

National Park Authority Audit & Risk Committee

Agenda Item 11



Draft Governance Statement for inclusion in 2019/20 Annual Accounts

Paper for approval

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present the proposed Governance Statement on internal control which is required as part of the Annual Accounts statements. This is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 Much of the document is prescribed by the Scottish Public Finance Manual and organisations are required to outline how they have addressed the requirements.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are requested to confirm the appropriateness of assertions made in the draft Governance Statement on internal control prior to its inclusion in the draft accounts for 2019/20 and subsequent signature by the Chief Executive. Please note that the final wording may change slightly as part of the accounts finalisation process and sections included in [square brackets] will be updated after the year end date.

3. Changes from 2018/19 Governance Statement

The changes in the 2019/20 Governance Statement are as follows:

- Update to reflect the number of Committee meetings;
- The outcomes from the Board and its Committees;
- Inclusion of procurement for internal audit services;
- The areas of internal audit review;
- Update on the Corporate Risk Register review process;
- Update on the risk policy and assurance framework; and
- Update to the data security section to reflect the work carried out during the year with regards to IT and GDPR.

The following items were included in the 2018/19 Governance Statement but have not been included in 2019/20;

- Changes in the committee structure following the governance review in 2017/18
- Changes in Board members following the Scottish Ministerial appointments and local elections in 2018
- Report of an alleged misuse of grant funds

Author: Eilidh McKerry, Finance Manager

Executive Sponsor: Pete Wightman, Director of Corporate Services