Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum

National Park Partnership Plan 2027 – 2032

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Purpose

LOAF Members are asked to consider draft Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) currently available for public consultation and provide advice on the missions, activities and actions.

Background

The National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) sets out how all those with responsibility for the National Park will co-ordinate their work to tackle the most important issues.

The draft National Park Partnership Plan identifies the missions for the National Park that will support the delivery of the long-term vision. That vision continues to be: "An outstanding National Park, enjoyed and valued by everyone, where nature and people thrive together".

The draft plan is arranged in three missions:
a) Mission one: nature and climate resilience
b) Mission two: communities
c) Mission three: National Park for all

The formal consultation process started on 14 October 2026 and runs for 13 weeks to 13 January 2027. The Park Authority Board will discuss the consultation responses in February 2027, and a final version of the Plan will be taken to the Board on 19 March 2027 alongside the consultation report. Once approved by the Park Authority Board it will be submitted to Scottish Government for final agreement by Scottish Ministers.

Actions of Note

Members are advised that the following actions that are part of Mission three: National Park for all will be of relevance to the work of the LOAF:

- Review the Active Cairngorms Action Plan in 2028.
- Complete the extension of Deeside Way to Braemar by 2030.
- Enhance the accessibility and condition of the Speyside Way and improve options for cycling.
- Develop path link from Loch Morlich to Cairngorm Mountain.
- Disturbance of key species and recreational impacts are reduced through advice from rangers, signage, selective promotion of routes and targeted initiatives.
- Ensure young people in and around the Cairngorms are educated about the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) through ranger activity in schools.
- Consider where recreation routes may provide fire breaks where appropriate.