

Gaelic Language Plan



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 ran until December 2016. A second iteration for 2017-2022 was drafted in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and with regard to the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans.
- 1.3. The Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 went out for public consultation from January to April 2017. The public consultation received 12 responses, seven which agreed with the plan, one that disagreed and four that only responded that they were interested in Gaelic. Following review post-consultation by Park Authority staff and the Plan's Committee of the Bòrd na Gàidhlig, this final version of the Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 is presented to the National Park Board to consider for adoption.
- 1.4. If this Plan is approved by the National Park Board on 18th September then it will be considered by at the Board Meeting of the Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 2nd/3rd October for final approval for adoption. If this Plan is approved by the Bòrd na Gàidhlig they will then write to the National Park Authority inviting formal adoption of the new Plan and it's official date of adoption is that date of its approval at the Bòrd na Gàidhlig Board meeting.
- 1.5. The Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 is included as Appendix 1.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are invited to:
 - a) Approve the Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022, attached as Appendix 1, to be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for adoption.

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Draft Gaelic Language Plan

3. Background

- 3.1. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's second Gaelic Language Plan will run from 2017 - 2022. This second iteration continues the aims of the first Plan and builds 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.
- 3.2. Our first iteration of the Plan ran from Dec 2011 - Dec 2016 and 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 aims 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 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 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.

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

Gaelic Language Plan

- 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.
 - Gaelic Awareness Month will be run for Park Authority staff each year incorporating awareness, language and cultural workshops aimed at inspiring and engaging staff.
 - Gaelic Language Awareness training will be offered to staff every year at introductory and more advanced levels, to ensure new staff receive training, and existing staff build their knowledge. The aim is that all staff will have taken part in training at least once every three years.
 - We will promote opportunities for staff to learn Gaelic.
- 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. Once the Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 has been formally approved by the Boards of the National Park and the Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and by the Cabinet Secretary, the Plan will be fully translated into Gaelic and will then 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 Centres and at public libraries throughout the Park.
 - A pdf version will be available on the website and social media channels.
 - Electronic copies will be provided to partner organisations.
 - A bilingual press release announcing the adoption of the new Plan will be issued to all relevant media outlets.
- 3.9. Following adoption of this Plan the Park Authority will provide an annual progress report to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig starting a year from the date of adoption. In 2022 development and consultation will be undertaken for the next 5 year iteration of the Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2028.

Appendix 1: Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022

Appendix 2: GLP Appendix 1 Internal Gaelic Capacity Review

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