



For Decision

Title: Cairngorms National Park Authority – Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027

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Purpose

1. This paper presents the Corporate Plan for 2023 – 2027. The Corporate Plan has been developed in the context of the Ministerial approved National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027.
2. It contains the strategic priorities for the Cairngorms National Park Authority with the annual detail contained within the operational plan for the Park Authority.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- a) Approve the CNPA Corporate Plan for 2023 - 2027 for submission to Scottish Government.

Strategic context

3. Scotland's National Parks have four aims set out by the Scottish Parliament.
 - a) To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
 - b) To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;
 - c) To promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public;
 - d) To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.
4. The purpose of a National Park Authority is also set out by the Scottish Parliament as being to ensure that the four aims are "collectively achieved in relation to the National Park in a coordinated way".



5. The Corporate Plan sets out how the Park Authority will help to deliver the recently approved National Park Partnership Plan and will also continue to strive to be 'the best small public body in Scotland'
6. Overall the Park Authority wants to be innovative, quick to act and empower staff to deliver the strategies that are put in place by the Board.

Strategic policy consideration

7. The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2023-2027, which was approved by Ministers in August 2022, provides the overall guide for strategic alignment between public agencies within the Park. This Corporate Plan period will cover up to the end of the current NPPP and the development of the next one.
8. The Corporate Plan sets out the contribution the CNPA will make over the next 4 years to the implementation of that Plan, using our grant-in-aid from the Scottish Government and other funding sources.
9. Presently the three most significant funding sources in addition to grant-in-aid are NLHF support for Heritage Horizons, Cairngorms 20230, Peatland Action funding and Nature Restoration funding. The Park Authority will continue to seek additional funding sources to deliver the actions in the National Park Partnership Plan.
10. The delivery of both the National Park Partnership Plan and the Corporate Plan will be reliant on close partnership working and using core funding to lever additional resources into the Cairngorms.

Finance

11. The figures for 2023/24 set out in the Corporate Plan are based on the Grant-In-Aid figures from Scottish Government for that year. The figures in the Corporate Plan for future years are based on information provided in the most recent spending review but are set annually by Scottish Government. Annual operational plans will confirm the annual budget each year and set out the priorities for the specific financial year.



Strategic risk management

12. The Strategic Risk Register for the CNPA will be updated to reflect the new Corporate Plan and will be discussed and agreed by the Audit & Risk Committee.

Success measures

13. A suite of indicators are in place for the National Park Partnership Plan and will be reported on annually. In addition, the Corporate Plan sets out the corporate service indicators that will be reported on as well.

Next Steps

14. Subject to Board approval the Corporate Plan will be 'designed up' and will then be submitted to the Scottish Government for formal approval.

Supporting information

Annex 1 - Draft Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027