
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DISCUSSION

Title: Delivery of the Scotland Rural Development Programme in the National Park – Update and Review

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Purpose

To update the Board on the delivery of the Scotland Rural Development Programme in the National Park to date, consider its effectiveness in contributing to delivery of the National Park Plan and options to improve delivery.

Recommendations

That the Board

- a) note the current implementation of Rural Development Contracts within the National Park and the support work carried out by CNPA; and
- b) consider and advise on proposals to enhance the contribution SRDP implementation could make to delivering the National Park Plan.

Executive Summary

The Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is the most significant source of public funding available to support land-based businesses deliver public benefits – a relationship that underpins many of the special qualities of the National Park.

An effective and integrated system of land management support is in itself an outcome prioritised in the National Park Plan, but it is also the basis on which land-based businesses can deliver many other outcomes of the plan. CNPA and partners have worked closely together to try to maximise the potential value of SRDP to the National Park – to businesses and to the public benefits identified in the Park Plan.

To date, there have been 57 successful Rural Development Contracts awarded in the Park, in which CNPA has provided direct advice in 24, and the total investment committed for a period of up to ten years is £4.86M. The significant majority of these funds are to biodiversity and forestry outcomes.

While the level of investment is significant, there remains a lack of targeting and a lack of proactive advice to land managers to help deliver the priorities of the National Park Plan. The paper therefore identifies options to enhance the existing delivery of Rural Development Contracts in the National Park through an enhanced case officer role that is able to provide advice and guidance up-front, to help land managers identify the opportunities and maximise the potential benefits of their proposals. Other options to accompany this role are also identified – discretionary funding to support management planning and feasibility studies and a regional allocation of RDC funding to the National Park to ensure best value from the investment in the case officer advice and guidance.

Looking ahead to 2013, for both a new National Park Plan and the next rural development programme, options including a single RPAC for the National Park or a tailored funding stream directed at the Park Plan's priorities should be considered as the most effective way to match resources to the priorities approved by Ministers in the Park Plan.

DELIVERY OF THE SCOTLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE NATIONAL PARK – UPDATE AND REVIEW - FOR DISCUSSION

Background

1. The Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) is a £1.6 billion programme of economic, environmental and social measures designed to develop rural Scotland and covers the period from 2007 to 2013 although the programme was not fully operational until early 2008. The programme amalgamates/replaces most of the other schemes for agri-environment, forestry and capital grants.
2. SRDP is the most significant funding source available to assist the land-based sector to deliver public benefits, a relationship which underpins the ongoing management of many of the National Park's special qualities and supports the viability of the land-based business sector. From the early stages of development of the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP), CNPA and partners have recognised the potential of the programme to help deliver the outcomes agreed by Ministers in the National Park Plan.
3. CNPA has therefore engaged with the Scottish Government and partners closely over the development and implementation of SRDP. In the early stages we made the case for the National Park to be a Regional Proposal Assessment Committee area (RPAC), given the clear process of the National Park Plan development (2004-07) that resulted in a collective statement by government bodies and others on the management priorities for the area, to which resources should be focused. It was CNPA's view that the most effective way to match the resources with the priorities was for the National Park to be an RPAC area.
4. That opportunity was not taken and the National Park was split across parts of three RPACs (Highland, Grampian and Tayside). Although more complex to achieve as a result of the split, the potential for SRDP to deliver for the National Park remained and the Board agreed in January 2008 to help make the structure we have work as effectively as it can by:
 - a) Promoting the opportunity to apply for Rural Development Contracts (Rural Priorities) and LEADER.
 - b) Helping land managers, businesses and communities to understand options and processes.
 - c) Assisting land managers, businesses and communities target applications to best effect.
 - d) Actively encouraging high quality applications that will contribute to delivery of the National Park Plan.

5. To do this we put in place a programme of communications and support. Given the split across parts of three RPACS, and the fact that the regional priorities are on the whole far broader than the focused priorities agreed through the National Park Plan, CNPA employed two Land Management Support Officers in May 2008 for a two-year fixed period to provide a point of co-ordination and practical support to land managers. The role of these two officers, supported by other staff across the Authority is to:
 - a) Raise awareness of the opportunities of SRDP through promotion, events and training.
 - b) Support land managers in identifying options and understanding the process for Rural Development Contracts (Rural Priorities) and LEADER applications.
 - c) Actively target and encourage applications that will make a significant contribution to delivering actions within the National Park Plan.

6. It is now a third of way through the Scotland Rural Development Programme which ends in 2103. Just over a year on from the Board's decision on CNPA's role, this paper reviews the experience to date of SRDP implementation in the Park, considers the extent to which this approach is working and identifies changes that could help improve the effectiveness of SRDP in delivering the priorities in the National Park Plan.

7. An overview of SRDP and the elements within it is set out in Annex 1. CNPA has engaged most closely with LEADER and with Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities (RDCs-RPs) as these offer most potential to target delivery of public benefits in the Park. This paper focuses on RDCs-RPs as a means for the land-based sector to deliver public benefits and does not review the experience of LEADER to date which will be brought to the Board separately. This paper does not address general (national) issues experienced in implementation of SRDP so far, such as questions of accessibility or capping, as these are the subject of a national interim review being carried out for Scottish Government to which many stakeholders in the Park, including CNPA, have contributed.

Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities

8. RDC – RPs is a competitive scheme and has 32 National Priorities with regional amendments decided on by the 11 regions through the Regional Proposal Assessment Committees. The National Park is split over three regions; Grampian, Highland and Tayside. The application process is web based and applicants are expected to use a series of 'Packages and Options' to submit an 'Outcome Proposal'. There is a two stage process with a 'Statement of Intent' being submitted first

and then given an Amber or Red light, followed by the full application process for an Outcome Proposal. Any rural business or community group who can deliver an outcome is eligible for the schemes.

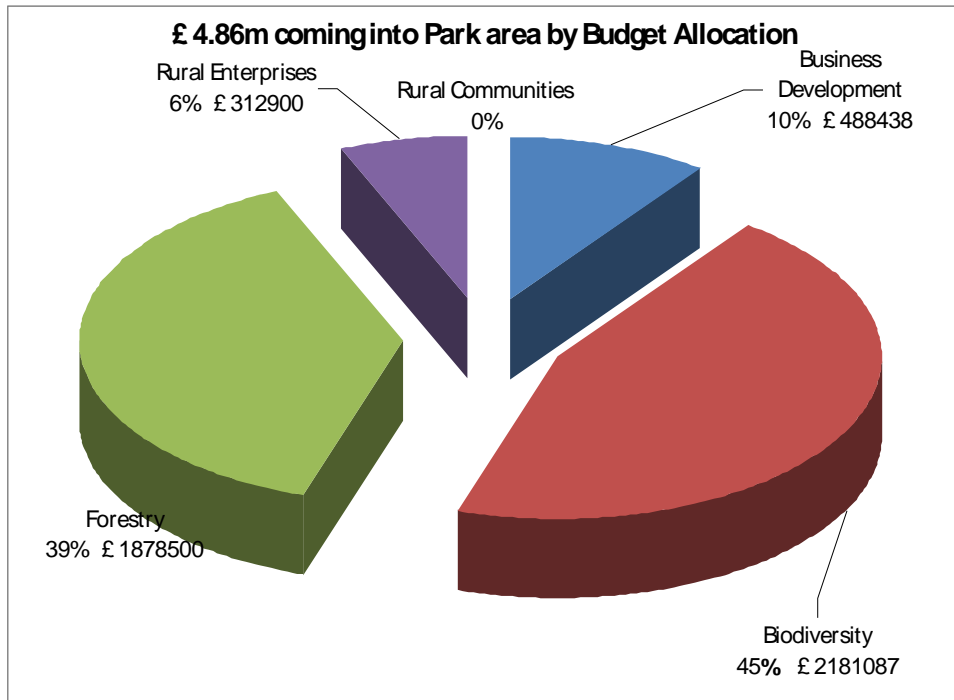
9. The proposals are assessed by a Case Officer from the three core public bodies; SGRPID, SNH and FCS, and if the application is given an amber light and a full Outcome Plan submitted, the application is awarded points on a scoring system based on 14 criteria and then the proposal is submitted to the 'Core' RPAC for consideration. There is a National Proposal Assessment Committee (NPAC) that considers all the applications submitted across the country before each RPAC meets and depending on the resources available gives an indication to the RPACs on the score threshold level.

Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities in the National Park

10. Since the scheme opened last May there have been four assessments rounds and the national figures for approvals of applications for the first three are included in Annex 2 for information.
11. The figures for applications approved within the National Park, recently supplied by RPACs, are shown below. Of these, the LMSOs have assisted 24 of the successful applications and 1 of the unsuccessful applications.

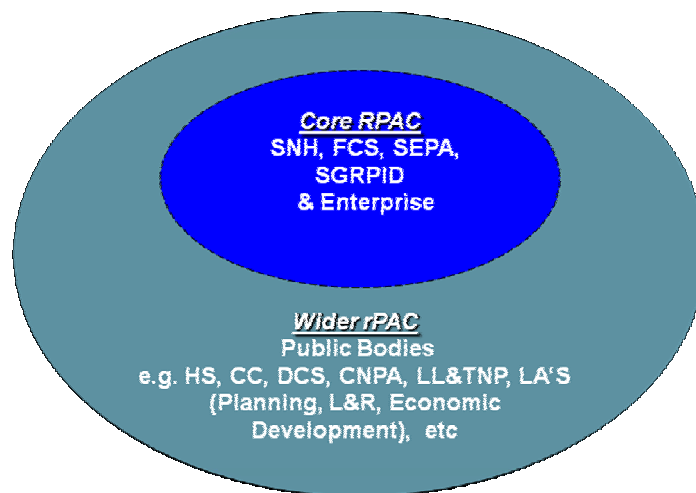
RPAC	Successful	Unsuccessful
Highland	27	10
Grampian	28	3
Tayside	5	0
Total	60	13

12. The total investment from SRDP into the National Park currently stands at £4.86M committed over a period of up to ten years, which breaks down into the themes shown in the pie chart below. (NB the rural communities theme here refers only to RDCs – there is a separate strand of investment through LEADER). The significant majority of funding relates to biodiversity and forestry outcomes (the forestry figures include one significant contract awarded in the last round for approximately £1.8M over ten years).



