



LIVE PARK

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONAL PARK



Taking forward the Local Development Plan

Development Plan Scheme 2021/22

Contents

What is a Local Development Plan?	3
What is a Development Plan Scheme?	3
Current Focus of our work	3
Monitoring and delivery	3
Update: Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.....	4
What is happening now and looking ahead.....	5
Other Plans and Strategies	5
Key stakeholders engaged in the Local Development Plan process.....	7
Participation Statement.....	8
Engagement Techniques	9
Impact Assessments of the Local Development Plan	10
Timeline for Preparation of the Local Development Plan.....	11

What is a Local Development Plan?

The Local Development Plan (the Plan) provides the statutory basis for guiding development in the National Park and acts as the basis for determining planning applications.

The Plan was adopted in December 2016 and sets out the vision for development over the next 20 years and a clear spatial strategy to guide future land use and development up to 2027, as well as detailed policies and proposals to make sure the right development happens in the right place.

What is a Development Plan Scheme?

This Development Plan Scheme sets out the programme for preparing and reviewing our Local Development Plan, and explains what is likely to be involved at each stage.

This Development Plan Scheme will cover the following:

- Provide an update on the focus of our work over the coming year
- Indication of timescales for preparing a new Local Development Plan
- Participation statement outlining how and when we will engage with our communities and stakeholders.

Current Focus of our work

Our focus remains on implementing the Plan and delivering it's vision. To achieve this vision the Plan's development strategy identifies three Strategic Growth Areas, eight Placemaking Priorities and two Rural Development Framework Areas.

This year the focus is on updating and new planning guidance to support the policies in relation to Strathard Rural and Land Use Development Framework, safeguarding tourism, retail and economic development and sustainable and active travel. As explained later, we are not currently preparing a new Local Development Plan as our intention is to prepare the next plan under the new Planning Act.

Monitoring and delivery

We monitor delivery of the Plan's development strategy and use of its policies. This is published in our annual monitoring report and contributes towards the evidence base of the next Plan. A key tool to help co-ordinate the delivery of the Plan is our Action Programme. The Action programme identifies what is to be done, who is responsible and when it will be achieved. This is a live document that is updated bi-annually to reflect the changes on the ground. The latest version was published in June 2021 and is available on the website.

[Our Local Development Plan](#) – **Monitoring Reports**.

Update: Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

The Planning (Scotland) Act includes a broad range of changes across the planning system but in particular there are new arrangements for preparation of development plans. One of the key changes is the requirement to prepare a Local Development Plan from every five years to preparing one every **ten years**. Another key change is that local communities will have the opportunity to prepare Local Place Plans which are taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans.

The Scottish Government are to prepare and consult on regulations and guidance as part of implementing the Act. National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) are also to be reviewed and will become part of the new Development Plan. The original '[Transforming Planning in Practice](#)' work programme aimed to implement most of the Act by 2021, however much of this work has been delayed as the Scottish Government has focused on responding to the Covid-19 emergency. It is now anticipated that a draft NPF4 will be placed before Parliament in Autumn 2021 with adoption around Spring/Summer 2022.

It is expected that the new regulations for development planning will follow similar timescales to NPF4. Based on the current anticipated timescales for this, we have made further revisions to our Local Development Plan Scheme to closely align our process to prepare a new Plan with the new anticipated planning legislation and subsequent guidance. This will see the likely adoption of the next Local Development Plan in 2024. These revised timescales are set out in this Development Plan Scheme together with the ways in which we will engage and when this will take place. These timescales for engagement could be further amended to align with the implementation of the new planning legislation and subsequent guidance.

What is happening now and looking ahead

The main focus of our work at the moment is on delivering the adopted Local Development Plan and using the action programme as a tool to help achieve this. We have also been monitoring the Plan and building up an evidence base to inform a future review of the Local Development Plan and to check that the Plan remains fit for purpose and responsive to any new and emerging issues.

Other Plans and Strategies

Various other plans and strategies are currently being developed and these will help inform a future review of The Plan.

Supplementary & Planning Guidance

The Local Development Plan is supported by a number of Supplementary and Planning Guidance documents. These can be found on our website. The guidance contains detail and advice to help implement core policies in the Local Development Plan. We are investigating the preparation of further planning guidance to ensure the Plan remains current. Since mid-2019 we have been preparing a new Rural Development Framework for Strathard where we are piloting the integration of wider land management and land use planning. This draft Framework is now published and consultation closes at the end of June. It is expected that it will be approved in early autumn.

