



For Information

Title: Framework Agreement with Scottish Government

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Purpose

This paper notifies the board of the proposed replacement of the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum (MSFM), which has set out the governance arrangements between Scottish Government and the Park Authority since designation of the organisation, with an updated 'Framework Agreement'. The Framework Agreement follows the updated model for governance arrangements between Scottish Government and Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs).

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a) Consider whether there are any material concerns with this document which the board considers should be highlighted with Scottish Government.
- b) In the absence of any such matters, agree adoption of the proposed Framework Agreement between the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Scottish Government, as set out in the Annex to this paper.

Background Information

1. The Management Statement and Financial Memorandum (MSFM) governing the relationships between the Scottish Government and the Park Authority was last updated in September 2010.
2. Scottish Government has been moving away from reliance on an MSFM document to underpin the governance relationship with NDPBs over several years, with the new model 'Framework Agreement' being rolled out to replace the MSFM as the key governance document. The Cairngorms NPA is now one of the last NDPBs to have been provided with a new version Framework Agreement as a result of other pressing priorities in our Sponsorship Hub compounded by some staffing changes.



Framework Agreement

3. The proposed Framework Agreement is set out in full at Annex 1 to this paper.
4. The Framework Agreement is based on a standard model established by the Scottish Government's Public Bodies Unit, which is designed to meet various requirements of the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM). The purpose of the document is to set out the nature of the relationship between Scottish Government and the Park Authority, making sure roles, responsibilities and accountability are agreed and clear.
5. Given the purpose and controlled design of the document, there is very limited scope to make changes to this standard model. The proposed Framework Agreement at Annex 1 is amended simply to pick up appropriate references to the Cairngorms NPA's organisational structures and governance arrangements.
6. As such, there is extremely limited scope for the Board to seek amendments to this proposed document. The document has been reviewed by Senior Management in conjunction with colleagues at the Scottish Government's Sponsorship Hub and appears an appropriate document to underpin governance and working arrangements with the Park Authority and between the organisation and Scottish Government. Consequently, this paper is presented as an Information Paper to board, while providing an opportunity at the recommendations for members to identify any points of significant, material concern should the board agree that any matter needs to be considered further prior to final adoption.
7. Officers recommend that the Framework Agreement is approved for adoption.

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