

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

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: SCOTTISH SCENIC ROUTES PROJECT; CORGARFF

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Purpose

This paper and accompanying Project Initiation Document outlines our involvement in the Scottish Scenic Routes Project 2014-17. It details the funding and project plan for delivering the Corgarff site as part of Phase 2 of the Project.

Recommendations

The Finance & Delivery Committee:

- a) Notes our involvement in the Scottish Scenic Routes Project**
- b) Approves the Project Initiation Document and the expenditure of up to £125,000 of addition funds from Scottish Government.**

Scotland's National Parks: People and the Mountains' Project

Background

1. Following study of work in Norway, Scottish Government recognises the economic benefit that developing scenic routes can bring to rural areas by both attracting new visitors and encouraging them to dwell longer. Projects also provide opportunities to develop the talent of young architects and landscape architects.
2. Scottish Government has initiated a three year Scenic Routes Project to pilot the development of up to eight outstanding view points along rural roads in Scotland, and develop a National Strategy to allow the project to continue beyond 2016.
3. The project is a partnership comprising; Scottish Government, Napier University, Transport Scotland, Visit Scotland, Scottish Canals, Scottish Natural Heritage, Sustrans, Loch Lomond and Trossachs NPA and Cairngorms NPA.
4. Sites for the pilot have been put forward by partners and assessed according to agreed criteria. Two sites were developed in Loch Lomond in 2013/14. One site in each of; Loch Lomond NP, Great Glen (Scottish Canals) and Cairngorms NP is scheduled for 2014/15. And two sites in Cairngorms NP and one in Great Glen are being put forward for 2015/16.
5. Designs for each site are developed through a national competition open to newly qualified architects and landscape architects. While each site is different the aim of the competition is to produce high quality, engaging and thought provoking designs that encourage visitors to stop and enjoy outstanding Scottish landscapes. It is a key part of the process that the winning designer is mentored through the process of taking the design from competition entry to final installation.
6. Funding for the competition and the development of chosen sites is provided by Scottish Government and is transferred the partner agency developing the specific site. Our contribution is staff time.

Scenic Routes in Cairngorms

7. It has already been agreed that this approach will be used in the development the new dual A9 so we have focussed our efforts on putting forward suitable sites on an eastern Cairngorms route long A93/A939 – Blairgowrie to Grantown-on-Spey via Braemar and Tomintoul.

8. The site at Corgarff was selected for the competition in 2014 and sites at 'Tomintoul Quarry' on A939 north of the village and Devil's Elbow on A93 in Glenshee have been selected for inclusion in 2015 competitions. Both the latter two sites were identified in two separate community planning processes.
9. The attached Project Initiation Document is for the 2014/15 project at Corgarff. Project plans for the other two sites will be submitted for approval as they are developed.
10. CNPA Board will be updated on the Scenic Routes Project in March.

Recommendation

11. The Finance & Delivery Committee approves the Project Initiation Document and the expenditure of up to £125,000 of addition funds from Scottish Government.

Pete Crane

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