North York Moors National Park Authority

Item 7, Public Minutes of the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 18 May 2026

Present:

Jim Bailey, Malcolm Bowes, Jane Harper, George Jabbour, Patrick James, Heather Moorhouse, Clive Pearson, John Ritchie, Christine Robertson, Colin Williamson, Keith Wilkinson (Independent Person)

Apologies:

David Jeffels

Officers in attendance:

Tom Hind (Chief Executive), Pete Williams, (Director of Corporate Services), Chris France (Director of Planning), Joel Brookfield (Director of Recreation and Wellbeing), Briony Fox (Director of Conservation & Climate Change), Judith Seaton (Executive Support Team Leader).

Copies of all documents considered are in the minute book

16/26 Minutes

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2026, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

17/26 Members Interests

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interests relating to any agenda item prior to its consideration.

18/26 Exclusion of the public

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Items 18 & 19, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 & 2 of Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

19/26 25/26 Internal Audit reports – Thom Absolom

Considered:

The report of the Internal Auditors

Members raised concerns about cyber-attacks, discussing the timescale for completion of related actions, the role of third-party provider, password policies, and plans for a tabletop disaster recovery exercise to improve preparedness.

There is ongoing work to de-risk exposed systems by moving to the cloud, the need for improved record keeping and documentation, and noted that recommendations from the audit are aimed at incremental improvements rather than addressing major exposure risks.

Action: Director of Corporate Services to check on frequency of password changes for Members.

Resolved: That Members note the content of the report.

20/26 External Audit – Audit Strategy Memorandum

Considered:

The report of the External Auditors

A discussion was held on building valuations - it was confirmed that each property is subject to individual assessment with indexation applied in future years. Insurance value differs from actual building cost valuations. The new build is now in a fixed contract, however for future years it could be a build cost plus index linked and the external auditors will advise.

Resolved: That Members note the content of this report and appendix

21/26 External Funding

Considered:

The report of the External Funding Manager

It was confirmed that the Linking Levisham project big was submitted to Natural England at the end of April as part of ELMS and may take 6 months to hear back.

The National Park Authority is leading on the funding for the Fire Restoration however it is ultimately the responsibility of the landowner. The National Park is working in collaboration with all partners through the North Yorkshire Resilience Forum.

The funding model for Young Rangers was clarified in that core funding ensures programme continuity, with grants used to target specific groups, and plans to recruit additional project managers to support health and wellbeing strategy delivery.

It was suggested that a future column be added to the external funding spend profile to forecast grant income and spend beyond the current business plan period (post-2027). A suggestion was also received to provide a detailed breakdown of grants in terms of RDEL-CDEL.

Resolved: That Members note the content of the report and agree the current work being done to secure external funding.

Monitor Quarterly progress, especially for pending and opportunity funding to ensure the Authority's Business Plan objectives are met.

22/26 Draft Annual Governance Statement

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services (S151)

Resolved: That Members comment on and approve the draft Annual Governance Statement for publication with the draft Financial Accounts at the end of June.

23/26 Quarterly Performance scorecard

Considered:

The report of the Performance Management Officer

Members asked for benchmarking data against other parks and staff time comparisons for volunteering.

A discussion on tailoring engagement strategies to audience intelligence, referencing survey data, qualitative feedback, and the need for continual innovation to meet changing visitor expectations and drive repeat custom.

Suggestions were made for improved collaboration to promote public transport and reduce tourism-related carbon footprints, it was acknowledged that partnership working and engagement with coach operators will continue as will the targeted transport.

Action: Benchmarking data to be included against other parks and staff time comparisons for volunteering.

Resolved: That Members note the scorecard.

24/26 Financial outturn update 2025/26

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services

Members debated whether to allocate surplus and investment income to property or general reserves, ultimately agreeing to allocate to general reserves for flexibility, with future decisions to be made based on strategic priorities and DEFRA funding criteria.

Action: The recommendation to be amended to allocate the surplus and interest receivable to the general reserve.

Resolved: That Members note the content of the report.

That Members approve the allocation of £126k surplus and £244k interest receivable (as per point 4.2) to the general reserve.

25/26 Property update

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services and the Property Manager.

Resolved: That Members note the contents of the report.

26/26 Proposed new ‘Complaints Policy’ and procedure

Considered:

The report of the Authority Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Members discussed the process for categorising complaints versus service requests, with officers responsible for initial classification and recognition that some matters may evolve from service requests to formal complaints.

Acknowledgement of the Independent Person’s contributions and commitment to ongoing monitoring.

Resolved: That Members approve the proposed new ‘Complaints Policy’ and procedure set out in **appendix 2**, for it to come into effect on 1 June 2026.

27/26 Health and Safety update

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services

Resolved: That Members note the contents of this report.

28/26 End of year Treasury Management update

Considered:

The report of the Director of Corporate Services

Resolved: That Members note the performance of the Treasury Management operation during 2025/26 and the outturn position on Prudential Indicators.

29/26 Other business

There was no other business discussed.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………(Chair)
1 September 2026

Public Summary of Items considered "in private" at the meeting of the Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 18 May 2026

Private minutes

Members agreed that the private minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2026 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Complaints and Compliments

Members noted the compliments and complaints registered in quarter 4 2025/26.