



**Cairngorms**  
National Park Authority

Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'  
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

Formal Board Paper 1 Annex 1.1

13 March 2026

# Paper 1

# Annex 1.1



**Cairngorms**  
National Park Authority  
Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'  
**Mhonaidh Ruaidh**

Overarching topics

# Schedule 1: Plan outcomes

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan: Evidence Report

March 2026





# Schedule 1: Plan outcomes

March 2026

## Schedule contents

Requirements addressed in this schedule	2
Links to evidence	3
Summary of evidence	5
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	6
National Performance Framework	7
National Planning Framework 4	8
Local outcome improvement plans	12
National Park aims	13
Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill	13
Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027	15
Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2027 – 2032	20
Local place plans	20
Community action plans	21
Evidence gaps	22
Summary of stakeholder engagement	22
Summary of implications for Proposed Plan	22
Statements of agreement	23
Statements of dispute	26



## Requirements addressed in this schedule

Table 1 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, (CNPA003) regarding the issue addressed in this schedule.

Section	Requirement
Section 3ZA(1)	The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest.
Section 3ZA(2)	Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), anything which contributes to sustainable development, or achieves the national outcomes (within the meaning of Part 1 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015), is to be considered as being in the long-term public interest.
Section 4ZB(2)	In exercising their functions of preparing, revising or amending a local development plan, a planning authority must have regard to their adopted regional spatial strategy.
Section 16(2)(a)	To take into account— <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. the National Planning Framework and</li><li>ii. any local outcomes improvement plan (within the meaning of section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates,</li><li>iii. any registered local place plan (see schedule 19) that is for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates,</li></ul>
Section 16(2)(b)	Are to have regard to such information and considerations as may be prescribed,
Section 16(2)(c)	May have regard to such other information and considerations as appear to them to be relevant.
Section 16B(3)(e)	Include such other matters as are prescribed.
Section 16B(4)(c)	The evidence report is also to include a statement on the extent to which the views expressed under paragraphs (a) and (b) have been taken into account in the report.
Section 264A	In the exercise, with respect to any land in a National Park, of any power under the planning Acts, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the adopted National Park Plan.



Table 2 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684), regarding the issue addressed in this schedule.

Section	Requirement
Regulation 9(2)(a)	Any regional spatial strategy prepared under section 4ZA of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the local development plan area or an area adjoining the local development plan area.

## Links to evidence

### International documents

- CNPA002 - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

### Legislation

- CNPA003 - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- CNPA004 - National Park (Scotland) Act 2000
- CNPA005 - Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
- CNPA006 - Town and Country Planning (Grounds for Declining to Follow Recommendations) (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- CNPA634 - Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill as passed
- CNPA684 - Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023

### National documents

- CNPA007 - National Performance Framework
- CNPA008 - National Planning Framework 4
- CNPA009 - Local development planning guidance

### National Park Authority documents

- CNPA010 - Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022
- CNPA012 - Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 Formal Board Paper 2 10 June 2022
- CNPA013 - National Park Partnership Plan consultation report
- CNPA635 - National Park Partnership Plan 2027 – 2032 Timetable
- CNPA1329 - Cairngorms Agricultural Advisory Forum Minutes November 2025
- CNPA1341 - Topic: Plan outcomes - engagement version



## Local authority documents

- CNPA636 - Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027
- CNPA637 - Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030
- CNPA638 - Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 – 2027
- CNPA639 - Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan v2
- CNPA640 - Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022 – 2032

## Community action plans

- CNPA011 - Community action plans
- CNPA063 - Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024
- CNPA064 - Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA065 – Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA066 - Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA119 - Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023
- CNPA121 - Braemar Community Action Plan 2017
- CNPA122 - Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA123 - Cromdale and Advie Community Action Plan 2013
- CNPA125 - Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking forward to 2030
- CNPA127 - Kincaig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA129 - Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA130 - Mount Blair Community Action Plan 2013 – 2018
- CNPA131 - Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA132 - Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA133 - Strathdon Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA331 - Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA374 - Boat of Garten Action Plan: Looking to 2030

## Consultation material

- CNPA678 - Killiecrankie and Vicinity Community Council Plan Outcomes survey response
- CNPA679 - Mar Estate Plan Outcomes survey response
- CNPA680 - Victor Jordan Plan outcomes survey response
- CNPA1340 - Evidence report engagement responses



## Summary of evidence

Local development plans are required to focus on the outcomes that they deliver for people and places. This includes contributing to sustainable development, and the achievement of the National Performance Framework National Outcomes (CNPA007). As part of a plan-led approach they are also central to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (CNPA002). They must also take account of National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008), the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy, any local outcome improvement plans, and any registered local place plans for the area they cover.

Strategic direction within the National Park is also provided by the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 (CNPA010), which is the adopted national park plan as defined by the National Park (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004). The Partnership Plan sets out the vision and over-arching strategy for managing the National Park, as well as identifying outcomes, priorities for action and an overall strategic policy framework. Furthermore, the Partnership Plan acts as the Regional Spatial Strategy for the National Park, which is intended to address strategic development and issues.