CNPA's role in Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities

13. CNPA is a member of the 'wider RPAC' for each of the three regions but does not sit on the decision-making 'Core' RPAC, as shown below.



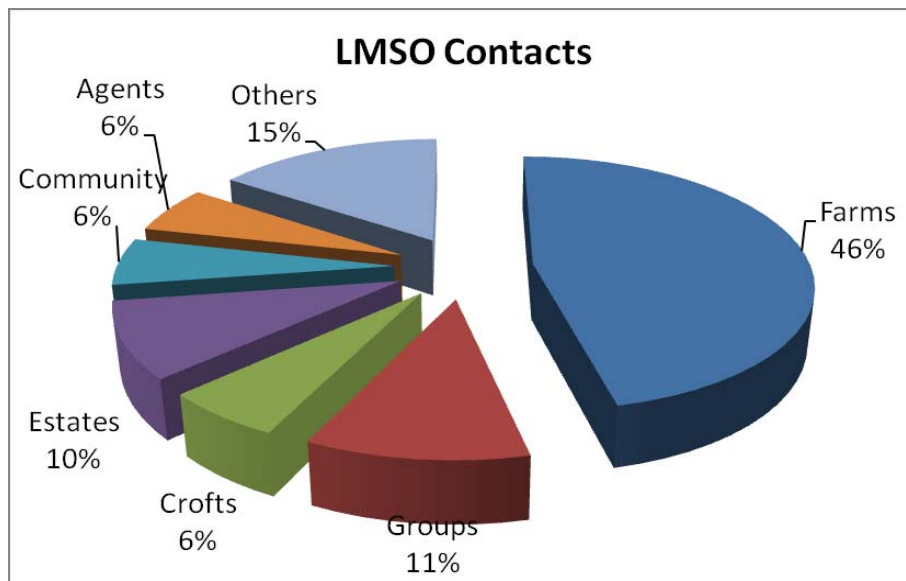
14. CNPA provides a source of specialist advice for case officers on how well proposals contribute to the National Park Plan and other policies or on the potential implications of a proposal. There is a range of specialist staff across heritage, outdoor access, social and economic development on which case officers can draw for advice.
15. To date, case officers have drawn on CNPA relatively little for specialist advice, and CNPA's Land Management Support Officers have not

been routine notified by case officers when Statements of Intent or proposals are submitted – meaning CNPA’s ability to target proactive advice to influence proposals has been limited.

16. Issues of data sharing have hampered this approach so far. CNPA has not been able to access RPID data on RDC statements of intent, proposals or awards making it impossible to obtain a full picture of the contribution SRDP is making to the Park Plan. Following discussions with RPID it now appears that both National Park Authorities will shortly enter into a data sharing arrangement with RPID that should address some of these difficulties.

CNPA support through Land Management Support Officers

17. With funding assistance from Cairngorms LEADER, CNPA employed two Land Management Support Officers (LMSOs) from May 2008 to;
 - a) Promote the opportunities of SRDP;
 - b) Support land managers in identifying options and understanding the process for RDC and LEADER applications;
 - c) Actively target and encourage applications that will make a significant contribution to delivering the National Park Plan.
18. The LMSOs provide information and advice on which options to choose and how to get the best out of the scheme and also draw on this range of specialist advice in order to give the ‘front-line’ advice to land managers on the options and potential public benefits they can deliver. CNPA’s role through these two officers does not extend to preparing applications on behalf of land managers, but is designed instead to be able to work closely with case officers through providing proactive advice to applicants in the Park on how to maximise the potential benefits of an application.
19. The decision was made by the Board at the inception of these posts that the LMSOs would not help applicants to submit the application as that this may compete with private sector agents and advisors who provide this as a professional service.
20. To date, the LMSOs have attended 34 events including shows and awareness raising meetings and had individual contact with 84 customers, as detailed in the pie chart below:



21. In addition to facilitating SRDP, the LMSO role is also intended to help develop a good relationship between CNPA and the land-based sector, particularly the farming sector. As well as assisting SRDP applications, the LMSOs have represented CNPA in the Monitor Farm and Planning to Succeed Projects, and in 2009 will establish a farmers' discussion group. Feedback from farmers and others that have made use of the guidance the LMSOs provide has been positive and suggests that the role is a welcome addition to the advice available through the mainstream SRDP bodies.
22. The current Land Management Support Officer arrangements are in place for a further year until April 2010, during which time they will be seeking to target particular priorities for which RDCs offer potential funding, for example wetlands and forest habitat networks, as well as continuing to offer the more general advice to farmers and land managers. A review of the Land Management Support function will be undertaken towards the end of 2009, drawing on further experience over the course of this year, and the board will be asked to consider the options for CNPA's land management support role beyond April 2010.

