
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FINANCE & DELIVERY COMMITTEE

FOR INFORMATION

Title: GREEN RECOVERY FUND

**Prepared by: MURRAY FERGUSON, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NANCY CHAMBERS, CAIRNGORMS TRUST
MANAGER**

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the progress with delivery of the Green Recovery Fund.

Recommendations

The Finance & Delivery Committee is requested to note the deployment of the Fund.

Green Recovery Plan and the Green Recovery Fund

1. The CNPA Board approved a Green Recovery Plan for the Cairngorms National Park in June 2020, including the creation of a Green Recovery Fund to be run as a grant scheme with a funding pot of £130k. The Fund comprised £100k from CNPA and 30k from The Cairngorms Trust. The Board agreed four guiding principles for the Fund – Green solutions, Wellbeing and economic growth, Employment and the Long-term aims of Cairngorms National Park.
2. The assessment of project applications was overseen by a Panel chaired by CNPA Board member, Willie Munro, with representatives from the Cairngorms Trust, Marr Area Partnership, Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey, Cairngorms Business Partnership, Cairngorms Nature Steering Group and Cairngorms Business Partnership
3. The Fund was promoted widely during September 2020 and resulted in 27 applications being received for a total level of support of £263k. Within five days of the closing date, all of the applications had been assessed against the agreed evaluation criteria at <https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/140820-Green-Recovery-Fund-Criteria-Annex-1-2.pdf>. Recommendations were provided to the Panel.

Successful projects

4. Thirteen projects were chosen by the Panel to receive funding from the Green Recovery Fund (see Annex 1). There was a good geographic spread projects around

the Cairngorms National Park. The projects covered a variety of themes and all had a good fit to the criteria and were either community or business-led.

5. The Cairngorms Trust staff oversaw the administration of grants to all projects. Emails with notification and formal offer letters were sent to successful projects within 48 hours of the Panel meeting. A lead officer from Cairngorms Trust or CNPA was appointed for each project to handle any technical advice queries and to ensure smooth delivery and completion of the projects by 31st March 2021.
6. Grants were offered either full amount on completion of the project, or 40% at the start, 40% mid-project and 20% on completion of project. Two organisations opted to receive the full amount on completion and the remainder have requested 40% upfront. All initial payments are have now been made and all of the projects are now making good progress with their delivery plans.
7. All unsuccessful applicants were contacted and given feedback on why their application was not successful. Some applicants received offers for less funding than had been applied for – but all of them confirmed that their projects were still viable with this level of contribution. Two applicants were informed that their projects did fit the criteria and, should further funding become available before the end of the year, then it may be possible to assist their project. Contact is being maintained with these applicants.

Next steps

8. As the projects develop, a range of stories will be developed and website content generated, in partnership with the applicants to illustrate the green recovery activity ongoing across the Park.
9. During December a short, staff-led review of the lessons learned with the Fund will be undertaken to develop recommendations for future programmes.
10. A full update of the Green Recovery Plan delivery will be presented to the CNPA Board in late November.

Murray Ferguson and Nancy Chambers

Murrayferguson@cairngorms.co.uk

nancychalmers@cairngorms.co.uk

5 November 2020