The National Park (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004) states that a National Park authority must, in exercising functions so far as affecting a National Park, have regard to the adopted national park plan. This is supported in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003) which states that in the exercise, with respect to any land in a National Park, of any power under the planning acts, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the adopted national park plan. These functions and powers include the preparation, adoption, and implementation of its local development plan. More specifically, Scottish Government's local development planning guidance (paragraph 149) (CNPA009) states that local development plans for National Parks should look to align with the adopted national park plan<sup>1</sup>. The Partnership Plan therefore provides the strategic context for the Local Development Plan.

The vision, outcomes and spatial strategy for the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan will therefore be those of the National Park Partnership Plan

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<sup>1</sup> Inconsistency with any adopted national park plan is also one of the circumstances where a planning authority may decline to follow a recommendation within an examination report on a proposed plan according to the Town and Country Planning (Grounds for Declining to Follow Recommendations) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (CNPA006).



(CNPA010), which represent the local expression of international and national outcomes and priorities.

This schedule provides information on the various tiers of international, national, and local policy that influence the local development plan, with a focus on the overarching strategic and outcome-based goals and requirements. These are considered in more detail in the topic specific schedules of the Evidence Report.

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (CNPA002), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These are to:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.



- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

In Scotland, these outcomes are delivered through the National Performance Framework.

## National Performance Framework

The National Performance Framework (CNPA007) sets out Scottish Government's aims for the whole of Scotland to:

- Create a more successful country.
- Give opportunities to all people living in Scotland.
- Increase the wellbeing of people living in Scotland.
- Create sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental, and social progress.

To help achieve this, the framework sets out 15 National Outcomes that the public sector must collectively deliver (Figure 1). These outcomes are that people:

- Grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.
- Live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- Are creative and their vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.
- Have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive, and sustainable economy.
- Are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.
- Value, enjoy, protect, and enhance their environment.
- Have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
- Are healthy and active.
- Respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
- Are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.
- Tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth, and power more equally.

These outcomes are directly linked to Scottish Government's response to addressing the United Nations Sustainable Goals and are Scotland's way to localise those goals.



Figure 1 National Performance Framework’s National Outcomes (CNPA007).

## National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) is the national spatial strategy for Scotland. It sets out Scotland’s spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments, and national planning policy. It will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (CNPA002), as well as Scotland’s national outcomes (CNPA007). National Planning Framework 4 is part of the statutory development plan (Figure 2). This means that for any place in Scotland, the statutory development plan consists of National Planning Framework 4, which covers the whole country, and the Local Development Plan for the planning authority area where the place is.

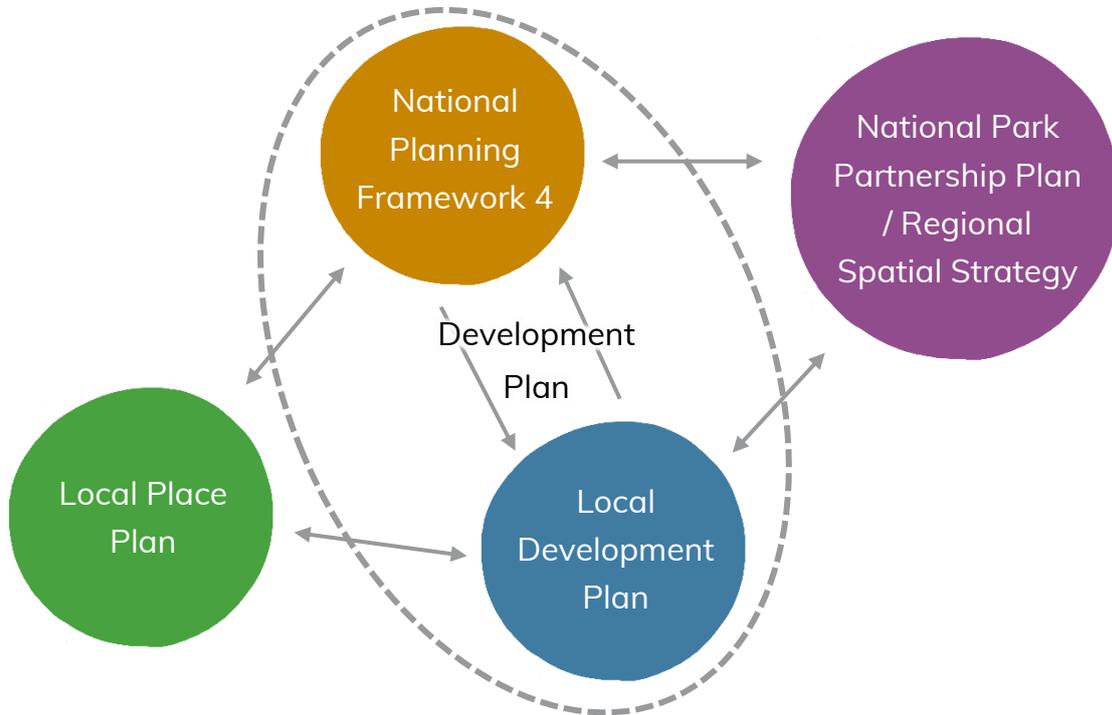


Figure 2 The Scottish Statutory Development Plan as it applies in the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA008).

