

Proposal for ViSIT Forum to fulfil role of Badenoch and Strathspey Area Tourism Forum

FOR DECISION BY BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS

Background

1. At the last ViSIT Forum meeting it was agreed that the Forum could fulfil the Badenoch and Strathspey Local Tourism Forum (which feeds into the Highland Area Tourism Partnership), and this should be trialled on an interim basis.

Aim

2. The aim of this Paper is to clarify the practical arrangements for this new additional role for the ViSIT Forum and to propose the method for nomination of an industry representative to join the Highland ATP.

Arrangements for ViSIT Forum

3. The following arrangements are suggested:
 - the advisory and strategic role of the ViSIT Forum should not be affected, and emphasis should remain on Cairngorms Park-wide issues
 - on an occasional basis, it may be that a discussion on a specific Badenoch and Strathspey issue should take place either before or immediately following the conclusion of the Forum meeting with Badenoch and Strathspey members only
 - this part of the meeting will be chaired by the B&S industry representative who will have notified the agenda item and sent any relevant papers to Park staff prior to the meeting
 - any agenda items will appear as the last items on the main ViSIT Forum agenda
 - minutes from this part of the meeting will form part of the Forum minutes and will note which B&S Forum members were present for the discussion
 - The interim arrangement should run for a six month period after which it should be reviewed, and if felt to be working well then the remit and terms of reference of the ViSIT Forum will need to be modified and approved by the Park Board

Industry Representative

4. Andrew Harper currently attends the ATP meetings on behalf of the CNPA and an industry representative is required to attend to help re-establish two way communication links with the tourism businesses following the VisitScotland reorganisation. Substitutes are encouraged to attend if the nominated representative is unable to attend.

5. The following procedure involving only Badenoch and Strathspey ViSIT Forum representatives, is suggested:
 - Names of interested members should be forwarded to Park staff by Tuesday 24th January 2006.
 - At the meeting, each nomination will require a proposer and seconder.
 - More than one nomination may require a vote, and should also allow substitutes to be selected in the event that the main representative is unable to attend the meeting.

6. ATP meetings are usually held in Inverness, hosted by one of the key public sector partners and begin at 11am. The dates of the meetings arranged for this year are as follows:
 - 10 March 2006
 - 16 June 2006
 - 29 September 2006
 - 15 December 2006

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