

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 9

Camping Development Framework 2019-23



Paper for approval

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to present Members with the new 'Camping Development Framework 2019-23' (in text format only).
- 1.2. The framework identifies the priorities for camping management infrastructure developments within the National Park, and follows the Camping Development Strategy published in 2016 as part of the wider Your Park programme associated with the introduction of the Camping Management Byelaws 2017.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Board members are asked to:
 - i. Approve the Camping Development Framework 2019-23 attached as Appendix 1.

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and Our 5-year Plan

Camping management and the associated activities outlined in this strategy contribute to the following elements of Our 5-Year Plan and National Park Partnership Plan:

3.1 National Park Partnership Plan:

Outcome 5: Recreation Opportunities

Outcome 8: Visitor Management

Outcome 9: Health & Learning

3.2 Our 5-Year Plan:

Priority 7: Policy-making

4. Background

4.1 In October 2016 the National Park Authority published a [Camping Development Strategy](#) as part of the wider Your Park programme associated with the introduction of the Camping Management Byelaws 2017. The strategy concentrated on providing camping opportunities, at a sustainable level, within the designated Camping Management Zones. This included identifying where physical infrastructure improvements were needed to make camping in the National Park a better

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experience, at the same time as reducing associated negative impacts on the local environment, local residents, businesses and visitors.

4.2 The strategy outlined the wider context of camping management within the framework of the Your Park programme and the implementation of the Camping Management Byelaws 2017. It gave an overview of existing camping provision within the National Park and the approach for the Park Authority to achieve its vision for sustainable camping. A description of the newly formed Camping Management Zones and a brief definition of the types of camping provision the National Park Authority would be investing in was also included. Further to this a series of investment priorities were identified within the strategy for completion in 2017 and beyond, with some additional priorities highlighted that required further investigation.

4.3 A review and update of the first strategy was required for the following reasons:

- The National Park Partnership Plan and Our 5 Year Plan have both been renewed and this presents an opportunity for the Camping Development Framework review to synchronise with these plans;
- The majority of the investment priorities identified within the strategy have been delivered;
- During the first two operational seasons of the Camping Management Byelaws a continuous process of learning and adaptation has been ongoing and this operational knowledge has helped to inform the direction and need for a new framework;
- Customer feedback has been actively sought and a significant amount has been received from those camping in the National Park and from people who live and work within the Park. This continuing process has helped to inform a greater understanding of the camping experience and identify areas for further development;
- In some areas of the Park we have not yet been able to reach agreements with landowners on solutions to alleviating camping related pressures and these areas will require continued focus and a fresh approach.

5. Focusing on Camping Development 2019-23

5.1 Designed to be an enabling document the new framework seeks to build on its predecessor and identify opportunities to improve the camping experience throughout the whole National Park, year round. It outlines the National Park Authority's approach to managing camping numbers and behaviours in certain areas of the National Park with visitor related pressures, but also ways in which we can work with and support

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others to develop and improve camping provision and associated services throughout the National Park.

5.2 The framework has 3 main sections:

- **Position, Principles and Pressures;** sets out our clear vision for camping in the National Park, links to wider strategic planning, how the framework will be used and its focus on tents and motorhomes (including campervans). It also identifies the principles that underpin delivery and the challenges associated to achieving our vision for camping.
- **Provision and Place;** outlines the current camping offer in the National Park across its various geographical areas and the related visitor destinations, local recreational offers, special landscape qualities, transport links and opportunities for additional camping provision.
- **Practice and Performance;** highlights positive actions undertaken to date to help make camping more sustainable and presents an action plan to deliver the framework with targets and indicators to measure effectiveness.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Camping in tents and motorhome use are likely to remain popular recreational activities within the National Park for many years to come. The National Park Authorities vision for camping, as outlined in the proposed Camping Development Framework 2019-23, is:

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is an area that offers a wide variety of sustainable, high quality camping experiences for people from a wide range of backgrounds.

6.2 This new framework will be used to help further deliver this vision, using clear principles and key considerations to facilitate effective improvements in the camping experience, whilst being adaptable to changes and ensuring that the special qualities of the National Park are protected.

Appendix 1 - Camping Development Framework 2019-23

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