National Planning Framework 4 sets out six overarching spatial principles on which to plan the future:

- Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- Conserving and recycling assets. We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure, and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.
- Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work, and leisure locally.
- Compact urban growth. We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure, and biodiversity.
- Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.



These principles will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (CNPA002) and Scotland's national outcomes (CNPA007).

Scottish Government want Scotland's future places to work for everyone. Therefore, rather than compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social, and economic objectives, National Planning Framework 4 is intended to be an integrated strategy to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development. Therefore, by applying the spatial principles National Planning Framework 4 will support the planning and delivery of:

- Sustainable places, where we reduce emissions, restore, and better connect biodiversity.
- Liveable places, where we can all live better, healthier lives.
- Productive places, where we have a greener, fairer, and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

It is intended that National Planning Framework 4's national spatial strategy will be taken forward in different ways across Scotland, reflecting the diverse character, assets, and challenges of its places. To guide this, National Planning Framework 4 has identified regional spatial priorities for five broad regions of Scotland which will inform the preparation of regional spatial strategies and local development plans by planning authorities.

The regional spatial priorities also include eighteen national developments to support the national spatial strategy, including single large-scale projects and networks of several smaller scale proposals that are collectively nationally significant. National developments will be a focus for delivery, as well as exemplars of the Place Principle, placemaking and a Community Wealth Building approach to economic development. National Planning Framework 4 states that regional spatial strategies and local development plans should identify and support national developments which are relevant to their areas.

The Cairngorms National Park sits within the North region (Figure 3). It is described as 'a national asset with internationally significant habitats and landscapes' and that it '...is bringing together conservation, the visitor experience and rural development to provide benefits that extend well beyond the park boundary'.

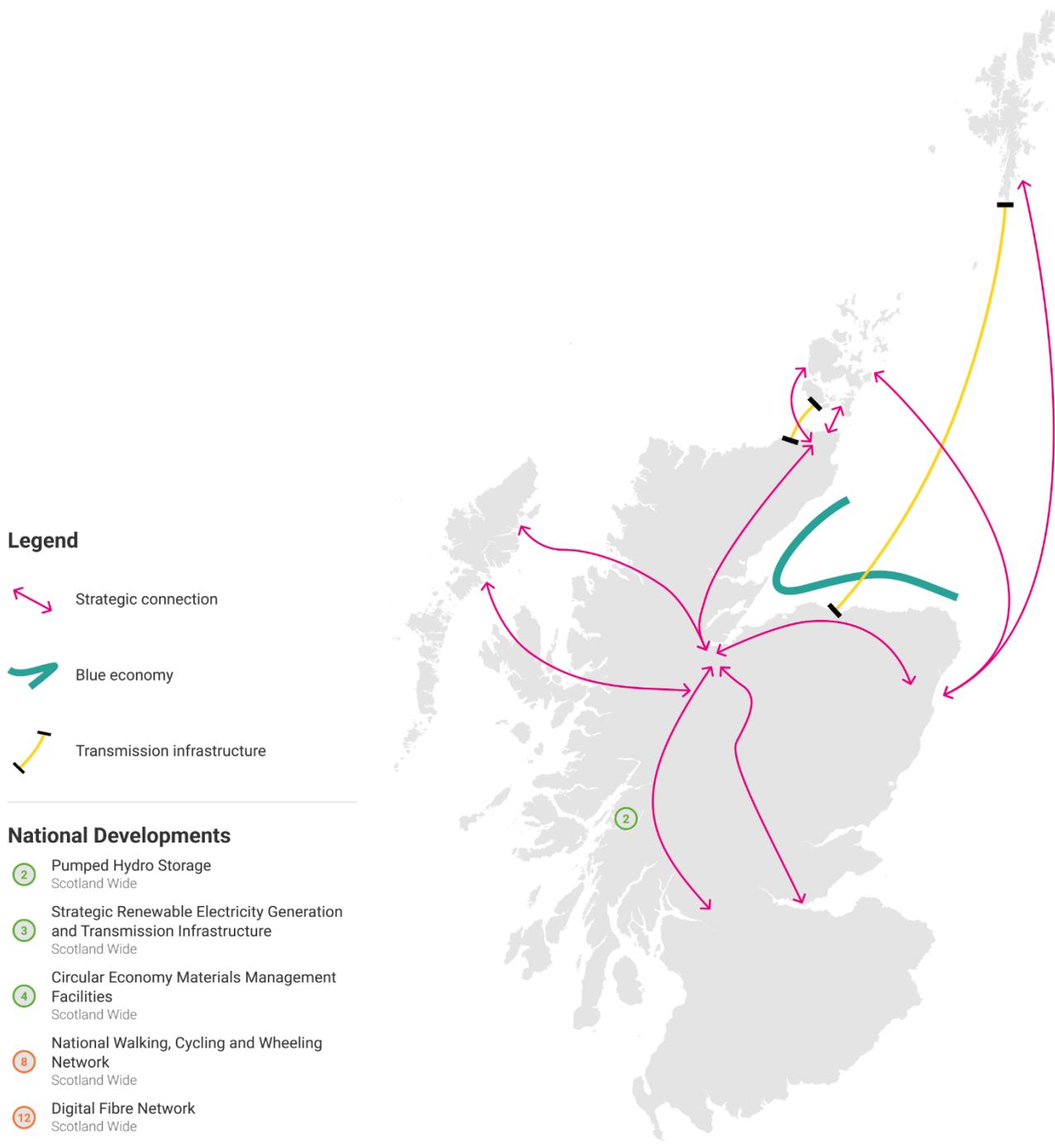


Figure 3 Strategic diagram for the north region from National Planning Framework 4 (page 27) (CNPA008).

