative Forum be referred to its next meeting on 24 August 2012, for views, with the Regional Park Manager authorised to implement any proposed changes, and
7. that the Parks and Greenspace Manager report to the next meeting of the Joint Committee on any finalised governance arrangements or required revisions to the Minute of Agreement.

(Reference – report by Parks and Greenspace Manager, 22 July 2011, submitted)

## **5 Annual Report 2011/13**

The Regional Park Manager had prepared and published the Annual Report 2011/13. The Annual Report, which described the main areas of work undertaken over the year, had been circulated to stakeholders and interested parties and was available to view on the Regional Park website.

### **Decision**

To note the Annual Report.

(Reference – Pentland Hills Regional Park Annual Report 2011/13.)

## **6 Date of Next Meeting**

A meeting of the Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum was scheduled for 24 August 2012.

The Clerk was asked to draw up a programme of meetings for both the Joint Committee and Consultative Forum for the next year.