

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: BEST VALUE SELF ASSESSMENT

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Purpose

To present the Committee with the Authority's Best Value Self Assessment and resultant action plan and to seek member's views on these documents.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the Best Value self-assessment and action plan set out with this paper.
- b) Consider whether the Best Value action plan should be added to the standing items presented to Committee.

Executive Summary

The Authority is under an obligation to consider its achievement of Best Value in the delivery of public services and, through that, to consider how we may best approach "continuous improvement" in service delivery. The Scottish Executive developed a characterisation of Best Value as comprising 9 key components: commitment and leadership; governance; accountability; management of resources; responsiveness and consultation; review and option appraisal; sustainable development; equal opportunities; and joint working. To assist in the consideration of an organisation's position on each of those 9 characteristics, the Scottish Executive also developed a self-assessment questionnaire to help structure an organisation's position against key elements of these 9 best value characteristics.

The completed best value self assessment for the Authority is set out at Annex 1 to this paper. The Management Team agreed this self-assessment in October 2007. The main focus for the exercise is to determine which areas of the authority's services or practices require improvement action, rather than ensuring all items of appropriate evidence are identified. The Best Value self-assessment is not an end in itself: the main purpose is to develop a basis for developing forward action plans that will drive continuous improvement in service provision.

The Authority's Action Plan arising from this self assessment is set out at Annex 2 to this paper. The Management Team agreed this Action Plan in October 2007 and also agreed to include it within standing quarterly monitoring papers on operational plan and organisation performance.