
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: PROCUREMENT CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

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Purpose

This paper presents the results of the 2013 Procurement Capability Assessment (PCA).

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the results of the 2013 Procurement Capability Assessment;
- b) Discuss future strategy for development of the Authority's procurement capabilities.

Executive Summary

Scottish Government introduced a process of Procurement Capability Assessment (PCA) in 2008 and the Committee has received updates annually on the Authority's performance in these assessments. This paper presents the results of the latest assessment exercise undertaken over the course of summer 2013.

The PCA assessment in 2013/14 itself signifies a significant step forward in both the Authority's joint working and efficiency arrangements. For the first time, the assessment is a joint assessment undertaken on the collective procurement arrangements of both National Park Authorities, representing achievement of a significant milestone put in place by the Joint Corporate Services Director in instigating the shared procurement expertise in 2009 and highlighting the embedded nature of the shared procurement policies and expertise developed. The Scottish Government now have a single PCA exercise rather than dual processes for the NPAs representing a further improvement in efficiencies in administration.

Overall, the PCA assessment shows an improved score of 66% in 2013, up from 55% in 2012 and 2011. This consolidates the Authority's position in the second tier of "improved" assessment.

Detail of the outcomes of the 2013 PCA are set out in the Annex to this paper.

The assessment shows an improved score in 4 of 8 categories with scores remaining at 2012 levels in the other 4 categories. The PCA assessment of procurement leadership and governance is now assessed in the top tier of "superior" performance, as is the status of procurement strategy and objectives. Both these areas of investment in procurement capability reflect and recognise work done by Corporate Services management, the Management Team and the Audit Committee over the course of 2012/13. These two

aspects of procurement capability now join “people” as 3 of 8 categories meeting the superior criteria.

The Committee has agreed in the past that the objective should be to maintain effective and fit for purpose procurement systems which are broadly within the “improved” level of assessment. As indicated above, the Authority’s overall assessment has been substantially improved in the year with only the category of work within performance assessment now not meeting this second tier assessment. This will be an area of focus for the Authority over the next 12 to 18 months.

Wider Strategic Context

The work reflected in this report is linked to mitigation of the following strategic risks:

- *Small scale means few options when unexpected happens with insufficient staff capacity to cover sudden added priorities:* development of shared procurement services has assisted in meeting the PCA development priorities and allowing for development of a point of procurement expertise across both organisations.
- *CNPA fails to deliver against high profile projects:* the PCA process is sponsored by the office of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth
- *Scale of Organisational Development and associated organisational change processes result in staff being detracted from key priorities/demotivated from scale of organisational change:* the continued focus on managed, targeted development of procurement processes has allowed for organisational development and improvement to be realised without diverting undue levels of resource input.

The review also helps consider the Authority’s linkage and contribution to the National Performance Framework Outcome 16 Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

David Cameron
25 November 2013
