

National Park Authority Board Meeting



Agenda Item 6

National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23

Paper for decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present Members with the new National Park Partnership Plan and request approval to undertake public consultation on its contents.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Board members are asked to:

- (i) **Note** this progress update;
- (ii) **Approve** the designed, draft plan for public consultation
- (iii) **Approve** the proposed date for the start of the public consultation period, on 10th April 2017
- (iv) **Agree** to delegate final minor editorial adjustments to officers prior to publication

3. Background

- 3.1 The National Park Partnership Plan provides the strategic direction for the work of the National Park Authority, setting key outcomes and policies needed to deliver the aims of the National Park, and identifying partners who will help deliver these outcomes and policies over the coming five year period. The current 2012-17 Plan is now in its final year and the National Park Authority is required to prepare and submit a new Partnership Plan, covering the period 2018-23, to Scottish Ministers for approval by the end of 2017.

4. Progress to date

- 4.1 Following the completion of a delivery partner workshop in May 2016, when initial feedback on the challenges, opportunities and priorities for the National Park was heard from partners, the past few months have focused on the writing of a draft Partnership Plan for consultation. This has been led by staff with input and monitoring from the National Park Partnership Plan Steering Group, made up of six Board members. The Steering Group provided comments on the contents of the draft Partnership Plan at the end of February 2017, including the plan structure and proposed outcomes and policies. Following a 12 week consultation commencing in April it I proposed to submit a finalised Plan to Scottish Ministers for approval by December 2017.

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4.2 Members are now presented in Appendix 1 with a complete designed draft plan and requested to approve it for the purposes of public consultation.

5. Public consultation

5.1 There is a requirement for the new National Park Partnership Plan to go to a 12 week public consultation period. It is recommended that this public consultation period begins on Monday 10th April 2017 and finishes on Monday 3rd July 2017. The public consultation will largely web-based utilising a bespoke Survey Monkey questionnaire on the National Park Authority website. In addition there will be face to face engagement with key stakeholders and partners, with regular blogs and targeted media coverage to encourage consultation responses.

5.2 A full report of progress with the public consultation will be supplied at the 19th June Board meeting.

6. Post consultation key milestones

6.1 Following the public consultation period the following key milestones will take place:

- Review and compilation of consultation responses (July - August 2017);
- Finalising of National Park Partnership Plan and completion of statutory assessment documents (by end September 2017);
- Final plan presented to the Board for approval at a special meeting (November 2017 – date to be confirmed);
- Submission of final National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23 to Scottish Ministers, subject to Board approval (December 2017).

7. Conclusion

7.1 Board members are asked to note progress with the new National Park Partnership Plan, approve the designed draft plan for public consultation and approve the start date of the public consultation period. Members are asked to agree to delegate minor editorial changes to officers as the document is finalised for publication.

Appendix 1 – Draft National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23

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