Delivery of the National Park Plan through Rural Development Contracts

23. SRDP is the largest source of public funding available to help land based-businesses contribute to delivery of the National Park Plan. The Plan sets out the collective aspirations of government and its agencies for the management of the National Park, approved by Ministers in 2007, and therefore businesses look to SRDP as a means to help deliver these objectives and priorities. The regional priorities at which Rural Development Contracts are targeted are very broad, and within them

there is significant potential to help deliver the priorities of the National Park Plan subject to sufficient advice and targeting.

24. SRDP has been seen by CNPA and partners as the primary means to deliver the outcomes of the priority for action 'Integrating Public Support for Land Management'. These outcomes include:
 - a) Maintaining a diverse and productive land management sector providing high quality primary produce whilst delivering public benefits.
 - b) Better integration of public support directed at tangible public benefits.
 - c) A more transparent process through which the public benefits targeted with public money are determined.
25. While the current implementation of SRDP goes some way to achieving these outcomes, it does not deliver the focused approach envisaged during development of the National Park Plan, largely as a result of the breadth of regional priorities split across three different RPACs.
26. In turn, land management support is also an important means of delivery for other priorities for action in the National Park Plan, particularly:
 - a) Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Landscapes
 - b) Supporting Sustainable Deer Management
 - c) Providing High Quality Opportunities for Outdoor Access
 - d) Making Tourism and Business More Sustainable
27. CNPA has not been able to carry out a detailed assessment of the contribution SRDP has so far made to these priorities, although data recently provided by RPACs will help inform this. While the headline figures indicate a significant investment in the Park, discussions with land managers and advisers suggests that at the very least, there is potential to improve the targeting of RDC-RPs to ensure value for money in delivering the National Park Plan.
28. We expect to have a data sharing agreement with SGRPID in place shortly, alongside Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, which will enable a more detailed analysis of the contribution to different priorities.

Recommendation

29. **That the Board note the current implementation of Rural Development Contracts within the National Park and the support work carried out by CNPA.**

Opportunities and Options to Enhance Delivery of the National Park Plan

30. The present arrangements including contact points for specialist advice and the proactive role offered by the Land Management Support Officers was put in place in order to be able to add value to the roles of case officers and to help land managers target applications to maximise the potential benefits to the National Park. However, this has not worked as well as intended. In practice the restricted advice the case officer is able to provide, combined with a lack of connection between CNPA staff and case officers at crucial points of the application process has limited the ability of all to inform and enhance proposals.
31. Given that the arrangements put in place are not yet delivering the outcomes of the National Park Plan to the extent intended, we still want to identify ways to improve the arrangements so that the public funding delivered through RDC – RPs in particular are targeted most effectively at the priorities agreed and approved by Ministers for the National Park.
32. The Board has previously expressed a view that a more targeted grant scheme is required to meet the particular management needs of the National Park. In many ways the simplest option remains a single RPAC covering the Park. The options for establishing a single RPAC or an alternative National Park grant scheme are unlikely to be achievable within the remaining three years of the current SRDP.
33. The Board may wish to consider this as the longer-term approach, in which case discussions with partners can proceed on this basis, but there are also some potential improvements in the interim that could be considered.

Key opportunity to enhance delivery of the National Park Plan through SRDP – an enhanced case officer role

34. The case officer role is the key interface with land managers in RDC-RPs. At present, the role is not able to give proactive advice and guidance to applicants and is restricted to giving feedback on applications received. An enhanced role would see case officers able to enter into a more proactive relationship with the land manager, helping to develop a proposal that would realise the best potential of that unit to deliver public benefits, consistent with the manager's own objectives. This would allow more effective targeting of the priorities agreed for public benefit delivery in the Park and could enhance the quality of applications by extending the scope and identifying collaboration opportunities. It would be a more streamlined process than the current arrangements by which CNPA Land Management

Support Officers try to provide this advice without having access to information on proposals, giving a single point of contact that is identifiably connected to the National Park, helping to deliver the ethos of SEARS.

35. From the land manager's perspective, it also offers a more positive and joined-up approach from government. Rather than leaving land managers to work through the range of potentially conflicting public policy objectives, the case officer would be able to help identify which of those objectives are most appropriate to the land holding and work with the land manager to identify how to maximise the potential benefit. The National Park Plan and associated strategies provides a clear framework within which this advice would be given.
36. While the enhanced case officer role proposed above would in itself offer significant improvements to the delivery of public benefits, there are a number of other options for change that would complement that role and enable greater enhancement in support for public benefit delivery in the Park.

Discretionary funding to support management planning and feasibility studies

37. SRDP, and RDC-RPs in particular, is the most significant source of funding available to land-based businesses to help deliver public benefits and to provide a single 'entry point' to funding. To date CNPA and partners have tried to work within this single-entry point to deliver the National Park Plan priorities.
38. However, to date there appears to be a gap in support to assist the management planning or feasibility studies required in some cases – either to get to a position from which it is possible to apply for an RDC, or to take the genuinely integrated approach to management that is promoted through the National Park Plan. There are some specific measures within RDC-RPs for certain planning, and changes are currently being made to include options for 'herbivore management plans' which should be a significant improvement, but there remains a gap to support integrated management plans. Other examples include feasibility studies for renewable energy use – one of the main barriers to businesses appears to be the risk involved, and the cost of feasibility studies to identify options and provide confidence in viability.
39. We are aware of a number of situations in which land managers have abandoned ideas that could ultimately have received RDC-RP funds and delivered benefits to the Park on a significant scale, because of the up-front costs and associated uncertainty. In a National Park, it seems important to be able to support land managers to take an integrated approach to identifying the public benefit potential of their holdings and to identify how those could be supported.

