

Proposed Cairngorms “Common Good” Fund

Draft Specification for Operation, Objectives and Governance of Fund

Purpose of Fund

1. The purpose of the Cairngorms Common Good Fund (“the Fund”) is to finance projects and activities within the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park. The projects financed by the fund must have a demonstrable, sustainable and long-lasting benefit to the National Park’s residents and visitors, and be in keeping with the vision, principles and objectives of the National Park Partnership Plan (or any successor management plan for the area of the National Park).

Objectives of the Fund

2. Those charged with managing the Fund are responsible for the following range of activities:
 - a) Accept and responsibly manage donations, bequests, grants and any other income to maintain a pool of funding for disbursement to approved projects and activities.
 - b) Identify sources of financial contributions and secure donations to the Fund, while ensuring that the cost of seeking funds is justified by the potential return from the activities involved.
 - c) Manage resources held by the Fund to seek a balance between maintaining a level of Fund capital that may generate income for subsequent disbursement though generating investment returns with maintaining a reasonable stream of finance to support projects and activities and hence maintain a high level of public awareness and respect for the Fund within the Cairngorms National Park.
 - d) Provide financial support, on the basis of grant applications received, toward projects or activities which:
 - i. Make a demonstrable and long-lasting contribution toward conservation or enhancement of the special qualities and / or the cultural heritage of the Cairngorms National Park.
 - ii. Supports a community’s or communities’ actions to deliver sustainable social and or economic development within the Cairngorms National Park.
 - iii. Invests in infrastructure, for example signage, interpretation, paths, that will have a long-lasting and sustainable benefit to the residents of and visitors to the Cairngorms National Park.

Governance of the Fund

3. The operations of the Fund shall be overseen by a Board of Charity Trustees.
4. Charity Trustees shall initially be nominated by the Board of the Cairngorms National Park Authority or its legal successor. Thereafter, Charity Trustees shall be appointed by the members of the Fund in accordance with its adopted Memorandum and Articles of Association.

5. The number of Charity Trustees shall be no fewer than three with no maximum.
6. The Charity Trustees so appointed shall have the authority to put in place all required administrative and financial procedures to ensure efficient and effective operation of the Fund in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Fund.
7. The Charity Trustees shall have the authority to appoint any required staff or appoint officers needed to support the operation of the Fund and to set remuneration for staff or officers so appointed.
8. The Charity Trustees shall have the authority to enter into contracts for goods and services as required.
9. Charity Trustees appointed shall elect a Chairperson, who shall be responsible for arranging meetings of Charity Trustees and for putting in place all arrangements to support the conduct of all business of the Trust.
10. The Charity Trustees may set out in a scheme of delegation any allocation of responsibility for conducting the affairs and actions of the Trust to other appointed staff or officers. The scheme of delegation may include delegation of the Chairperson's responsibilities for arranging all business meetings. The scheme of delegation must be approved at a formal meeting of Charity Trustees and minuted as such. The Chairperson and Charity Trustees remain ultimately responsible for the conduct of all affairs of the Trust, including any matters delivered through an agreed scheme of delegation.