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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS  
2016-2022**

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### **Purpose of Report**

To ask the Planning Committee to note and agree the draft Local Flood Risk Management Plans that cover the Cairngorms National Park.

### **Summary**

The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act), requires the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and other designated responsible authorities to develop and implement Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

SEPA recently published Flood Risk Management Strategies covering the whole of Scotland and these were approved by Scottish Ministers in December 2015. These strategies set out objectives for tackling flooding in high risk areas. They also include prioritised actions to deliver the defined objectives.

Local Authorities have subsequently been leading the preparation of a series of Local Flood Risk Management Plans to provide further detail on how and when the actions identified in the Flood Risk Management Strategies will be delivered.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is a responsible authority for the purposes of the Act. This means that CNPA is responsible for agreeing the content of each of the Local Flood Risk Management Plans that affect the Cairngorms National Park area.

### **Recommendation**

**That the Planning Committee note and agree the draft Flood Risk Management Plans for 2016-2022 that cover the Cairngorms National Park.**

## Background

1. The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act) provides a framework for managing flood risk in accordance with the EC Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC).
2. The Act promotes a risk-based, plan-led approach to managing flood risk. It requires SEPA and other designated responsible authorities to develop and implement Flood Risk Management Strategies (FRMS) and Local Flood Risk Management Plans (LFRMPs). The CNPA was designated as a responsible body for the purposes of the Act in 2012, following consultation by the Scottish Government. This is primarily because CNPA has particular responsibilities in terms of land use planning – planning and granting permission for developments that can play a key role in managing and reducing flood risk.
3. Taken together, the Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans are intended to describe the commitment of public bodies to address flooding. The Act requires the strategies and plans to be updated every six years.
4. Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans are prepared for geographical areas known as Local Plan Districts. These are based on whole river catchments and span traditional administrative boundaries. There are a total of 14 Local Plan Districts in Scotland (a plan of these is included at Appendix 1). The following five Local Plan Districts intersect the CNPA's administrative area, although only two intersect the Park to any significant degree:
  - LPD1 Highland and Argyll (only a small part intersects the Park)
  - LPD5 Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside
  - LPD6 North East
  - LPD7 Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin (only a small part intersects the Park)
  - LPD8 Tay (only a small part intersects the Park)
5. It is worth noting that the Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans do not encompass all the actions that the CNPA and other partners take in relation to catchment management. The Catchment Management partnerships remain important tools for the integrated management of river catchments while the FRMSs and LFRMPs focus on flood risks that cause the most significant damage and cost to communities.

## Flood Risk Management Strategies

6. SEPA recently published Flood Risk Management Strategies for each of the Local Plan Districts. These were approved by Scottish Ministers in December 2015. The Flood Risk Management Strategies set out objectives for tackling flooding. They also include prioritised actions to deliver the defined objectives.

7. The objectives and actions focus on tackling flood risk at a Local Plan District wide level and within specific Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs). These are defined areas where the risks to property from flooding, and the estimated average annual damages occurring as a result of flooding, are greatest. It is important to note that there may be other flood risk management actions being undertaken outside PVAs which are not specifically referenced within the strategies. The Flood Risk Management Strategies can be viewed at: <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/>
8. The defined PVAs within the Cairngorms National Park are summarised below by Local Plan District (plans showing PVAs are included at Appendix 2):

Local Plan District	PVA
Highland and Argyll	No PVAs within the National Park
Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside	Carrbridge (PVA 05/10)
	Aviemore and Boat of Garten (PVA 05/11)
	Kingussie (PVA 05/12)
	Newtonmore (PVA 05/13)
	Dalwhinnie (PVA 05/14)
North East	Heugh Head (PVA 06/14)
	Aboyne (PVA 06/20) (most of this PVA is outside the Cairngorms National Park)
	Ballater (PVA 06/22)
Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin	No PVAs within the National Park
Tay	Blair Atholl (PVA 08/01) (part of this PVA is outside the Cairngorms National Park)

### **Draft Local Flood Risk Management Plans**

9. Following publication of the Flood Risk Management Strategies, Local Authorities have been leading the preparation of a series of draft Local Flood Risk Management Plans. These plans must be consistent with the Flood Risk Management Strategies and are required to provide further detail on how and when the actions identified in the Flood Risk Management Strategies will be delivered, including who will be responsible for actions. A summary of the key actions for 2016-2022 within each of the draft plans is provided below.

#### ***Highland and Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Lead Authority – Highland Council)***

10. This draft Local Flood Risk Management Plan covers only a very small part of the Cairngorms National Park within which there are no PVAs. There are therefore no specific actions that directly affect the Park.

**Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Lead Authority – Moray Council)**

PVA	PVA Specific Actions					General Actions					
	Flood protection study	Surface water plan/study	Strategic mapping and modelling	Maintain flood warning	Community flood action groups	Flood forecasting	Self help	Awareness raising	Maintenance	Emergency plans/response	Planning policies
05/10 Carrbridge				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05/11 Aviemore & Boat of Garten	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05/12 Kingussie	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05/13 Newtonmore		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05/14 Dalwhinnie			✓	N/A		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

11. The following PVA specific actions are identified within this draft Local Flood Risk Management Plan:

**Carrbridge**

- SEPA will continue to maintain the Sluggan to Dulnain Bridge flood warning area on the River Dulnain

**Aviemore and Boat of Garten**

- Highland Council will undertake/commission a Flood Protection Study to investigate the feasibility of developing a flood protection scheme (or works) for the Dalfaber Road area within Aviemore
- Scottish Water will undertake further investigation and modelling in the Aviemore sewer catchment to improve knowledge and understanding of flood risk
- SEPA will continue to maintain the Aviemore/Dalfaber and Aviemore/Dalfaber to Grantown flood warning areas

**Kingussie**

- Highland Council will undertake/commission a Flood Protection Study to assess the feasibility of developing a flood protection scheme (or works) in Kingussie. The study will assess the residual risk in the town from the Gynack Burn (assuming the planned diversion of flood flows to Loch Gynack is implemented). It will investigate the potential benefits of providing direct

defences downstream of the High Street bridge, and improvements to (or removal of) structures such as the road and railway bridges. It will also include investigation of benefits of including Natural Flood Management techniques to manage sediment

- Scottish Water will undertake further investigation and modelling in the Kingussie sewer catchment to improve knowledge and understanding of flood risk
- SEPA will continue to maintain the Kingussie to Kinraig and Newtonmore to Kingussie flood warning areas

**Newtonmore**

- The area will be covered by a Surface Water Management Plan(s), led by Highland Council, to describe existing and future actions to reduce the flood risk from small watercourses (less than 3km<sup>2</sup>) and surface water runoff (e.g. overland flows across roads, fields and other areas). It will identify appropriate specific actions to alleviate surface water flooding in Newtonmore
- Scottish Water will undertake further investigation and modelling in the Newtonmore sewer catchment to improve knowledge and understanding of flood risk
- SEPA will continue to maintain the Spey Dam to Newtonmore flood warning area
- Community groups such as the Newtonmore Community Council and Newtonmore Community Woodlands & Development Trust have engaged with the authorities with respect to flooding issues in the past

**Dalwhinnie**

- SEPA will review existing modelling for this area to determine if any improvements can be made to the flood maps

**North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Lead Authority – Aberdeenshire Council)**

PVA	PVA Specific Actions					General Actions					
	Site Protection Plans	Surface water plan/study	Strategic mapping and modelling	Maintain flood warning	Community flood action groups	Flood forecasting	Self help	Awareness raising	Maintenance	Emergency plans/response	Planning policies
06/14 Heugh Head	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
06/20 Aboyne		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
06/22 Ballater			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

12. The following PVA specific actions are identified within this draft Local Flood Risk Management Plan:

**Heugh Head**

- Aberdeenshire Council will engage with the asset managers for the fire station and doctor's surgery to advise on the requirements to develop their own site protection plans

**Aboyne**

- Aberdeenshire Council will undertake a Surface Water Plan/Study to increase understanding of the causes, probability and consequences of surface water flooding and to evaluate options for surface water flood management
- SEPA will continue to maintain the Aboyne flood warning area
- Scottish Water will undertake further investigation and modelling in the Aboyne sewer catchment to improve knowledge and understanding of flood risk

**Ballater**

- Aberdeenshire Council will work with the Ballater Flood Resilience Group to reduce flood risk, improve preparedness and increase resilience against flooding
- SEPA will continue to maintain the Ballater flood warning area
- Scottish Water will undertake further investigation and modelling in the Ballater sewer catchment to improve knowledge and understanding of flood risk

13. In addition to the measures for Ballater summarised above, Aberdeenshire Council proposes to bring forward an additional Flood Protection Study for Ballater to consider flood protection works to reduce the risk of flooding from the River Dee. This will be undertaken outside the Local Flood Risk Management Plan and is a direct response to the unexpected and extensive flooding that affect Ballater in December 2015.

**Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Lead Authority – Angus Council)**

14. This draft Local Flood Risk Management Plan covers only a small part of the Cairngorms National Park within which there are no PVAs. There are therefore no specific actions that directly affect the Park.

**Tay Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Lead Authority – Perth and Kinross Council)**

PVA	PVA Specific Actions		General Actions					
	Strategic mapping and modelling	Community flood action groups	Flood forecasting	Self help	Awareness raising	Maintenance	Emergency plans/response	Planning policies
08/01 Blair Atholl	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

15. The following PVA specific actions are identified within this draft Local Flood Risk Management Plan:

**Blair Atholl**

- SEPA will seek to develop flood mapping in the River Garry area to improve understanding of flood risk
- Blair Atholl Community Council is currently in the process of developing a community resilience plan which includes plans to mitigate the impact of flooding

**Next Steps**

16. The CNPA are a responsible authority for the purposes of the Act, on the basis that we act as a planning authority and undertake other work that can influence the use of land. As a responsible authority, the CNPA is required to agree the content of the five Local Flood Risk Management Plans that cover the Park area before they can be published. If the CNPA did not agree the content of a LFRMP, the lead local authorities would report to Scottish Ministers, who would take a final decision whether any changes were required or whether the LFRMP should be published without change.
17. Subject to the agreement of all responsible authorities, the Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be published in June 2016. The lead local authorities will publish monitoring reports on the progress of delivering actions in the Local Flood Risk Management Plans by June 2019.

**Gavin Miles & David Berry, April 2016**

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**Appendices**

1. Local Plan Districts in Scotland
2. PVA's by Local Plan District