



Lake District National Park

Authority: 26 March 2025

Agenda Item: 10 c)

Governance Committee

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance Committee held at the National Park Office, Murley Moss, Kendal at 10.00 am on 27 November 2024.

Present

Ms J A Drake (Chair)

Mr M F Carter

Mr M Kidd

Mr R G Minshaw

Mr I C Wharton

2 vacancies

Also in attendance

Chair of the Authority: Ms T Hunt MBE

Mrs F Woodmass, Grant Thornton UK LLP (Virtual)

Mr Tausif Taj, Audit Manager, TIAA (Virtual)

Apologies

Mr W Clark

Independent Person: Mr A Southorn

No Apologies Received

Independent Person: Mr D Tweddle

39/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr W Clark and Mr D Tweddle.

40/24 Minutes

Decided: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

41/24 Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced to the Committee and members of the public that the meeting was being livestreamed and that a digital sound recording of the meeting would be made.

42/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of a registrable interest or disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any of the business of the Committee.

43/24 Questions

There were no questions relating to the business of the Committee.

44/24 Public Participation

There were no questions, petitions or deputations of a general nature relating to the business of the Committee.

45/24 External Audit Update (Verbal)

The External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, presented a verbal update on the progress of the external audit of the Authority's accounts. Regulations have been put in place for a hard back stop for sign off of the 2023/24 accounts by the 28 February 2025. External Audit provided assurance that the work required on the pension fund audit should be completed in time for LDNPA accounts to be signed off by this date. Mr Notley advised members that an extra Governance committee date had been placed in the diary on 21 February 2025 to sign off the accounts.

Decided: Members noted the verbal update.

46/24 Corporate and Business Plan Risks Update

The Head of People and Organisation Development presented the report summarising our key corporate and Business Plan risks at the end of September 2024.

Mr Wharton queried the risk relating to Greenside Mine which was above tolerance. It was noted that work had been carried on various parts of Greenside Mine over the past decade. The Coal Authority were monitoring the site on an annual basis or as required by weather and other events, with the Authority undertaking any work they recommended. The risk was well managed but unlikely to fall below tolerance.

Decided:

- a Members considered and noted our key corporate and Business Plan risks, as shown in Annexes 1 and 2.

47/24 Accounting Policies for the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Principal Accountant presented the report which asked Members to approve the accounting policies to be used in the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2025. One change had been made to the existing policies in relation to lease accounting. No changes had been made to the remaining policies applied and disclosed in the 2023/24 unaudited statements. Assurance was provided to Members that the proposed policies were consistent the relevant CIPFA Code.

Decided:

- a Members approved the accounting policies for the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 as set out in Annex 1; and

- b Members delegated to the Section 151 Officer the ability to amend the accounting policies if required.

The Committee passed the following Resolution:

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items. This was because exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act, may be disclosed during discussions.

Part 2

48/24 Internal Audit Update

The Internal Auditor presented the report providing an update on progress delivering the 2024/25 internal audit plan and two assurance reports (HR and Commercial Contracts) that had been finalised since the last committee. The Head of Resources also provided an update on the implementation of recommendations outstanding from internal audit reports previously issued.

Members noted that there were no outstanding overdue actions and thanked officers for their hard work.

Decided:

- a Members noted the Internal Audit Progress report on implementation of the 2024/25 Internal Audit Plan (Annex 1);
- b Members noted the assurance reports issued since the last meeting:
- Human Resources (Annex 2.1)
 - Commercial Contracts (Annex 2.2);
- c Members noted the current progress in implementing recommendations (Annex 3 and 4); and
- d Members noted the progress in implementing the Annual Governance Statement action plan (Annex 5).

(The meeting finished at 10:40)