
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: Impact Assessments for Draft National Park Plan

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Purpose

To provide the Board with the reports detailing the assessments of the draft National Park Plan in terms of:

- a) Strategic Environmental Assessment
- b) Habitats Regulations Assessment
- c) Equalities Impact Assessment

Recommendations

That the Board notes the results of the impact assessments and the reports that will be published to accompany consultation on the Draft National Park Plan.

Executive Summary

Reports have been completed recording the assessment of the likely effects of the draft National Park Plan in terms of:

- a) Strategic environmental assessment;
- b) Habitats Regulations assessment;
- c) Equalities impact assessment.

(Reports annexed to this paper for information).

These assessments have informed the development of the draft National Park Plan and the reports record this process and the results. The reports will be published alongside the draft National Park Plan to inform the consultation and help stakeholders consider the likely effects when helping to develop the final National Park Plan.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR DRAFT NATIONAL PARK PLAN FOR INFORMATION

1. In approving the draft National Park Plan for consultation on 8th July 2011 (Paper 1, 8/7/11) the board delegated responsibility for completion of the impact assessment reports for Management Team. These reports record the assessment of the likely effects of the draft National Park Plan in terms of:
 - a) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive;
 - b) Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as required by the Conservation (Natural Heritage &c) Regulations (as amended);
 - c) Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) as required through duties arising from the Human Rights Act.
2. Assessments of the potential effects of the draft National Park Plan in terms of all three impact assessments have been carried out by CNPA staff as an integral part of developing the draft plan. The assessment has identified mitigation and measures to be taken in further developing and then implementing the National Park Plan to maximise positive environmental effects, comply with the Habitats Directive and ensure no significant negative impact on race, gender or disability equality.
3. The reports recording these assessments have been completed and are annexed. These will be published to inform the public consultation. There is a statutory requirement to consult publicly on the SEA Environmental Report alongside the draft plan. While the same requirement does not apply to the other two assessments, we will nonetheless welcome feedback on them in order to help develop the final National Park Plan.

Implications

Financial Implications

4. There are no financial implications arising.

Presentational Implications

5. There are no presentational implications arising.

Implications for Stakeholders

6. The assessments help to identify potential implications of some of the plans proposals to enable stakeholders to contribute fully to the consultation and help to develop the final National Park Plan.

Next Steps

7. The assessment reports will be proof-read and edited before being published on our website as documents supporting consultation on the draft National Park Plan.

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