

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 5

Outdoor Recreation Delivery Plan Consultation



Paper for approval

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to present Members with the new Outdoor Recreation Delivery Plan Consultation Document which has the proposed title of 'Active Park Healthy People'.
- 1.2. The Delivery Plan is not a statutory document but replaces the previous Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2018 and develops the strategic priorities set out within our National Park Partnership Plan.
- 1.3. The Delivery Plan has a 5 year lifespan and focuses activity so that partners can prioritise shared activities which can pool resources and deliver the best collective results and outcomes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Board members are asked to:
 - i. **Note** this progress update.
 - ii. **Approve** the Consultation Document attached as Appendix 1.
 - iii. **Agree** to delegate approval of final design and minor editorial adjustments to officers prior to public consultation
 - iv. **Approve** the proposed public consultation period and process.

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

This Delivery Plan develops visions, outcomes and priorities set out in the National Park Partnership Plan. The most relevant outcomes and priorities include:

- Outcome 4 Land Partnerships – Priority 4.1 Integrated land management
- Outcome 5 Recreation Opportunities – Priorities 5.1-5.3 Path provision, path maintenance and active travel
- Outcome 6 Water Recreation – Priorities 6.1 & 6.3 Facilities and Recreation
- Outcome 9 Health and learning – Priority 9.1 Health improvement
- Outcome 10 Placemaking – Priority 10.1 Improving Towns & Villages

The 'Outdoor Recreation Plan' is also mentioned within Policy 7: Policy Making in Our 5-year Plan, but does also help deliver against other priorities including:

- Priority 2: Visitor Infrastructure
- Priority 4: Attractive, Accessible and Healthy Destinations
- Priority 5: Placemaking and Sustainable Communities

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4. Background

- 4.1 The Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) 2012-17 was a prioritised 5 year action plan which contained commitments and intentions of the National Park Authority and other stakeholders for the development and improvement of the Park's recreation provision.
- 4.2 The focus of the plan was on:
- Family friendly activities
 - Accessible and diverse range of activities at entry level
 - Recreational off road cycling
 - Linking up the Park and creating journeys
 - Water based recreation
 - Letting people know what they could do and where
- 4.3 ORP12-17 included 69 actions over a wide variety of activity types. Over the life of that programme the National Park Authority invested over £1.1M in this programme, whilst over £2.4M was invested by partners. This was a significant success and we believe that the ORP12-17 achieved its aim of not only targeting and committing funding to key projects, but also of improving partner relationships and allowing us to quantify and celebrate the level of investment the Park enjoys. 44 Partners have contributed to the delivery of the Plan. Notable successes included:
- 37km of upland path delivered through The Mountains and The People project
 - 5km of significant West Highland Way upgrade work
 - 6km of the Great Trossachs Path installed
 - Significant bridge projects on Braeleny, Strathyre, Glen Tarken, Ardentinny and Gartmore
 - 17km of shared use path in Strathyre, Drymen, Tyndrum and St Fillans
 - Aberfoyle bike skills area created
 - Expansion of the Health Walks Programme

5. Development of 'Active Park Healthy People'

- 5.1 Internal and external discussions on what should replace the existing ORP began in summer 2018 with the new National Park Partnership Plan and other national policy documents such as the National Walking Strategy offered fresh ideas and direction.

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- 5.2 Over 100 stakeholders were contacted in October 2018 asking for high level responses on whether areas of recreation and activity focus had changed and what they would like to see represented within any new recreation plan.
- 5.3 Through late 2018 and early 2019 the National Park Authority Recreation, Access and Health team held bespoke workshops and meetings with key stakeholders to develop consensus on areas of focus, strategic approaches, and thematic ideas which reflected the Partnership Plan and the new and emerging national policies across recreation, health, inclusion and climate change.
- 5.4 Throughout 2019 staff in the ORP Project Team developed the draft consultation document which is presented today. The plan is deliberately aimed at a higher level than the previous ORP, which was very prescriptive at an action plan level. The consensus from stakeholders being that the new plan should set out more strategic areas of focus and allow greater flexibility around changes to funding and national priorities, but still drive clear action on the ground. An underlying premise would be how best to help more people to enjoy activity more often, within the National Park and contribute towards the National Performance Framework.
- 5.5 The new Delivery Plan structures activity under 6 Key Themes which are intended to showcase how outdoor recreation within the National Park can deliver multiple benefits. These being health, equality and economic gains, as well as carbon reduction to tackle the climate emergency, through active travel and more sustainable forms of transport:
- Key theme 1 – A Park for All
 - Key theme 2 – Active and Vibrant Places
 - Key theme 3 – Happy and Healthy People
 - Key theme 4 – Connecting Places
 - Key theme 5 – Exploring Further
 - Key theme 6 – Coasts and Water
- 5.6 There was also consensus amongst stakeholders that under these 6 Key Themes there would sit:
- *Priority Initiatives* – specific programmes for delivery
 - *Delivery Principles* – generic guidance to be referenced
- 5.7 The drafting of 'Active Park Healthy People' as the new Delivery Plan has included reference to dozens of National Policy documents and also considered potential environmental and capacity concerns around specific sites.

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- 5.8 The Project Team have ensured that the Draft has been through the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA), Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes.
- 5.9 All stakeholders were contacted at least twice throughout the pre-consultation period for further discussions, as the strategic level, themes, priority initiatives and delivery principles were developed.

6. Public Consultation and timeline

- 6.1 Should the Board approve the consultation document we intend to launch an 8 week public consultation soon after, beginning in December 2019.
- 6.2 The consultation will be shared widely using all our usual channels. Responses will be collected through SmartSurvey software and other means, specific to needs if requested.
- 6.3 Following consideration of consultation responses, any revision and refinement will be made with the intention of bringing a draft 'Active Park Healthy People' Outdoor Recreation Delivery Plan to the Board for adoption in March 2020.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 We believe that this consultation draft 'Active Park Healthy People' offers a Delivery Plan which helps all those aiming to deliver that shared outcomes and priorities around recreation, active travel, sustainable transport, health and climate change
- 7.2 This Delivery Plan is deliberately ambitious in nature, but is also deliverable within the current funding and resource constraints of all partners involved.

Appendix 1 – Consultation Document

Appendix 2 – EqIA

Appendix 3 – HRA

Appendix 4 – SEA

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