The region's spatial properties highlight the strong contribution the area can make towards meeting Scottish Government's ambition for a net zero and nature positive country by demonstrating how natural assets can be managed and used to secure a more sustainable future. These are:



- To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.
- To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development by making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

National Framework 4 states that the following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- Pumped Hydro Storage
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
- Circular Economy Material Management Facilities
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
- Digital Fibre Network

Further detail about the priorities for the area is contained in Annex C, while further details of national developments are contained in Annex B, of National Planning Framework 4.

## **Local outcome improvement plans**

According to Scottish Government's local development planning guidance (CNPA009), local development plans should explain how the local outcome improvement plans vision relates to development and land use so that their alignment is strong.

Accordingly, the guidance states that there is no need for a local development plan to provide a separate vision statement. This will avoid creating any potential duplication or confusion. However, as the Cairngorms National Park Authority is not a local authority, it does not have a single local outcome improvement plan to make reference to, rather it has five, namely:

- Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027 (CNPA636)
- Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030 (CNPA637)
- Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 – 2027 (CNPA638)
- Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan v2 (CNPA639)
- Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2022 – 2032 (CNPA640)



It is not therefore possible to derive a vision statement from these. Instead, as set out in this schedule (see page 15), the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (CNPA010) is the source of the vision for the local development plan. The local development plan may however support delivery of the priorities of local outcome improvement plans. These are set out within the relevant topic-base schedules.

## National Park aims

The National Park has four distinct aims as set out in Section 1( of The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000) (CNPA004):

- 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.

These aims are to be pursued collectively. However, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim (as set out in Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act). This helps ensure conservation of the natural and cultural heritage underpins the economic, social and recreation value of the Cairngorms National Park. This approach is embedded in the National Park Partnership Plan and all other decision-making tools, including the Local Development Plan, adopted by the Park Authority.

## Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

The Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634) was introduced by the Scottish Government on 19 February 2025 and was passed following its final reading on 29 January 2026. The Bill aims to support the protection and restoration of Scotland's natural environment, and to assist the delivery of the Scottish Government's net zero and biodiversity objectives. Part 3 of the Bill introduces a number of amendments to the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA007), with those relevant to the preparation of the local development plan outlined here.

Section 5 of the Bill amends Section 1 of the Act to update the National Park aims:

- a) To conserve and enhance the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- b) To promote sustainable management and use of the area's natural resources.
- c) To promote public understanding and enjoyment of the area's natural and cultural heritage.



- d) To promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development of the area's communities.

The Bill adds an additional subsection to Section 1 to provide clarity in the implementation of the aims, which states that 'Without limit to the generality of subsection (1), those aims include:

- a) Restoring and regenerating biodiversity in the area,
- b) Mitigating and adapting to climate change,
- c) Supporting access to and within the area,
- d) Encouraging recreation in the area,
- (da) Encouraging sustainable and regenerative agriculture,
- e) Promoting sustainable tourism and visitor management, and
- f) Promoting sustainable economic growth and development activity which—
  - i. Improves the health and wellbeing of individuals who visit, live and work in the area, and
  - ii. Supports the prosperity of communities in the area, including in relation to the provision of housing for people to live and work in the area.'

The Bill also introduces some changes to the duties of public bodies and office holders in exercising functions so far as affecting a National Park:

- Section 5 amends Section 1 of the Act, introducing a duty that all public bodies or office holders must 'have regard to the National Park aims'.
- Section 7 amends Section 14 of the Act, placing a duty on all public bodies to 'facilitate the implementation' of National Park Plans<sup>2</sup>. This is a significant strengthening of the original wording, which previously only placed a duty to 'have regard'.

Public bodies and office holders include Scottish Ministers, national park authorities, local authorities and the key agencies.

The Bill will gain Royal Assent during the preparation of the local development plan. The key implications coming from it relate to the duties placed on public bodies and office holders with regard to the pursuit of the National Park aims and the implementation of the National Park Partnership Plan. In particular, the greater strength given to the delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan's outcomes.

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<sup>2</sup> Which in the Cairngorms National Park is the National Park Partnership Plan (CNPA010). See pages 14 and 18 for further information.



## **Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027**

The National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 (CNPA010) is the overarching management plan for the Cairngorms National Park and was approved by Scottish Ministers and adopted in August 2022 (CNPA012). It sets out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the National Park, as well as identifying outcomes, priorities for action and an overall strategic policy framework. The Partnership Plan's long-term vision, is:

'An outstanding National Park, enjoyed and valued by everyone, where nature and people thrive together.'

