

# National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

## Draft Gaelic Language Plan

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### *Paper for decision*

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language. One of the key features of the 2005 Act is the provision enabling Bòrd na Gàidhlig to require a public authority to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan. This provision was designed to ensure that the public sector in Scotland plays its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising the status and profile of the language and creating practical opportunities for its use.
- 1.2. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority is required by the Act 2005 to have a Gaelic Language Plan that is renewed every 5 years. The first iteration of The Authority's Gaelic Language Plan runs until December 2016. A second iteration for 2017-2022 has been drafted in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans. This Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 is ready for public consultation – a requirement of the Act 2005 – prior to the final version being considered by the National Park Board and if approved it will then be submitted to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig for final approval and adoption. Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 is included as Appendix 1.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are invited to:
  - a) Approve the Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022, attached as Appendix 1, for consultation.
  - b) Approve that a public consultation on the Draft Plan be carried out for 12 weeks from 10th January 2017, in accordance with the statutory guidelines from the Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's second Gaelic Language Plan will run from 2017 - 2022. This second iteration will continue the aims of the first plan and build further on them, working towards making Gaelic part of the everyday life of the Park, normalising the language through prominent use, and through growing our offering of special activities and resources that celebrate and educate people about the Gaelic language, history and cultural heritage in the National Park.

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- 3.2. Our first iteration of the plan runs from Dec 2011 - Dec 2016 and has focused on creating communication resources across the core areas addressed in the Gaelic Language Act, including identity, branding, signage, communications, digital and publications, and awareness training for staff in the Park.
- 3.3. Following the successful delivery of our first plan, the Park Authority is now in a position where Gaelic is prominent and highly visible in our corporate identity in print and online; at events through our banners, printed materials, Ranger and Volunteer ranger knowledge, and the Mobile Visitors Centre; and on interpretive signage throughout the Park. Activities such as holding Gaelic Language Awareness Month and providing Gaelic Awareness training for staff mean that people across the organisation now have an awareness of our Gaelic Language Plan and the role of Gaelic in the culture, history and landscape of the National Park. Part 4 of the new plan details all of the work delivered, and the resources and practices that are now in place, as well as setting out targets for future development.
- 3.4. The 2017-2022 iteration of the plan will aim to bring the Gaelic history and culture of the Park alive through in-person engagement and educational opportunities – primarily through the work of our Volunteer, Education and Engagement Team. The second plan will also continue to deliver the work of the first plan growing the range of physical and digital resources that are vital tools for educational work.
- 3.5. This new Plan's aims of engagement and education will particularly seek to build on the Gaelic Corpus aspect of the Gaelic Language Act, which relates to developing the 'body' of the language.
- 3.6. New actions that will be undertaken to achieve these aims will include:
  - The Volunteer, Education and Engagement Team will develop coursework and case studies for school children specifically about the Gaelic history and culture of the Park landscape – to tie in with curriculum requirements for education about Gaelic. Schools already come to the Park for learning on geography, geology, biology, and land use. Case studies and course content that focuses on Gaelic in the landscape will provide valuable material for schools that fits with the curriculum.
  - Gaelic awareness to be incorporated into delivery of existing Volunteer, Education and Engagement work. This will focus on the Gaelic origins of many of the place names of mountains, rivers and towns in the National Park, thus building in Gaelic as an element of educational work across the Park.
  - A similar approach will be taken with the offering for adult and other non-school groups that is led by our Volunteer, Education and Engagement Team, Rangers and Volunteer Rangers.

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- Gaelic Awareness Month for Park Authority staff in each year which will incorporate awareness, language and music workshops aimed at inspiring and engaging staff.
  - Gaelic Language Awareness training will be offered to all staff every year at introductory and more advanced levels, to ensure new staff receive training, and existing staff build their knowledge.
  - We will promote opportunities for staff to learn Gaelic – both through classes and digital learning.
- 3.7. The aim of the Park Authority is that by 2022 the National Park will have strong education and visitor engagement opportunities, supported by a wide range of physical and digital resources that bring to life the Gaelic culture of the National Park for visitors and our communities.
- 3.8. The National Park Authority proposes to run the public consultation for 12 weeks from 10th January 2017, subject to Board approval - to ensure that consultees have sufficient time and opportunity to make their views known (Guidance from the Bòrd na Gàidhlig advises 6-12 weeks for consultation).
- 3.9. The draft plan will be promoted and made available to the public in the following ways in accordance with guidance:
- Hard copies of the plan will be made available at the National Park Headquarters and Visitor's Centre and at public libraries throughout the National Park.
  - An electronic version of the plan will be made accessible in a prominent place on the Authority's website.
  - The electronic version will be regularly promoted on the National Park's social media channels throughout the consultation period.
  - Electronic copies will be provided to partner organisations seeking their feedback.
  - As well as gathering responses in the traditional methods of written submissions by post and email.
  - A press release announcing the beginning of the consultation process will be issued to all relevant media outlets.
- 3.10. The Park Authority will take into account representations made to it during the consultation process and the final plan will be submitted to the National Park Board for Approval and adoption at the Board meeting in June 2017.

Appendix 1 – Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022

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## **Draft Gaelic Language Plan**

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