

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: GOVERNANCE: DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Prepared by: DAVID CAMERON, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Purpose

This paper presents an initial update to the Committee on the initiation of a process to replace the Authority's current Management Statement and Financial Memorandum with a Framework Document.

Recommendations

The Audit & Risk Committee is asked to:

- a) Note that work has been initiated to develop a Framework Agreement to establish updated arrangements covering the governance relationship between the Authority and Scottish Government.**
- b) Agree any initial points of feedback on the template Framework Agreement.**

Executive Summary

1. The Park Authority's key governance relationship with Scottish Government is currently set out in a Management Statement and Financial Memorandum document (MSFM). The MSFM was last updated in 2010.
2. Scottish Government has been rolling out a Framework Document with Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) over the last few years. The Authority has liaised regularly with our sponsor team on this matter and we have now been asked to begin a formal process with our sponsor team to develop and approve a Framework Document for the Authority.
3. Consideration of the Framework Document at this point appears to fit well with other work currently being taken forward in the sphere of governance, and with the recommendations drawn out of the internal audit review of governance considered elsewhere on the agenda for the Committee's current meeting.

4. The model framework document drawn up by Scottish Government is set out at Annex I to this paper.
5. Consideration of this model document by the Audit Committee at this meeting allows for early consideration of any key points of feedback or themes to be covered in progressing development work. Any initial comment from Committee members will be combined with feedback from the Director of Corporate Services and other senior officers in giving initial responses to Scottish Government officials.
6. In terms of wider governance action, the Director of Corporate Services is in the process of drawing up a project overview and timetable to structure the various lines of work being undertaken on this theme. This will include work on the Framework Agreement. I plan to give the Committee sight of this timetable and a progress update at the next meeting in order to identify the appropriate aspects of this work for consideration by the Committee.

David Cameron

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davidcameron@cairngorms.co.uk