40. In some cases, CNPA and partners have stepped in to provide assistance, for example by funding the feasibility study for riparian woodland potential in the upper Dee with Forestry Commission Scotland and the Dee Fisheries Board, providing information to inform Invercauld, Mar and Mar Lodge Estates. The Low Carbon Estates project is also funding feasibility studies for low-carbon infrastructure development on five pilot estates. Feedback from land managers confirms that without financial support at that stage, these projects are unlikely to happen due to the uncertainty and risk. By assisting with funding, this work can show what is possible and how it can be implemented, reducing the risk significantly and allowing land managers to proceed with funding applications for implementation.
41. Currently our ability to provide this kind of support is very limited. We therefore propose discussions with partners to identify how best to overcome this barrier of feasibility and management planning within the National Park. This would form a second part of the 'front-end' advice and support available to land managers in the Park, helping the enhanced case officer role above to work with land managers proactively.

Ring-fenced or regionalised funding for RDC-RPs with the National Park

42. There is a risk that resources allocated at the 'front end' of the application process as outlined above, are not effective if at the end of the process there remains insufficient funds to award a reasonable number of contracts. In order to ensure value for money the enhanced case officer role should be accompanied by ring-fenced or 'regional' funds allocated to the National Park area. This risk is compounded by the ongoing risk of central SRDP budgets being fully committed at early stages each year – for example the agri-environment budget for 2009 is already fully committed meaning no further agri-environment proposals can be approved this year.
43. The intention is not to remove the competitive element, simply that if government does invest in providing better up-front advice in the National Park, then there should be certainty that an appropriate proportion of those proposals that score highly are likely to be awarded.

Advantages

44. Overall, the advantages of these proposals include:
- a) Single point of administration and advice for land managers that is clearly identified with their geographical context of the National Park, helping to deliver the SEARS ethos in practice.
 - b) Streamlined administration for SRDP partners.

- c) Better targeting of proposals to agreed priorities within the Park leading to higher quality proposals, better outcomes and greater value for money.
- d) Building a more constructive relationship between government and land managers in the National Park that should yield benefits beyond the immediate prospect of RDC funding.

Risks

- 45. The risks associated with the proposals include:
 - a) The perception of unfair advantage to land managers within the National Park – although proposals would still be judged by RPACS against the same criteria.
 - b) Managing expectations – the limited funding and possible reduction in assessment rounds currently seen may result in good proposals being developed with no realistic prospect of sufficient funding being available.
- 46. Both these risks could be addressed to some extent through explicit recognition that National Parks are special places where there is a particular need to target land management support to help deliver the National Park Plans, and delivered through a regionalised funding allocation.

Recommendation

- 47. **That the Board consider and advise on proposals to enhance the contribution SRDP implementation could make to delivering the National Park Plan.**

Consultation

- 48. This paper draws on discussions on the collective experience of SRDP implementation in the National Park with land managers, agents and advisors, RPAC members and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority. Over the last year CNPA has held many informal discussions at over 30 events and over 80 individual contacts with the Land Management Support Officers as well as formal meetings with agents and advisors and RPAC members. To date these options have been discussed informally with RPAC members and further consultation with them on implementation would be the next step.
- 49. CNPA and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority held a joint meeting with Peter Cook to contribute the National Park perspective on SRDP to the review he was commissioned to prepare for the Scottish Government.

Policy Context

50. Paragraphs 22-27 set out the central role that SRDP has to play in delivering the National Park Plan. Not only is an effective and integrated land management support system, targeted at agreed public benefits a priority in itself in the Plan, it is the basis on which many of the other outcomes agreed for the Park can be delivered through land-based businesses.

Implications

Financial Implications

51. There are potential financial implications to CNPA and partners of proposed changes to the case officer role and discretionary funding. In both cases CNPA would seek to share the costs involved with other National Park Plan partners as part of the wider SRDP and Park Plan delivery. At present, CNPA's operational plan includes the provision of two Land Management Support Officer posts until April 2010. Expenditure beyond this point will be reviewed in line with discussions on the proposals in this paper and through future operational planning. This paper does not commit CNPA expenditure beyond the existing operational plan commitments.

Presentational Implications

52. The key presentational implication in these proposals is promoting the case that National Parks, designated as special places by Parliament with National Park Plans approved by Ministers, require a special focus in land management support in order to meet their particular management needs.

Implications for Stakeholders

53. There are implications for a number of partners responsible for SRDP, notably SGRPID, SNH and FCS, with whom these proposals require further discussion. Consideration of the support and assistance available to land managers, and their relationship with CNPA should also be considered explicitly in taking forward any proposals for change.

