

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: CODE OF CONDUCT: NEW MODEL CODE

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Purpose

1. This paper supports consideration of the new Model Code of Conduct issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland in December 2021.
2. The paper covers strategic governance considerations on:
 - a) Members' understanding and clarity on roles and responsibilities;
 - b) Ensuring effective policies and procedures are in place to support the highest standards of governance within the Cairngorms NPA;
 - c) Adherence to required governance processes established by Scottish Government and the Standards Commission for Scotland.

Recommendations

3. **The Governance Committee is requested to:**
 - a) **Review the updated Model Code of Conduct;**
 - b) **Review Updated guidance complementing the introduction of the model Code;**
 - c) **Consider and agree approach to the adoption of the Model Code by the Board.**

Updated Model Code Of Conduct

4. The updated Model Code of Conduct was approved by Scottish Parliament on 7 December 2021 following various processes of consultation over the course of 2021.
5. It is expected that the revised Code will be adopted by public bodies within six months of its approval by Parliament: therefore by early June 2022.

6. The Model Code together with updated guidance developed by The Standards Commission for Scotland to support the updated Code are presented at Annex 1 and 2 respectively to this paper.
7. The Standards Commission for Scotland has also revised a number of its more subject specific guidance notes to complement this new model Code, as communicated to all Cairngorms NPA board members previously through circulation of the Standards Commission for Scotland's latest newsletter. For reference, subject specific guidance completed to complement the updated model Code covers:
 - a) Bullying and harassment;
 - b) Relations between members and employees;
 - c) How to declare interests;
 - d) Human Rights Article 10;
 - e) Social media;
 - f) Role of a Standards Officer;
 - g) Advice note for the public on the model Code.
8. The Committee is invited to consider the model Code and supporting guidance and consider whether any specific preparatory work is required in advance of presenting the Model Code for adoption by the board.

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