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## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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### FOR DECISION

**Title: CAIRNGORMS NATURE ACTION PLAN 2018-2023**

**Prepared by: ANDY FORD, CAIRNGORMS NATURE MANAGER**

#### **Purpose**

This paper requests approval to undertake a formal consultation on the draft Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Board agree to a 12 week consultation on the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan starting in June 2018.**

#### **Executive Summary**

The Board are provided with a draft of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2018-2023 prepared for public consultation (Annex 1).

The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP) is the key strategic document for conservation in the National Park. It identifies the commonly agreed key issues and lists priority areas of work, providing a focus for the work of partners. The document will replace the current Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013-2018. The Action Plan is one of the five key strategies and plans supporting delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan and a wide range of other existing national and regional policies and plans outlined in the draft.

The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2018 - 2023 has three Aims:

- Landscape scale conservation
- Focussed action for priority species
- Involving people

The Aims are split into a number of Priorities, reflecting 'Agendas for Action' in the Partnership Plan, 'Priority Projects' in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, continuing work from the first Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (2013-2018) and consultation with partners on current issues.

## CAIRNGORMS NATURE ACTION PLAN 2018-2023 – FOR DECISION

### Strategic Context

1. The Action Plan fully supports and builds upon the National Park Partnership Plan, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and a range of other existing national policies outlined in the draft. It helps to deliver the woodland creation and management aspirations outlined in the Cairngorms Forest Strategy, the health and well-being goals in Active Cairngorms, and the outcomes in the Communications and Engagement Strategy. It also supports the landscape-scale management objectives of Catchment Management Plans and Deer Management Groups around the Park.

### Summary of Work to Date

2. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the CNPA Board were presented with a progress update on Cairngorms Nature delivery and an outline document describing the proposed Aims and Priorities for the next Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2018-2023. The document was revised following members' comments and presented to the Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group for discussion on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
3. We then undertook a round of informal consultation with key partners and stakeholders to agree the Aims and Priorities and work out the detailed Actions that would support delivery. A first draft text was presented to the Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018 for discussion and a further round of consultation with partners and key stakeholders was initiated to produce the draft for consultation.
4. Alongside the consultation draft, we are drafting a Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The current drafts are available on request.

### Resource Implications

5. Conservation and communications staff will be engaged in collating and reporting on consultation responses, preparing the final draft and the HRA and SEA.

### Recommendation

6. **That the Board agree to a 12 week consultation on the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2018-2023 starting in June 2018.**

### Next Steps

7. Following consultation we will present a full Action Plan to the Board for approval in November 2018.

**Andy Ford**

May 2018

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