

Final External Audit Annual Report

Paper for noting

1. Purpose

To present the final external audit annual report for 2019/20 as produced by Grant Thornton, LLP, the Authority's external auditors.

2. Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and Our 5-year Plan

The external audit report supports the statutory duty to prepare annual accounts. The report supports the management of risk in the organisation which supports delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan and Our 5-year Plan.

4. Report

The draft report was presented to the Audit Committee on 8 September 2020. The accounts were signed on 7 October 2020. The final external audit report from Grant Thornton is attached (Appendix 1).

The report details the audit of the financial statements, the financial and governance arrangements, recommendations, details of fees, audit adjustments and a section on communication of audit matters.

The adjustments are detailed on pages 16-17 and the recommendations on pages 18-20.

The report concludes that there were:

- No significant going concern matters identified
- No significant findings from the audit
- No significant difficulties encountered during the audit,
- No significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit
- No significant matters arising in connection with related parties
- No identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or which results in material misstatement of the financial statements
- No instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations noted
- No unadjusted misstatements or material disclosure omissions

National Park Authority Audit & Risk Committee

Agenda Item 8

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- No modification of auditors' report. However there is an emphasis of matter paragraph in relation to the valuation uncertainty surrounding the valuation of property, plant and equipment.

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