

## CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FINANCE COMMITTEE

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### FOR DECISION

**Title:** Community Enterprise Project (Badenoch and Strathspey)

**Prepared by:** Claire Ross, Communities and Inclusion Manager

#### **Purpose**

To confirm continuation funding for the Community Enterprise Project (Badenoch and Strathspey)

#### **Recommendations**

That the Committee formally approve commitment of £15,000 per year for the duration of the three year project (2012/2015)

#### **Executive Summary**

The third sector in Badenoch & Strathspey (B&S) delivers a wide range of services of great value to communities and is a key partner to, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, The Highland Council and other public sector agencies in the area. The changing economic and political climate will require the Community and Voluntary sector to move away from a heavy dependency on grant funding, to a more enterprising model based on communities receiving earned income (much which can be derived by being situated within the National Park) and delivering on contracts for key public sector partners.

This Community Enterprise project will provide a comprehensive learning and training programme over 36 months, aimed at developing the skills of the Community and Voluntary sector enabling the area's community organisations to become more sustainable, skilled and coordinated with other partners.

The training will focus on three main themes: developing qualities of good community leadership in the area (confident, skilled, strategic and informed), identifying the projects that need/can be developed by communities (business planning) to improve local economies and teaching practical skills in generating income locally. The lead partner in the project is Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS).

The project builds on five years of community engagement led by VABS, and in many ways continues elements of the Our Community a Way forward and the Community Development Officers project. It also picks up on feedback from the National Park Plan review and helps communities to contribute to delivering Park Plan actions much more effectively.

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## COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE PROJECT (BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY) – FOR DECISION

### Background

1. The programme will build on the wealth of information already gathered from all 12 communities in Badenoch & Strathspey through community action planning (Our Community...A Way Forward 2007-2011) and the National Park Plan review 2010/11. From this existing information organisations will be able to identify the gaps in their knowledge and skills both as separate entities as well as collectively within a community.
2. Badenoch and Strathspey comprises 12 communities (based on community councils) with a population of 12,270 supporting around 400 third sector organisations. The programme delivered by VABS as the lead partner will target the Directors and key staff of third sector organisations in B&S, and based upon a training needs analysis, focus on increasing their knowledge, skills and networking capability. It also aims to stimulate social entrepreneurship and social enterprise in Badenoch and Strathspey.

### Evidence of Need

3. 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
4. One of the main factors driving this project is the significant reduction of grant support for the Community and Voluntary sector. And the need for local communities to become much more self-sustaining and “doing things for themselves”.

### Monitoring

5. The project delivery and outcomes will be monitored by the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Planning Partnership and managed bi-monthly by a steering group comprising of Highland Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and Cairngorms Business Partnership representation.

### Consequences of not funding the Community Enterprise project *Succession planning from the Our Community A Way Forward*

6. This project builds on the three-year Our Community A Way Forward project that completes end of March 2012. The community development officer project which

provides support for communities in: sourcing and applying for funding, project planning and management finishes at the same time.

7. Each of the communities in Badenoch and Strathspey have produced an action plan identifying its priorities, they have also developed a vision statement through the Park Plan consultation. Through the consultations levels of expectation have been generated that communities (alongside local agencies) will be able to deliver projects they see as being vital in addressing the challenges of the foreseeable future: budget cuts, rising costs of living, climate change etc.
8. Without this project it will be more difficult for communities to make the transition from grant dependence to greater levels of self sustainability. This project will support communities to access funding streams that are still available while giving them the tools and skills to develop their own income streams.

### **Other Areas in the Park**

9. **Aberdeenshire:** The Deeside Donside Development Project still has another two years until completion. The steering group made up of the Aberdeenshire Council, CNPA, Marr Area Partnership are currently looking at more sustainable options to continue the work of the project that supports community development in the National Park beyond 2015.
10. **Moray:** Tomintoul and Glenlivet are currently undertaking a detailed economic assessment of the area, this process is bringing together key partners including the CNPA, The Moray Council, The Crown Estate and the local community to look at how the area can be rejuvenated.
11. **Perth and Kinross:** Still early days, all the communities in Perth and Kinross have taken part in the National Park Plan review. Glenshee/Mountblair intend to undertake a more detailed community planning process in the next six months to identify the communities key priorities.
12. **Angus:** Response to key projects that have an impact of the national park in a less co-ordinated way.

### **Costings and Match Funding**

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Year One 2012/13</b>	<b>Year Two 2013/14</b>	<b>Year Three 2014/15</b>
CNPA	15K	15K	15K
The Highland Council (TBC)	10K	10K	10K
European Social Fund (TBC)	75K	75K	75K
<b>Total</b>	<b>100K</b>	<b>100K</b>	<b>100K</b>

\*As the project's lead partner is Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey the intervention rate from ESF is higher.

## **Recommendation**

13. **That the Committee formally approve commitment of £15,000 per year for the next three financial years (2012/2015)**

## **Next Steps**

14. An application form outlining this project has been submitted to the European Social Fund. The preliminary application has already been accepted and approved. Match funding needs to be confirmed by November 2010. The success of the application to ESF will be confirmed December 2011/Jan 2012.
15. It is important to confirm the CNPA contribution as we can firm up input from the other funding bodies.

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