

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
FINANCE & DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

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**FOR DECISION**

**Title: Tomintoul & Glenlivet Landscape Partnership**

**Prepared by: Hamish Trench, Director of Conservation & Visitor Experience**

**Purpose**

To seek approval for commitment in principle of CNPA match funding for the Stage I bid to Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Recommendations**

The Finance & Delivery Committee is requested to:

- a) Confirm CNPA's support for the Landscape Partnership programme and HLF bid;
- b) Agree an in-principle match funding contribution of £50,000pa for five years from 2015/16

**Executive Summary**

- I. We are finalising a Stage I bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership, for submission by end of May 2014. The bid seeks to secure a £3M investment to enhance the assets that underpin the area's landscape, tourism, skills and culture. The bid has strong partnership support and will deliver a significant programme of work contributing to all three of the NP Partnership Plan's outcomes and several CNPA programmes.
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## Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership

### Background

2. The National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17 includes an action to ‘develop a landscape partnership project to deliver landscape enhancement and community benefits to Tomintoul and Glenlivet’ (*work package 6b*).
3. Over the last two years, CNPA and the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Community Development Trust have brought together partners to develop this programme of work, and the identified delivery mechanism is a formal Landscape Partnership, seeking funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
4. Overall the bid aims to secure an investment of £3M into Tomintoul and Glenlivet to build on the recent economic regeneration actions by enhancing the assets that underpin the area’s landscape quality, tourism, skills and culture.

### Current Position

5. We are currently finalising a stage 1 bid to HLF to be submitted by end of May 2014. This includes an outline of project proposals and indications of anticipated match funding. A decision on the stage 1 bid is expected in September 2014. If successful, HLF would then part fund a development year in which projects are worked up in detail, for a stage 2 bid to secure HLF and match funds for delivery. Delivery would therefore start in 2016/17.

### HLF Landscape Partnerships

6. This established funding programme supports initiatives that bring together local, regional and national interests to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character. Funded in part by HLF, the programmes contribute to heritage conservation as an integral part of rural regeneration at a landscape scale.
7. A Landscape Partnership must deliver 9 outcomes required by HLF, which have a strong synergy with our National Park Partnership outcomes:
  - Heritage is better managed
  - Heritage is in better condition
  - Heritage is identified/recorded
  - People have developed skills
  - People have learnt about heritage
  - People have volunteered time
  - Environmental impacts will be reduced
  - More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage
  - The area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit.

8. HLF look for programmes that will deliver a long term legacy. We believe we have a strong bid for HLF given the partner commitment, the distinctive landscape area and the synergies with the regeneration strategy.

## Project Partnership

9. The project partnership at present comprises:
  - Tomintoul & Glenlivet Community Development Trust (lead partner)
  - CNPA
  - The Crown Estate
  - HIE
  - Moray Council
  - RCAHMS
  - RSPB
  - Spey Fisheries Board
  - Spey Catchment Initiative
  - SNH
10. We are also in discussions about potential support from Glenlivet Distillery, Cairngorms Learning Partnership, COAT and others. The Partnership is led by a project board on which CNPA is represented by Hamish Trench (chair) and Eleanor Mackintosh.
11. While the T&G Development Trust will be the lead partner, the lead for project delivery will be allocated to a range of partners, each of which will take on responsibility and accountability to HLF. We are in discussions with T&G Development Trust and HLF about the appropriate level of support CNPA could offer in managing the financial cashflow, given the scale of the programme.

## Project Overview

12. The attached project summary provides an overview of the objectives and component projects. These cover:
  - **Nature Conservation:** woodland restructuring, wetland enhancement, riparian enhancement, community conservation projects;
  - **Cultural Heritage:** Blairfindy Castle, oral history, digital interpretation, Scalan, Tomintoul Museum and community heritage;
  - **Outdoor Access:** Speyside Way spur, 3 castles trail, signage and interpretation;
  - **Skills and Training:** skills audit and training programme, education programme, volunteering programme
  - **Visitor experience:** Events and celebrations, interpretation, visitor orientation
13. This is a substantial programme of work that will deliver across all three long term outcomes of the NP Partnership Plan and several CNPA programmes, and make a significant impact in Tomintoul and Glenlivet.

