

# Cairngorm Advisory Group

## NOTE OF MEETING

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14.00 – 15.15

Thursday 27 May 2021

Microsoft Teams



**Cairngorm Advisory Group  
27 May 2021**

**Note of virtual meeting**

**Present**

Bill Lobban	Convener, The Highland Council (Chairing this meeting)
Alistair Dodds	Chair Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Co-chair)
Peter Long	Aviemore Community Council
Uwe Stoneman	Abernethy Forest Estate (RSPB)
Duncan Swarbrick	Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust
Mark Tate	Cairngorm Business Partnership
Lesley McKenna	Cairngorm Mountain Trust
Susan Smith	Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Ltd
Ruari Watt	Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland – Highland
Rachel Davies	Disability Snowsport UK
James Gibbs	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Paul Dzialdowski	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Elaine Hanton	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Douglas Cowan	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Chris Roberts	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
David Frew	Mar Lodge Estate (NTS)
David Black	Mountaineering Scotland
Chris Donald	NatureScot
Johnnie Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Moira Langmuir	Scottish Ski Club
Euan Baxter	Snowsports Scotland
Shaun Roberts	Sports Scotland (Glenmore Lodge, Scottish Avalanche Information Service)
Grant Moir	The Cairngorms National Park Authority
Chris Taylor	VisitScotland
Karen Derrick	Voluntary Action Badenoch & Strathspey

	Item	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
	Bill Lobban welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Laura McNally, FLS, and Malcolm Macleod, THC.	-
<b>2</b>	<b>Terms of reference and membership</b>	
	Douglas Cowan, HIE, thanked everyone for their interest and outlined the purpose of the Advisory Group, as described in the Terms of Reference. Members were invited to email Douglas with any comments, including views on the Terms of Reference and suggestions for group membership.	- <b>All</b>

3	<b>Discussion on local economy</b>	
	<p>James Gibbs introduced this session and invited contributions from Cairngorm Business Partnership, Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust and VisitScotland.</p> <p>Both CBP and AGCT reported survey work and anecdotal evidence indicating that, while businesses continue to face very significant challenges from the impacts of the pandemic, confidence appears to be growing, especially regarding the longer term.</p> <p>All agreed that staff recruitment is the most serious issue hindering recovery and affecting the viability of local businesses at present, and that the key barrier is lack of affordable accommodation.</p> <p>It was noted that several CAG members would be attending a meeting of the Highland Economic Recovery Partnership this afternoon, when Mark Tate was already intending to raise this topic.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Action:</b> James Gibbs will follow up on discussion at the Economic Recovery Partnership.</p> </div>	<b>James Gibbs</b>
4	<p><b>Update from HIE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masterplan</li> <li>• Funicular</li> <li>• Review of options for future operations</li> </ul>	
4.1	<p><b>Masterplan</b></p> <p>Paul Dzialdowski outlined key points included in the new Cairngorm Masterplan. This has been prepared by HIE, following extensive consultation, and is due to be published on the HIE website on Wednesday 2 June. HIE will issue a news release and send a link to the masterplan to stakeholders, including CAG members.</p> <p>In response to questions, Paul confirmed that the masterplan did recognise the desire to create a sense of arrival to the whole Cairngorm Estate, and not only the ski area. He also stated that timescales to progress key actions were included in the masterplan and would be discussed at future meetings of the CAG.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Action:</b> Anyone with further questions or comments on points raised in today’s presentation or after the masterplan has been published is welcome to email <a href="mailto:paul.dzialdowski@hient.co.uk">paul.dzialdowski@hient.co.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:dave.macleod@hient.co.uk">dave.macleod@hient.co.uk</a> to follow up.</p> </div> <p>Shaun Roberts asked whether the masterplan had considered ways in which a broader range of local businesses, including sole traders, could be supported and sustained, for example through training opportunities or using space at Cairngorm. James Gibbs offered to explore this point.</p>	<b>All</b>



	<p>proposed underlying principles document for the operating models review with CAG members.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Action:</b> HIE will email CAG members to invite comment on the underlying principles.</p> </div> <p>Co-chair Alistair Dodds underlined the importance of HIE receiving feedback on its plans and actions at Cairngorm, and being willing to listen to advice.</p> <p>While the focus of this first meeting had been on scene-setting it was hoped that future sessions would be participative and he looked forward to working with all members.</p> <p>There were no further questions of comments, and the Chair invited members to email HIE if they wished to discuss any points. Nothing would be off the table.</p>	<p><b>Elaine Hanton</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Action:</b> Potential meeting dates will be circulated, with late August looking likely, depending on availability.</p> </div>	<p><b>HIE</b></p>

Chris Roberts  
27 May 2021