

## National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23

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### *Paper for information*

#### 1. Purpose

To provide an update on the recent consultation for the draft National Park Partnership Plan and outline the next stages involved in finalising the Plan.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The draft National Park Partnership Plan proposed, for public consultation, how the National Park Authority and a wide range of organisations and interests, can work together over the next five years to deliver the aims of the National Park.
- 2.2 Consultation on the draft Plan ran for 12 weeks between 10 April and 3 July 2017. Overall it is considered that there was a very good level of responses to the Plan, aided through early engagement with key stakeholders, a social media campaign including blogs and video posts, mail chimp updates and media coverage. Stakeholder engagement also continued throughout the consultation period.

#### 3. Outcomes of the Consultation

- 3.1 In total, 120 responses were received, 52 from organisations and 68 from individuals. Overall there was general support for the draft Plan, as summarised below:

##### **Conservation**

- 87% agreed with the overarching vision - 96% for organisations, 83% for individuals.
- 83% agreed with the 4 outcomes - 92% for organisations, 79% for individuals.
- 84% agreed with the 11 priorities - 91% for organisations, 81% for individuals.
- 42% thought there were important areas that weren't covered - 48% for organisations, 39% for individuals.
- 88% of organisations were willing to sign up to the delivery

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#### Visitor experience

- 73% agreed with the overarching vision - 87% for organisations, 63% for individuals.
- 69% agree with the 5 outcomes - 83% for organisations, 58% for individuals.
- 75% agreed with the priorities - 92% for organisations, 64% for individuals.
- 51% thought there were important areas that weren't covered - 41% for organisations, 58% for individuals.
- 83% of organisations were willing to sign up to the delivery

#### Rural development

- 84% agreed with the overarching vision - 93% for organisations, 78% individuals.
- 79% agree with the 4 outcomes - 96% for organisations, 70% for individuals.
- 78% agreed with the priorities - 95% for organisations, 69% for individuals.
- 39% thought there were important areas that weren't covered - 40% for organisations, for 38% individuals.
- 82% of organisations were willing to sign up to the delivery

- 3.2 A Summary Report on Consultation responses is included as Appendix 1 to this report. This provides an overview of responses to the Plan, associated draft Environmental Report and draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal. Whilst the responses to the consultation do not indicate that any significant changes require to be made to the Plan and the direction is set, some high level themes for further consideration are identified. These include strengthening cultural heritage and health and wellbeing priorities, better recognition of the Cowal area of the National Park and the importance of supporting communities within the National Park. A link to a report which includes all verbatim comments received is also included as Appendix 2 to this report.

## 4. Next Stages

- 4.1 A final National Park Partnership Plan will now be prepared, taking the responses to the consultation into consideration. This will be presented to the December Board meeting of the National Park Authority for approval and should this be forthcoming then submission will be made to the Scottish Ministers.
- 4.2 Tasks over the coming months include further stakeholder engagement, particularly with key delivery partners, revisions and final drafting of the Plan, statutory assessments and establishing the monitoring framework. The National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23 Steering Group have played an active role in tracking

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progress to date and will have a key role in terms of scrutiny and review of the final amendments to the Plan ahead of the December Board meeting.

### 5. Conclusion

Members are asked to note the outcome of the consultation on the Draft National Park Partnership Plan and the tasks to be progressed in order to prepare a final Plan for approval by Board, followed by submission to Scottish Ministers in December 2017.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix 2 – Verbatim Report on Consultation Responses

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