This vision is to be delivered through the Partnership Plan's three overarching outcomes to be achieved by 2045 (the year Scottish Government has committed to achieving net zero):

- Outcome for Nature – A carbon negative and biodiversity rich National Park with better functioning, better connected and more resilient ecosystems.
- Outcome for People – A wellbeing economy that works for all the people of the Cairngorms.
- Outcome for Place – A place that people want to live in, work in and visit that works for all.

The outcome for nature aims to create a national park where:

- Moorland is more diverse – moorland is more structurally diverse, providing a greater range of habitats for plants, insects, birds, and mammals, and supporting a thriving rural economy.
- Peatlands are restored – thousands of hectares of peatland have been restored, trapping CO<sub>2</sub>, aiding species recovery, improving water quality and reducing flooding risk.
- Species are recovering – species are recovering within a network of connected habitats and are less reliant on targeted conservation activity.
- Woodland is expanding – woodlands are larger and more natural, delivering benefits for biodiversity, carbon storage, water quality and flood mitigation.
- Rivers are reconnected – rivers have been restored and reconnected to create thriving wetlands and floodplains, helping mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Farming is carbon neutral – farming is carbon neutral or carbon negative, helping combat climate change, enhance species diversity, and provide a sustainable source of food.



The outcome for people aims to create a national park where:

- Communities are empowered – residents are more involved in the way land is managed, with the number of community-owned or managed assets and social enterprises increasing.
- Green jobs are growing – there has been a significant increase in the number of green jobs, with skills and training opportunities available for people to meet the growing demand.
- Volunteering is on the rise – hundreds of volunteers are helping look after the landscape of the National Park, bringing benefits for nature and for their own health and wellbeing.
- Wellbeing comes first – communities are healthier, happier, and more resilient, benefiting from a diverse local economy that puts wellbeing and the environment first.
- The Cairngorms is a Park for All – the Cairngorms is a true 'Park for All', welcoming and supporting people from more diverse backgrounds to live, work and visit here.
- Young people stay and thrive – the proportion of young and working-age people has stabilised and begun to increase, supporting thriving communities and a robust economy.

The outcome for place aims to create a national park where:

- Housing is more affordable – more people have access to affordable housing in the National Park and the proportion of second homes, vacant properties and holiday lets has decreased.
- Communities are connected – communities across the National Park are better connected by a network of fully accessible paths and cycle routes, improving people's health and wellbeing.
- Cultural heritage is celebrated – the area's rich cultural heritage is cared for and celebrated in communities across the Cairngorms, from events and interpretation to storytelling and music.
- Transport is more sustainable – people increasingly choose to leave their car at home, with residents and visitors being more active and making regular use of low and zero carbon transport.
- Visitor facilities are first class – visitors choose to stay longer and travel at different times of year, supported by improved infrastructure and high-quality ranger services.

These outcomes are supported by a series of long-term objectives and key targets or indicators of progress. Each of these targets is supported by a set of actions and policies for the five years between 2022 – 2027.





- Grantown-on-Spey
- Kingussie
- Newtonmore

In addition to the Strategic Settlements, the spatial strategy also identifies Intermediate Settlements and Rural Settlements. Intermediate Settlements are to accommodate development to meet wider needs, albeit at a more modest scale than within the Strategic Settlements, while development in Rural Settlements is primarily aimed at meeting local need. These settlements are as follows:

#### **Intermediate Settlements**

- Blair Atholl
- Boat of Garten
- Braemar
- Carrbridge
- Cromdale
- Dulnain Bridge
- Kincaig
- Nethy Bridge
- Tomintoul.

#### **Rural Settlements**

- Angus Glens
- Bruar and Pitagowan
- Calvine
- Dalwhinnie
- Dinnet
- Glenlivet
- Glenmore
- Glenshee
- Insh
- Inverdrue and Coylumbridge
- Killiecrankie
- Laggan
- Strathdon.

Specific matters relating to the spatial strategy, for example housing, transport, education and healthcare, are covered within their relevant schedules.

In accordance with Section 264A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003), and Sections 1 and 14 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004) (as amended by the Natural Environment Bill (CNPA634)), the Local Development Plan will need to align with the Partnership Plan. The vision, outcomes and spatial strategy for the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan are therefore those of the National Park Partnership Plan. Public bodies and office holders, including Scottish Ministers, the National Park Authority, local authorities and key agencies, will have a duty to facilitate the implementation of these, with the local development plan acting as one of the key delivery mechanisms.



Figure 5 Hierarchy of Park Authority plans as set out in the National Park Partnership Plan 2022 (CNPA010).



## **Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2027 – 2032**

The preparation of the local development will occur concurrently with the preparation of the next Partnership Plan. The Park Authority intends to adopt the next Partnership Plan prior to the adoption of the Local Development Plan. This will allow the new Partnership Plan and the local development plan to be properly integrated.

The Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 sets out a long-term vision. Therefore, it is intended that the new Partnership Plan will have the same vision and overarching outcomes. It is not intended that the new Partnership Plan will be a departure from the existing one to any significant degree. Rather, it will be a refinement of the existing policy approach, designed to reflect the provisions of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill, once it gains Royal Assent.