National Park Partnership Plan

The National Park Partnership Plan was approved in Spring 2018. This sets out how the National Park Authority and a wide range of other organisations and interests, can work together over the next five years to look after, enhance and make the most of the special landscape of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

As a strategic plan it focusses on the bigger priorities for action that will make a positive difference to the area, its communities, people who visit it and to the Scottish economy. It also guides other documents such as the Local Development Plan.

Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 established a new duty for a planning authority, or authorities acting jointly, to prepare and adopt a Regional Spatial Strategy. These are long-term strategies which identify the need for strategic development, its outcomes, and priorities for delivery along with proposed locations for these.

Earlier this year we submitted our draft Indicative Regional Spatial [Strategy](#) to the Scottish Government. This is a draft report that sets out our early thinking on the key strategic planning and land use issues and opportunities within the National Park up to 2050. It highlights the strategic-scale changes that are needed to support a transition to net zero carbon, green recovery and a more inclusive society.

We will now work with partners and neighbouring planning authorities to further discuss and explore linkages, opportunities and means for delivery. We have prepared our report at the

request of the Scottish Government to help inform their drafting of National Planning Framework 4. Full stakeholder engagement and consultation will form a key part of the process to prepare the formal Regional Spatial Strategy in due course.

Community Action Plans and Local Place Plans

Community Action Plans are prepared by communities to help identify the goals, aspirations and priorities for action. These are used by communities to help support grant funding applications and by our planning team to help inform the Local Development Plan. There are several Community Action Plans being updated this year. Various community engagement techniques are being used, including the Place Standard tool, in the development of these. This will help inform the review of the Plan and help communities to become more involved in place making. Local Place Plans are a new requirement of the Planning Act, further guidance is to be prepared and once more is known about how these are to be developed and operate we will respond appropriately to the new requirements.

Local Outcome Improvement Plans

There are four Community Planning Partnerships that cover the National Park and each is required to prepare a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan during 2017 by the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015. These plans set priorities for improvement locally, as well as 'locality plans' for areas experiencing particular disadvantage. Active community participation is a core element of the locality planning process. We are represented on each Community Planning Partnership to ensure alignment of community planning priorities with the National Park Partnership plan and the next Local Development Plan.

Key stakeholders engaged in the Local Development Plan process

Local Authority Partners

The National Park Authority has the statutory responsibility for Planning in the National Park. However, the Local Authorities of Argyll and Bute, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire, and Perth and Kinross have responsibility for discharging all other local government functions (for example Roads and Transportation, Housing Investment and Policy, Education and Environmental Services). Their input into policy development and coordination with their service delivery priorities are integral to delivering the strategy and aims of our Plan.

Our Communities

Input from local communities is particularly important, especially at the early stages of preparing the Plan. It is hoped that the aspirations of local communities will be articulated through their Local Place Plans which will help show priorities for communities and influence the outcomes of the planning process. However, we will also be undertaking targeted engagement with community councils to gather issues for the next plan. In 2019 we inputted into a training session, organised by the Community Partnership, to raise our communities awareness and understanding of the Place Standard and Local Place Plans and the work we have been piloting. It is also important that individuals, including young people, get involved in shaping the future of the National Park. We will be working with some communities during 2020 to update their community action plans and ensure they become spatial to align with local place plans requirements (see update above on page 3 under Community Action Plans).

Development Sector

Developers, landowners, businesses and investors are all significant stakeholders in this process. Through land that they own, finance they are looking to invest or businesses which wish to expand or set up, these interests are critical to realising the vision identified in the Plan. We currently engage with landowners via our current six monthly action programme review.

Key Agencies

Key agencies are bodies specified by Scottish Ministers who are required to co-operate with planning authorities at certain stages in the development plan preparation process. The intention is that, through this full and early engagement, plan-making authorities will have early access to much of the key information they need to produce effective plans. The plans themselves will therefore be realistic and deliverable and tie in with the strategic objectives of other agencies, with these agencies 'buying-in' to the strategy and proposals of plans and assisting in their delivery.

Participation Statement

At the key stages we will engage with:

stakeholders/key agencies in the public sector (such as key government agencies, the four local authorities, statutory bodies, and non-governmental organisations); the private sector (such as business interests, landowners and developers); the local community including residents, Community Councils, community representatives, community organisations and other interested bodies.

