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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: COP26 AND OUR APPROACH TO NET ZERO**

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#### **Purpose:**

To update members on the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, as well as discussions around a CNPA presence at the event. To agree targets for the Authority and National Park to achieve net zero emissions.

#### **Recommendations**

The Board is requested to:

- a) Approve a commitment for the Park Authority to achieve net zero emissions by 2025 at the latest.
- b) Approve a commitment for the Park Authority to achieve zero direct emissions by 2030.
- c) Approve a commitment for the Cairngorms National Park to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest and to review that timescale in light of planned carbon budget work in 2021/22 and include in NPPP.

#### **Background**

1. The UK is due to host the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from 01 to 12 November 2021. COP26 will bring together delegates including heads of state, climate experts and negotiators to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As well as the negotiations, there will also be space for countries, international organisations and other delegates to showcase climate action, highlight diverse climate change issues and share knowledge.
2. Climate Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, announced Scottish Government's two key themes for COP26 as 'People' and a 'Just Transition', reflecting the importance of both public engagement and ensuring people are at the heart of climate policy.
3. All countries that signed the Paris agreement are required to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Previously Scotland and the UK were part of a joint EU NDC, which set an EU-wide emissions target, but this situation has changed post Brexit. Scottish Government will set out how it intends to support the Paris Agreement goal of preventing warming of more than 1.5 degrees by publishing its own

indicative NDC ahead of COP26. The UK Government are also developing a UK-wide NDC ahead of the conference.

4. Both Scottish and UK Governments are exploring what different Covid-19 scenarios might mean for the organisation of COP26, putting the health of the participants and local communities first. At this stage a range of scenarios are being planned for, including both digital and in-person options. A formal deadline for expressions of interest in hosting events at COP26 has been set for 05 March.
5. These events will be split between a Green and Blue Zone. The Green Zone will be managed by UK Government from the Glasgow Science Centre, and is a platform for the general public, youth groups, civil society, academia, artists, business and others to have their voices heard. The Blue Zone will be a UN-managed space and will play host to the formal negotiations. The space brings together delegations from 197 Parties, alongside observer organisations to share their stories at panel discussions, side events, exhibits and cultural events.

### **CNPA Presence at COP26**

6. The CNPA is working closely with National Park Authorities at a UK level to look at the opportunities to have a presence at COP26. An Expression of Interest has been submitted on behalf of all the NPA's on 5<sup>th</sup> March to potentially have a joint presence at COP26.
7. The CNPA is also working with colleagues through the Environment and Economy Leaders Group to look at how we can support the work of Scottish Government at COP26.
8. We understand that there are currently around 300 expressions of interest for events at COP26 (mostly in the Green Zone), with participants ranging from small-scale NGOs and community groups to large companies and third-sector organisations. Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate a clear commitment to partnership working, hence our emphasis on collaboration with NPUK and EELG.
9. A further requirement of hosting an event is that organisers need to confirm their support of the UK Climate Change policy statement and make a [Race to Zero organisational commitment](#). The latter would require us to name a date for the organisation (and potentially the Park as a whole) to go net zero between now and 2050, establish clear metrics that we will use to measure our progress, and produce a roadmap of key milestones on the way there. We have indicated proposed timescales below for a Board decision.

### **CNPA and CNP Targets for Net Zero**

10. The Climate Change Act 2019 commits Scotland to net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. The UK Government, meanwhile, has set a target of 2050 to achieve net zero status.

11. Board agreed on 06 December 2019 to establish a realistic date for the Authority to achieve zero direct emissions as an organisation. This was originally due by December 2020 but was delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.
12. Table I below shows the Authority's total carbon emissions per annum, collected since 2007/08 when we first adopted a control of tCO<sub>2</sub>e as a corporate performance KPI. We anticipate 2021 figures to fall further, but this will need to be considered in light of the considerable short-term impacts of Covid-19 on standard business operations.

**Table I: total carbon emissions per annum for the Cairngorms National Park Authority**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Scope 1<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Scope 2<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Scope 3<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Units<sup>4</sup></b>
2007/08	100	39	11	150	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2008/09	108	42	13	163	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2009/10	98	45	12	155	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2010/11	105	50	12	167	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2011/12	94	41	10	144	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2012/13	90	40	15	145	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2013/14	51	45	13	109	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2014/15	44	47	12	103	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2015/16	39	46	31	117	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2016/17	35	39	33	106	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2017/18	29	34	27	90	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2018/19	29	24	45	97	tCO <sub>2</sub> e
2019/20	22	18	45	85	tCO <sub>2</sub> e

- <sup>1</sup> *Direct/Scope 1 emissions are defined by Scottish Government as those arising from direct owned or controlled combustion in furnaces, boilers and vehicles, as well as direct chemical and other process emissions.*
- <sup>2</sup> *Electricity Indirect/Scope 2 emissions are defined as those which arise in the generation of purchased electricity.*
- <sup>3</sup> *Other indirect emissions/Scope 3 emissions are defined as any which arise as the consequence of the activities of the public sector but occur from sources not owned or controlled by it.*
- <sup>4</sup> *Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent*

13. We propose three distinct targets for the Park and the Park Authority. These are as follows:

<b>Target 1</b> - The Authority should achieve net zero emissions by 2025 at the latest.	This is achievable by the CNPA based on present trends. The CNPA will present a route map for this as part of developing the next Corporate Plan.
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<b>Target 2</b> - The Park Authority should achieve zero direct emissions by 2030.	This latter target is harder to quantify as it will rely on the development and rapid decarbonisation of transport, power etc outside the Authorities control. The CNPA will present a route map for this as part of developing the next Corporate Plan.
<b>Target 3</b> - The Cairngorms National Park should achieve net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest, in line with Scottish Government net zero commitments and to review that timescale in light of planned carbon budget work.	This target is in line with Scottish Government but the work outlined below (to be delivered in 2021/22) should allow the CNPA to review this in light of the carbon budget work and include in the development of the next National Park Partnership Plan.

### Next Steps

14. To help measure and track carbon through a coherent framework and methodology, we plan to work on a carbon baseline and budget in line with the work being carried out by other National Parks in the UK. This work has already been done in the [Lake District](#) and is being taken forward by 4 other National Parks in England. It is hoped a standardised approach will allow UK National Parks to track and benchmark their progress alongside one another.
15. The clear metrics and outcome around net-zero will be developed as part of our work developing the next National Park Partnership Plan and the metrics and outcomes for the CNPA will be developed as part of the development of our next Corporate Plan.

**OLIVER DAVIES**  
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**Date 12 March 2021**