






















CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER






Risk	Ref	Resp	Mitigation	Comments	Trend Sep 21	Trend Jan 22	Trend May 22
Cross-over risks							
Resources: public sector finances constrain capacity to allocate sufficient resources to deliver corporate plan.	AI	DC	Preventative: Ongoing liaison with Scottish Government highlighting achievements of CNPA. Preventative: Corporate plan prioritised around anticipated Scottish Government budget allocations, taking on Board expectation of funding constraints. Remedial: Focus resource on diversification of income streams to alternate, non-public income generation. Remedial: Continuing to support “delivery bodies” such as Cairngorms Nature, Cairngorms Trust in securing inward investment.	2022/23 budget approved by board on 25 March highlighted a significant step change in funding levels for CNPA across both government and external sources. Remedial mitigation on diversification of income particularly successful with regard to National Lottery Heritage Funds (NLHF) secured. Risk escalation reflects Scottish Government concerns on forward stability of current financial allocations, and potential for in-year adjustments.			







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Resourcing / Staffing / Policy: extended impacts of COVID19 to organisation impacts core strategic objectives and requires early strategic plan review.	A23	DC	Remedial: separate COVID19 operations risk register established to help identify and mitigate specific risks. Remedial: altered, widened management meetings to include all Heads of Service thus ensuring close monitoring of strategic impacts	Now exiting COVID Business Continuity Plan period and moving into deployment around new hybrid working arrangements. While there has been a recent upsurge in cases across the staff group, opportune for this risk to be brought to a close.			
Resourcing: future community led local development (CLLD) funding currently delivered through LEADER, together with wider funding previously from EU structural and agricultural sources is lost and creates a significant gap in our capacity to deliver against our development priorities	A12.2	DC	Preventative: prioritise engagement in consultations and events around the future development of structural and community funding. Remedial: continue to support work of Cairngorms Trust in attracting voluntary donations toward community action – although this is likely to remain at a much smaller scale for some time. Remedial: continue to review opportunities for funding bids to other non-governmental funding sources.	Positive movement continuing across policy development areas within Scottish Government around the continuity of some form of CLLD with further funding allocations expected for 2022/23. However, opportunity to access UK Government funding to replace EU losses still very unclear. Wider changes to agri-environment schemes and impact of change also remains highly uncertain.			




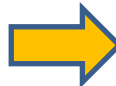


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Staffing: additional externally funded projects strains staff workload capacity with increased risks of stress and reduced morale.	A9.3	DC	Preventative: Strategic and operational plans for 2022/23 will be developed with externally funded project delivery as intrinsic elements of plans to ensure delivery capacity is considered fully. Importance of staff management and task prioritisation reinforced through leadership meetings. Focus on fewer, larger impact projects.	Risk escalation in recognition of success in significant Heritage Horizons award and early stages of planning resource deployment around that step-change in activity level. Additional recruitment planned for 22/23 to alleviate key staff pressure points. Risk escalation retained at this early point of year			







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Resourcing: Role as Lead / Accountable body for major programmes (e.g. LEADER, Landscape Partnership) has risk of significant financial clawback should expenditure prove to be not eligible for funding, while CNPA carries responsibilities as employer for programme staff.	A11.1	DC	<p>Preventative:</p> <p>Ensure financial controls in place for programme management include effective eligibility checks. Test processes with funders if required and also undertake early internal audit checks. Workforce management plans must incorporate programme staff considerations.</p> <p>Ensure TGLP Management and Maintenance contracts are all in place to ensure eligibility of investment.</p> <p>Remedial: Utilise internal audit resources</p>	<p>LEADER Projects have been brought to a close by the 31 December 21 deadline with the final admin claim made as required by end January 22. To date, no closure issues have arisen and good work in partnership with the current central team in Edinburgh to reconcile and finalise positions in light of emerging issues from EU audit.</p> <p>Work has progressed well on closure of Tomintoul and Glenlivet and on Badenoch programmes with no issues arising to date.</p>			




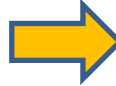
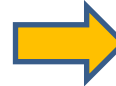

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Technical: Increasing ICT dependency for effective and efficient operations is not adequately backed up by ICT systems support.	A17	DC	Preventative: invest in additional staff resource. Deploy timetabled action plan against approved ICT Strategy. Enhance project management approaches supporting ICT. Remedial: New ICT Strategy to be developed to reappraise position on IT dependencies and establish a focus for future digital development across the Authority. Clear action planning to evolve from final ICT strategic direction once agreed.	Added April 2018 Operational Management Group Movement into Microsoft 365 deployment and cloud based systems has involved significant work and some disruption to staff operations. Internal audit work reinforces need to focus on project management of activities both for management of processes and improved organisational communications.			
Technical: Cyber security is inadequate to address risk of cyber-attack on systems	A18	DC	Preventative: Implementation of Scottish Government Cyber Security Action Plans and internal audit recommendations on IT security. Ongoing review of systems and procedures in tandem with LLTNPA. Rescope arrangements through IT Strategy. Invest in cyber security software	Added by MT / OMG April 18. Cyber security plus accreditation received. Additional cyber security measures invested in and implemented. Aware of increased risks highlighted by national agencies during COVID response.			


