

National Park Authority

Audit Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 13



Best Value in Public Services

Paper for noting

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As reported to the March 2015 Audit Committee Scottish Ministers expect all Accountable Officers to comply with the duty of Best Value placed upon them. Compliance with the duty of Best Value is an auditable requirement and Audit Scotland reported as a key risk in March 2012, that we had not formally considered the “Best Value in Public Services, Guidance for Accountable Officers”, issued by the Scottish Government in March 2011. In 2014 we agreed to consider the guidance in full and develop a policy for approval by the Audit Committee with a revised target date of 31st March 2015.
- 1.2 It was agreed at the 23rd March Executive meeting that the deadline of 31st March 2015 would not be achieved. The focus was changed to consider the best value guidance in full and to carry out a self-assessment against the guidance so that Audit Scotland could audit our response as part of the 2014/15 year end process. The development of a Best Value policy will take more time and there are potential resource constraints to be considered.
- 1.3 The best value self-assessment was submitted to Audit Scotland for review in May 2015 and we are pleased that the overall outcome of the detailed self-assessment work is that we are a “Best Value” organisation. We expect that Audit Scotland will include their feedback to our Best Value response in their Annual Report at Agenda Item 10.
- 1.4 Our formal response to the Best Value guidance and the resulting actions to continue to improve are presented at Appendices 1 and 2. The only risk to highlight is the availability of staff resource and this has been reported to the Executive Team for consideration.

Appendix 1: Response to Best Value in Public Services Guidance

Appendix 2: Action Plan

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and appendices, including the successful demonstration that we are a “Best Value” organisation.

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