

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 16 AUGUST 2016**

**PLANS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE ANGUS AREA OF THE CAIRNGORMS  
NATIONAL PARK 2015 TO 2017**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE**

**Abstract:**

This report provides information to members with regard to plans, activities and projects which have taken place in the Angus area of the Cairngorms National Park within the last 18 months as well as providing information on plans, projects and activities which are scheduled for 2016/17.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

1.1 The Committee is requested to:-

- Note the progress of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan which will, once adopted, set out how all those with a responsibility for the National Park will co-ordinate their work to tackle the most important issues;
- Note the range of plans, activities and projects which have taken place within the Angus area of the park during 2015/16 and those which are planned for 2016/17; and
- Agree that officers will engage with national park staff to represent Angus interests relating to the exercise of planning and housing policy functions within and affecting the national park.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME  
AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Cairngorms National Park was designated in 2003 by the Scottish Parliament. The Cairngorms National Park is the largest national park in the British Isles and was expanded in 2010 to encompass highland parts of Perth and Kinross. The Angus area of the Cairngorms National Park covers the isolated upper parts of the Angus Glens over an area of approximately 320sqkm including areas within Glen Isla, Glen Prosen, Glen Clova, Glen Doll and Glen Esk. There have been a number of plans, activities and projects within that area in 2015/16 and more are planned for 2016/17 (see **Appendix 1** for further information on this).

**4. PROPOSALS**

4.1 The Cairngorms National Park Authority is currently reviewing the content of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022, which will set out how all those with a responsibility for the National Park will co-ordinate their work to tackle the most important issues. Land use planning within the Angus area of the national park is informed by the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (2015) and that plan forms the primary basis for decision making on applications for planning permission within the park. Further information on the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan and Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022 is detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report.

- 4.2 The Cairngorms National Park Authority has a unique role in the planning system in Scotland. The CNPA is responsible for preparing the Local Development Plan for the area but for the development management part of the system the CNPA only calls-in those applications that *'in the opinion of the Authority, raises a planning issue of general significance to the National Park aims under section 1 of the 2000 Act.'* The operation of the current system is set out in the Planning Protocol between the CNPA and the 5 relevant Local Authorities.
- 4.3 The Cairngorms National Park Authority and the 5 local authorities who administer land within the park have been operating to a Protocol Agreement relating to the exercise of planning and housing policy functions within and affecting the national park since 2012. Angus Council officers engaged with the park authority to develop that protocol and finalised a revised Protocol Agreement during 2015. The Protocol Agreement is a voluntary agreement to assist the 5 local authorities in carrying out their functions and in working towards achieving the aims of the national park. It sets out the manner in which planning applications are processed and details arrangements for the Cairngorms National Park Authority to exercise its call in powers for applications within the park. It also clarifies roles and responsibilities for pre applications discussions, planning enforcement, planning policy and housing policy within and affecting the national park.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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