

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

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Purpose

To present the current Strategic Risk Register, and request the Committee to consider any amendments required to ensure the register continues to document the key strategic risks that may have a significant impact on the Authority's ability to achieve its strategic objectives.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider and amend as necessary the strategic risk register.

Executive Summary

The Authority's Financial Memorandum requires the Authority to develop a risk management strategy, while the Management Statement requires the Chief Executive, as the Accountable Officer, to ensure that a system of risk management is embedded in the organisation, to inform decisions on financial and operational planning and to assist in achieving objectives and targets. Within this governance structure, the Audit Committee has a leading role to play on embedding a risk management culture within the organisation.

The Committee has the opportunity to consider:

- a) the range of risk faced by the organisation in its delivery of agreed objectives;
- b) the extent to which the profile of risk faced by the organisation is acceptable – i.e. the assessment of significance of risk and the associated extent to which some risks are “accepted” and monitored rather than action being taken to mitigate risk;
- c) the organisation's capacity to handle risk, both in terms of resources and also through more detailed internal control reviews of the embedding of appropriate risk management activity within the Authority's operations.

The strategic risk register focuses on those risks that have both a high likelihood of occurring and also a high impact on delivery of aspects of the Authority's Corporate Plan objectives (achievements) should they arise. The current strategic risk register is set out as annex I to this paper.

Since the agreement of the strategic risk register by the Audit Committee in April 2009, the risk register has been regularly reviewed and updated – typically three times each year – by both Audit Committee members and the Management Team. The Board was updated on

the strategic risk register through its inclusion as an annex to the Audit Committee's annual report, considered at the Board meeting in October 2011.

The current strategic risk register is nearing the end of its expected useful life, as it is tied into the delivery of the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan covering 2007/12.

A risk management workshop has been built into audit plans for 2011/12, with a view to establishing a revised strategic risk register on the basis of the new Corporate Plan commencing April 2012. I expect that this workshop will take place in Spring 2012.

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