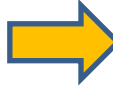
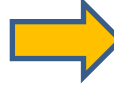


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Resourcing: CNPA IT services are not sufficiently robust / secure / or well enough specified to support effective and efficient service delivery.	A13	DC	Preventative: We will develop and consult on the forward plans for ICT service development to ensure these meet service requirements. Commissioned external review of our IT and data management processes to be implemented to give assurance.	Suggest this risk is merged into A17 – significant overlap now between these two risk areas.			
Reputation: One-off, high profile incidents and / or vociferous social media correspondents have an undue influence on the Authority's positive reputation.	A14. I	GM	Preventative: Engagement and communications strategy, and stakeholder engagement will seek to take the front foot on managing the Authority's positive, public reputation Preventative: proactive communications initiated to address any potential incidents Remedial: involvement in emerging NPUK collective communications strategy and campaigns which will produce additional high profile positive reputational impact Remedial: Social media profile represents an opportunity to boost reputation.	Adopted by ARC November 20 to consolidate all reputational risks. Recruitment now complete to support this work within the communications team. While overall sense of current position is a decline in this risk area, management are evaluating impacts and any remedial actions needed as a result of the recent campaign by some groups around the NPPP consultation.			

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Resourcing: scale of asset responsibilities such as for paths, outdoor infrastructure is not adequately recognised and does not secure adequate forward maintenance funding.	A16	DC	Remedial: Review of accounting procedures and asset recognition policy; review of forthcoming accounting technical guidance. Ensure full consideration is given in budget reviews. Preventative: Capital bids to government; alternate funding sources such as voluntary giving to be explored more actively. Work on Strategic Tourism Visitor Infrastructure Plan to focus action.	Added by MT / OMG April 18. Infrastructure maintenance issues exacerbated by end of existing agreements over key routes and by additional COVID19 related visitor pressures, while COVID has also disrupted plans around implementation of voluntary giving schemes. Significant increase in capital allocation allows scope for increased programming of maintenance over next four to five year period.			
Resources: change in financing IT services and the switch from capital to revenue provision places an unmanageable pressure on the Authority's budget capacity.	A20	DC	Remedial: Monitor pattern of IT Investment costs as regards the capital and revenue split of resourcing requirements; build impacts into ongoing budget deliberations with Scottish Government.	Added by Audit Committee 8 March 2019 following "deep dive" IT risk review. Risk remains live as we implement a refreshed ICT Strategy and move to more cloud / service solutions. While there was sufficient budget cover for the initial implementation of cloud based services in 21/22, the final position will crystallise over 22/23.			

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Reputation: the Authority is not perceived to be appropriately addressing the potential for conflict between 4 statutory aims.	A21	GM	Preventative: Ensure Board policy papers and Planning Committee papers are explicit in recognising strategic policy conflicts between 4 statutory aims and in addressing the evaluation of any potential conflict. Preventative: ensure clarity on this matter is established through high level NPPP and Corporate Plan documents	Added by Audit Committee 8 March 2019 following internal audit report on strategic planning processes. NPPP development process now nearing conclusion where this can be underpinned.			
Technical: Business Continuity Plans (BCP) are inadequate to deal with significant impacts to normal working arrangements and result in service failure.	A22	DC	Preventative: Overhaul of BCP developed in 2014 with reporting on development of plans through Management Team and Audit and Risk Committee. Test BCP arrangements once plan in place and communicated. Remedial: internal audit review of COVID19 over winter 20/21 will lead into lessons learned on wider BCP.	Added by Audit Committee May 2019 following internal audit review of BCP. Some delay in finalisation of BCP documentation itself. However, work on BCP has considerably assisted in roll out of initial and ongoing responses to Coronavirus pandemic with evidence, including very positive staff feedback, that BCP implementation has been effective.			

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Technical: the Authority's range of powers combined with strategic partnerships is insufficient to deliver outcomes on wildlife crime	A24	AF	Remedial: use NPPP development processes to explore partnership attitudes, engagement and powers which they may add to the current controls. Preventative: explore potential for licencing or other regulatory arrangements to contribute to more effective control framework; Tracker / satellite monitoring deployment;	Added by SMT risk review May 2021 Mitigation actions still in formative stages and risk profile retained.			
Technical: The Authority's Peatland Programme outcomes may be adversely impacted by a lack of contractor capacity	A25	AF	Preventative: interaction with skills and economic development agencies to highlight the problems of contractor capacity and scale of future programme; Remedial: phasing of works to act on more straightforward, less technical areas to assist new contractors enter market and develop skills and understanding; reprofile capital expenditure to recognise more expensive, more complex projects coming toward end of funding period.	Added by SMT risk review May 2021 Recent evidence suggests increased level of response to peatland tenders and evidence of some new entrants to this market. Some preliminary evidence of success of risk mitigation measures.			

