

Pentland Hills Regional Park - Review of Consultative Forum Representation

Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum

24th August 2012

Purpose of report

- 1 To advise the Consultative Forum of proposed changes to the operation and membership of the Consultative Forum and to seek the Forum's views on revised membership.

Main report

- 2 At its meeting of 26th March 2012, the Joint Committee requested that proposals to streamline the governance and consultative mechanisms for the Regional Park be brought forward for consideration. At its meeting of 26th July 2012, the Joint Committee considered a number of recommendations (see Appendix 1).
- 3 Following consideration, the Joint Committee agreed that:
 - a) the Joint Committee should remain as currently constituted;
 - b) the Joint Committee and the Consultative Forum should continue to meet on separate dates, but that all Joint Committee Elected Members should attend the Consultative Forum - This will mean that forthcoming items of business can be discussed jointly and the views of the Consultative Forum be taken into account prior to a final decision by the Joint Committee at its next meeting. It is intended that this will give the Consultative Forum a stronger influence on the decision making process;
 - c) the Joint Committee meets twice yearly and the Consultative Forum meets twice yearly, meaning a total of four meetings per year;
 - d) the meeting dates and cycle be planned well in advance to support attendance and participation;
 - e) the matter of membership and representation on the Consultative Forum be referred to the Consultative Forum for comment at its meeting of 24th August and that the Regional Park Manager be authorised to implement any proposed changes; and

f) the Parks & Greenspace Manager report back to the next meeting of the Joint Committee on finalised arrangements and any required revisions to the minute of agreement.

Financial Implications

- 4 Reducing the total number of meetings from eight to four and having the Joint Committee Members attend the Consultative Forum represents significant efficiencies in elected member, officer and stakeholder time required to administer the Regional Park while at the same time, promoting a closer partnership working.

Equalities Impact

- 5 In reviewing the membership of the Consultative Forum, there is an opportunity to involve currently under represented interests. This will assist in the consideration of the Regional Park's role and effectiveness in dealing with inequalities allowing improvements to be made.

Environmental Impact

- 6 The proposals will improve the governance and consultative mechanisms for the Regional Park and strengthen its ability to provide effective and efficient visitor and environmental management services in the Pentland Hills.

Recommendations

- 7 It is recommended that the Consultative Forum:
 - a) notes the proposed changes;
 - b) is invited to consider existing membership and make recommendations for future representation and membership on the Consultative Forum.

David Jamieson
Parks & Greenspace Manager

Appendices Appendix 1: Review of Governance and Consultative Mechanisms – Report to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee 26th July 2012.

Appendix 2: Existing Membership of the Consultative Forum

Contact/tel/Email David Jamieson (Parks and Greenspace Manager, 0131 529 7055)
Keith Logie (Parks Development Manager, 0131 529 7916)
Alan McGregor (Regional Park Manager, 0131 445 3383)

Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs, and opportunities for all2. Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential4. Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Background Papers	None

**Appendix 1: Report to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee 26th
July 2012**

Appendix 2: Existing Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum

City of Edinburgh Council	2 x Elected Members
Midlothian Council	1x Elected member
West Lothian Council	1x Elected Member
Farming	National Farmers Union
Pentland Produce	Scottish Agricultural College
Landowning	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association.
Ministry of Defence Estates	1 representative
Scottish Wildlife Trust	1 representative
Friends of the Pentlands	1 representative
Fairmilehead Community Council	1 representative
Kirknewton Community Council	1 representative
Damhead Community Council	1 representative
Harperrig Management Group	1 representative
Walkers	Ramblers Association
British Horse Society	1 representative
Scottish Hill Runners	1 representative
Mountain Biking	Cycling Scotland
Disabled Users	Thistle Foundation
Scottish Angling Society	1 representative
Water Sports	Scottish Canoe Association
Orienteering	Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club
Scottish Water	1 representative
Scottish Natural Heritage	1 representative
Sport Scotland	1 representative
Historic Scotland (Archaeology)	1 representative
Economic/Rural Development (Scottish Government)	1 representative
Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board	1 representative
Balerno Village Trust	1 representative
Regional Park Manager	1 representative
City of Edinburgh Council	1 officer
Midlothian Council	1 officer
West Lothian Council	1 officer

