

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

CONFIDENTIAL - FOR DECISION

**Title: INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW: PLANNING
EFFECTIVENESS (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT)**

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Purpose

To present Deloitte's internal audit findings on their review of the effectiveness of the Authority's Development Management Processes and Procedures.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the internal auditor's findings on the operation of the Authority's arrangements for management and administration of the Cairngorms National Park Brand, as set out in Annex I;
- b) Endorse or amend the management responses to the recommendations for action.

Executive Summary

Deloitte, the Authority's internal auditors, have undertaken a review of the effectiveness of the Authority's Development Management Processes and procedures. The internal audit report is presented in full at Annex I to this paper.

The review is presented at this time within the context of a wider review of the Authority's planning processes and procedures. The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on 17 September for an informal discussion around development of planning services, which in turn will lead to the establishment of a Service Improvement Plan (SIP). Standing Orders for Planning Committee business are also under review, with the intention to bring these to a meeting of the Committee on 15 October.

The report now presented helps inform this wider work. However, it is not intended that the Audit Committee duplicate the wider review of Planning Services planned for these subsequent meetings.

The purpose of presenting this report now to the Audit Committee is to allow members to consider any internal control issues raised by the report in the usual way. The internal control areas tested by the review are summarised in the table set out at section 1.4, page 5 of the report at Annex I. Inevitably, some matters raised in the report overlaps into arrangements for operation and support of the Planning Committee, but these matters will be dealt with as part of discussions at forthcoming meetings. Consideration of the report

now will allow Audit Committee members to be informed of internal control considerations prior to these wider discussions.

The Deloitte report set out at Annex I includes draft management responses to these recommendations, including suggested responsibility and timescale for action where appropriate.

Management responses given at this time in many cases are more general than those provided to previous internal audit report. Again, this reflects the subsequent discussions to be held at full Planning Committee around future development of a SIP and review of standing orders. As this work becomes more fully developed, we will be able to better establish more detailed responses on management action to be taken on the recommendations for improvement made in this report and on associated timetables for action.

Members should also note that the overall review of this report prior to its presentation to Committee has been undertaken primarily by the Chief Executive, as Project Sponsor, and the Corporate Services Director.

Further consideration will be given to recommendations made by the internal auditors associated work on the SIP and Standing Orders is undertaken and decisions are made by Planning Committee. The recommendations in the report will be incorporated into the list of recommendations considered by Audit Committee as a standing item. Updates on actions taken and progress in addressing recommendations will be provided in the usual way.

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