

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

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**FOR DECISION**

**Title: ADOPTION OF THE PLACE PRINCIPLE**

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**Purpose:**

To seek the Board's agreement to adopt the Place Principle as set out at paragraph 3.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Board approves the adoption of the Place Principle**

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## ADOPTION OF THE PLACE PRINCIPLE – FOR DECISION

### Background and Context

1. In August 2019 the cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government wrote to a range of public bodies across Scotland encouraging them to adopt the Place Principle. The purpose of this initiative is to overcome organisational and sectoral boundaries, encourage better collaboration between organisations, better community involvement and to improve the impact of combined energy, resources and investment.
2. The Place Principle was developed by Scottish Government's partners in the public and private sectors, the third sector and in communities to help them develop a clear vision for their place.
3. According to Scottish Government Guidance<sup>1</sup>, the Place Principle says:
  - a) *We recognise that:*
    - i. *Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and is at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them.*
    - ii. *A more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives.*
  - b) *The Principle requests that: All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.*
  - c) *We commit to taking: A collaborative, place-based approach with a shared purpose to support a clear way forward for all services, assets and investments which will maximise the impact of their combined resources.*
4. Associated with the Place Principle the Scottish Government and partners have also created the Place Standard which is a tool to analyse and assess how places work. The purpose is to maximize the potential of the physical and social environment to support health, wellbeing and a high quality of life. In order to achieve this, it provides a framework for:
  - a) evaluation and improvement of new and existing places;
  - b) structured conversations through which communities, the public sector, private sector and third sector work together to deliver high quality places;

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.scot/publications/place-principle-introduction](http://www.gov.scot/publications/place-principle-introduction)

- c) consistency across Scotland in the delivery of high quality, sustainable places that promote community wellbeing, and more positive environmental impacts;
  - d) maximization of the contribution of place to reducing health inequalities; and
  - e) consideration of social aspects of place alongside physical infrastructure.
5. Within the next few months, the Scottish Government is due to launch a new website about Place and will make available further tools, guidelines and case studies.

### **Current practice in the CNPA**

6. In many ways the thinking behind the Place Principle is reflected in the justification for designating the Cairngorms National Park – the Park created a new place-based management focus that was considered necessary to manage the area’s complex special management needs in a more holistic way. The requirement on National Park Authorities to produce National Park Partnership Plans is also, fundamentally, an approach in line with the Place Principle.
7. The National Park Authority has led and encouraged place-based planning and project delivery in many other elements of our work, for example:
- a) CNPA has worked with Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and the Marr Area Partnership to encourage communities to prepare community action plans across the Park. More recently the Place Standard tool has been used to refresh and stimulate this work.
  - b) The Capercaillie Project, funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, has been taking a place-based approach to Capercaillie conservation and community involvement in the Carrbridge pilot exercise.
  - c) The Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Project which is due to be complete in September 2020 aims to improve the landscape of a particular place by delivering 20 projects, all within Moray, and mostly on the Crown Estate. The project was founded in a place-based Regeneration Strategy that was prepared for the Tomintoul and Glenlivet area in 2011.
  - d) The concept of place has been embedded in the forthcoming Cairngorms Local Development Plan 2020 which includes community profiles and policies, (such as those covering design and place-making) that encourage a place-based approach to development.

### **Next Steps**

8. If the recommendation is approved, staff will write to Ministers to confirm that Place Principle has been adopted.
9. The CNPA already has considerable experience of taking a place-based approach. There are opportunities to share this experience more widely through case studies and examples.

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**Formal Board Paper 4 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

10. Looking forwards, the new planning legislation will provide further opportunities through encouraging communities to lead on preparing their own Local Place Plans.

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