

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING
29 JUNE 2007
CORPORATE RESOURCES

PART A

4. 2006/07 STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL (A.137/13/RMM)

Proposal

- 1 Members are asked to review and approve the Statement on Internal Control for 2006/07.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 2 1. **That the Statement on Internal Control for 2006/07, which has been subject to review, be approved**

Policy/Legal Background

- 3 From 2003/04 the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 have required Authorities to carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and to include a Statement on Internal Control alongside the annual accounts. As the Statement ranges much wider than the financial transactions of the Authority it is appropriate to consider it separately to the accounts.

Key Issues

- 4 The Statement on Internal Control at Annex 1 has been produced following a review of activity and effectiveness of internal controls in 2006/07. Many of the conclusions drawn are based on reports to Members from staff and the Internal and District Auditors during the year.
- 5 In accordance with the code of practice on local authority accounting and in recognition of the importance of the Statement on Internal Control it needs to be signed off by the Chief Executive and a leading Member (it is proposed that this should be the Vice Chair of Audit and Performance Committee).

APPENDIX

Background

1 See main report.

Resources

2 There are no additional financial considerations to consider.

Risk Management

3 The internal control system is designed to manage risk and an annual review of the last year, highlighting progress and further improvements to be made, can give reasonable assurance of effectiveness. However, an absolute guarantee cannot be given so Members need to be aware that problems can still arise. The objective is to mitigate the risks as far as possible through the governance framework we have in place and are still developing.

Human Rights, Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety, Environmental Impact

4 There are no issues to highlight. For the first time the Statement on Internal Control refers to the Authority's obligations to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment.

Consultees

5 The Director of Corporate Resources has discussed the review of the Statement in advance with the Vice Chair of Audit and Performance Committee and made amendments as a result. The Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer/Head of Finance have also been consulted and comments included. Other managers have provided information for the Statement.

Enclosures

6 Annex 1: 2006/07 Statement on Internal Control

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

7 An electronic file of documents has been prepared relevant to the Statement on Internal Control which are primarily Authority and Committee reports and other supporting records to evidence the assessment made in the Statement.

Report Author

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Publication date

9 21 June 2007.