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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FINANCE COMMITTEE

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEE, SPEY AND SOUTH ESK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS.**

**Prepared by: Penny Lawson, Land Management Officer**

#### **Purpose**

To seek the Committee's approval to contribute a total of £22,000 for 2012/13 to the Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) for the Dee, Spey and South Esk Catchments, and to ask for support in principle for CNPA's ongoing contribution to catchment management plans for rivers within the CNP.

#### **Recommendations**

We are now seeking:

- a) Confirmation of CNPA's continued contribution for 2012/13 to
  - i. the Dee Catchment Partnership (£10,000),
  - ii. the Spey Catchment Initiative (£10,000) and
  - iii. the South Esk Catchment Management Plan (£2,000)
  
- b) An agreement in principle for continued CNPA support for catchment management partnerships for the rivers rising within the CNP area.

#### **Executive Summary**

CNP is the watershed for the upper catchments of two internationally renowned rivers, the Spey and Dee, recognised for their outstanding water quality, biodiversity and economic value. The upper catchments of the Tay, Don and North and South Esk also fall within the park boundary. River systems are a central element of the landscape of the national park and are closely linked to many land management issues. The upper catchments and tributaries are arguably the most important parts of the rivers systems as management actions here have important effects downstream.

Multi-agency/stakeholder Catchment Management Partnerships are in place for the Spey, Dee and South Esk and have proved an ideal vehicle for CNPA to work towards the aims of the NPP. CNPA has ensured its involvement for a number of years through financial support of the Dee, Spey and South Esk Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) and input to the

steering groups of the respective partnerships. Pooling modest financial contributions from funding partners, involving all stakeholders and employing a project officer has been shown to be an effective way to achieve real progress with implementation of the plans and spin-off projects which have arisen from them.

As many of the actions have long lead in times and require extended periods of time to achieve desired outcomes, assurance of an intention to continue our support beyond 2013 would make a real difference to what can be achieved. CNPA could also benefit from being ready to take up opportunities likely to arise for involvement in CMPs for the Don, upper Tay and North Esk.

**Penny Lawson**  
**February 2012**

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