

Code of Conduct Update

Agenda Item 9

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Monday 10 June 2024

Paper for decision

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Purpose | 1 |
| 2. | Recommendation(s)..... | 1 |
| 3. | Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Our 5-year Plan | 1 |
| 4. | Background..... | 1 |
| 5. | Next steps..... | 2 |
| 6. | Appendices | 2 |

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To present to Members an updated version of the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority (the Code of Conduct) which includes Section 7 'Taking Decisions on Quasi-Judicial or Regulatory Applications', in line with the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. That Members **approve** the update to the Code of Conduct as outlined through tracked changes in the document attached at Appendix 1.

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

- 3.1. Ensuring there is an up-to-date Code of Conduct, in line with the Standards Commission for Scotland's Model Code is a cornerstone of good governance which underpins the outcomes of the National Park Plan and Our 5-year Plan.

4. Background

- 4.1. The Board approved the current version of the Code of Conduct at its meeting in June 2022. The National Park Authority's Code of Conduct adopts

in full and without addition the Model Code of Conduct developed by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

4.2. The Code of Conduct was subsequently approved by Scottish Ministers.

4.3. Following a review of the Code of Conduct undertaken alongside colleagues at Cairngorms National Park Authority, it was identified that the Model Code for non-departmental public bodies, and therefore the National Park Authority's Code of Conduct, does not contain provision for managing the handling of quasi-judicial or regulatory business.

4.4. Provisions for these matters had been incorporated into the National Park Authority's previous Code of Conduct but were omitted in the development of the Model Code by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

4.5. The Standards Commission for Scotland have been consulted and agree that an addition to the National Park Authority's Code of Conduct to make provision for handling quasi-judicial and regulatory business is required and advised that any provision be as close as possible to the equivalent section of the existing Councillors Model Code of Conduct produced by the Standards Commission.

4.6. The text suggested for Section 7 as outlined through tracked changes at Appendix 1 is based on the equivalent section of the Councillors Model Code of Conduct and has been updated to refer to the National Park Authority, the national park area and to align with the decisions and decision-making relevant to the National Park Authority.

5. Next steps

5.1. If approved by the Board, the update to the Code of Conduct would take effect immediately.

5.2. Approval of the text of the proposed additional section has already been sought and granted from the Standards Commission for Scotland and the Ethical Standards Commissioner. They have confirmed that re-approval by Scottish Ministers for the proposed update will not be required.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – LLTNPA Code of Conduct JUNE2024 - Updates tracked against current version

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