
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Prepared by: David Cameron, Corporate Services Director

Purpose

To present the revised Model Code of Conduct prepared by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

To consider and the model code and determine whether any adaptations are required to suit the Cairngorms National Park Authority's specific circumstances.

Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

- i. Consider the Revised Model Code of Conduct for Public Bodies in the context of dispensations for Councillors provided in their Model Code and determine whether any amendments are required to suit the Authority's circumstances;**
- ii. Subject to any amendments, agree the Model Code of Conduct for use by the Cairngorms National Park Authority;**
- iii. Agree that the Corporate Services Director should take forward these matters with the Standards Commission for Scotland, to seek approval of the Authority's revised Code of Conduct.**

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Strategic Context

1. As a public body covered by the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, CNPA is required to prepare and adopt a Code of Conduct. The aim of these Codes are to promote, and where necessary support enforcement, of high ethical standards in public life.
2. The Authority has adopted and been operating under a Code of Conduct agreed by the Board and approved by the Commission in 2006. The Standards Commission for Scotland revised their Model Code of Conduct for Public Bodies, which was published in February 2014.
3. The revised Model Code is presented at Appendix A to this paper for consideration by members.
4. A separate Model Code of Conduct for Councillors has been prepared by the Standards Commission for Scotland. A key consideration in reflecting on the suitability of the public bodies' Code is on the adequacy of provision in the respective codes on the participation of councillors in the Authority's business. While both public body and local authority model codes are similar in many respects, the Authority has previously had to seek a dispensation around the participation of Councillors in our planning functions. This dispensation previously secured by Authority staff is now incorporated into the Councillors' Model Code of Conduct published in 2010, as presented in pages 18 to 20 of Appendix Two to this paper.
5. Board members are requested to review the revised Model Code for Public Bodies in the context of the dispensation for CNPA set out in the Councillors' Code, and determine whether any further adaptations are required to suit the Cairngorms National Park Authority's specific governance and operational circumstances.

Strategic Policy Considerations

6. This work helps take forward related activity on the Authority's Leadership and good governance within the Organisational Development Strategy. Consideration of the model code of conduct at this point also provides a basis for the training on Board members' roles and responsibilities to be delivered in September / October 2014 as agreed by the Board at its informal discussion session in May.

Strategic Risk Management

7. The review of the Code of Conduct and associated Board training and development activity helps manage and mitigate the strategic risk around Board and Governance (risks 20 to 22 adopted by the Board in September 2013).

Implications

8. There are no additional resources or other implications raised by this matter.

Success Measures

9. Agreement of the revised Model Code by the Standards Commission for Scotland will represent the most immediate success measure. We also continue to monitor levels of recommendations for action arising from complaints referred to the Standards Commission for Scotland as one of our key performance indicators within the Authority's balanced scorecard.