

**MINUTES of MEETING of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE of**

**THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
held in the CNPA Board Room, Grantown-on-Spey
on 14 May 2010 at 9.00am**

Present:

Eleanor Mackintosh (Chair)	Mary McCafferty
Dave Fallows	Richard Stroud
David Green	

In Attendance:

Jane Hope, Chief Executive
David Cameron, Head of Corporate Services
Alistair Hight, Finance Manager
Matthew Hawkins, Senior Heritage Officer

Apologies

None

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Meeting 19 February 2010

2. The minutes of the meeting were agreed without amendment.

Matters Arising

3. None.

Expenditure Proposal: Cairngorms Rare Plants Project (Paper 1)

4. Matthew Hawkins introduced the paper which sought approval to funding support for this project. Members commended this as a good project, with two caveats:
 - a) An important element of the project should be raising awareness and balancing protection activity with the ability for public to visit and see the plants;
 - b) Further work should be done on seeking additional funding for the longer term.

5. Officers confirmed that the project had been launched for year 1 and the Committee were now requested to give the project approval over the longer term. Work was underway to seek additional funding – specifically SRDP funding – for the longer term.
6. Officers and members commented that there had already been some excellent press coverage of the project.
7. Members also commented on the excellent leverage achieved on the project funding.
8. **The Committee approved the recommendations of the paper as follows:**
 - a) **Noted the support given to the project to date;**
 - b) **Approved funding for the project for a total of £25,000 over the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.**

Review of the Financial Year 2009-10 (Paper 2)

9. Alistair Hight introduced the paper which presented a summary review of income and expenditure for the twelve months to 31st March 2010. Although Audit Scotland were still finishing off their work the figures were unlikely to change much from those presented in the paper. These showed that the year resulted in a net overspend of £50,000. The core operating costs budget for the year had included £93,000 efficiency savings; these had been met along with a further £54,000 worth of efficiency savings against the budget in year, giving an overall efficiency saving of £147,000 compared with the Scottish Government's 2% efficiency target of £93,000. The majority of the additional efficiencies have been redirected into further operational plan expenditure as set out in table 2 of the paper.
10. Members commended the Finance Team for their budget management.
11. **The Finance Committee approved the recommendations of the paper as follows:**
 - a) **Noted the draft results for the twelve months to the 31st March 2010;**
 - b) **Noted the further analysis of net Operational Plan expenditure by programme for the same period.**

Review of Operational Plan Expenditure Commitment 2010-2013 (Paper 3)

12. This paper was for information, noting the start of the monitoring of Operational Plan spending commitment for the next three years.
13. Members welcomed this approach to developing detailed monitoring of future commitment levels and commended the Finance Team for the approach developed.

Strategic Accommodation Review – Confidential Paper (Paper 4)

14. The Committee agreed that the next paper should be in confidential session. The minutes of this discussion are held separately.

AOCB

15. David Cameron reported that he and Don McKee had been negotiating a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Aberdeenshire Council for the provision of Planning Gain Services. The potential cost of the service was £35,000 each year. Given the cost of the potential SLA, David asked the Committee to agree the first year costs. A paper would be taken to full Board on this service development at some point in the year in order to seek agreement to the service delivery in the longer term.
16. While negotiations and discussions on the terms of the SLA were ongoing, David highlighted that he sought this approval at this stage in order that he was in a position to sign off the SLA when agreement had been reached between parties.
17. **Members agreed the expenditure of £35,000 on establishment of a planning gain service.**

Date of Next Meeting

18. 6th August 2010, Glenmore Lodge, 9.00 am.