
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: Scotland Rural Development Programme: Stage I Consultation

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Purpose

To discuss the headlines of the Scottish Government's consultation on the Scotland Rural Development Programme.

Recommendations

That the Board:

- a) Discuss the headline issues for the National Park in the Scottish Government consultation on the Scotland Rural Development Programme to inform a CNPA response.

SCOTLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: STAGE I CONSULTATION - FOR DISCUSSION

1. The Scottish Government is currently consulting on the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) for 2014-20, likely to be worth around £1bn to rural Scotland. This first stage of consultation is about the broad principles and a second consultation on detailed implementation will be held in August/September.
2. Link to consultation: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/05/9633>
3. The Scottish Government's proposal is that EU rural development funds are concentrated into three Scottish funds to explicitly address Scottish Government and EU priorities:
 - a) Competitiveness, innovation and jobs
 - b) Low carbon, resource efficiency and environment
 - c) Local development and social inclusion
4. Clearly SRDP is relevant across our Partnership Plan priorities and is one of the biggest sources of potential investment to help deliver the plan. The consultation closes on 30th June and we anticipate submitting a joint response with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority.
5. We will prepare a presentation for the Board meeting to identify the most significant issues for the National Park in the consultation. The consultation asks 29 questions. Some key issues of particular relevance to CNPA to consider are:
 - a) **Prioritisation of funds** (Qu 3): given limited resources, to what should funds be prioritised?
 - b) **Targeting of funds** (Qu 4): proposes geographical targeting of support to where it will make biggest contribution to priorities. This is important to ensuring support makes an effective impact and could significantly enhance delivery in the Park by targeting support in line with existing strategies (eg NPP, CNAP etc).
 - c) **LEADER** (Qu 5): Retaining a Cairngorms LEADER is key to making the most of LEADER investment to deliver National Park aims and priorities. Work is currently progressing to put an "Expression of Interest" to Scottish Government for continued support for the Park through the next generation of LEADER 2014-2020.
 - d) **Regional administration and budgets** (Qu 7/18): proposes disbanding RPACS and setting regional budgets for measures. A simpler administration than RPACS would be welcome. A degree of regional budgets is important if geographic targeting of measures is to be effective. Potential issues if administrative areas cut across National Parks.
 - e) **Support and assistance** (Qu 19): National Parks are able to offer more proactive and targeted advice and support for land managers, essential to

make the most of the programme. Integration of land management support across public bodies and with the project assessment process is important.

- f) **Third party applications and collaboration** (Qu 22/23/24): proposes scope for third party applications for landscape scale projects and support for collaboration. This is important to deliver National Park ambitions and enable our land management support services to pull together applications across land ownership boundaries.
- g) **Whole Farm Reviews** (Qu 25): proposes broadening scope of whole farm reviews. Continuation of funding for whole farm reviews is important as a basis for business viability, extension of the review to include environmental performance would be welcome basis for identifying positive management measures and projects.

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