

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 14



National Park Partnership Plan Annual Review 2013-2014

Paper for noting

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek board endorsement of the National Park Partnership Plan Annual Review 2013-2014.
- 1.2 **Appendix 1** of this document presents the **draft text** for the annual review. This will be finalised, formatted and prepared for publication following endorsement of the report by NPA Board members.
- 1.3 To agree the overall approach for our partner meeting chaired by Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board formally endorse the National Park Partnership Plan **DRAFT** Annual Review 2013-2014 attached as **Appendix 1** of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The National Park Partnership Plan was formally approved by Scottish Ministers and launched by Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, on 22 June 2012.
- 3.2 The plan was developed following extensive public consultation and outlines conservation, visitor experience and rural development policies and actions (for the National Park, as compared to the Corporate Plan which outlines the priorities for the National Park Authority) for five years.
- 3.3 Delivery of the outcomes within the plan is the responsibility of all organisations that operate in the Park, not just the National Park Authority.
- 3.4 Each year an annual review is undertaken which highlights our successes, opportunities and challenges. This annual review is year 2 of our 5 year plan.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Each year we host an annual review meeting with our 12 key partner agencies which is chaired by the Minister of Environment & Climate Change, currently Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

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- 4.2 The proposal for this year's meeting is to provide an opportunity for our partners and minister to "experience" the National Park. Proposals are currently being developed, however it is envisaged that the meeting will be hosted at Balmaha Visitor Centre and offer a choice of "experiences" which showcase our Conservation, Visitor Experience and Visitor Management opportunities and challenges.
- 4.3 The agenda will focus on two aspects – the review of **achievements** and the proposals to enhance **further partnership engagement**, which is still to be finalised. It is proposed that this year's meeting is used to highlight the ongoing opportunity for partners to work more collaboratively with the National Park Authority to deliver 'Your Park' on the ground.
- 4.4 The event date has still to be finalised, previously this has been held in November however, the date will be steered by the Minister's diary and will hopefully be confirmed in the coming weeks.
- 4.5 The second year of the National Park Partnership Plan has already seen successful delivery of a range of conservation, visitor experience and rural development actions. See **Appendix 1** for further details.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - National Park Partnership Plan **DRAFT** Annual Review 2013-2014

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