The timetable for preparing the next Partnership Plan is set out within Park Authority Board Paper 4, 26 September 2025 (CNPA635):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Formal-board-meeting-paper-4-Partnership-Plan-timetable-26-September-2025.pdf>

### **Local place plans**

Local place plans were introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (CNPA005), which contains a new right for communities to produce their own plans as part of the new Scottish planning system. Local place plans contain a community's proposals for the development and use of land and provide a new opportunity for communities to feed into the planning system with ideas and proposals.

Local place plans are community-led setting out proposals for the development and use of land. They must have regard to National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008), any local development plan which covers the same area, and any locality plan which covers the same area. Within the National Park, they will also need to align with the National Park Partnership Plan. Local place plans are not part of the statutory development plan but have an important role to play in informing local development plans (Figure 2).

The Park authority has a duty to maintain a register of all validated local place plans. There are currently no validated local place plans within the National Park.



Details on how the Park Authority invited local communities to prepare local place plans, and what assistance they have provided, is set out within the Statement of engagement (see page xx).

## Community action plans

Community action planning is a process through which communities have the opportunity to identify their own priorities and tackle the issues which are important to them. Since 2008, eighteen communities in the National Park have produced a Community Action Plan. These are reviewed on a five yearly basis with the support of the local Community Development Organisation. These are:

- Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore (CNPA063)
- Ballater and Crathie (CNPA119)
- Blair Atholl (CNPA064)
- Boat-of-Garten (CNPA374)
- Braemar (CNPA121)
- Carrbridge (CNPA122)
- Cromdale and Advie (CNPA123)
- Dalwhinnie (CNPA125)
- Dulnain Bridge (CNPA331)
- Glenshee and Mount Blair (CNPA130)
- Grantown-on-Spey (CNPA065)
- Kincaig and locality (CNPA127)
- Kingussie (CNPA066)
- Laggan (CNPA129)
- Nethy Bridge (CNPA131)
- Newtonmore (CNPA132)
- Strathdon (CNPA133)

Like local place plans, community action plans are not part of the statutory development plan. However, where action plans identify priorities with a spatial dimension, for example priorities relating to housing, public facilities, business growth, use of land or buildings, roads, flooding, energy, recreation, paths, and other infrastructure which impact on people, the local development plan will look to take them into account in its preparation.



Community action plans in the Cairngorms National Park can be viewed on the Park Authority's website (CNPA011):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/our-work/community-action-planning>

## Evidence gaps

There are no identified evidence gaps in this schedule.

## Summary of stakeholder engagement

While not part of the engagement specifically on the Evidence Report, significant engagement was carried out as part of the preparation of the National Park Partnership Plan, including a formal consultation between 23 September and 17 December 2021. Therefore, significant public, stakeholder and partner input went into developing its vision, outcomes and policies (CNPA013). This is relevant because of the requirement that the Local Development Plan should align with the Partnership Plan and the implication that the Local Development Plan should adopt the Partnership Plan's three overarching outcomes for nature, people, and place.

Public engagement on this schedule (see CNPA1341 for engagement version) was carried out from 10 June – 16 August 2024. Twenty four completed responses were received (CNPA1340).

## Summary of implications for Proposed Plan

Based on the available evidence and engagement with key agencies and other interested parties, the Park Authority consider this schedule to provide a sufficient evidence base on which to prepare the Proposed Plan.

The Proposed Plan needs to be prepared in accordance with:

- The four aims of the National Park as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000).
- Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act, which states that while the aims are to be pursued collectively, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4.



The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan provides strategic direction for the Local Development Plan. In accordance with Section 264A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and Sections 1 and 14 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (as amended by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill, the Local Development Plan will therefore need to align with the Partnership Plan. The vision, outcomes and spatial strategy for the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan are therefore those of the National Park Partnership Plan. Public bodies and office holders, including Scottish Ministers, the National Park Authority, local authorities and key agencies, will have a duty to facilitate the implementation of these, with the local development plan acting as one of the key delivery mechanisms.

In its preparation the Proposed Plan will take account of any:

- Validated local place plans.
- Published community action plans.

The Proposed Plan's spatial strategy and policies will need to be contribute towards delivering:

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- The National Performance Framework's 15 National Outcomes.
- National Planning Framework 4's priorities for the North region.

## Statements of agreement

The following people / organisations agree that the correct legislation, plans, policies and guidance that direct the outcomes for the next Local Development Plan have been identified:

- Historic Environment Scotland (C002)
- National Health Service Grampian (006)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (C010)
- ScotWays (C055)
- NatureScot (C004)
- Ristol Consulting Ltd (C046)
- Ann Wakeling (C069)
- Michael Cuff (C099)
- Françoise van Buuren (C082)

The following people / organisations agree that the information presented is sufficient to inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan:

- Historic Environment Scotland (C002)



- National Health Service Grampian (C006)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (C010)
- ScotWays (C055)
- NatureScot (C004)
- Ristol Consulting Ltd (C046)
- Ann Miles(C068)
- Francoise van Buuren(C082)

### **Killiecrankie, Fincastle and Tummel Community Council (C028)**

The Community Council provided broad comments that expressed (CNPA678):

- Their desire for better active travel connectivity between Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl.
- For the Park Authority to define its obligations around historic and cultural heritage.
- That new residential development should show consideration of the special characteristics, historic landscape and architectural vernacular of the geographical area

#### **Park Authority response**

The Proposed Plan should take an infrastructure first approach to development and support better connectivity within and between settlements. These matters are covered in Schedule 11: Sustainable transport and Schedule 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

The Park Authority's and Local Development Plan's obligations around historic and cultural heritage are set out within Schedule 7: Historic and cultural heritage.

