

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE

FOR DECISION

**Title: INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW: FINANCIAL CONTROLS
SELF ASSESSMENT**

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Purpose

This paper presents the outcome of the internal audit review of the Cairngorms National Park Authority's Financial Controls, based on internal audit scrutiny of self assessments of internal controls undertaken initially by Cairngorms NPA staff.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the internal auditor's findings on the operation of the Authority's financial controls, stemming from their review of the Authority's self-assessment, as set out in Annex I;
- b) Endorse or amend the management responses to the recommendations for action.

Executive Summary

The Committee informally considered the draft 2011/12 to 2013/14 Strategic Internal Audit Plan and 2011/12 Annual Internal Audit Plan during the combined training day for members of both National Park Authorities' Audit Committees on 3 October 2011. In order to allow internal audit activity to begin to be implemented in the year, members from both NPAs' Audit Committees were content for the proposed financial controls self-assessment exercise to go ahead pending final approval of the overall strategic and annual internal audit plans.

The report on the financial control self assessment exercise undertaken by both Cairngorms NPA and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NPA is now set out at Annex I to this paper.

The report highlights 2 recommendations for improvement to financial control systems within Cairngorms NPA, both of which are graded as low priority for action. Both recommendations have been accepted by management and draft management responses are set out in the report at Annex I.

Appendix I included within the KPMG report also sets out highlights of elements of the self-assessment responses. This Appendix does not include the full self-assessment. Rather, the Appendix seeks to highlight a sample of the key control questions used in the self-assessment, and the responses given by each NPA and tested by internal audit.