

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

FOR DISCUSSION

**Title: GOVERNANCE: STANDARDS COMMISSION
INFORMATION UPDATES**

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Purpose

To present a number of updates issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland and to seek the Committee's views on any further action required on the basis of guidance issued.

Recommendations

The Audit & Risk Committee is asked to:

- a) **Consider the briefings issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland presented with this paper.**
- b) **Consider any further action that may be required by the Authority in acting on this guidance.**
- c) **Agree means of onward reporting of this guidance to the Board.**

Executive Summary

1. The Standards Commission for Scotland ("the Commission") issues guidance to help members of devolved public bodies and councillors interpret the requirements other Codes of Conduct and to outline the expectations of good governance underpinning the operation of public bodies within their Codes. The Commission has issued a number of items of guidance over the course of 2016. These are presented here for consideration by the Committee.

Role of the Standards Officer in Public Bodies

2. The full advice note on the role of Standards Officer is included as Annex I to this paper. As set out in the advice note as a typical situation for Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), the Authority does not have a separate Standards Officer. This role is subsumed within the role of the Director of Corporate Services, with elements of this role also being undertaken directly by the Chief Executive and also supported within the organisation by Helen Rees, the Governance and Information Manager.
3. Following review of this document, all the arrangements to cover the expectations of a Standards Officer within a devolved public body appear to be in place within the

Authority. No further action seems necessary, other than circulating this briefing note to all Board members. Audit & Risk Committee members' views on this are welcomed.

Advice on the Use of Social Media

4. The full advice note on members' use and presence within social media is included at Annex 2 to this paper.
5. Members should note that the reference in Annex 2 to paragraph 3.13 of the Model Code as a specific reference to members' use of their organisation's facilities equates to paragraph 34 of CNPA's adopted Code of Conduct.
6. Again, following review of this advice there seems no further action to take other than disseminating this advice to other Board members and Audit & Risk Committee's views on this are welcomed.

Relations Between Members and Employees

7. The full advice note on relations between members and employees of the Authority is included at Annex 3 to this paper.
8. Members should note that the reference in Annex 3 to paragraph 3.3 of the Model Code equates to paragraph 24 of the approved CNPA Code of Conduct.
9. The subject matter of this advice note has been covered in a number of training sessions and informal discussions within the current Board. Again, therefore, there appears to be no further immediate action or training that needs to be undertaken on this subject matter, subject to the views of the Committee members, other than the potential circulation of the advice note to all members.

Guidance on the Model Code of Conduct

10. A guidance note on the Model Code of Conduct is included at Annex 4 to this paper. This guidance note is a little older than the more recent advice notes covered previously in this paper. The Board approved its own Code of Conduct based on the Model Code in December 2014 and members have undertaken an "On Board" training activity since that time. For completeness, and as an overview of the Code of Conduct purpose and requirements, this guidance note has been included at this point.

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