Implications relating to protecting the special qualities of the National Park, including its historic landscape and architectural vernacular are set out within Schedule 6: Landscape and Schedule 7: Historic and cultural heritage.

### **Mar Estate (C048)**

Mar Estate suggest that Housing Need and Demand Assessments should be referenced in the section alongside further information on housing delivery (CNPA679).

#### **Park Authority response**

These matters are covered in Schedule 13: Housing.



## **Bark + Ride Ltd Aboyne (C034)**

Bark + Ride Ltd Aboyne highlight the need for support for Local Place Plans.

### **Park Authority response**

As highlighted in this schedule, the Park Authority has invited communities to prepare local place plans and information on the support offered to them is available on the Park Authority website.

## **ScotWays (C055)**

ScotWays suggest the following strategies and guidance be referenced:

- National Walking Strategy
- Active Travel Task Force Report

### **Park Authority response**

These documents are covered in the Schedule 11: Sustainable transport.

## **Ristol Consulting Ltd (C046)**

Ristol Consulting Ltd would welcome exploring through the preparation of the new Local development plan how the rural economy can accelerate climate adaptation and the transition to net zero through an integrated spatial strategy for

- Generating, storing and distributing of clean energy.
- Delivering local energy neighbourhoods.
- Supporting the decarbonisation of transport, and in particular heavy duty vehicles.
- Enabling a National Park wide role out of mobility hubs for affordable and accessible access to a range of transport services.

Ristol Consulting Ltd also write that an initiative in the Local Development Plan to deliver affordable homes throughout the National Park would be invaluable to address, at the necessary scale and pace, the housing challenge faced by local communities, businesses and organisations. They suggest that the scope could cover:

- Mapping demand / need.
- Exploring approaches to site identification and delivery routes, particularly custom and self-build and implementation.
- The role of integrated National Park wide policies and initiatives across the construction supply chain to enable new, high performance and affordable homes to be delivered within the National Park.



### **Park Authority response**

These matters are covered in Schedule 4: Climate change, Schedule 9: Energy, Schedule 11: Sustainable transport and Schedule 13: Housing.

## **Statements of dispute**

### **Agroecosystems Ltd (C030)**

Agroecosystems Ltd believe reference to carbon neutral farming within the Partnership Plan should apply to all land management, not just farming, and that there should be support for land management businesses to thrive and adapt, not just restrictions or aims for change (carrot as well as stick).

### **Park Authority response**

While carbon neutral farming refers to farming, other land uses may also contribute to net-zero, including woodland expansion and peatland restoration. The Local Development Plan will look to support the Scottish Government's ambition to transition to net-zero through a number of means, including through National Planning Framework 4's requirement to ensure its spatial strategy will reduce emissions. These matters are covered in more detail in Schedule 4: Climate change, Schedule 5: Natural heritage and Schedule 8: Land use, soil and resources.

### **Cairngorms Crofters and Farmers Community (C035)**

Cairngorms Crofters and Farmers Community write that:

- Not enough onus has been placed on ensuring food security
- Not focus on making Crofters and farmers respected or that they live in communities that are inclusive, empowered and resilient.
- There is far too much emphasis on nature and not enough on people and place.
- The housing crisis will never resolved in any way by expanding woodland, restoring peatland, reconnecting rivers and increasing biodiversity.
- There is no mention of supporting any business other than green ones in this plan.
- There is also too much emphasis on moorland and no mention of how growing raptor numbers lead to increasing problems that affect all in the Crofting and farming community.

They also ask why land managers have to go beyond net zero in order to offset the emissions of the other businesses and all of the visitors in the National Park?

### **Park Authority response**



The Local Development Plan does not have a significant role in ensuring food security and the matter is sufficiently and proportionally covered through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Partnership Plan's outcomes.

Crofters and farmers have been directly engaged with and, where offered, the views provided have been used to inform the Evidence Report. Views will also inform preparation of the Local Development Plan. The Park Authority consider this alongside all other engagement activities, to be proportional. This direct engagement has been undertaken in a number of ways, including:

- Attending Grantown Show in 2023 and 2024.
- Strathdon Roadshow in 2025.
- Engagement with Cairngorms Agricultural Advisory Group November 2025 (CNPA1329)

A summary of all engagement is set out within the statement of engagement (see page xx).

The Park Authority does not consider there to be an imbalance between natural heritage and people and communities. The legislative and policy framework covered in this schedule, including the Park Partnership Plan's outcomes, sufficiently cover all of these matters, and the Local Development Plan needs to align with these.

