

## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22**

**Prepared by: Hamish Trench, Director of Conservation and Visitor Experience  
David Berry, Planning Manager**

#### **Purpose**

To seek the Board's agreement to the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22 and its submission to Scottish Ministers for approval.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Board consider and agree the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22 for submission to Scottish Ministers for approval.**

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## NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017-2022 – FOR DECISION

### Strategic Context

1. The National Park Partnership Plan is the management plan for the National Park. Every five years CNPA has a statutory duty to prepare a plan and submit it to Scottish Ministers for approval. The plan sets out how the relevant partners will work together to address the big issues affecting the National Park.

### Public Consultation

2. CNPA held a 14 week public consultation from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 ('The Big 9'). A total of 319 formal responses were received. In addition, more than 250 people attended specific meetings and seminars based around the Big 9 issues and Board members gave a presentation to all the community councils within the National Park. Extensive use was made of CNPA's website and social media channels to promote the consultation. The consultation homepage was viewed over 4,400 times during the consultation period and a series of video clips, which were designed to provide easy to access background information on the Big 9 issues, were viewed over 1,100 times. A total of 1,780 people also engaged and interacted with the consultation through Twitter using #BigParkBigQuestions.
3. The Board considered the consultation report on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Following the consultation we have worked with partners to develop the final plan, through discussions on specific topics and reviewing the overall approach and working draft through the Delivery Group.

### The Partnership Plan

4. The Plan sets out the vision, outcomes and national context for the Cairngorms National Park. It also sets out a summary of the public interest priorities for land use in the National Park, showing how the National Park can help deliver national policies and the Land Use Strategy for Scotland. Clarity on the public interest priorities in the National Park was sought by a number of respondents to the consultation.
5. For each section on Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development, the plan sets out:
  - a) The Big Challenges
  - b) Priorities setting out the issues and the agenda for action
  - c) Delivery framework including targets, mechanisms for delivery and partners

6. Finally the Plan sets out a summary of capital investment priorities, the role of publicly owned land and delivery and monitoring arrangements.

## Conservation

7. The consultation demonstrated significant support for the big challenges identified and these have been carried forward into the plan as:
  - a) Enhancing habitats on a landscape scale
  - b) Protecting and enhancing species
  - c) Building support and engagement
8. The priorities identified are:
  - a) Supporting Landscape-Scale Collaboration
  - b) Deer Management
  - c) Moorland Management
9. The issue of natural flood management identified in the consultation document is now considered as part of the landscape scale collaboration priority. The three priorities together set out a clear direction and practical action that will help ensure the Cairngorms delivers a significant contribution to national conservation and land use goals. They also seek to address the challenges of integrating different objectives for upland land management and to support change where it is needed.

## Visitor Experience

10. The consultation demonstrated significant support for the big challenges identified and these have been carried forward into the plan as:
  - a) Enhancing the quality of the Park as a tourism destination
  - b) Delivering Active Cairngorms
  - c) Engaging more people across Scotland in making the most of the National Park
11. The priorities identified are:
  - a) Visitor infrastructure and information
  - b) Active Cairngorms
  - c) Learning and Inclusion
12. The visitor infrastructure and information priority sets out the key focus for investment in improving the public infrastructure that underpins the tourism economy and visitor experience. Active Cairngorms takes forward the challenging work to encourage the inactive to become more active, as well as improving active travel

infrastructure. Learning and Inclusion continues work to enable people to benefit from learning and volunteer opportunities with more emphasis on reaching a broader cross section of society.

## Rural Development

13. The consultation demonstrated significant support for the big challenges identified and these have been carried forward into the plan as:
  - a) Delivering housing that meets the needs of communities
  - b) Community-led development and regeneration
  - c) Strengthening and diversifying the economy
14. The priorities identified are:
  - a) Housing
  - b) Community Capacity and Empowerment
  - c) Economic Development
15. The housing priority sets out a package of measures aimed at ensuring we make the best use of the available housing land supply to meet the needs of individual communities, recognising the differences across the National Park. The community capacity and empowerment priority seeks to build on the very strong record of community-led delivery in the Park and extend this to help deliver the local assets and services needed in communities. The economic development priority addresses challenges in communications, transport, infrastructure and wages, seeking to diversify the economy as well as strengthen existing key sectors.

## Submission to Ministers

16. The National Parks (Scotland) Act requires that the plan is submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval. We will submit the plan together with the background information including the consultation report and assessment reports.
17. The plan presented here is in a working format, it will then be designed in a visual format and style consistent with the documents used for the Big 9 consultation ready for publication once approved by Ministers.

## Delivery and Reporting

18. Once approved by Ministers we will continue to work with partners to co-ordinate and monitor delivery. We will continue to hold annual meetings of the National Park Partnership and work with the Delivery Group to co-ordinate delivery and reporting.

6 monthly progress reports will be brought to the CNPA board and an annual progress report will be publicly available.

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## Supporting Information

### Consultation Report

The consultation report was published in December 2016 and is available at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Consultation-Overview-Report-Completev.0.3.pdf>

### Impact Assessments

#### *Habitats Regulations Appraisal*

The NPPP has been subject to the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process. The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether the NPPP would be likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The final NPPP has therefore been screened for its likely significant effects. The HRA Report concludes that the NPPP will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura site.

#### *Strategic Environmental Assessment*

To ensure that the NPPP does not have any significant adverse effects on the environment a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The SEA Environmental Report concludes that the effects of the final NPPP are predicted to be overwhelmingly positive, while the few potential negative effects are minor in nature and can be easily avoided through simple mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the NPPP document.

#### *Equalities Impact Assessment*

The NPPP has been subject to the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process in accordance with the Equality Act (2010). An EqIA screening report has been produced, and this concludes that the NPPP is not expected to have discriminatory or negative effects/impacts on any particular group or sector of the community or workforce.

**Hamish Trench**

**David Berry**

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[hamishtrench@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:hamishtrench@cairngorms.co.uk)

[davidberry@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:davidberry@cairngorms.co.uk)