

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

FOR DECISION

**Title: RATIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS and APPROVAL OF
EXPENDITURE PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO THE
CNPA BOARD**

Prepared by: Denby Pettitt, Finance Manager

Purpose

To summarise expenditure that has been approved by the Finance Committee since their last meeting on 8 September 2006 and formally approve the commitment of expenditure on the LBAP project to 2010.

Recommendations

That the Committee formally approve:

- a) the expenditure detailed in para. 1 in respect of pre-arrival signage; and
- b) the expenditure detailed in para. 5 in respect of the Cairngorms LBAP project.

Executive Summary

- a) At the September 2006 meeting the Finance Committee approved a change to the approval process whereby expenditure between £10,000 and £24,999 is approved by its Convener, together with the Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Services outwith the normal quarterly Committee meetings. Any expenditure approved in this way is reported to the next full Committee meeting.
- b) The CNPA Board meeting on 30 June 2006 (Paper 3) and approved the CNPA's active involvement with the Cairngorms LBAP process for 2006-2010 together with the allocation of resources to support the employment and hosting of the LBAP Officer.
- c) Since the expenditure exceeds £25,000 financial approval is required from the Finance Committee. In future, we are trying to identify such commitments in advance in order that financial approval is received prior to any Decision paper being presented to the CNPA Board.

**RATIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS and APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE
PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO THE CNPA BOARD
FOR DECISION**

Proposals Previously Agreed by the Finance Committee Convener, Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Services

1. Since the Finance Committee meeting on 8 September 2006 the following expenditure plans have been approved by the Finance Committee Convener, the Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Services in line with the two-tier approval process agreed at the September meeting:

	Expenditure	Head of Group	Date circulated	£'000	Approval received
(a)	Pre-arrival signage	M. Ferguson	27 Sept	20	Yes

2. The expenditure on pre-arrival signage will be tendered for and is necessary to hire a consultant to produce detailed advice, in the form of a scoping report, on the design and location of road signs that guide visitors to the Park. The current Operational Plan contains provision for this expenditure.
3. The proposed expenditure received unanimous approval.

Expenditure Previously Presented to the CNPA Board

4. At its meeting on 30 June 2006, the CNPA Board agreed the continuation of CNPA's involvement with the Cairngorms LBAP process from 2006 to 2010. Full details of this were given in Board Paper 3 and para. 32 to 38 examined the financial implications.
5. The monetary cost to CNPA will be up to £19,000 in a full financial year with the current year's cost being just over £8,500 as the project already has existing funding to October 2006. In addition, there is a cost to the CNPA of providing resources to support the employment and hosting of the LBAP Officer which the Board paper detailed.
6. Since this expenditure exceeds £25,000 it is necessary for the Finance Committee to approve it. Although our budgets to 2010 have not been finalised, an LBAP Officer has been employed since 1998 and current indications are that the anticipated costs to 2010 are affordable. The Board paper (para. 36) also states that the LBAP Management Group will continue to examine the possibility of including more funding partners from amongst other Steering Group members which would reduce the financial input from CNPA.

7. In future, as part of the Operational Plan process and quarterly reviews, officers will ensure that future commitments are identified earlier in the commitment process in order that a decision on financial affordability is made before project approval is sought from the CNPA Board.

DENBY PETTITT

11 October 2006

denbypettitt@ Cairngorms.co.uk