CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW: IT GENERAL CONTROLS

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Purpose

This paper presents the internal auditor's review of the Authority's general controls around its Information Technology environment, conducted as part of the 2013/14 internal audit programme.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:
   a) Consider the internal auditor's report on the Authority's general IT controls;
   b) Endorse the management responses to the recommendations for action raised by the internal auditor.

Executive Summary

The Authority's internal auditors, KPMG, have completed a review of the Authority's general IT controls. This review was undertaken as a variation to the 2013/14 internal audit plan agreed with management. The review replaces the planned audit of the Authority's planning service arrangements, deferred until 2014/15 to allow new management and new management practices to take fuller effect. The full report is set out at Annex 1 to this paper.

The review helps consider in some detail the following strategic risks set out in the Authority's approved risk register:
   a) IT systems failure has a critical impact on the National Park Authority's service delivery (risk 5)

The review also helps consider the Authority's linkage and contribution to the National Performance Framework Outcomes:

    16 Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

The report highlights 5 recommendations for improvement action, 3 of which are graded as a moderate priority, and 2 low priority recommendations. We have accepted the recommendations and management responses are given to these in the annexed detailed report from the internal auditors.

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