



Lake District National Park

Governance Committee: 16 April 2025
Draft Minutes Subject to Committee Approval

Agenda Item: 2

Governance Committee

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance Committee held at the National Park Office, Murley Moss, Kendal at 10.00 am on 21 February 2025.

Present

Ms J A Drake (Chair)

Mr W Clark

Mr R G Minshaw

Mr I C Wharton

1 vacancy

Also in attendance

Chair of the Authority: Ms T Hunt MBE

Mrs F Woodmass, Grant Thornton UK LLP (Virtual)

Ms J Butterfield, TIAA (Virtual)

Apologies

Mr M F Carter

Mr M Kidd

Ms S Lansbury

Independent person: Mr A Southorn

No Apologies Received

Independent Person: Mr D Tweddle

01/25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Carter, Mr Kidd, Ms Lansbury and Mr A Southorn

02/25 Minutes

Decided: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

03/25 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.

04/25 **Declarations of Interest**

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

05/25 **Questions**

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

06/25 **Public Participation**

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

07/25 **Statement of Accounts 2023/24**

The Financial Services Manager presented the report of the Authority's Statement of Accounts and associated documents for 2023/24. The External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, also presented the external auditor's Audit Findings Report which included the Letter of Representation.

The Financial Services Manager reported that:

- Annex 1 had had minor changes since first presented on 27th November 2024 but was confirmed as essentially the same report
- Annex 2 (letter of representation from GT) confirmed the accounts as fair and true
- Annex 3, the final Statement of Accounts for 2023-24, would replace the draft on the website
- Annex 4, the final Auditor's Annual Report including the Value for Money Option, first presented in October 2024, was included for completeness

The External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, reported that outstanding pension assurances had now been received.

The Members thanked Ms F Woodmass, Grant Thornton UK LLP, for the external auditor's Audit Findings Report, highlighting the helpfulness of highlighting minor changes in blue, which were much appreciated.

Decided:

- a Members noted the final Audit Findings Report at Annex 1;
- b Members approved the Letter of Representation at Annex 2;
- c Members approved the final Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 for publication at Annex 3 and authorise the Chair of Governance Committee to sign on behalf of the Authority; and
- d Members noted the final Auditor's Annual Report including the Value for Money Option included in Annex 4.

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

08/25 Internal Audit Update

The Internal Auditor, TIAA, presented the report providing an update on progress delivering the 2024/25 internal audit plan. The report also provided an update on the implementation of recommendations outstanding from internal audit reports previously issued. Any new internal audit reports were also presented for Members' attention.

The Head of Resources stated outlined that assurance had been obtained for each audit report and that all actions were on track.

The Assurance Review of Treasury Management had substantial assurance and there were no recommendations.

The Members noted the positive nature of the report.

Decided:

- a Members noted the IA Progress report on implementation of the 2024/25 IA Plan (Annex 1);
- b Members noted the assurance reports issued since the last meeting:
Income and Debtors (Annex 2.1)
Treasury Management (Annex 2.2);
- c Members noted the current progress in implementing recommendations (Annex 3 and 4);
- d Members noted the progress in implementing the Annual Governance Statement action plan (Annex 5); and
- e Members approved the proposed internal audit plan for 2025/26 (Annex 6).

The Chair thanked Ms F Woodmass (Grant Thornton UK LLP) and Ms J Butterfield (TIAA) for attending and for their contributions.

(The meeting finished at 10.34am)