



Appendix 2: Young People and the Future of Scotland / Youth Committee Questionnaire Mapping

Agenda Item 6

National Park Authority Board Meeting
9 March 2026

Paper for decision

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1. Background

1.1. The table in this appendix draws out the key themes from the Scottish Government's [Young People and the Future of Scotland](#) report, and from the Youth Committee's 2025 survey. It shows how those themes have been reflected in the risk appetite matrix.

Theme from Young People and the Future of Scotland Report	What Young People Want	What worries Young People	Youth Committee Questionnaire: most important things	Our Risk Appetite
Climate and Environment	<p>The young people want Scotland to lead the way in protecting nature and creating green jobs. Some called for solutions that tackle the root causes of climate change. They want to see big changes in how we build houses, plan transport and use energy.</p>	<p>Some young people feel a sense of urgency. They worry that if we do not act now, Scotland could face serious problems, like extreme weather or loss of the places they love. They were concerned that some communities might not get enough help and thought that some areas might be hit harder by climate disasters, such as flooding.</p>	<p>Nature and reversing the biodiversity crisis</p> <p>Climate crisis and net zero National Park</p>	<p>Environment and Sustainability:</p> <p>We have a moderate to open appetite for leading, communicating and promoting opportunities to influence. We have a desire to be innovative in advancing the case for nature, biodiversity and the climate. We have an open appetite to exploring innovative opportunities to deliver those aims.</p> <p>We have a low appetite for failing to engage and work effectively with partners to address environment and sustainability risks.</p> <p>We have no appetite for any organisational actions or inactions which directly harm the environment, nature or climate.</p> <p>Political:</p> <p>We have a moderate to open appetite for engaging with the legislative, policy and guidance process to shape and influence political priorities/commitments. We will consider challenge to nature, climate and environmental commitments which are counter to its aims.</p>

Theme from Young People and the Future of Scotland Report	What Young People Want	What worries Young People	Youth Committee Questionnaire: most important things	Our Risk Appetite
Economy and Jobs	<p>The young people want a fair economy where everyone has a chance to succeed. They believe that living costs and housing should be more affordable. Some also support a fairer tax system so money is shared more evenly among everyone. Many are excited about the idea of green industries and new types of jobs</p>	<p>They worry that today's economy is unfair. Many are concerned about the high costs for living and housing and want quick solutions like using empty buildings to make more homes. Young people are both worried and hopeful about how technology might change the world and work. They want technology to help workers rather than replace them.</p>		<p>Environment and Sustainability:</p> <p>We have a moderate to open appetite for leading, communicating and promoting opportunities to influence. We have a desire to be innovative in advancing the case for a greener way of living. We have an open appetite to exploring innovative opportunities to deliver those aims.</p> <p>We have a low appetite for failing to engage and work effectively with partners to address environment and sustainability risks.</p>

Theme from Young People and the Future of Scotland Report	What Young People Want	What worries Young People	Youth Committee Questionnaire: most important things	Our Risk Appetite
<p>Politics and Government</p>	<p>Young people want everyone to have a say in how things are run. They want more openness from politicians and for different voices – including more young people – to be heard when big decisions are made. Many suggested making political education and digital safety a core part of school learning. They thought this could help build trust and strengthen democracy. Some proposed ideas like lowering the voting age or making voting compulsory. Young people also want strong public services like healthcare, education and transport. Some said they might be willing to pay more to help keep these services running well.</p>	<p>Many felt their voices are sometimes ignored by leaders and decision-makers. They worry a lot about the spread of false information online, which can make it hard for people to know what is true. Young people fear that without big changes, essential services like healthcare or education might suffer. Some are also nervous about how global events, such as wars or economic changes, might affect Scotland.</p>		<p>Governance:</p> <p>We actively seek to create a diverse and representative Board and has an open appetite in how to achieve this.</p>

Theme from Young People and the Future of Scotland Report	What Young People Want	What worries Young People	Youth Committee Questionnaire: most important things	Our Risk Appetite
<p>Society and Community</p>	<p>The young people were hopeful for a future where everyone is treated equally and with respect. They want education to be better and more connected to real-life skills. Many are keen for more progress on gender equality, but some feel that change is too slow.</p>	<p>Some worry we aren't getting the balance right between offline and online life and we risk disagreeing too much online instead of coming together to discuss and solve problems. Digital life, while offering connection, also brings problems like cyberbullying, isolation and misinformation. Migration was generally viewed as being positive for Scotland, but the potential loss of local identity due to climate change and migration was worrying for some.</p>	<p>Responsible visiting & tourism</p> <p>Making the park more accessible and inclusive</p> <p>Sustainable travel and active travel</p>	<p>Governance:</p> <p>We actively seek to create a diverse and representative Board and has an open appetite in how to achieve this.</p> <p>Operational:</p> <p>We have a low appetite for risks that adversely impact our ability to deliver accessible and inclusive services.</p> <p>People and Knowledge:</p> <p>We have a low appetite for weaknesses in our workplace culture.</p> <p>We have no appetite for risks that undermine the health and safety, wellbeing, diversity and equality of its employees or the public.</p>

Theme from Young People and the Future of Scotland Report	What Young People Want	What worries Young People	Youth Committee Questionnaire: most important things	Our Risk Appetite
Health and Habits	<p>A major priority is the need for well-funded health services. Young people want better NHS support for mental health, including more accessible services in schools and less stigma around getting help. They were worried about vaping and drugs and wanted better education on these. Some said they wanted to see less stigma around drug use, with greater focus on looking after people, rather than blaming them.</p>	<p>They worry about both their current and future health. Mental health and access to support for mental health problems were a big concern. Young people notice that digital life changes their social connections and can lead to negative issues like poor sleep and loneliness. Some are uncertain about how new habits, like vaping, will impact society.</p>		<p>Operational:</p> <p>We have a low appetite for risks that adversely impact our ability to deliver accessible and inclusive services.</p> <p>People and Knowledge:</p> <p>We have a low appetite for weaknesses in our workplace culture.</p> <p>We have no appetite for risks that undermine the health and safety, wellbeing, diversity and equality of its employees or the public.</p>