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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 2016/17**

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### **Purpose of Report**

To ask the Planning Committee to consider and approve the Development Plan Scheme for 2016/17.

### **Summary**

All planning authorities in Scotland are required to produce an annually updated Development Plan Scheme (DPS) to set out how they are progressing work to adopt and review their Local Development Plan (LDP). The DPS is required to outline a timetable for the key steps in producing the LDP. It also includes a 'participation statement', which explains how and when local residents and other interested groups can become engaged in the production of the LDP.

This is the eighth DPS prepared by the Cairngorms National Park Authority. It follows the same format as the DPS for 2015/16, which introduced a number of changes to simplify the document and make it more engaging and informative for local communities.

### **Recommendation**

**That the Planning Committee approve publication of the Development Plan Scheme for 2016/17.**

## Background

1. All planning authorities in Scotland are required to produce an annually updated Development Plan Scheme (DPS) to set out how they are progressing work to adopt and review their Local Development Plan (LDP). The DPS is required to outline a timetable for the key steps in producing the LDP. It also includes a 'participation statement', which explains how and when local residents and other interested groups can become engaged in the production of the LDP.
2. This is the eighth DPS prepared by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA). It follows the same format as the DPS for 2015/16, which introduced a number of changes to simplify the document and make it more engaging and informative for local communities.

## Timescales for the next Local Development Plan

3. The current LDP for CNPA was adopted in 2015. The timetable for preparing the next LDP (LDP2) works towards having the new plan adopted by 2020. This will ensure that the statutory requirement for planning authorities to ensure that their LDP is reviewed every five years will be met. It also follows the preparation of the new National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP3) in 2017, which will set the strategic context for LDP2.
4. Key milestones in the production of LDP2, which remain broadly the same as those set out in the DPS for 2015/16, will be:
  - Publication of the Main Issues Report – Early 2017
  - Publication of the Proposed Plan – Early 2018
  - Submission of the Proposed Plan – Late 2018
  - Examination – Spring/Summer 2019
  - Adoption of LDP2 – Late 2019
5. The Planning Committee will be aware that the Scottish Government is currently undertaking a review of the Scottish planning system. This review might result in changes being made to the development plan system and/or the processes for producing LDPs. However, it is likely that any significant changes to current processes and procedures will require amendments to primary legislation. Any such changes are therefore likely to take some time to implement.
6. While any future changes to the planning system could ultimately impact on the production of LDP2, it is important that CNPA continues to progress LDP2 towards adoption by 2020 in the interim. This is because Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sets out a presumption in favour of development that contributes towards sustainable development. It identifies that this presumption in favour will be a significant material consideration where a development plan is more than five years old. In order to retain the status of the LDP as the primary consideration for determining planning applications, it is therefore important that the LDP is kept up-to-date in accordance with current requirements.

7. Future updates to the DPS will take account of the outcomes of the review of the Scottish planning system and identify any implications for the production of LDP2.

### **Next Steps**

8. The DPS for 2016/17 will be published and sent to interested parties in accordance with legislative requirements. Thereafter, progress in producing LDP2 will be monitored during the coming year. The DPS will be reviewed and updated if necessary in April 2017.

**Gavin Miles & David Berry**

**April 2016**

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### **Appendices**

- I. Proposed Development Plan Scheme 2016/17