From: Mark Tate

o: <u>Forestry FLS Communities</u>

Subject: Community Asset Transfer - Glenmore Visitor Centre and Car Park

Date: 03 February 2024 08:51:57

I would like to express my strong support for the community asset transfer application submitted by Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust to take on the Glenmore Visitor Centre and Car Park facilities from Forest and Land Scotland. I have known the Community Trust and the majority of its directors and staff since its inception. In my previous role as CEO of the Cairngorms Business Partnership I had the pleasure of working alongside the trust on a number of projects and their track record of delivery is exemplary. Through the Aviemore Ice Rink they have clearly evidenced how they can lead and engage the community to maximise the synergies between the provision of sustainable visitor facilities and the delivery of significant community benefit. The Trust has clearly evidenced the capacity and capability required to take on the facilities in Glenmore.

Glenmore is the jewel in the crown of the Cairngorms National Park and is an area of national importance for nature and people. There is a significant opportunity (that has yet to be taken) to manage for visitors in Glenmore in a way that optimises the economic value of the area (working with businesses already operating in the area) whilst engaging with visitors, including those from the local area, to inspire responsible enjoyment that protects and enhances the special qualities of the area and supports residents.

Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust is uniquely placed to deliver this opportunity working collaboratively with the community, business, land owners and public sector agencies to enhance and protect Glenmore and will provide a strong community voice. This will be of particular importance as the Cairngorms National Park Authority and partners move into the delivery phase of the Cairngorms 2030 Heritage Horizons project which promises significant investment in the area particularly in the delivery of enhanced sustainable transport solutions.

I fully support this bid.

Regards,

Mark Tate

Mark Tate Associates Ltd www marktateassociates.com

Kingussie PH21 1HD

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