Next Steps

54. Following the Board's advice on the proposals within this paper, CNPA will take forward more detailed discussion with SGRPID, SNH and FCS to consider how changes could be delivered. In the meantime, the LMSOs and other staff will continue to help land managers make the most of existing opportunities through SRDP and continue to build up a more detailed analysis of delivery of the National Park Plan priorities

through SRDP in order to inform the next National Park Plan and discussions on SRDP post 2013.

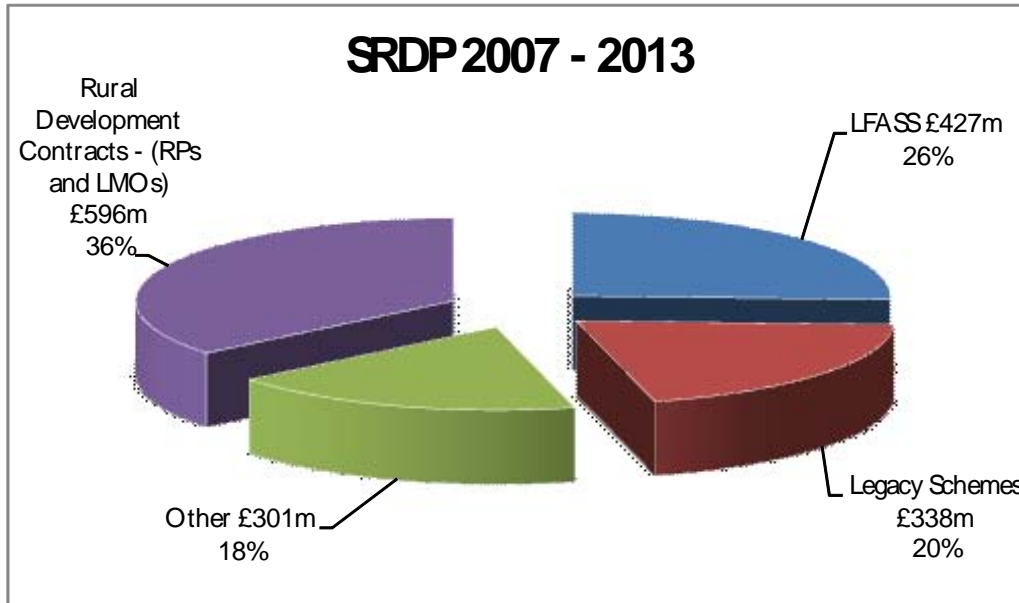
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Annex 1: SRDP - An Overview

1. Funding for the SRDP comes from three sources:
 - a) The Scottish Government - 71%
 - b) The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – 8%
 - c) Modulation – 21%
2. Around two-thirds of funding for the Programme comes from Scottish Government resources and Modulation enables funding to be redirected from Common Agricultural Policy resources under Pillar 1 to Rural Development measures under Pillar 2.
3. The three key themes (or 'Axes') of the European Commission Regulation (EC 1698/2005) on support for rural development are:
 - a) Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
 - b) Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside
 - c) Axis 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
4. There is also a fourth Axis that uses the LEADER approach to deliver a locally-driven approach to innovation and development administered by local partnerships.
5. SRDP includes the following funding programmes and the £1.6bn is allocated as shown.
 - a) Less Favoured Area Support Scheme - £427m
 - b) The LEADER initiative - c£80m
 - c) Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities – c£500m
 - d) Rural Development Contracts– Land Managers Options – c£90m
 - e) Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation Grant Scheme - £70m
 - f) Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme – £35m
 - g) Forestry Challenge Funds (WIAT & Woods for People) - £14m
 - h) Skills Development Scheme– £12m
 - i) Legacy scheme payments (RSS, CPS, SFGS etc.)- £338m
6. SRDP does not include the Single Farm Payment which is funded through Pillar I of the EU Rural Programme

Figure X shows the breakdown of the £1.6bn of funding available during the programme:



7. Given that a substantial amount of the lands are either already committed or held within non competitive schemes such as LFASS and Rural Development Contracts – Land Managers Options, the best open funding options for delivering actions within the National Park Plan come within the Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities (RDC – RPs) and to a smaller extent (in terms of funding) the LEADER programme. The CNPA support for land managers and communities has thus been concentrated on these two funding themes.

Annex 2 – Key National Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009

- a) Agencies have received over **5,700 Statements of Intent** for Rural Priorities in the **12 months** since this first stage of the application process was launched.
- b) **3,030** of these have already progressed to the **Proposals** stage
- c) **2,269** of these cases have already been considered in the first **4** assessment rounds
- d) **1,802** of these cases have been **approved** in full or in part (**79% of all cases** considered to date)
- e) The assessment round in February approved **73% of the 1,377** cases considered (in full or in part)
- f) A total of **£124.5 million** of funding has already been approved under Rural Priorities, **in the seven months** since the full application process was opened for business (£5.9 M in August, £22.5 M in October, £28.8 M in December and 67.3 M)
- g) For **agri-environment** priorities, we have approved **79% of total money** applied for in the first seven months of the full application process. This equates to 1174 priorities, with a total value of £66.13 M