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Reputational: key communications activities, messaging and (in some cases) brand awareness raising can be dependent on partner collaboration rather than under direct control, with potential for ineffective or disjointed communication outcomes.	A26	GM	Preventative: agree partnership frameworks that explicitly set out expectations and outcomes of collaborative activities and establish adequate control mechanisms; Preventative: specifically monitor and feedback on communications effectiveness where there are partnership dependencies Remedial: conduct review meetings which track and document progress and escalate and issues arising to appropriate governance groups.	Added by SMT risk review May 2021. Identified as a stable risk at present rather than escalating, while recognised that work remains to be undertaken around these preventative and remedial mitigation measures.			
Technical: approaches to conservation and protection of endangered species may be insufficient to achieve associated strategic outcomes	A27	AF	Remedial: review current approaches in context of relevant data sources to determine adequacy of current approaches. Remedial: use NPPP development processes to test potential for enhanced / revised approaches to conservation and protection of endangered species	Added by SMT risk review May 2021. Identified as a stable risk at present rather than escalating, while recognised that work remains to be undertaken or is ongoing around these preventative and remedial mitigation measures.			

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Staffing: delivery of key outcomes is impacted by staff turnover, particularly in project teams.	A28	DC	Preventative: consider HR solutions to encourage retention Remedial: ensure succession planning and operational risk registers cover this strategic risk	Added following Board reflection on impact of turnover in TGLP Project. Some ongoing staff turnover continuing to impact areas of delivery and risk profile maintained.			
Staffing: increasingly competitive and restricted recruitment climate prevents staff with the required experience and skill sets being secured	A29	DC	Preventative: focus on training and development and internal succession planning, in turn bringing recruitment into less experienced / less highly skilled markets; consider job design and flexibility of offer regarding part-time / job share. Remedial: contingency planning for example around out-sourcing of aspects of delivery.	Added by SMT review 18 Jan. Evidence of reducing number of applicants and candidate lists for vacancies and emerging trend in unsuccessful recruitment exercises.			

19 live strategic risks (previously 19); two risks identified for closure with 1 further risks on consistent downward trend.

Notes:

Aiming to keep strategic risk register to around 15 strategic risks

Cross-cutting risks impact potentially throughout all priorities





Strategic Risks around corporate priorities focus on risk impacts throughout each of the three themes – hence require a coordinated overview at Director / Executive level. Not expecting a strategic risk against each specific Corporate Plan priority.

More specific risks are expected to be captured in more operational risk registers – e.g. risk management around delivery of office extension.

Full risk register the collective responsibility of full MT to manage, however each risk allocated to one specific member of the team to take lead responsibility.

Aim through mitigation to reduce Likelihood (LL) multiplied by Impact (IM) risk score to below 10 as acceptable risk value.

Reference key: "A" items are risks impacting on all aspects of the Corporate Plan; "C" items are Conservation only risks; "V" risks relate specifically to Visitor Experience; "L" risk relate to Land Management; "R" risks relate to Rural Development risks.

Key	
	Managed risk (green downward arrow in greyed-out field): risk assessment that risk is effectively managed and no longer a strategic risk posing potential to inhibit achievement of corporate strategic objectives. Risk can be removed from risk register.
	Lowering risk (green downward arrow): risk impact and / or likelihood is declining resulting in overall strategic risk assessment of mitigation actions effective with ongoing monitoring of risk environment still required.
	Static risk (amber horizontal arrow): risk impact and likelihood is stable. Overall strategic risk assessment is stable indicating that strategic risk remains, requiring ongoing management and continued implementation of proposed mitigation and controls.
	Increasing risk (red upward arrow): risk impact and / or likelihood is increasing resulting in increasing risk of achievement of strategic objectives being inhibited. Management action, and possibly resource investment, required to address risk environment and possibly introduce new mitigation action, in order to reduce risk impact and / or likelihood.

Version Control

- 3 Board Cycle December 2019
- 3.0 Board adopted version June 2019 for MT / OMG review
- 3.1 Audit Committee review 6 September 2019
- 3.2 Management Team November 2019
- 4 Board Cycle Jan to Jun 2020
- 4.0 Draft following Board consideration December 2019
- 4.1 To Audit and Risk Committee March 2020
- 5 Board Cycle July to Sep 2020
- 5.1 Sep 20 Board meeting draft for MT / OMG review
- 5.2 Sep 20 Board meeting following MT / OMG edits (WBW)
- 6 Board Cycle October 20 to December 20
- 6.1 ARC November 20 first draft
- 7 Board Cycle January to June 2021
- 7.0 ARC April 2021 and SMT May 2021
- 7.1 Board June 2021
- 8 Board Cycle December 2021
- 8.0 To SMT 24 Aug 21
- 8.1 SMT 24 Aug 21 Updates
- 8.2 SMT 18 Jan 22 review and updated
- 8.3 ARC review 11 Feb 22
- 9 Board Cycle March 2022
- 9.0 Draft for Board following ARC review
- 9.1 SMT Review May 22