
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Prepared by: DAVID CAMERON, CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTOR

Purpose

To present the current Strategic Risk Register, and request the Committee to consider any amendments required to ensure the register continues to document the key strategic risks that may have a significant impact on the Authority's ability to achieve its strategic objectives.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider and amend as necessary the strategic risk register.

Executive Summary

Committee members agreed at their June meeting that an opportunity would be taken to discuss the Authority's current strategic risk register in some detail, to ensure that the register continued to document relevant risks to the successful delivery of the Authority's objectives as set out in the agreed Corporate Plan.

The Authority's Financial Memorandum requires the Authority to develop a risk management strategy, while the Management Statement requires the Chief Executive, as the Accountable Officer, to ensure that a system of risk management is embedded in the organisation, to inform decisions on financial and operational planning and to assist in achieving objectives and targets. Within this governance structure, the Audit Committee has a leading role to play on embedding a risk management culture within the organisation. The Committee has the opportunity to consider:

- a) the range of risk faced by the organisation in its delivery of agreed objectives;
- b) the extent to which the profile of risk faced by the organisation is acceptable – i.e. the assessment of significance of risk and the associated extent to which some risks are “accepted” and monitored rather than action being taken to mitigate risk;
- c) the organisation's capacity to handle risk, both in terms of resources and also through more detailed internal control reviews of the embedding of appropriate risk management activity within the Authority's operations.

The current strategic risk register was produced following a workshop attended by management team and some Board members in December 2008, and focuses on those risks that were agreed by all attendees at having both a high likelihood of occurring and also a

high impact on delivery of aspects of the Authority's Corporate Plan objectives (achievements) should they arise. Since the agreement of the strategic risk register by the Audit Committee in April 2009, the risk register has been reviewed and updated regularly – typically three times each year – by both Audit Committee members and the Management Team. The Board is updated on the strategic risk register through its inclusion as an annex to the Audit Committee's annual report.

The current strategic risk register is nearing the end of its expected useful life, as it is tied into the delivery of the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan covering 2007/12.

A risk management workshop has been built into the draft internal audit plan for 2011/12, with a view to establishing a revised strategic risk register on the basis of the new Corporate Plan commencing April 2012. I expect that this workshop will take place around late February 2012.

In the meantime, Audit Committee members have agreed that the current strategic risk register should be considered in some detail now in order that Committee can ensure it continues to provide a full, current statement of significant risks faced by the Authority over the remainder of the current Corporate Plan period. The current strategic risk register is set out as an annex to this paper.

DAVID CAMERON
23 August 2011

davidcameron@cairngorms.co.uk
