

**ITEM 9 APPENDIX 4: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTIONS FOR 2023/24: Q4 UPDATE**

Action	Commentary	Next steps and/or potential risks
<b>Review the Authority's arrangements against the CIPFA Audit Committee Guidance</b>	<p>The Authority's current arrangements were considered by P&amp;R Committee members at their away day and, whilst it was acknowledged that the Authority is not in alignment with all CIPFA's recommendations, it was considered that the Authority's streamlined committee structure was a proportionate approach to the Authority's business.</p> <p>Some actions were also considered to support the committee's audit function, including an additional quarterly Member audit workshop to promote a better understanding of audit and the matters being raised in relation to the Authority. The effectiveness of these will be kept under review over the coming year and the Authority will consider this matter in further detail</p>	<p>Improved support to Members to assist understanding of audit matters presented at committee to be delivered through quarterly workshops. Chair's annual report also to be integrated into the Annual Governance Statement process. Future report to the NPA on our response to CIPFA requirements.</p>
<b>Implement suitable monitoring at Seven Sisters Country Park to inform the future development of any byelaw required</b>	<p>Working with the SSCP Team, a monitoring regime has been introduced to identify if persistent issues arise which could warrant a byelaw. This will be reviewed with the Strategic and Commercial Manager on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Monitoring underway. Annual review between Head of Governance and Strategic and Commercial Manager of any matters which may arise.</p>
<b>Work with the Authority's External Auditors to improve the timeliness of reports to the Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<p>Liaison with the External Auditor assisted in improved timeliness of reports. The Authority's account within the External Auditor has been passed to another team to manage, therefore, continued liaison with the External Auditor will remain important to ensure timely reporting in the future.</p>	<p>Continued liaison with new team at the External Auditors</p>
<b>Ensure good governance mechanisms are in place to support the Authority's growing work in the area of Green Finance</b>	<p>Green finance has been a fast-moving area of work, both locally and nationally, over the past year and the Authority has had to be agile to adapt to changes throughout the year. Particular emphasis and work has been done on the cost recovery nature of the work and ensuring it continues to fully align with our purposes as a National Park Authority.</p>	<p>As a fast moving area of work both locally and nationally the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer will continue to work closely with the colleagues working on Green Finance and with the legal team at WSCC.</p>
<b>Review of the Authority's Fraud and Anti-corruption and Whistleblowing Policies</b>		<p>To be carried over to the 2024/25 AGS.</p>
<b>Develop an Authority policy on the use of non-corporate communication channels</b>	<p>Review of Cabinet Office and ICO guidance has been undertaken producing a policy on the Authority's use of Microsoft Teams and other non-corporate communication channels. Approved by the Operational Management Team.</p>	<p>To be reviewed every 2 years, or sooner if required.</p>

