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## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

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**Title: Outdoor Access Strategy for the National Park**

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### **Purpose**

**The purpose of this paper is to update the Forum on changes that have been made to the Outdoor Access Strategy as a result of the consultation exercise and to seek the Forum's views on the revised Strategy.**

### **Recommendations**

**That the Forum considers the revised Strategy and gives advice to CNPA officers about any further changes that require to be made before it is presented to the Park Authority Board for approval.**

### **Background**

1. The Forum has been actively engaged in the development of an Outdoor Access Strategy for the National Park. To date, that involvement has included assistance in developing and agreeing the issues, agreeing the structure of the report and commenting on the content of the draft Strategy.
2. The consultation period ran from 14 July to 11 September and a total of 22 responses were received. These have been considered and the draft strategy has been subsequently revised to reflect a number of valuable suggestions that were made.
3. In general the feedback from consultees positive with a number of bodies referring to the fact that it was clear, logical and provided a good sense of how the issues should be addressed. A number of parties suggested it should be promoted more widely as an example of good practice. There were of course critical comments. It was suggested that the Strategy was too wordy, that there were gaps or omissions and that the flow through the Strategy to the Action Plan could be improved

### **Issues**

4. The revised strategy is attached at Paper Two Annex 1 and the main changes that have been made are as follows:-
  - a) A clearer link between the National Park Plan's priorities for action and the priorities identified within the Outdoor Access Strategy;
  - b) More transparency between the Action Themes identified in Section 4 and the Action Plan shown in Section 7;
  - c) More effective demonstration of the issues identified being reflected in the subsequent policies, both within Section 4 and in the Action Areas; and
  - d) More detail provided on access priorities in each of the Action Areas.

### **Next steps**

5. The Forum's views will be considered in determining any further revisions that may be required. Thereafter, the Strategy will be presented to the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board for their approval. The timing of this will be dependant on when the National Park Plan is approved by the Board, as any changes to the Park Plan may have an impact on the content of the Outdoor access Strategy. It is currently anticipated that the Strategy will be presented to the Board for approval in February 2007. It will then be printed and circulated more widely to partners.

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