



# Draft minutes of the Performance Committee meeting

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

**Hybrid**

**13 June 2025 at 02.30pm**

## **Present in person**

Kenny Deans (Chair)

John Kirk

Sandy Bremner

Eleanor Mackintosh

## **Present online**

Steve Micklewright (Deputy Chair)

Ann Ross

## **In attendance**

Grant Moir, Chief Executive Officer

David Cameron, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Corporate Services

Andy Ford, Director of Nature and Climate Change

Gavin Miles, Director of Planning and Place

Colin Simpson, Head of Visitor Services

Oliver Davies, Head of Communications and Engagement

Adam Streeter-Smith, Recreation and Access Manager

Karen Johnstone, Clerk to the Board

## **Apologies**

Chris Beattie

## **Welcome and introduction**

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



## Approval of minutes of previous meetings

- The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 March 2025 were approved with no amendments.

## Matters arising not covered elsewhere

- The Chair of the Committee asked if a previous action involving making contact with Angus Council contacts regarding the voluntary donations had been completed. Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director of Corporate Services confirmed initial contact has been made and this action is currently in hand.

ACTION	Status
<b>Action points arising from previous meetings</b>	
<b>13 December 2024</b>	
Cairngorms 2030 programme update quarter 3 2024 (July – September) (Paper 1) At para 8 i. Azets report when finalised to be brought to a future meeting of the performance committee for information.	Closed
Update: Azets report on C2030 agreed by Audit and Risk Committee can be found here: <a href="#">Microsoft Word - CNPA Cairngorms 2030 FINAL.docx</a>	
AOCB At para 26 i. Ranger service update to be incorporated into the Active Cairngorms action plan paper.	Open
Update: Annual update paper will be taken to Formal Full Board in November 2025.	

## Declarations of interest

- There were no declarations of interest.



## Climate Adaptation Fund 2024/25 (Paper 1)

5. Andy Ford, Director of Nature and Climate Change and Gavin Miles, Director of Planning and Place introduced the paper which provides an update to the Performance Committee on the allocation of funding from the Cairngorms Climate Adaptation Fund, which awarded a total of £370,000 to 20 recipients in 2024/25. The purpose of the funding was to support immediate and impactful actions that address the challenges of climate adaptation within the Cairngorms National Park.
6. The Performance Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments and observations:
  - a) Clarity was sought if the current year fund was still open for applicants to apply. Director of Planning and Place explained that the first phase of applications are now closed. Officers are hopeful that some previous applicants who did not meet the criteria will reapply after making necessary improvements to their applications.
  - b) Discussions were had around the funding already allocated, if there were results from these projects available, and if there was a record to ensure a variety in projects. It was noted that due to a significant amount of funding available, it will attract a lot of applicants, and the Park Authority want to ensure support is given to projects that will be a benefit. Director of Planning and Place confirmed officers are reviewing the projects already awarded funding, allowing them to evaluate the impacts. CEO noted that the benefit of this being a broad fund allows for a wide range of projects / applicants to apply. If there is another fund available, officers can guide them towards this fund instead allowing the Climate Adaptation Fund to help with many different aspects.
  - c) Credit was given to the panel and officers who have worked on this fund, acknowledging this was a great example of people and nature thriving together and the Park Authority making a great difference with a diverse fund.
7. The Performance Committee noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations:
  - a) Note the progress on the delivery of projects and achievement of the Climate Adaptation Fund objectives from allocations made in the 2024/25 financial year.



8. Action Points Arising: None.

### **Website update (Paper 2)**

9. Oliver Davies, Head of Communications and Engagement introduced the paper which presents an update of current website activity including a strategic risk register and accompanying mitigation measures.
10. The Performance Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments and observations:
  - a) A question was raised regarding the risk register and if there were any significant new issues from the process of the website role out. Head of Communications and Engagement explained there had been nothing significant, however there were some snagging elements that will be tackled over the next month, which will require more resources on a short-term basis.
11. The Performance Committee noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations:
  - a) Review activity on the website, including procurement process followed / budget position.
  - b) Review the accompanying risk register to ensure key risks are captured and that mitigation measures are appropriate.
12. Action Points Arising: None.

### **Bringing beavers back project (Paper 3)**

13. Andy Ford, Director of Nature and Climate Change introduced the paper which presents the latest delivery updates on the Bringing beavers back project.
14. The Performance Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments and observations:
  - a) A question was raised regarding how the Park Authority worked with the mitigation group: was it a collaborative approach to develop the project or simply providing information to the group. Director of Nature and Climate change explained that the Park Authority and the mitigation group work collaboratively on overseeing delivery of the management and mitigation plan. Whilst there are some differences of opinion and disagreements over



policy, the opportunity for open dialogue is creating a much valued, improving and increasingly effective relationship.

15. The Performance Committee noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations:
  - a) Progress towards the project's objectives.
  - b) Any strategically significant impacts on delivery of the Cairngorm National Park Authority's Corporate Plan and National Park Partnership Plan.
  - c) Any material impacts on the Cairngorm National Park Authority's strategic risk management.
  
16. Action Points Arising: None

## **Delivery of statutory duties as conferred by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Paper 4)**

17. Colin Simpson, Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel, and Adam Streeter-Smith, Recreation and Access Manager introduced the paper which updated members on delivery of the Park Authority's statutory duties under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. While activity is delivered by officers with annual reporting to the Local Outdoor Access Forum, as this is a statutory function it is also considered appropriate that there is an element of Board oversight and scrutiny of related casework.
  
18. The Performance Committee discussed the paper and made the following comments and observations:
  - a) Discussions were had around the high number of obstruction cases on barriers and gates, questioning if the issues were with landowners not understanding their responsibilities. Recreation and Access Manager explained that landowners have concerns about stock and forestry gates, noting there was nothing malicious and discussions with landowners normally result in a swift resolution.
  - b) Discussions were had around the Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) noting a Board Member currently sitting on the group has not been able to attend some meetings. Board Convener agreed to take this forward.
  - c) A Board Member questioned if there was a water-based person sitting on LOAF. Recreation and Access Manager explained a lot of members and a



range of roles and are involved with water, however agreed to take this as a point to identify someone from the paddling community to join LOAF.

- d) Clarity was sought on Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) and Mar Area Partnership (MAP) involvement in the delivery of one of the Active Cairngorms Action Plan actions. Recreation and Access Manager explained VABS was used as a resource to gather information from lots of different communities and groups that may be involved in outdoor access related projects, not just community path groups. It was highlighted that it was important to ensure this work picked up on any aspirations in the various community action plans, and the support of these organisations helped ensure this was achieved. Next step would be to pull together a program for a summit conference / gathering for the paths groups to move forward with it. It was highlighted that VABS and MAP are a partner that provides community engagement activities which the Park Authority pay for, and therefore a good resource to utilise in supporting this area of work. The Park Authority are aware of community and groups working on paths, however VABS and MAP have link with a wider range of community groups and this allows officers to ensure they have captured as much information as possible.

19. The Performance Committee noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations:

- a) Note the summary of access casework undertaken by the Access and Infrastructure Team.
- b) Consider findings, trends and other relevant issues arising.

20. Action Points Arising: None.

## **AOCB**

21. Performance Committee Chair asked for an update for upcoming Agendas. Deputy CEO and Director of Corporate Services explained there will be a Cairngorms 2030 update, with a deep dive into a theme, and Peatland Action update coming to the next meeting. It was noted there was a Community Led Local Development paper due; however, this will be going to the full Board on 27 June.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

22. The date of the next meeting is 12 September 2025.



23. *The meeting concluded at 3.35pm*

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