



# Minutes of the Performance Committee meeting

Held at Cairngorms National Park Authority office, Grantown-on-Spey

Online

12 September 2025 at 09.00am

## Present online

Kenny Deans (Chair)

Steve Micklewright (Deputy Chair)

Jackie Brierton (substitute for Ann Ross)

Eleanor Mackintosh

Sandy Bremner

John Kirk

## In attendance

Grant Moir, Chief Executive Officer

Andy Ford, Director of Nature and Climate Change

Colin McClean Head of Land Management

David Clyne, Head of Cairngorms 2030

Mariaan Pita, Executive Support Manager

Eleanor MacDonald, Sustainable Transport Manager

Karen Johnstone, Clerk to the Board

## Apologies

Ann Ross

## Welcome and introduction

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Performance Committee.  
Apologies were noted.



## Approval of minutes of previous meetings

2. The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2025 were approved with no amendments.

## Matters arising not covered elsewhere

3. The Chair of the Performance Committee questioned when the Park Authority will consider the figures and funding of the climate adaptation fund. CEO explained that they will share with the Committee who was allocated funds and can look further into funding allocations and project types once all funding is in place and bring this back to the Committee.
4. Paragraph 18b, Local Access Forum, Board Convener noted there was a successful discussion with Chairs and Staff and will report back on any issues.

ACTION	Status
<b>Action points arising from previous meetings</b>	
<b>13 December 2024</b>	
AOCB At para 26 i. Ranger service update to be incorporated into the Active Cairngorms action plan paper.	Closed
Update: Annual update paper will be taken to Formal Full Board in November 2025.	

## Declarations of interest

5. There were no declarations of interest.

## Cairngorms Peatland ACTION Programme (Paper 1)

6. Colin McClean, Head of Land Management introduced the paper which presents an update on the delivery of the Park Authority's Peatland ACTION programme in 2025/26 and describes the early-stage development of pipeline for 2026/27.



7. The Performance Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments and observations:
- a) A Board Member queried the red item on the risk profile, questioning if this is a one off or if this will affect other projects. Head of Land Management explained this was a one off and has now been dealt with, which is common practise and not a strategic concern.
  - b) A Board Member questioned how much money was being put into this project to which Head of Land Management explained Scottish Government (SG) had a set of targets for peatland restoration over a 10-year period and we are currently on year five.
  - c) Discussions were had around how the return to society is evaluated. Head of Land Management noted that past projects are examined for their success to a range of factors and what lessons have been learned to help improve the standard of work. It was explained that emission savings on peatland projects overall is being evaluated by NatureScot. CEO explained that the Park Authority's policy position was to restore 38,000 hectares (ha) by 2045 which was agreed and approved as part of the last National Park Partnership Plan NPPP.
  - d) A Board Member questioned that fewer contractors tendered, querying if this has a long-term capacity in the sector and if this was a concern. Head of Land Management explained that NatureScot are bringing forward more contracts / projects therefore there is more competition across Scotland. However, the number of projects is attracting more contractors into the market and so at present there is no significant issue with capacity.
  - e) Discussions were had around capturing the impact of the Peatland work and return for investments. Head of Land Management explained that the Park Authority has concentrated their resources and focus on delivery to date, however they will collect and develop data through the Scientist and Monitoring Officer and work alongside NatureScot to develop this. Director of Nature and Climate Change explained SG want to convert ha to greenhouse gas emissions which is proving challenging due to differing projects. It was noted that there is a figure in the NPPP that eroding peat save 19 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Cairngorms index will show baselines and changes; however it was highlighted this would be working at landscape scales as changes in single sites are unlikely. Board Members were keen to see the data and evidence



reports on this for a fuller understanding of biodiversity impacts from peatland restoration.

8. The Performance Committee noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations:
  - a) Note the progress against programme targets for 2025/26.
  - b) Note the plans for 2026/27.
9. Action Points Arising: None.

### **Performance Committee Annual Report (Paper 2)**

10. Mariaan Pita, Executive Support Manager introduced the paper which presents the draft Annual Report of the Performance Committee to members for comment prior to circulation to the full board.
11. The Performance Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments and observations:
  - a) There were no questions, all Board Members were content with the information in the report.
12. The Performance Committee noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations:
  - a) Consider the draft annual report of the Performance Committee.
  - b) Agree any amendments to the draft prior to circulation to the full board
13. Action Points Arising: None.

### **AOCB**

14. None

### **Date of Next Meeting**

15. The date of the next meeting is 12 December 2025 in person.
16. *The meeting concluded at 9.49am*



**Motion to move to a confidential season for reasons of commercial confidentiality (regarding tender prices and financing).**

ACTION	Status
<b>Action points arising from previous meetings</b>	
<b>13 December 2024</b>	
AOCB At para 26 i. Ranger service update to be incorporated into the Active Cairngorms action plan paper.	Closed
Update: Annual update paper will be taken to Formal Full Board in November 2025.	