14. As an indication of proposed spend, the current budget breaks down the project costs into HLF themes as follows:

Theme	Total Spend
Built heritage conservation	£703,989
Habitat conservation	£702,701
Community heritage	£427,000
Outdoor Access	£617,090
Interpretation and Information	£370,000
Training	£165,000
Total	£2,985,780

## Match funding

15. At this stage we are seeking to identify indications of match funding of approximately £1.1M over the five year programme. At Stage 1, this funding is rarely committed given the difficulties of knowing future budgets and the early stage of project development. However, we do need to give HLF an indication of the anticipated match funding, accepting that confirmation will come on completion of a full business case, and where necessary applications, during the development phase and beyond.

16. At present, match funding commitments are as follows:

- HIE: £50,000 pa confirmed for 5 years
- Moray Council: currently seeking approval for £50,000 pa for 4 years
- Crown Estate: currently considering – anticipated funding £50-100k pa over 5 years
- SNH: currently considering

17. In addition, there are several projects in which specialised funding programmes may contribute (eg SRDP) and applications would be developed during the development phase.

**18. I recommend that CNPA gives an indication that we will commit £50,000pa for the 5 year period.**

19. This is a substantial programme of work leveraging an investment of £3M into a priority area of the Park. It is attracting strong commitments of match funding and support from our partners. The breadth of the programme delivers good value for money.

20. The commitment of CNPA funds would be dependent on the full business case being developed during the development phase, and would be subject to seeking further approvals from the Board and Finance and Delivery Committee prior to the Stage 2 application. Release of funds would be subject to monitoring project delivery.

## Alternative Options

21. There is no alternative funding programme that would deliver the landscape scale and integrated approach that an HLF Landscape Partnership delivers. In the event that HLF funds are not secured, or partners were not able to deliver the required levels of match funding, the Landscape Partnership could not proceed as an integrated programme. The fall-back option is to progress several of the projects individually, which will lose the synergy, focus, added value and value for money that the Landscape Partnership brings.

## Risks

22. This programme helps address the strategic risk that partners do not commit sufficiently to delivering the NP Partnership Plan by establishing a formal programme with significant external funding that delivers across all three long term outcomes in this area. It secures a focus from a wide range of partners on delivering in this area for a five year period.
23. Risks identified in this approach include:
- i) HLF funding bid is unsuccessful at stage 1: we would be able to progress some of the component projects but in a slower and less integrated way. Nonetheless, we would have a good basis of partner focus and initial project development to fall back on.
  - ii) HLF funding is unsuccessful at stage 2: we would have invested more during the development phase, but have well developed projects positioned to seek funding on a more individual basis, losing the added value and landscape scale, but with potential to make progress.
  - iii) Managing community expectations: the community is aware of the bid but not of much of the detailed components. There is an ongoing need to find ways of communicating widely within the community which would be a focus during the development phase.
  - iv) Changes in partner circumstances and commitments: if during the delivery period partners could not deliver their committed funding or support, it would be the responsibility of the partnership to find alternative sources of funding in line with HLF requirements.
  - v) Project ideas cannot be delivered as proposed at Stage 1: there remains a relatively high degree of flexibility to reshape projects in the development phase and beyond, if there are better or alternative ways to deliver the outcomes HLF seek.

## CNPA Corporate Planning

24. If successful, the start of the project will fall within the next corporate plan period 2015-18. This work is identified in our current corporate plan programme 4 (Special Place) and the timing gives us the opportunity to ensure that both the financial

commitment and relevant staff time from across the organisation are built into our next corporate plan.

**Hamish Trench**

**30 May 2014**

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