
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: BOARD CONVENOR ELECTIONS 2015

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Purpose

This paper considers plans for the election of the Board Convenor in 2015, in light of Standing Orders requirements.

Recommendations

Board Members are requested to decide whether to:

- a) **Go ahead with the election of the Board Convenor in March 2015, as would be required under Standing Orders, or;**
- b) **Agree to suspend standing orders directing the timing of the election as March 2015 to allow time for any new appointees and / or directly elected Board members to become more involved with colleagues and aware of the operations and priorities of the Authority, and consequently to hold the Board Convenor election in June 2015.**

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Strategic Context

1. The current Convenor's appointment comes to an end on 7 September 2015. This paper sets out initial thinking around arrangements for the election of the Convenor to take up the role from that date.

Strategic Policy Considerations

2. Standing Orders require that the election for Convenor takes place at the second last meeting before expiry of the current Convenor's term of office.
3. The 2015 meeting schedule indicates that the second last meeting prior to expiry of the current term of office will actually be the next meeting of the full Board, on 27 March 2015, with the last meeting on 26 June 2015. This would be followed by the first meeting of the new Convenor term of office of 25 September 2015.
4. Under the terms of the Standing Orders, we would therefore be expected to hold the election at the March 2015 Board meeting.
5. A recruitment exercise for a new nationally appointed Board member is currently underway. The March 2015 Board meeting is likely to be the first meeting of the member recruited from that process.
6. Similarly, elections for directly elected members take place in March 2015. The March Board meeting could therefore also be a first meeting for any new directly elected members.
7. Therefore, given the potential for a number of new members attending their first meeting in March 2015, Board members are invited at this point in time to consider whether it would be appropriate to defer the Convenor election until June 2015. Any new Board members would, by this stage, have a more developed sense of the organisation and their colleagues and potentially more comfortable in participating in the electoral process.
8. An option available to the Board is therefore to seek to suspend standing orders in regard of the election process and defer the election of Board Convenor until June 2015. This option will require the agreement of at least 10 Board members as required by paragraph 40 of the Standing Orders dealing with Suspension and Amendments of Standing Orders.

Strategic Risk Management

9. Ensuring that Board members have considered the factors potentially impacting on the election of Convenor in 2015 helps mitigate strategic risk #21, that “Blend of skill sets and experience within Board do not meet requirements for leadership and governance”.

Implications

10. There are no resource implications arising from these proposals.
11. From a reputational perspective, consideration of the proposals helps illustrate that the Board is reflective on the effectiveness of its governance and leadership.