



For discussion

Title: Strategic risk registers

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Purpose

This paper supports a review by the Committee of the Park Authority's strategic risk management position.

Recommendations

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the coverage and adequacy of the Park Authority's strategic risk management position and advise on any gaps or amendments required to the current strategic risk register.
- b) Consider the coverage and adequacy of the Cairngorms 2030 programme risk management position and advise on any gaps or amendments required to the current programme risk register.

Executive Summary

1. The Cairngorms National Park Authority's most recent strategic risk register, and strategic risk management position is set out in Annex 1. The register was last reviewed by the Executive on 01 September 2026.
2. Comments and risk trends have been updated; changes since the last version provided to the Committee (19 June 2026) are shown in blue text.
3. There are 13 active risks on the Strategic Risk Register 26. In addition, we are carrying 5 risks that are considered to be managed: 3,5,7,8 and 12.
4. The risk trend for risks 1 and 11 have been uplifted from their previously reported status as managed risks to show a static trend. This change reflects the need to keep these items open, as a consequence of the wildfire; at present the risk scores have



not been increased, but these will be reviewed in the light of further information on budget impacts and the outcome of the debrief on the wildfire response.

5. The Cairngorms 2030 programme risk register, and risk management position is set out in Annex 2.
6. The total programme risk profile is amber. This has changed from green in the previous quarter, owing to uncertainty over match funding, and potential delays to peatland restoration due to the wildfires. The Head of Service has noted in his forward look the intention that the RAG status on all of the amber-rated risks will be restored to green at the end of Q3.
7. The amber rating for risk 7 (Active Communities Projects funded by Transport Scotland) reflects the uncertainty of funding for the next stage of the project. We have been given positive signals that funding will be awarded. However, there is now a very short timescale for delivery of the work. Matters have been raised with Scottish Government.
8. Risk 2 notes that outstanding match funding commitments are being followed up prior to a review of the programme's financial position when key funding decisions on transport and other project areas should be clearer.
9. Risks 1 and 6 describe the potential for delays to the programme arising from the Transport and nature restoration (woodland and peatland) projects.
10. The Committee is invited to consider the current coverage of the risk registers as set out in the Annexes. The Committee's views on the current status of the risk registers are welcomed.

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