

---

## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

---

### FOR DECISION

**Title:** **ADOPTION OF NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP  
PLAN 2012-17**

**Prepared by:** **Gavin Miles, Programme Manager  
Hamish Trench, Strategic Land Use Director**

#### **Purpose**

To seek the Board's adoption of the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 as approved by Ministers and to inform the board of proposed implementation procedures.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- a) The Board adopts the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17; and
- b) The Board agrees the framework for delivery, monitoring and reporting.

#### **Executive Summary**

The National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 has been approved by Ministers. The National Parks (Scotland) Act requires that the National Park Authority adopt the plan as the final stage in its preparation.

Responsibility for delivery and reporting progress on the plan will lie with the National Park Partnership, supported by CNPA and a sub-group of partners to form a Co-ordination and Monitoring Group. Progress will be reported to the Partnership and CNPA board at 6 monthly intervals, with an annual progress review prepared to communicate delivery to Ministers and a wider audience.

---

## **ADOPTION OF NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2012-17 FOR DECISION**

### **Background**

1. The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan was prepared through consultation and engagement with partner organisations, communities, the public and interested groups. The board approved the plan for submission to Ministers on 11 May 2012 and the Environment Minister, Stewart Stevenson, approved the Plan on 30 May 2012 alongside the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan. The plans were formally launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment, Richard Lochhead, at the Royal Highland Show on 22 June 2012.
2. The development of the National Park Partnership Plan was also informed by:
  - a) A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
  - b) A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA);
  - c) An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA); and
  - d) An independent report of the public consultation on the draft National Park Plan.
3. The reports of those assessments and consultation were provided alongside the Plan to both the Board in taking their decision to approve the Plan for submission to Scottish Ministers and to the Environment Minister in his decision to approve the Plan. All the reports are available on the CNPA website.

### **The National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17**

4. The National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 (Annex 1) is the management plan for the National Park that brings together the public, private and voluntary sector partnership needed to deliver the aims of the National Park. It is the National Park Plan as required by section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, 'to ensure that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way'.
5. In particular, the National Park Partnership Plan:
  - a) Sets out the vision and over-arching strategy for managing the Park;
  - b) Provides focus and priorities at a time of limited financial resources;
  - c) Provides a strategic context for the Local Development Plan;
  - d) Shows how the four aims of the National Park can be achieved together, benefiting people and place.
6. Developing the plan and co-ordinating its implementation lies at the heart of the National Park Authority's role to develop a shared vision for the Cairngorms and to lead the partnership required to deliver it.

### **Framework for Delivery and Co-ordination of the Plan**

7. The 11 May board paper explained that the Cairngorms National Park Authority's role in delivering the Plan is set out in our new corporate plan and comprises three strands:

- a) Providing leadership and co-ordination;
  - b) Supporting partners in their work to deliver the plan;
  - c) Delivering some actions ourselves where we are best-placed to do so.
8. As part of our role in providing leadership and coordination, we identify the structures and arrangements that support delivery, monitoring and review of the Plan. For this Partnership Plan, we want to place a greater emphasis on the role and responsibility of the wider National Park Partnership.
9. The key elements of the proposed delivery structure are set out below. At its heart are the Partnership and a Co-ordination and Monitoring Group. Given the way that effective delivery mechanisms have evolved and become established over recent years, we do not intend to superimpose an additional 'delivery team' structure. Rather, we intend to use existing groups and organisations wherever possible, supplemented by specific project teams which bring the right partners together for defined projects as required. The advisory forums will provide the opportunity for wider cross-sectoral engagement to inform delivery.
10. We propose the following key elements to the delivery structure:
- a) ***The National Park Partnership***  
**Role:** brings together the wide range of partners involved in delivery to take collective overview, report progress, share experience, steer future direction and embed sense of collective responsibility. Responsible for annual progress report to Ministers.  
**Comprised:** All partners involved in delivering projects and programmes in the partnership plan.  
**Meets:** once each year, to be chaired by Minister for Environment at key stages in delivery cycle.
  - b) ***Co-ordination and Monitoring Group***  
**Role:** a sub-group of the partnership responsible for the co-ordination of delivery, monitoring and reporting progress to the Partnership and CNPA board.  
**Comprised:** a small sub-group of the partnership including senior representation from organisations (public/private/voluntary) with responsibilities for managing the Park beyond individual project delivery.  
**Meets:** twice a year to coincide with reporting cycles
  - c) ***Project teams/delivery partnerships***  
**Role:** to deliver defined projects or programmes in the partnership plan.  
**Comprised:** a combination of existing partnership mechanisms such as Cairngorms Business Partnership, COAT and the new Wildlife Partnership and time-limited project groups set up as required to deliver defined actions, reporting through CNPA to the Co-ordination and Monitoring Group.  
**Meets:** as necessary

## Advisory Forums

11. The network of advisory forums already established will continue to be the principle means by which we seek and encourage cross-sectoral engagement and advice to inform delivery.
12. The range of forums established includes:
  - a) Enterprise Forum
  - b) Inclusive Cairngorms
  - c) Outdoor Access Forum
  - d) Sustainable Tourism Forum
  - e) Land Management Forum
  - f) Deer Advisory Group
  - g) Farmers Forum
  - h) Developers Forum

## Monitoring and Reporting

13. Monitoring the Partnership Plan comprises two strands:
  - a) Monitoring delivery of the actions set out; and
  - b) Monitoring the indicators and progress towards the 5 year targets.

Monitoring reports will be prepared by the Co-ordination and Monitoring Group (with CNPA staff support) at 6 monthly intervals and provided to the Partnership and CNPA board. CNPA Programme Managers have a key role to play in co-ordinating reporting from the range of partners and supporting the Co-ordination and Monitoring Group.

An Annual Progress Report will be prepared as a way of communicating more widely the progress and range of work delivered through the partnership, including to Ministers.

## Recommendations

14. **It is recommended that:**
  - a) **The Board adopts the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17; and**
  - b) **The Board agrees the framework for delivery, monitoring and reporting.**

**Gavin Miles**

**Hamish Trench**

**21 June 2012**

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

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