

## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FINANCE COMMITTEE

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: Approval of Expenditure of Extension of the Community Development Officer Project (Hosted by Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) 2012-2014).**

**Prepared by: Claire Ross, Community Support and Education Programme Manager**

### **Purpose**

To formally approve commitment of CNPA expenditure for a Community Development Officer (with a focus on young people) over the next two financial years - **£12,500** in 2012/2013 and **£12,500** in 2013/2014.

### **Recommendation**

That the Committee formally approve the expenditure detailed in Paragraph 9 from June 2012 to March 2014.

### **Executive Summary**

Communities play a vital role in delivering the aims of the National Park. It is therefore important to place a strong emphasis on actively engaging with communities both within and out with the Park, as well as supporting communities to contribute in the delivery of the Park Plan. With the creation of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) it is still vital to develop a framework that allows communities and the Community Planning Partnerships to come together to collectively deliver the Scottish Governments strategic objectives.

The Community Development Project in Badenoch and Strathspey (Our Community a Way Forward) led by Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey has been very successful in identifying community need through Community Action Planning process. The project has also been able to offer support for communities to develop their own projects and to help to make their communities more vibrant and sustainable.

The extension to the Community Development Project that came to an end beginning of April 2012, will ensure that communities continue to have support resourcing their projects as well as take on a new focus that supports young people in the area.

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**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE OF EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PROJECT (HOSTED BY VOLUNTARY  
ACTION BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY (VABS) 2012-2014) –  
FOR DECISION**

**Community Action Planning and Support**

**Background**

1. This paper follows on from the “Community Action Planning Update” paper brought to the Board March 2009 and the Community Enterprise Project paper August 2011. The extension to the Community Liaison Project (West side of the Park includes Blair Atholl) builds on five years of community engagement Highland and Perth and Kinross led by Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey. Through the “Our Community Way Forward project” and consultations on the National Park Plan and the Local development Plan (MIR)
2. The main outputs of the Community Development Project (2009/2012) have included:
  - a) Over one hundred community projects supported.
  - b) Approx 800K project funding levered into the area
  - c) Significantly increased levels of voluntary hours in delivering community led projects.
  - d) The creation of a three year project Community Enterprise project providing comprehensive learning and training programme, aimed at developing skills relating to: leadership, business planning and practical skills in creating local income streams. (2012/2015)
3. This project extension takes advantage of LEADER under spend on the previous Community Development Project (£23,571) and the allocation of funds (above and beyond the Community Enterprise project) for community development in Badenoch and Strathspey in the draft CNPA Corporate Plan.

**Evidence of Need**

4. The evidence of need for this project has been highlighted in several consultations and research projects:
  - a) The Our Community a Way Forward 2008-2011 (all communities in Badenoch and Strathspey have created their own community action plans) with support from VABS
  - b) Consultation on the National Park Plan review 2010/2011 each community has their own community statement outlining what is unique and special.
  - c) Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2009
  - d) CNPA Economic Base Line Report 2010.

## **Project Deliverables**

5. As the project is an extension of the previous Community Development project the post will cover many of its original aims:
  - a) Supporting communities in Badenoch and Strathspey to deliver the outcomes of community action planning (Our Community a Way Forward, National Park Plan/Local Development Plan consultation.
  - b) Assisting community groups in sustainable implementation and development of activities/projects.
  - c) Advising on a wide range of funding sources
  
6. New direction for the post would be to have an enhanced focus on young people:
  - a) Supporting community projects that are being developed by young people or where young people are the beneficiaries.
  - b) Working with the CNPA and partners to improve employment opportunities for young people in the Park.
  
7. The Community Development Project will with be monitored by the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Planning Strategy group (Community Planning partnership) so that partnership resources can be maximised in its delivery.

## **Other Community Development Support in the National Park and the Role of Community Development Officers**

8. This project is not happening in isolation the network of Community Development Officers covers the entire Park. The projects similar to this that are running in parallel are:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Highland /Blair Atholl	Community Enterprise Project *(Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey) Laggan Trust Initiative Project *(Laggan Forest Trust)	2012-2015  2011-2013
Aberdeenshire /Angus and Glenshee	Deeside Donside Development Project *(Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd)	2010-2013
Moray	Tomintoul/Glenlivet Regeneration project *(Not yet in place but should be the Tomintoul Development Trust)	2012/2015

\*Community organisation hosting the each community development project.

9. The impact of Community Development Officers through the Park has increasingly proven to be invaluable. The CNPA has close working relationships with this network and much of

the Authorities' community engagement and support is facilitated by the community/voluntary sector through these development workers. Badenoch and Strathspey have the largest population density in the National Park so maintaining an increased capacity in the area makes sense.

## Costs and Funding

10. The following table shows the VABS Community Development Project costs and funding from 2012-2014. Project costs are outlined in greater detail in the attached EJF (Appendix 1)

11.

<b>Funding Partners</b>	<b>Year One 2012/2013</b>	<b>Year Two 2013/2014</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CNPA</b>	£12,500	£12,500	£25,000
<b>Leader</b>	£11,785	£11,785	£23,570
<b>VABS</b>	£2,500	£2,500	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,785</b>	<b>£26,785</b>	<b>£53,570</b>

In addition to this there will be additional officer hours from the community planning partnership in particular the CNPA and Highland Council. There will also be a significant level of volunteer hours from members of community groups such as the Community Councils, Youth groups, local businesses and residents etc.

## CNPA Commitment

### Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Finance Committee approve funding for £25K for the next two years (£12.500 in 2012/2013 and £12.500 in 2013/2014) which has been included in the draft corporate plan. This is on the proviso that the CNPA Board does not make significant changes to the draft corporate plan (Board meeting May 11<sup>th</sup> 2012) that might effect this spend retrospectively.

Claire Ross

May 2012

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