



Minutes of the Performance Committee

Held at Cairngorms National Park Authority office, Grantown on Spey

Hybrid

8 March 2024 at 2.30pm

Present

Kenny Deans (Convener)

John Kirk

Chris Beattie

Ann Ross

Steve Micklewright

Sandy Bremner

Eleanor Mackintosh

In Attendance

Grant Moir, CEO

David Clyne, Head of Cairngorms 2030

Andy Ford, Director for Nature and Climate Change

Catriona Strang, Clerk to Board

Apologies

None

Welcome and introduction

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Performance Committee.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

2. the minutes of the previous meeting, 8 December 2023 held in person, were approved.

Matters Arising

3. Action points arising from previous meetings:
 - a) 11 February 2022



- i. **Para 19ii) - Report relating to Visit Scotland funding to be brought to the Committee. In Hand**
- b) 9 June 2023
- i. **Para 16i) The Director for Nature and Climate Change to feedback to the festival steering group members comments on timing. Completed**
- c) 8 December 2023
- i. **Para 16d) an agriculture advisory group took place on Tuesday 5 March, suggested revisit current beaver reintroduction group and amend the terms of reference to be a practical, beaver mitigation group**
- ii. **Para 16l) discussion took place on the process and lesson learnt. There were lots of different opportunities to engage, which is different to how much those opportunities were taken up. Recognise need to be thorough as possible so as many people can engage, including using social media which has shown greater engagement. Agriculture advisory group will enable early engagement in future.**

Declarations of interest

- 4. None

Cairngorms 2030 delivery phase inception (Paper 1)

- 5. David Clyne, Head of Cairngorms 2030, introduced the paper which update the Park Authority Performance Committee on the risks under management. This paper presents the delivery phase inception period from January to February 2024 and the planned development work to end April 2024.
- 6. The Performance Committee discussed the update and made the following comments and observations:
 - d) A member asked about the challenges with Sustrans Funding. Head of Cairngorms 2030 confirmed that Sustrans is funded by Transport Scotland and they are a committed partner with the project however match funding is not guaranteed as all funding is approved by a committee.
 - e) A member asked if any other partners were in the same situation regarding funding. Head of Cairngorms 2030 confirmed that Sustrans is the only funding that is being applied for currently but the Park Authority is aware that public sector partners only have one year funding settlements and we will need to continue to work closely with them on match funding.



- f) The chair noted the work on recruitment of staff for the project
- 7. The Committee noted the paper.
- 8. Action Point Arising: none.

Cairngorms Peatland ACTION programme (Paper 2)

- 9. Andy Ford, Director of Nature and Climate Change presented an update on the delivery of the Cairngorms National Park Authority's Peatland ACTION programme. Highlighted that there has been an overall budget reduction at a national level from Scottish Government. There is a commitment to maintain current levels of funding in the Cairngorms for the '24/25 delivery profile, allied to Cairngorm2030 match funding. It is not known if this will be the case in future years. Budget reductions could have a negative impact on confidence in the sector. The opportunity presented by a budget reduction is to drive forwards private investment faster than it might otherwise have happened.
- 10. The Performance Committee discussed the update and made the following comments and observations:
 - a) A member asked who would make decision on Green Finance partner. Director of Nature and Climate Change confirmed the Park Authority have a charter for responsible investment in place for the agreement with Palladium, and criteria for private finance proposals already agreed. The Scottish Land Commission has published principles for responsible investment in natural capital.
 - b) A member asked about funding ahead of 24/25 what concern should we have over the effect of 40% reduction in funding. Director of Nature and Climate Change stated that this year will be a test of any future models for increasing private investment and delivering more value for money.
 - c) A member asked about procurement and if the charter would allow us to accept a green finance deal and therefore not compromise delivery targets and not expose the Park Authority to financial risk. And what would happen to the carbon credits if sold, or the company holding them is sold. Director of Nature and Climate Change stated that due diligence is undertaken to ensure that any investor meets the criteria set out in the ethical charter. There is no financial risk to the Park Authority. Carbon credits is currently a voluntary market and not a tradeable commodity.



- d) A member asked about business confidence with contractors and reassuring them that the Park Authority is helping keeping momentum on going. Director of Nature and Climate Change stated that the large contracting companies completing works throughout Scotland will get reassurance with national level activity from the central Peatland ACTION team. The smaller contractors operating in the Park have a commitment from the budget for the pipeline for '24/'25. Beyond that, the Park Authority will continue to demonstrate support through operating the new entrants' scheme and investing in capacity building in third parties.
- e) Grant Moir, CEO that a board business session will be taking place on the 10 May around Green Finance

11. The Committee noted the paper.

12. Action Point Arising:

- a) Grant Moir will ask board members to provide any key questions or views and provide a simple process of how the peatland funding works for 10 May Board Business session.

2024 Performance Committee Items (Paper 3)

13. The chair asked David Cameron, Director of Corporate Services and Deputy CEO to prepare the paper with proposed agenda items for committee business until December 2024.

14. The Performance Committee discussed the update and made the following comments and observations:

- a) Members confirmed that this was really helpful and there is opportunity to add agenda items.
- b) A member asked if the Cairngorm2030 project would be broken down into Theme areas rather than updated the committee with the whole project. The CEO wants to give the committee a strategic overview of the project as we are at the start of delivery, this may develop during the delivery phase. Papers will also be presented at the Audit and Risk committee.

15. The Committee noted the paper.

16. Action Point Arising: none.



AOCB

17. Date of net meeting 14 June 2024

The meeting closed at 03.25pm