

**MINUTE of MEETING of the
NATIONAL PARK PLAN WORKING GROUP
held in the Braemar Village Hall
on 16TH January 2004 at 9am**

PRESENT

Duncan Bryden (Chair)	CNPA Board
Nick Halfhide	CNPA Staff
David Green	CNPA Board
Susan Walker	CNPA Board

APOLOGIES

Peter Argyle	CNPA Board
Angus Gordon	CNPA Board

Welcome and Apologies

1. Duncan Bryden welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there were apologies from Angus Gordon and Peter Argyle. **Action**

Minutes of the Meeting on 7th November 2003

2. These were approved with no changes.

Matters Arising

3. There were no matters arising.
4. Nick Halfhide advised the Group that he had sought tenders for the State of the Park Report research and for the "Health" Indicators; and that he planned to convene the first meeting of the Advisory Group on Joined Up Government in February, to be chaired by Andrew Thin.
5. The Group agreed that for the remaining consultancies approved by the Board as part of the Park Plan process, Nick Halfhide would liaise with Duncan Bryden over the briefs and the consultants to be invited to tender. More generally, the Group felt that the Board needed to discuss the use of consultants, and in particular how to involve more locally based firms. **DB
NH**

Agreement of Groups Purpose and Short-term Outputs

6. There was general discussion of the Group's purpose and short-term outputs, and it was agreed that Nick Halfhide and Duncan Bryden would meet to discuss these further. **DB
NH**

Discussion

Scope of the Four Aims

7. The Group discussed the need for the whole Board to have informed and informal discussion about the scope of four aims of the Park, and our vision for them. This should ideally begin in the spring, with sessions being led by the Heads of Natural Resources, Visitor Services and Recreation, and Economic and Social Development. These discussions would not only help

establish the scope of the four aims, but would also provide a framework for decision making and policy formation until such time as the full Park Plan is in place.

Action

Shape of the Park Plan

8. The Group agreed that this would need further consideration, taking into account the needs of the different audiences for the Park Plan. Duncan Bryden agreed to return those plans that he had borrowed, and Nick Halfhide will circulate examples to the whole Group.

**DB
NH**

Final Presentation

9. There was no detailed discussion of this point, though the Group realised that in time, much more detailed consideration would need to be given to how the Park Plan is finally presented.

Process of External Engagement

10. The Group recognised that the Advisory Group on Joined Up Government would be a key route for engaging with the public sector. They agreed that in addition to the list of invitees circulated by Nick Halfhide, that the local authorities should be encouraged to send their Chief Executive as well as Convenor, and that the Highlands and Islands Enterprise should be asked to send both their Convenor and Chief Executive. Other members were discussed, such as the Health Board, but the Group agreed that there were merits in keeping the Group reasonably small to start with.
11. In preparation for the first meeting, the Group recommended that members of the Advisory Group be sent a copy of the Authority's Corporate Plan for 2004-07 to illustrate the emerging thinking of the Authority, and that each organisation be asked to give a short statement at the first meeting as to how they foresee their organisation engaging with the National Park.
12. The Group also discussed the possibility of asking the Minister to address the Group at some stage.

Identification of External Interests to Join the Group

13. The Group agreed that external engagement in the Park Plan process was best handled through the Advisory Group on Joined Up Government, and through the other emerging arrangements to liaise with other sectors, such as the communities, land managers and the voluntary sector. It therefore considered that at this stage it would be a duplication to invite external interests on to the Working Group.

AOCB

14. There was no other competent business.

Date of Next Meeting

15. The Group agreed to meet next at 9.00am on 12th March 2004 in Strathdon.

The meeting finished at 10.25am