Housing delivery and nature restoration are not mutually exclusive activities and the outcomes identified in this schedule seek to address both. Further information on housing delivery is set out within the Schedule 13: Housing.

This schedule does not provide details on any types of business. Details on these matters are set out in a number other schedules, including Schedule 21: Economic development, Schedule 22: Town centres and retail and Schedule 23: Tourism.

The Partnership Plan has a single outcome specifically related to moorlands and the Local Development Plan is unlikely to have a significant influence over raptor numbers. The matter, as covered in this schedule and in the context of the planning, is considered proportional. Further information on moorlands is covered in Schedule 6: Landscape, Schedule 8: Land use, soil and resources, Schedule 5: Natural heritage and Schedule 16: Blue and green infrastructure.

The Local Development Plan will look to support the Scottish Government's ambition to transition to net-zero through a number of means, including through National Planning



Framework 4's requirement to ensure its spatial strategy will reduce emissions. Further information is set out within Schedule 4: Climate change.

### **Ristol Consulting Ltd (C046)**

Ristol Consulting Ltd suggest that the scope of the evidence report could cover:

- Exploring approaches to site identification and delivery routes, particularly custom and self-build and implementation.
- The role of integrated National Park wide policies and initiatives across the construction supply chain to enable new, high performance and affordable homes to be delivered within the National Park.

#### **Park Authority response**

Housing matters are covered in detail in Schedule 13: Housing. However, the Park Authority consider these suggestions to be outside the scope of the Evidence Report and that they are not proportionate in nature. There will however be further opportunities to explore options for delivery in the call for sites and ideas consultation.

### **Stuart MacKellaig (C109)**

Stuart MacKellaig states that this schedule of the Evidence Report is too generalised to be effective or is not meant to directly change the immediate challenges facing the rural communities of the Highlands and Islands.

#### **Park Authority response**

The Evidence Report is intended to inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan. It is not a policy document in itself. The Park Authority consider the information presented within this schedule to be proportional, and the other schedules, to be sufficient.

### **Marcelle Touw (C095)**

Marcelle Touw is concerned that nature conservation and cultural heritage are not covered in sufficient detail.

#### **Park Authority response**

These matters are covered proportionally in this schedule, while further information is presented in Schedule 5: Natural heritage, Schedule 6: Landscape and Schedule 7: Historic and cultural heritage.



## **Deirdre Falconer (C077)**

Deirdre Falconer is of the opinion that there is too much emphasis on conserving and enhancing the natural heritage and reaching net zero and not enough focus on the people.

### **Park Authority response**

The local development plan needs to ensure that development does not have a significant adverse effect on the natural heritage of the National Park. It must also align with National Planning Framework 4 and the Park Partnership Plan's ambition to transition to net-zero. Further information is covered in Schedule 4: Climate change, Schedule 5: Natural heritage and Schedule 16: Blue and green infrastructure.

The Park Authority does not agree that insufficient focus is given to the people and communities of the National Park in the Evidence Report.

## **Scotways (C055)**

Scotways suggest that the reopening of the Dalwhinnie level crossing for active travel use by the public is an important discrete outcome for the new Local Development Plan to help meet the overall Place Outcome that 'Communities are connected'.

### **Park Authority response**

The Park Authority consider the matter of the Dalwhinnie level crossing to be too detailed to be added to the overarching outcomes of the Local Development Plan. Broader matters relating to transport are covered in Schedule 11: Sustainable transport.

## **Mar Estate (C048)**

Marr Estate do not agree with the following Partnership Plan outcome (CNPA679):

- Housing is more affordable – more people have access to affordable housing in the National Park and the proportion of second homes, vacant properties and holiday lets has decreased.

They request that it be amended in the Local Development Plan because ...'it needs to be recognised that holiday lets are essential to the tourism economy in villages' and '...it also needs to be recognised that so called second homes in Braemar are often owned by Braemar people who split their time between places of work and the village. These people are an important part of the village community and economy'.



### **Park Authority response**

The Local Development Plan does not offer an opportunity to amend the National Park Partnership Plan. These matters have already been consulted on and the Partnership Plan was adopted in 2022. As set out within the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and Scottish Government's local development planning guidance, the Local Development Plan should align with the adopted Partnership Plan. Matters relating to affordable housing are covered in Schedule 13: Housing.

### **Victor Jordan (C113)**

Victor Jordan (CNPA680) commented on the Partnership Plan outcome of increasing woodland, stating that he agrees that woodland may in some situations, such as hillsides, mitigate flooding by reducing the extent to which the water runs off the hill. However, he states woodland on haughs, as has recently been planted at Ballater, will, by retaining water in the haughs, reduce the flood storage capacity of the haugh.

### **Park Authority response**

The Local Development Plan does not offer an opportunity to amend the National Park Partnership Plan. These matters have already been consulted on and the Partnership Plan was adopted in 2022. As set out within the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and Scottish Government's local development planning guidance, the Local Development Plan should align with the adopted Partnership Plan.

Matters relating to woodland expansion are covered in Schedule 5: Natural Heritage and Schedule 16: Blue and green infrastructure. Matters relating to natural flood management, are covered in Schedule 19: Flood Risk and water management.