



## **For decision**

**Title: Cairngorms Nature Action Plan**

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### **Strategic context**

1. The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan is one of the four key strategies which support delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan. It is the primary delivery mechanism for the outcome of a carbon negative and biodiversity rich National Park with better functioning, better connected and more resilient ecosystems and all associated objectives and targets.
2. The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan provides the structural framework to guide the direct and indirect delivery of the nature theme as described in the corporate plan.
3. The Action Plan does not replace but rather complements, supports and builds on a wide range of national strategies, policies and plans relating to the environment and land use, for example: Scottish Forestry Strategy, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, Wild Deer, A National Approach, Scotland's Climate Change Plan, Flood Resilience Strategy and River Basin Management Plans.
4. The Action Plan is a collaborative document which guides and supports the work of land managers, partners and stakeholders in the Park; providing the strategic context and priorities for investment in, and delivery of, a nature-rich and climate change resilient National Park.

### **Purpose**

5. This paper presents an outline timetable for the development of the 2025 – 2030 Action Plan.



## Recommendations

6. The committee is asked to:
  - a) Note the achievements and lessons learnt from the delivery Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2019 – 2024
  - b) Approve the outline process for the development of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2025 – 2030.

## Strategic policy consideration

7. The Park Authority Board noted delivery, reviewed lessons learnt and approved the publication of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2019 – 2024 Final Report on 13 September 2024.

## Stakeholder engagement

8. The [Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group](#) is the primary stakeholder engagement mechanism for strategic input and oversight of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. The group comprises a range of organisations and land managers with an active role in the delivery of biodiversity gain in the National Park.
9. Membership of the Strategy Group is currently under review to best support its functions with regard to a new Action Plan, new National Park Partnership and National policy agenda.
10. Targeted engagement with delivery partners, land managers, communities and key stakeholders will take place as part of the Plan's development. A formal, six-week consultation will be carried out as per the timeline described below.

## Key achievements and lessons learnt 2019 - 2024

11. Park Authority Board members reviewed the Final Report detailing delivery of priorities, actions and targets on 13 September 2024. Targets for landscape scale conservation were exceeded in most circumstances and there is a strong case for continuing this approach in the development of the next Action Plan.



12. Delivery and reporting of focussed action for target species presented the most challenges. The final report highlighted the need for a more dynamic and flexible approach to incorporate new information as it becomes available. Reviewing membership of the Strategy Group provides the opportunity to strengthen the knowledge base and expertise in this area.
13. Target setting for species focussed action did not accurately reflect the external factors responsible for population dynamics. In developing the next Action Plan, particular attention will be given to the way in which activity is presented in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss. The Action Plan will be closely linked to the Cairngorms Nature Index which will provide greater insight into the drivers of change.

### **Timetable for development of 2025 – 2030 Action Plan**

14. Developing the Action Plan during 2025 will allow for full consideration of the recently published Scottish Biodiversity Strategy [delivery plan](#), Scotland's Flood Resilience Strategy and any provisions in the forthcoming Natural Environment Bill.
15. The proposed timeline for development of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2025 – 2030 detailed in Annex 1.

### **Implications**

16. Cairngorms Nature is a core part of Park Authority business, driving delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan and cementing the collaborative partnerships increasing biodiversity and climate change resilience in the Park. The work is coordinated directly by the Cairngorms Nature Manager and resource allocated to delivery is within the Park Authority's operational budget allocations.
17. The development of the Action Plan is a collaborative process with full engagement of local stakeholders underpinned by the strategic delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan. Strong and continued commitment to delivery underpins the Park Authority's relations with land managers, agencies, organisations, and communities on multiple areas of work across the National Park Partnership Plan.



## **Success measures**

18. The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2025 – 2030, representing clear actions to deliver, and report on, National Park Partnership Plan objectives, will be published with the support of a wide range of stakeholders in October 2025.

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