

# National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 7

## Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy

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### *Paper for decision*

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides a briefing on the Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy (attached) and an overview of the intended implementation of it.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board are asked to approve:
  - i. The Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy;
  - ii. The intended implementation approach of an expert steering group.

#### 3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) and Our 5-year Plan

- 3.1 The Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy structures all project delivery pertinent to Priority 1: Litter in Our 5-Year Plan.
- 3.2 The particular outcomes that this strategy will help to deliver from the National Park Partnership Plan are:
  - **Outcome 1:** The Park's natural resources are enhanced for future generations: important habitats are protected, restored and better connected on a landscape scale.
  - **Outcome 2:** The Park's special landscape qualities and sense of place are conserved and enhanced with more opportunities to enjoy and experience them.
  - **Outcome 8:** The most popular parts of the National Park which experience pressures are managed to ensure that the quality of the environment, visitor experience and community life are protected and enhanced.

#### 4. Introduction

- 4.1 Litter, incorporating flytipping, is a longstanding environmental challenge for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Sadly, it is not a unique issue to the National Park, with national indicators showing a downward trend for local environmental quality across the country.<sup>1</sup> However, against the backdrop of our beautiful environment, litter stands out in stark contrast. It damages important habitats, impacts the unique landscape and people's experience of it and takes significant resource to clear up. This is why the National Park Authority have committed to tackling it in Our [5-Year Plan](#).

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<sup>1</sup> [Local Environmental Quality in Decline: Keep Scotland Beautiful, 2017](#)

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### 5. Background

- 5.1 Once approved, the proposed Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy will be active from 2020 – 2023. The document aims to:
- Outline the vision of the National Park Authority, bringing together existing and proposed work on litter and waste prevention delivered by the National Park Authority into a single framework.
  - Act as a wider framework to guide a steering group of relevant organisations to agree and deliver joint, collaborative and/or complementary actions across the National Park.
- 5.2 The development of the Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy has been informed by a full year of engagement carried out by the Litter Prevention Manager, who has established or maintained key local and national contacts pertinent to litter and waste. In particular, this has involved the four Local Authorities, Forestry and Land Scotland and Zero Waste Scotland; who are aware of, and supportive of the National Park Authority's approach. Zero Waste Scotland have already positively responded to a draft of the strategy, and the Litter Prevention Manager has been asked to speak at a conference for the National Litter Strategy about the National Park Authority's work.
- 5.3 The strategy is grounded in our existing litter and waste prevention work, drawing this into a single framework. All relevant colleagues have been consulted on the strategy and will be integral to the action planning stages.
- 5.4 The strategy focuses on waste (i.e. the materials that are discarded in the first place) as well as litter (i.e. what's been dropped on the ground). Bringing in the explicit waste reduction focus articulates in greater detail our climate emergency ambitions for waste, so the strategy should be seen as complementary to that work.

### 6. Proposed implementation

- 6.1 Whilst we can set a strategic vision and lead on litter and waste prevention in the National Park, responsibility for day-to-day litter and waste management lies with a number of stakeholders, without whom the impact of the National Park Authority alone would be limited.
- 6.2 Therefore, it is proposed that the National Park Authority should bring together a steering group of stakeholders from across the National Park. The steering group would consist of representatives from the following organisations (no more than one per organisation, as appropriate):
- The four Local Authorities,

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- Major public and NGO landowners such as Forestry and Land Scotland.
- Private landowners (suggested selected representative from the SLE forum and / or NFUS).
- Community representative
- Local business (suggested selected representative from the Business Destination Group).
- National litter and waste experts such as Zero Waste Scotland, SEPA and Keep Scotland Beautiful.
- Other relevant bodies as appropriate to the focus of the work e.g. Transport Scotland/BEAR Scotland, Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime etc.

- 6.3 It is proposed that the group will meet in March, following consideration by the National Park Authority Board. At this meeting the group will consider the strategy and will be asked to commit to supporting it as appropriate. This will inform an annual action plan to drive work across the National Park. Progress against this action plan will be monitored by the National Park Authority.
- 6.4 The frequency and format of group meetings is to be determined at the first meeting. Our recommendation is that this should be quarterly, with the first meeting functioning as a whole group, 'year ahead' focus, and the subsequent meetings being project-specific, targeted at delivering agreed work with relevant partners. The intention is that in following years, there will be an annual review of actions then resetting a new year's plan.
- 6.5 Progress on litter and waste prevention will be monitored through relevant outcomes identified within the action plan e.g. if the group decide in the first year that infrastructure should be the priority, a series of agreed actions (such as sharing of cleansing schedules, 'binrastructure' audits in the National Park, creation of policies etc) will enable us to track progress and also hold ourselves and our partners accountable too.
- 6.6 The main focus in 2020/21 will be to draw together, establish the steering group and secure buy-in to initial actions. However, some ongoing delivery will be led by the National Park Authority in tandem to the management of the steering group. The current agreed projects are:
- Building upon the re-established East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group, utilise a service design approach to improve the provision for and servicing of litter and waste management.
  - A communications focus on the issue of 'source to sea' (i.e. the path litter travels from land to the aquatic environment) marine litter, as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020.

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### 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Alongside our own actions within the Plan, establishing and leading a steering group to drive forward actions within the Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy will be a priority for our Litter Prevention Manager. In order to have the necessary impact we will bring together stakeholders with the power to make a difference to prevent litter and waste in the National Park. The steering group should be allowed to function for 2020/21 to ensure that it is a viable and effective delivery mechanism, and reviewed at the end of this first year to ensure that the commitment to it leads to positive action and outcomes.

Appendix 1 – Litter and Waste Prevention Strategy

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