

ANGUS COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

CAIRNGORMS ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2014-2017

This report provides information on the Cairngorm National Park Strategy 2014-2017.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Cairngorms Economic Forum (CEF) was established in March 2013 to oversee the development and delivery of an Economic Strategy for the Cairngorms National Park. The Forum is made up of representatives from the private and public sectors and is managed by the Cairngorms Business Partnership. More information can be found online at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/live-work/cairngorms-economic-forum>. Council officers already work with officers of the National Park in areas such as transportation, planning, sustainability, tourism and digital connectivity and Cllr Jeannette Gaul is the Angus Council elected member representation on the Park Board.
- 1.2 The Chair of the CEF, David Fraser, has written to Angus Council to ask the Council to endorse the strategy. The final Strategy is attached.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Within the Park area, economic profiles vary by locality and it was agreed that to ensure the Strategy remained relevant throughout the Park, it was kept as a high level document that took account of Local Authority strategies and priorities where possible.
- 2.2 The Park's natural resources and landscapes which form a range of habitats are key Park assets and the need to maintain and protect an Action Plan has been produced to support delivery of the 6 priority themes which are very similar to those within the Angus Economic Strategy:
1. Building on the strengths of the Park (Grow key economic sectors: Tourism; Forestry; Agriculture, Food & Drink; and, Renewables & Energy Efficiency)
 2. Supporting and attracting Businesses
 3. Strengthening education and training as an economic asset
 4. Attracting Investment
 5. Infrastructure (accommodation, transport, connectivity)
 6. Planning for the Future

3. WAY FORWARD

- 3.1 Noting the complementarity with the Angus Economic Strategy, the service manager – economic development will write to the Chair of the Cairngorm Economic Forum to offer our support for the Strategy and ongoing collaboration where appropriate.

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