
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: **ADOPTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION PROGRAMME**

Prepared by: **Gavin Miles, Planning Manager**

Purpose

To ask the Planning Committee to adopt the Local Development Plan Action Programme.

Recommendation

That the Committee:

- i. Adopt the proposed LDP Action Programme.**

Background

1. The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Board adopted the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2015 (LDP) on 27th March 2015. Planning authorities must adopt an Action Programme setting out how the planning authority proposes to implement the plan within three months of adopting the LDP.
2. The CNPA Planning Committee approved a draft Action Programme for consultation with the proposed Local Development Plan during 2013. Only SEPA, SportScotland and SNH provided comments on the draft Action Programme and they have been taken into account in the proposed Action Programme (included as Appendix I) that the Planning Committee are asked to adopt today.
3. There is no explicit guidance on what an Action Programme should contain. The Regulations simply say *'these may be expected to include the delivery of key infrastructure and the preparation of supplementary guidance. Actions are not limited to those by the planning authority'*. The draft Action Programme that was consulted on in 2013 contained actions covering the delivery of infrastructure, policies and allocated sites.

The proposed Action Programme

4. Since the draft Action Programme was prepared in 2013, the CNPA's understanding of issues of development delivery, development priorities and wider issues affecting the implementation of the LDP has changed. The planning team have looked at many other planning authorities' action programmes to help identify best practice and the most effective options for our own Action Programme.
5. The proposed Action Programme now gives significantly more detail about the actions needed to implement and support the delivery of the LDP. It includes a number of projects or proposals that are not explicitly referred to in the LDP but that may lead to or influence development proposals in future and will contribute to the economy, heritage, health and success of communities. It also recognises that the CNPA's information about the detail of individual sites and understanding of site-specific issues and is incomplete and needs updating and reviewing regularly.
6. While the Action Programme will be a published document and formal part of the LDP process, it is also very much a working document for the CNPA planning team. It sets out much of the work the planning team must do to deliver and coordinate delivery of the LDP and will also help build evidence to inform development of the next National Park Partnership Plan and next LDP.

The role of the CNPA

7. The Action Programme and LDP will be delivered by many different parties. The CNPA is clearly the coordinating body and the organisation with the most direct interest in delivering the totality of the Plan. A significant number of actions will be led by the CNPA and the planning team. However, the local authorities also have formal and influential roles as the main development management authorities, housing authorities and roads authorities amongst other responsibilities. Other public sector organisations have an interest and responsibility for some elements of delivery, resolution of barriers to development, or provision of information that provides certainty in the planning system. Private developers and landowners are critical to the successful development of individual sites. Communities and community groups play a significant role in supporting or objecting, commenting and improving developments they have an interest in. The proposed Action Programme includes a short section summarising the roles of different organisations and sectors that will influence delivery.

Review of the Action Programme

8. Action Programmes must be updated and republished at least every two years. The planning team propose to review and republish annually to both demonstrate progress with the delivery of actions, as well as allow more transparent and up to date information about the status of sites, their constraints or progress to be available in public. One of the CNPA planning team's work priorities for this year is to collate that information on

the status of individual sites to better manage delivery as well inform next years' Action Programme.

Resource Implications

9. The Action Programme is intended provide a framework for coordinating the delivery of the LDP. It provides a significant focus for the CNPA planning service but does not commit the CNPA or any other partner to new work that has not been identified elsewhere. It is possible that monitoring of the implementation of the LDP and Action Programme would lead to new work for the CNPA or other partners being identified. Any new work or projects for the CNPA would be considered through normal procedures, with Board approval sought as appropriate.

Next steps

10. Following adoption of the Action Programme it will be published on the CNPA website, hard copies sent to local libraries and two copies sent to Scottish Ministers. The Planning Committee will receive a report on delivery of the Action Programme and be asked to approve a reviewed Action Programme in June 2016.

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