



For Discussion

Title: Performance Committee Cairngorms 2030 Briefing

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Briefing Note on Cairngorms 2030 Committee Transport Presentation

1. The Cairngorms 2030 (C2030) Programme spans a wide array of activity, and the papers presented to the Performance Committee consequently cover a large volume of information. This briefing note is prepared for Committee members to highlight the key areas for consideration, including presenting some information on the Transport Theme in advance of the presentation to the meeting.

Key Highlights

2. Uncertainties around Scottish Government transport match funding continue to represent the key risk under management within the programme.
3. Funding uncertainty will impact delivery of the Active Communities project over the remainder of this financial year.
4. Management is looking at funding scenarios including ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland and Scottish Government more widely, and also considering allocation of resources from the Park Authority as an interim measure. This will be picked up in the development of future budget plans with the board from December through to March 2025.
5. Otherwise, progress to date on C2030 across a wide range of project activities is on track. There are no current unanticipated impacts on the Park Authority's resources.



Outline of Transforming Transport Theme Presentation

6. The transport theme has four main project areas which aim to transform the way people move around the National Park to reduce emissions, protect our natural heritage and improve health.
 - a) Active travel communities: Developing active travel infrastructure to make it easy, safe and enjoyable for residents and visitors to walk, cycle or get around using a wheelchair in the National Park.
 - b) Changing travel behaviours: Developing a Cairngorms-wide active travel network that integrates with public transport, helping reduce private car use and encourage residents and visitors to travel more actively in the National Park.
 - c) Cycle-friendly Cairngorms: Reduce personal car use by visitors and residents through an accessible network of e-bikes and associated infrastructure. Engaging and inspiring people to use e-bikes and other forms of bicycle as a regular mode of transport.
 - d) Sustainable transport: Making it easier to get around without a private car by Improving public transport.

7. The main project delivery risk is the delay to the Sustrans Places for Everyone funding for 2024 / 2025. The award has been approved in principle, but Transport Scotland has postponed all new Sustrans funded projects across Scotland. It is expected the funding will be available directly from Transport Scotland in the next financial year (2025 / 2026).

8. The Active Communities project has new delivery priorities for 2024 / 25 and will be delivering the following:
 - a) Ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland to arrange interim and future funding.

9. Progressing key deliverables in-house and using alternative funds for small contracts, for example, ecological appraisals.

10. Preparing invitations to tender for detailed and technical designs (ITT) in advance of funding confirmation including Dulnain Bridge and Boat of Garten.



11. Funding proposal for new Inverdrue to Coylumbridge submitted to alternative Sustrans fund – Network Development, who oversee the National Cycle Network.
 - a) Consult with key stakeholders to inform options appraisal for Inverdrue to Coylumbridge path development.
 - b) Ongoing collaborative working with Highland Council to confirm delivery methods for construction of Dulnain Bridge and Boat of Garten Active Communities projects.
12. Regular meetings with Aberdeenshire Council to support on Braemar design work, specifically Equality Impact Assessment.
13. Cost benefit analysis on concept design work to progress a new active travel project in Kingussie.
14. Failure to secure the Sustrans / Transport Scotland funding next financial year will have a significant impact on the Park Authorities ability to deliver the transport theme as planned.
15. Progress against each of these projects can be tracked by referencing the project milestones paper.

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28 November 2024
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