
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

**Title: NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN ANNUAL
PROGRESS REPORT**

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Purpose

To report annual progress in delivering the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan and consider any areas where further discussion at Board meetings or with partners is required.

Recommendations

- a) **That the Board note progress with delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan over the course of 2014/15.**

Executive Summary

This paper gives an overview of delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan over the financial year 2014/15. It shows progress towards the outcomes set out in the National Park Partnership Plan and a sense of the work undertaken during the past 12 months. Overall, of the available indicators, 9 show work is on-track to achieve the 2017 target while 3 show that, despite some progress, further work would be required to meet the target. A Strategic Delivery Group meeting is scheduled for April to review progress and discuss prioritisation of partners' resources for the remaining Plan period.

NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT - FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

1. This paper provides the National Park Partnership and Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Board with an update on delivery of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan. The last update was in September 2014.
2. The paper covers:
 - a) A summary of indicators associated with the National Park Partnership Plan's five-year outcomes and an update on delivery of the Plan;
 - b) An outline of work beginning for development of the next National Park Partnership Plan.

Background

3. The National Park Partnership Plan is the plan that coordinates how the aims of the National Park will be delivered. Although it is prepared by the National Park Authority, it was developed with the help of many organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as interested groups and communities in the National Park. The National Park Partnership includes the organisations that are best able to coordinate delivery of the Plan.
4. The National Park Partnership Plan for 2012-2017 was approved by the Environment Minister in June 2012. It sets out the vision for the National Park and three long term outcomes as:

***An outstanding National Park,
enjoyed and valued by everyone,
where nature and people thrive
together***



5. The Plan also sets out 10 five-year outcomes that provide the focus for work for the five years between 2012 and 2017 and will help to deliver the vision and long term outcomes. A series of programmes and with work packages were identified with partners help deliver those outcomes and form the starting point for delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan.

National Park Partnership

6. In 2014 the Minister was unable to chair the usual annual Partnership meeting but we have the next meeting provisionally scheduled for June 2015. The meeting brings together all partners involved in delivery to review progress, celebrate success and

address challenges. The Strategic Delivery Group will meet in April to review progress and priorities for the remaining Plan period to 2017.

7. We have published the annual progress report for 2013/14 in the same format as previous years. This provides an easy-read summary of progress and illustrative case studies.

Delivery Progress

8. Annex 1 sets out progress against the Partnership Plan's indicators and targets.
9. Annex 2 provides a summary of recent progress in the 12 programmes of work set out in the Partnership Plan.

National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22

10. We have begun the preparatory work for the next Partnership Plan (2017-22). The outline timetable sees:
 - a) 2015: Informal engagement with partners and review of NPPP2 delivery
 - b) 2016: Public consultation on main issues and proposals
 - c) 2017: Approval by Ministers
11. We are developing the Partnership Plan in conjunction with the next Local Development Plan (LDP2). We have established a single project board to oversee both plans and also established a Strategic Planning Group of key partners that will guide development and integration of both plans.
12. Initial discussions with partners indicate that we will seek to develop a Park Partnership Plan that:
 - a) Sets a clear spatial strategy for conservation, visitor experience and rural development;
 - b) Sets the strategic context for the Local Development Plan 2, including more specific work on housing numbers, types and distribution;
 - c) Identifies how publicly-owned land contributes to delivery;
 - d) Identifies key priorities that will be reflected in partners' Corporate Plans and joined-up delivery between agencies;
 - e) Focuses on the big issues that need collaboration.
13. The Board will have further formal and informal opportunities to discuss the development of the next Partnership Plan during 2015.













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ANNEX I: Indicators and targets				
Five Year Outcomes	Indicators	Targets	Progress to 2017 Targets 	Explanation
The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park's special qualities	Business confidence reported through Cairngorms Business Barometer	Increase		Overall levels of business confidence at end of 2014 were well above the Q4 average and the overall average for preceding years
	Number of jobs created in the Park	To have grown by more than the rate of population growth		400 new jobs created between 2010 and 2013. No new data for 2014/15
Businesses and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy	% population living within connection of high speed broadband or equivalent	75%		No change from 2013. Expected to improve significantly in 2015.
	Renewable energy production	To increase year on year		Increase of 20% in generating capacity to 2014
Communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability	The number of community enterprises generating income	Increase by at least 50%		New community enterprises formed and further income generation activity expected each year.
The quality and connectivity of habitats is enhanced	Area of woodland	Increase of 6% (c.4,000 Ha) in total woodland area		Over 2000 Ha new woodland planting schemes planned by 2014
	Water quality	Maintenance or increase in water quality status		69% of water bodies at 'high' or 'good' status in 2014
The species for which the Park is most important are in better conservation status	Active conservation for LBAP priority species	Targets identified in Cairngorms Nature Plan achieved		12 of 26 priority species with active conservation projects
	Estates participating in Wildlife Estates Initiative	75% of estates in the Park		20 estates (26%) covering 85% of area of the Park
The special landscape qualities, including wildness, are conserved and enhanced	Qualities of wildness	Equivalent or increased area of the Park characterised as high or medium wildness		New data expected by 2017
Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity in the Park	Number of conservation area improvement projects	To cover all conservation areas		Alternative indicator required.

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More people will enjoy, learn about and help to conserve and enhance the Park	Number of volunteer days spent caring for the Park per year	Increase by 50% by 2017		900 in 2011/12 1200 in 2012/13 2400 in 2013/14
The expectations of visitors are met or exceeded	Visitor satisfaction reported in Cairngorms Visitor Survey	Increase		Full year results from the 2014-15 visitor survey will be available in May, but interim data (May 14 – Feb 15) shows an average visitor rating of 8.77 / 10 compared with 8.25 in 2009-10 and 8.46 in 2003-04.
The Park's recreation opportunities have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors	Number of people using promoted core paths	Increased path use overall and more even spread throughout year		27% increase in use of sample core paths with people counters
Indicator unlikely to meet 2017 target				
Indicator showing progress but unlikely to meet 2017 target at present				
Indicator in track to meet 2017 target				