Region	Current RPAC round	Previous RPAC rounds	Total Approved to Date
Argyll	£4,991,678.11	£5,471,971.49	£10,463,649.60
Ayrshire	£3,201,796.81	£2,992,926.96	£6,194,623.77
Borders	£6,284,186.53	£5,573,270.63	£11,857,457.16
Clyde Valley	£1,183,228.62	£1,304,958.60	£2,488,187.21
Dumfries and Galloway	£7,381,400.71	£4,033,592.52	£11,414,993.22
Forth	£5,340,351.01	£3,519,485.77	£8,859,836.78
Grampian	£15,675,072.94	£18,132,950.47	£33,808,023.40
Highland	£11,110,799.34	£6,413,609.70	£17,24,409.04
Northern Isles	£5,213,234.20	£3,655,217.17	£8,868,421.37
Outer Hebrides	£2,199,553.06	£306,442.87	£2,505,995.93
Tayside	£4,686,835.31	£5,795,644.73	£10,482,480.05
Total	£67,268,136.63	£57,199,970.90	£124,468,077.53

Annex 2 – Key National Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009 (cont)

Total Applications at each Stage

15 April 2009

Region	Sol Pre-Assessment	Sol Assessment in Progress	Sol Assessment Complete (Red)	Sol Assessment Complete (Amber)	Proposal Incomplete	Proposal Submitted	Proposal Committed	Grand Total
Argyll	7	16	134	110	20	16	226	529
Ayrshire	9	17	95	64	19	23	114	341
Borders	23	6	106	112	40	36	217	540
Clyde Valley	9	6	45	55	10	9	68	202
Dumfries and Galloway	10	26	145	112	45	34	216	588
Forth	16	31	92	88	48	22	145	442
Grampian	32	27	287	188	82	39	624	1279
Highland	18	54	164	173	92	59	257	817
Northern Isles	5	18	70	45	19	15	198	370
Outer Hebrides	3	7	25	31	13	3	74	156
Tayside	9	37	112	76	24	23	200	481
Grand Total	141	245	1275	1054	412	279	2339	5745

Annex 2 – Key National Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009 (cont)

Data Broken down by Regional Priority

This page shows the money awarded against each of the regional priorities for the first three RPAC rounds.

[The results from the February 2009 RPAC](#) have now been announced. These pages will be updated with the data from the February round shortly.

Priority	No. of Priorities Approved	Total Funded
1. Capital investment in agricultural businesses	163	£12,488,329.65
2. Encourage new entrants to restructure/modernise businesses	8	£688,773.96
6. Local wealth and reduce food/timber miles	3	£84,788.23
7a. Enhanced viability and improved quality of primary products	1	£8,040.00
7b. Organic conversion and maintenance	57	£4,257,747.51
8. Halt in the loss of biodiversity and reverse previous losses	403	£21,665,267.29
9. Nationally important designated sites into active management	43	£2,524,284.25
10. Viable populations of rare and/or endangered species	32	£1,241,826.17
11. Reduced Threat from Non-Native Species	2	£84,965.97
12. Increase in the Area of Connected Natural Habitats	19	£603,137.18
13a. Safeguarding and Enhancement of Rural Landscapes	15	£215,054.98
13b. Enhance Enjoyment of Landscapes	3	£3,495.00
13c. High Quality Design to Strengthen the Landscape	3	£38,311.80
13d. Actions at a Landscape Scale which Strengthen the Landscape	20	£298,549.73
13e. A strengthening of the special qualities within National Scenic Areas	1	£46,318.23
13f. Action for Landscapes whose Qualities have been degraded by past use	3	£78,411.50
14. Increased contribution to landscapes from woodland and forests	65	£1,115,204.55
15a. Enhance/conservate most significant buildings and sites	2	£297,500.00
15b. Management of local vernacular rural buildings	4	£28,295.00
15e. Increased viability of existing rural building stock	8	£358,931.25
16. Reduced diffuse pollution from rural land uses.	20	£662,339.62
17. Improved water quality of surface + ground water bodies	10	£715,610.06
18. Good ecological status of at risk water bodies	5	£97,396.14
19. Sustainable flood management and reduced flood risk	1	£1,449.00

Priority	No. of Priorities Approved	Total Funded
21. Improved carbon sequestration	15	£1,178,987.73
22. Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases from land based operations	2	£31,648.00
23. Improved carbon sinks	35	£686,969.00

Annex 2 – Key National Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009 (cont)

Priority	No. of Priorities Approved	Total Funded
24. An efficient and reliable wood fuel supply chain.	2	£74,229.05
25. Increased public access	7	£22,714.96
26a. Encouraging innovation and new product development	7	£416,063.50
26b. Strengthening links between primary producers and other industry sectors	1	£180,750.00
27. Higher value rural goods and services	3	£255,191.00
28. Increased local use of renewable energy	1	£317,192.62
29. Improved number of career development opportunities	3	£150,872.36
30. Improvement in the value + duration of rural tourism visits	21	£2,751,830.60
31. Improved viability and well being of Scotland's rural communities.	5	£1,645,193.70

Annex 2 – Key National Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009 (cont)

Data broken down by Options

This page shows the amount of Options approved across the country for the first three RPAC rounds.