Further to this we are looking to support our stakeholders to ensure they have the capacity and the confidence to engage effectively in the planning system. Four immediate actions identified are:

- Training community councils and trusts on Local Place Plans.
- Continue to seek opportunities to engage young people in the planning process as decisions made now will impact on future generations
- Linking with Community Planning Partnerships and strengthening the links between spatial and community planning.
- Building stronger links between Community Action Plans and the Local Development Plan and support communities that have aspirations to develop Local Place Plans.



Engagement Techniques

We want to continue a dialogue between all sectors of the community across the National Park, and will continue to encourage harder to reach groups to get involved, including young people, families with children and people in full time employment. Social media has proved particularly helpful in this regard, alongside the more traditional forms of engagement.

This year, due to the pandemic, has given us an opportunity to trial new ways of engagement over virtual platforms and webinars. In place of our normal face to face drop in during the Strathard Framework consultation we ran an online webinar. We recorded this and published it alongside various presentations to set the scene. We also trialled the use of an interactive map.

Engagement techniques will include:

- Availability of information and consultation documents through our website promoted by social media, email and letter updates
- Social media: Information feeds and sharing feedback through Facebook and twitter
- Provide updates at key stages to those who have requested to receive updates or responded to the development plan consultations
- Interactive online mapping of the Local Development Plan and investigate developing this further to allow the public to add comments on to an interactive map.
- Disseminate information through Community Councils, Development Trusts, National Park offices and local libraries
- Placing articles and adverts in local and community media (magazine / newspapers / websites etc.)
- Community drop-in events and/or workshops to be offered in key locations (when the pandemic allows) and also a virtual session for those who are not able to attend in person.
- Work with schools in the area to engage young people and hold special virtual sessions for young people who are in and have recently left school.
- Briefing meetings to be arranged for Councils and Government agencies
- Staff available to answer questions or provide information in person at our offices or via telephone, email and social media
- Staff available to answer questions or provide information in person at our offices or via telephone, virtual meetings, email and social media
- Regular consultation updates to be provided during the consultation via blogs on our website promoted by social media
- Attend Public Meetings and other Community Meetings and Events (Community Council meetings or Community Area Network events)
- We are will also explore new ways of working with communities, such as virtual drop in sessions with interactive/live feedback. Or online participative workshops and pre-recorded presentations.

Impact Assessments of the Local Development Plan

The public sector has a duty to assess and review the impact of its policies. This includes compliance with the equality duty and a requirement for all Local Development Plans to undergo environmental assessments.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Local Development Plan to be undertaken. This is a process of identifying and assessing the environmental effects of proposed strategies, plans and programmes so that these are taken into account before they are approved or adopted. It is a vital tool which places environmental considerations at the heart of decision-making process and ensures that alternatives are fully and transparently regarded before final decisions are taken. We will consult with Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency in preparing our Strategic Environmental Assessment and compile an Environmental Report. There are opportunities to comment on this document as well as the Plan.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the potential impacts of the Plan on European Sites will be undertaken as part of the Local Development Plan. There are a number of designated 'Natura' sites within the National Park and our plans and policies will be considered against their potential to have an adverse impact on these protected sites and species.

Equalities Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 we have a duty to undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment of proposed policies and practices.

Timeline for Preparation of the Local Development Plan

2021 - Evidence Gathering and Engagement

- Continue early engagement with community council exploring new ways of engaging virtually, learning from other authorities experience of consulting due the COVID-19 pandemic and other stakeholders to inform evidence report.
- Prepare planning guidance on sustainable and active travel and safeguarding tourism, retail and economic development.
- Finalise and approve the Strathard Framework planning guidance and land use framework.
- Start preparation work for evidence report such as gathering or commissioning research.

2022 - Engagement and Consultation on Evidence Report

- Prepare and publish evidence report - mid-year.
- Send out invite to communities to prepare Local Place Plans.
- Submit to Gatecheck - end year (dependent on Scottish Government)

2023 - Consult and modify Proposed Plan

- Start preparation of Proposed 10 Year Plan (aligned with adoption of NPF4, SPP and taking account of registered Local Place Plans).
- Proposed Plan goes out to formal consultation with all stakeholders (first half of the year).
- Proposed Plan modified in light of consultation comments, and feedback given to explain changes made.

2024 - Adoption of Local Development Plan

- Collate responses and modify plan.
- Examination of Plan if required by Scottish Ministers.
- Adoption of Local Development Plan and associated delivery programme



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