



## Resource Committee Meeting Minutes

**Held online**

**04 October 2024 at 10.00am**

### **Present**

Russell Jones (Chair)

Sandy Bremner

Dr Hannah Grist

Derek Ross

Michael Williamson

### **In Attendance**

Grant Moir, Chief Executive Officer

David Cameron, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Corporate Services

Kate Christie, Head of Organisational Development

Louise Allen, Head of Finance and Corporate Operations

Karen Johnstone, Clerk to the Board

### **Apologies**

Jackie Brierton

Lauren McCallum (Deputy Chair)

### **Minutes from the previous meeting for approval**

1. The minutes from the previous meeting on the 09 August were approved with no amendments.

### **Matters arising not covered from previous meeting**

2. There were no matters arising.

<b>Actions from previous meetings</b>	
<b>17 May 2024</b>	
<b>Paper 2</b> i. The committee would like updates about the Peatland restoration grants and more information of the different types of restoration undertaken.	<b>Completed</b> Update will be given to Performance Committee



<b>Paper 5</b> i. Board members would like to see Eólas to read through the policies available or have a handbook available for Board Members to read.	Completed
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>09 August 2024</b>	
<b>Paper 1</b> i. Update committee on 25 / 26 and 26 / 27 budget when an update from Scottish Government becomes available.	In hand, will go to board in December
<b>Paper 3</b> ii. Mentioning the board members in the paper to make It clear these values and principles refer to both staff and board members. Circulate with board member once finalised. iii. Add the word "actions" to the last paragraph - our next phase of work through our organisational development and people strategy will be to seek appropriate ways to develop the culture through appropriate behaviours, policies and actions.	Completed
	Completed
<b>Paper 4</b> iv. Bring back more Information to the committee on the lone working and accident and Incident procedure once all staff members are trained in the new system.	In hand

## Declarations of interest

3. There were no declarations of interest made.



## **2024 / 25 Budget Monitoring (Paper 1)**

4. Louise Allen presented the paper which sets out an overview of the Park Authority's budget management position at the end of August - month 5 of the 2024 / 25 financial year.
5. The Resources Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments:
  - a) A board member raised a concern regarding the next financial year if Scottish Government (SG) were to cut funding again. Head of Finance and Corporate Operations explained that the team are currently working on projections and forecasts for the upcoming budget. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) highlighted that this financial year has seen different deployment of finances, such as the Climate Adaptation Fund, which could be revisited in event of significant reductions in financial allocations from government to the Park Authority. It was noted that more information will be available following the SG budget announcements on 04 December 2024.
  - b) Deputy CEO and Director of Corporate Services noted that the current financial position is one of the strongest we have been in, even with the loss of the Nature Restoration Funding (NRF) of £300,000. This financial year, the Park Authority have been spreading their cost more throughout the year, and the underspend of Peatland has been reduced from £700,000 to £200,000 with more contracts and grant applications coming in. Therefore, very positive signals are shown in budget management, even in the context of managing a significant increase in total turnover.
  - c) Sandy Bremner, Convener of the Park Authority Board commented he had met with the Cabinet Secretary, Mhairi Gougeon, this week and in robust terms, expressed deep concerns at the loss of NRF, and noting the importance of Peatland and Nature Restoration.
  - d) A board member asked for clarification on grant-in-aid. Head of Finance and Corporate Operations explained that this was the Park Authority's funding from SG and what the budget is built around.
6. The Resources Committee noted the paper.
7. Action point arising: None.

## **AOCB**

8. None.



## Date of next meeting

9. The public meeting ended at 10.14am.

10. The next meeting will take place on 24 January 2025.

Motion for confidential session to protect confidentiality of staff pay and conditions proposals prior to formal negotiations was made and agreed by members.

Resources Committee action points:

ACTION	Status
<b>Action points arising from previous meetings</b>	
<b>09 August 2024</b>	
<b>Paper 1</b> i. Update committee on 25 /26 and 26/27 budget when an update from Scottish Government becomes available.	In hand, will go to board in December
<b>Paper 4</b> ii. Bring back more Information to the committee on the lone working and accident and Incident procedure once all staff members are trained in the new system.	In hand