Option	Total No. of Options Approved
Ancient Wood Pasture - In-bye Land	2
Arable reversion to grassland	5
Area access management - amenities	1
Area access management - creation + upgrading paths	5
Area access management - leaflets	2
Area access management - near communities	1
Area access management - signage	8
Area access management - vegetation reduction	1
Away-Wintering of Sheep	8
Biodiversity Cropping on In-Bye - basic management	33
Biodiversity Cropping on In-Bye - with binders/stooks	2
Bracken Management Programme for Habitat Enhancement	24
Buffer Areas for Fens and Lowland Raised Bogs	1
Coastal or Serpentine Heath	20
Community services and facilities	9
Conservation Management for Small Units - Individual	27
Control of grey squirrel for red squirrel conservation	2
Control of invasive non-native species - Giant Hogweed	1
Control of invasive non-native species - Rhododendron	1
Conversion to organic farming - arable	27
Conversion to organic farming - fruit and veg	3
Conversion to organic farming - improved grassland	31
Conversion to organic farming - rough grazing	18
Create, Restore and Manage Wetland	17
Creation and Management of Cover for Corncrakes	11
Creation and Management of Species Rich Grassland	62
Cropped Machair - with FYM/seaweed	4
Cropped Machair - with FYM/seaweed and binder/stooks	1
Cropped Machair - without FYM/seaweed	3
Development/Creation Of Micro-Enterprises	10
Diversification Outwith Agriculture	40
Enjoyment of rural landscapes - restore built boundaries	16
Enjoyment of rural landscapes - screening	2

Option	Total No. of Options Approved
Enjoyment of rural landscapes - veteran trees	8

Annex 2 – Key Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009 (cont)

Option	Total No. of Options Approved
Enjoyment of rural landscapes - viewpoints	2
Extended hedges	74
Grass Margins and Beetlebanks - mixed arable	116
Grass Margins and Beetlebanks - organic	3
Grazed Grassland for Corncrakes	22
Grazing Management of Cattle - Introduction	18
Grazing Management of Cattle - Retention	6
Habitat Grazing Management	3
Hedgerows - 2 years for landscape benefits	38
Hedgerows - 3 years for biodiversity benefits	258
Information + awareness - interpretation	4
Livestock tracks, gates and river crossings	3
Lowland Heath	7
Lowland Raised Bogs - Basic management	7
Lowland Raised Bogs - with grazing management supplement	6
Maintenance of organic farming - arable	26
Maintenance of organic farming - fruit and veg	2
Maintenance of organic farming - improved grassland	29
Maintenance of organic farming - rough grazing	20
Mammal and Bird Control - crow control	8
Mammal and Bird Control - for Black Grouse/Capercaillie	7
Mammal and Bird Control - Predator control	4
Management and repair of vernacular buildings	13
Management of archaeological or historic sites	7
Management of Cover for Corncrakes	34
Management of Flood Plains	17
Management of Habitat Mosaics	72
Management of Moorland Grazing	36
Management of Species Rich Grassland	221
Management of Wetland	236
Manure/slurry storage and treatment - manure storage	44
Manure/slurry storage and treatment - manure treatment	2
Moorland - Stock Disposal	36
Moorland Grazings on Uplands and Peatlands	5

Option	Total No. of Options Approved
Mown Grassland for Corn Buntings	10
Mown Grassland for Corncrakes - 1 Aug	17
Mown Grassland for Corncrakes - 1 Sept	29
Mown Grassland for Corncrakes - 15 Aug	15
Mown Grassland for Wildlife	167
Muirburn and Heather Swiping	16
Nutrient management plan	2
Off-Wintering of Sheep	12

Annex 2 – Key Statistics on Rural Priorities at 15 April 2009 (cont)

Option	Total No. of Options Approved
Open Grazed or Wet Grassland for Wildlife	269
Processing and marketing of primary products	19
Provision and upgrading of infrastructure	17
Renewable energy - agriculture	18
Restructuring agricultural businesses	132
Scrub and Tall Herb Communities	50
Setting up young farmers - interest rate relief	8
Skills development - individual training	37
Soil and water management programme - deliver plan	3
Soil and water management programme - plan	10
Supplementary Food Provision for Raptors - Hen Harriers	1
Support for renewable energy - non land-based	7
Sustainable Management Of Forests - LISS	1
Sustainable Management Of Forests - Native woodlands	1
Sustainable Management Of Forests - Restructuring felling	53
Wardening for Golden Eagles - Farm unit	1
Water Margins - Enhance biodiversity	296
Water Margins - reduce diffuse pollution	38
Wild Bird Seed Mix/Unharvested Crop	187
Wildlife Management on Upland and Peatland Sites	3
Woodland creation - Mixed conifer/broadleaved woodland	24
Woodland creation - Native woodland - natural regeneration	6
Woodland creation - Native woodland planting	83

Woodland creation - Productive broadleaf woodland	1
Woodland creation - Productive conifer - low cost	3
Woodland Improvement Grant - long term forest planning	43
Woodland Improvement Grant - non woodland habitats	1
Woodland Improvement Grant - reducing deer impact	8
Woodland Improvement Grant - restructuring regeneration	41
Woodland Improvement Grant - woodland habitats and species	5