

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: LEADER MONITORING AND ACCREDITATION REVIEW

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Purpose

This paper presents the Scottish Government Business Assurance Team's Monitoring and Accreditation review of the Cairngorms LEADER programme delivery.

Recommendations

The Audit & Risk Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the monitoring and accreditation review report and the Cairngorms LEADER team's responses to points raised;**
- b) Consider any implications for the Authority's risk and control frameworks raised by the report.**

Executive Summary

1. In addition to the requirement within the Service Level Agreement that the Authority undertakes an annual internal audit of its delivery of services supporting the Cairngorms LEADER programme, the Scottish Government's Business Assurance team undertakes periodic reviews of the local programme delivery.
2. The Business Assurance Team undertook a review of the Cairngorms LEADER programme delivery in May 2017 and their review report is set out in full at Annex I to this paper.
3. The Director of Corporate Services and Cairngorms LEADER team coordinated their responses to the findings and submitted these on 29 June. The responses are also set out in Annex I.
4. As highlighted in the Annex, a number of findings have been queried or rejected by Cairngorms officers. As the Annex also sets out, we believe that a number of the findings reported by the Business Assurance team would have significance for the national programme and not just Cairngorms. Our conversations with colleagues in the LEADER network across Scotland both confirm our view that the points highlighted would have significance across the country and also support our own view that we are correct to query them as they suspect the points raised are not valid.

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5. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this report for Committee, there have been no responses to the comments made, other than an acceptance from the head of the Business Assurance team that the point raised about declarations of interest in the report is incorrect.

6. The Director of Corporate Services has put the points of national programme significance on the agenda for the Accountable Bodies Board meeting in late September and may be able to provide a further update on these points at the meeting.

David Cameron

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