

## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DECISION

**Title:** ADOPTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**Prepared by:** DAN HARRIS, PLANNING MANAGER  
GAVIN MILES, HEAD OF PLANNING AND  
COMMUNITIES

**Purpose:**

To ask the Board to adopt the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan.

**Recommendation:**

- a) **That the Board adopt the Proposed Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (as modified) and as directed by Scottish Ministers.**

**Background**

1. The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) has a duty to prepare the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Cairngorms National Park. The current LDP (LDP 2015) was adopted in 2015. The process of preparing a new LDP for the Park began in 2016. Once adopted, the LDP will replace LDP 2015 and will be the Local Development Plan for 5 years from 2021 to 2026.
2. A Main Issues Report for the LDP was published for consultation between November 2017 and March 2018. The comments on the Main Issues Report informed the development of a Proposed Local Development Plan that was published for consultation between January 2019 and April 2019. The CNPA then sent the plan and unresolved issues to the Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) who undertook an Examination of the Plan between December 2019 and August 2020. The CNPA received the DPEA Report on the Examination of the Proposed Cairngorms National Park LDP on 24 August 2020.
3. On 13 November 2020 the CNPA Board approved the modifications to the proposed LDP and the publication of the Notice of Intention to Adopt the Plan. Notice was given through press notices, the CNPA website and direct contact with people who had made representations on the Plan and on 28 November 2020 the Proposed LDP (as modified) and other necessary documents were sent to Scottish Ministers.
4. On 2 February 2021 the CNPA received notice of a Direction from Scottish Ministers under Section 20 (5) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The

direction is to amend the Proposed LDP (as modified) so that the settlement statements for Aviemore, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Blair Atholl, Carr-Bridge, Bruar and Pitagowan, Calvine, Dalwhinnie and Killiecrankie contain the line within their settlement objectives:

*“Please consult the Transport Scotland website for the latest A9 dualling route information. This can be accessed via; A9 Dualling Perth to Inverness (transport.gov.scot).”*

5. The CNPA cannot adopt the Plan unless the direction is followed or Ministers withdraw it. The letter setting out Scottish Ministers’ direction is included as Annex 2. The changes set out in the Ministers’ direction are the only changes that can be made to the Plan.
6. The changes made through the Ministers’ direction do not affect the conclusions reached by the CNPA in its Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) or the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The HRA record and SEA Environmental Report, published with the Notice of Intention to Adopt the Plan on the CNPA website, remains up to date. The HRA concludes that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

### **Board Adoption of the LDP**

7. The Board are asked to adopt the proposed Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (as modified) and as directed by Scottish Ministers. Once adopted, the Plan is formally constituted as the Local Development Plan for the Cairngorms National Park. It will be referred to as the ‘Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021’ (LDP 2021).

### **Further work related to the LDP**

8. The LDP has **Non-statutory and Supplementary Guidance** that accompanies the Plan. The following non-statutory guidance has been consulted on and is recommended for adoption by the CNPA Planning Committee on 26 March 2021:
  - a) Supporting Economic Growth
  - b) Natural Heritage
  - c) Landscape
  - d) Renewable Energy
  - e) Resources
  - f) Open Space, Sport and Recreation
  - g) Cultural Heritage
9. Further non-statutory guidance and Supplementary Guidance on Housing, Planning Obligations and Design and Placemaking is currently being prepared and the CNPA Planning Committee will be asked to approve this at subsequent meetings.
10. The LDP will be supported by an **Action Programme** that sets out how the Plan will be delivered. A proposed Action Programme was published with the Proposed LDP in 2019 and requires to be adopted within three months of adoption of the LDP. The CNPA Planning Committee will be asked to approve the first LDP Action Programme for the new LDP 2021 in June 2021.

11. The CNPA must publish a **Development Plan Scheme** that sets out our programme for preparing and reviewing the LDP. The Development Plan Scheme was last updated in August 2019 and the Planning Committee will be asked to approve the next Scheme, setting out the broad timescales for the next LDP later in 2021.

### **Next Steps**

12. Following adoption by the CNPA, officers will:
- a) Send two copies of the LDP to Scottish Ministers;
  - b) Publish it in paper form and on the CNPA website;
  - c) Place copies in public libraries (when they re-open);
  - d) Notify people who made representations on the Proposed Plan of its publication;
  - e) Advertise the LDP publication and availability in local newspapers; and
  - f) Continue a programme of meetings with key stakeholders and users of the Local Development Plan over the first part of 2021. This includes meetings with partner local authorities and relevant planning officers, with networks such as the Developers Forum, and the offer of training for community councils.

**Dan Harris**

**Gavin Miles**

26 March 2021

[danharris@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:danharris@cairngorms.co.uk)

[gavinmiles@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:gavinmiles@cairngorms.co.uk)

### **Annexes**

1. **Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021**
2. **Scottish Ministers' Direction**