

Standing Orders and Appointments to Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee

Officers' Recommendations

1. ***That the Standing Orders are amended as set out in the Officers' Paper.***
2. ***That new General Members are appointed as a Members of the B&PSC.***

Background

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) appoint General Members to the Authority and, if General Members resign, the MMO appoints replacements. From the membership, the Authority makes appointments to the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC).

Appointments to the B&PSC are traditionally made at the June Authority meeting (Annual General Meeting). All Members of the Authority are encouraged to join the B&PSC and the total number of Authority Members being appointed to the B&PSC is not limited.

When appointed, the membership of the B&PSC is recorded on the D&S IFCA website. Members of the B&PSC are directly notified when the B&PSC meetings will take place and receive the Officers' papers for B&PSC meetings.

The current Standing Orders also enable Members of the B&PSC to be appointed if a vacancy exists.

Section 11.13 of the Standing Orders currently sets out that:

- *Where a vacancy exists on a Sub-Committee, a replacement Member will be sought by the Authority at the next meeting.*

Earlier this year Caroline Acton left the Authority. As Caroline Acton was a Member of the B&PSC, a vacancy on the B&PSC existed and in September 2025 Alistair Dewhirst was appointed as her replacement. Tom Birbeck has left the Authority; however, he was not a Member of the B&PSC. Dave Saunders, also a Member of the B&PSC, has now left the Authority, so a vacancy on the B&PSC exists once again. The MMO have appointed two new General Members, Sarah Holmyard and Mike Spiller, both of which have indicated a wish to join the B&PSC.

Simplifying the Appointment Process and Additional Appointments to the B&PSC

It is the view of Officers that the Authority AGM continues as the formal meeting when appointments (or re-appointments) to the B&PSC are made. However, it is beneficial to D&S IFCA if any Member can be appointed to the B&PSC at any Authority meeting, regardless of whether a vacancy exists or not.

Recommendations.

1. Officers recommend that Section 11.13 of the Standing Orders is amended to read: ***“Any Authority Member may be appointed to a Sub-Committee, at any Authority meeting”.***
2. Officers recommend that General Members, Sarah Holmyard and Mike Spiller, are appointed to the B&PSC

If Sarah Holmyard and Mike Spiller agree to join the B&PSC, the Membership of the B&PSC for the remainder of 2025-2026 will consist of the following:

Elected Members	Statutory Members	General Members
Cllr Louise Wainwright (Devon County Council)	Meg Hayward-Smith (Natural England)	Dr Emma Bean (B&PSC Chair)
Cllr Sara Wilson (Devon County Council)	Simon Toms (Environment Agency)	Professor Mike Williams (B&PSC Vice Chair)
Cllr Dermot McGeough (Devon County Council)		Jon Dornom
Cllr Jayne Stansfield (South Gloucestershire Council)		David Morgan
Cllr Josh McCarty (Plymouth City Council)		Felicity Sylvester
		Dr Simon Thomas
		Rachel Irish (MMO)
		Wayne Thomas
		Dr Pamela Buchan
		Mark Day
		Guy Baker
		Charlie Ziemann
		Didi Alayli
		Alistair Dewhirst
		Sarah Holmyard
		Mike Spiller

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers

[B&PSC Terms of Reference \(November 2025\)](#)

[D&S IFCA Standing Orders](#)