



# Our next National Park Partnership Plan

## Agenda Item 6

### National Park Authority Board Meeting

13th December 2021

Paper for approval

---

1. Purpose.....	1
2. Recommendation .....	1
3. Context.....	2
4. Proposed approach for developing our next NPPP .....	3
5. Conclusion .....	3

#### 1. Purpose

1.1. The National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) is the overarching strategic plan for the National Park. It set out priorities and policies that the National Park Authority, and crucially, all delivery partners named within the Plan, will be guided by to deliver the statutory aims of the National Park.

1.2. The existing National Park Partnership Plan runs until 2023 so work needs to begin to develop the next Plan, which, after consultation, will need to be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval by that time.

1.3. This paper sets the context for the development of this next Plan and recommends an approach that will be taken in its development.

#### 2. Recommendation

Members are asked to:

2.1. Agree to commence work on a new National Park Partnership Plan for 2024-2029 through the formation of a sub-group of Board members, officers and, where appropriate, co-opted members to establish the process for engagement, agree the work programme and guide the development of the Plan.

2.2. Agree that this group should be Co-Chaired by Sarah Drummond and Chris Spray, with potential for two further Board members to become members of this group.

- 2.3. Agree to the group co-opting members who can help bring less heard perspectives to the Plan's development and creation, ensuring we have broader diversity of input and that our steering group's work is advised by areas of expertise not within the organisation.
- 2.4. Agree to the draft Terms of Reference for the group set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.5. Note that the full Board will be provided with updates, including timelines and draft documents for consultation.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1. In the years since our existing National Park Partnership Plan 2018-23 was approved, the world has changed more than we could ever have foreseen.
- 3.2. The urgency of action needed to tackle the twin crises of climate and nature has never been clearer. Well before the global pandemic struck, these were challenging enough to deal with. Coupled with these the seismic impact of COVID-19 on global health, wellbeing, economy and patterns of behaviour is still being felt around the world.
- 3.3. Changes in visitor patterns and habits, the impact on people's work and lives, a massive downturn in the visitor economy, much-needed lost time on tackling the climate emergency and nature crisis are just some of the negative impacts felt across the National Park since COVID-19 struck in early 2020.
- 3.4. Some positive changes have happened during that time too: people having a greater appreciation of the benefits of time spent outdoors, more people getting out and seeing the country they live in, a greater understanding of the need for climate action, a growth in ethical investment opportunities that can help restore nature at scale.
- 3.5. A review of first three years of the current NPPP indicated both where the pandemic has interrupted areas of positive delivery, and where a full understanding is still developing of if/how the pandemic has fundamentally shifted patterns of behaviour and impacted on the economy.
- 3.6. It is envisaged that the Climate and Nature crises will be key drivers for the new Plan. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park will play its part in contributing to national climate targets (70% reduction in emissions by 2030 and Scotland becoming a net zero nation by 2045). The new Plan must galvanise action across the National Park to deliver the urgent and significant action needed to achieve these medium and longer-term targets.
- 3.7. Work is at an advanced stage to obtain a baseline of the National Park's carbon emissions. This important dataset will help us set out a route map and associated targets for the next NPPP.

- 3.8. The new National Biodiversity Strategy and the emerging National Park 'Future Nature' strategy will set the context for even more ambitious targets for reversing the decline in nature.
- 3.9. This next Plan will take into account the need for transition to a new greener, low carbon economy, which also supports recovery from the pandemic that puts green skills and job opportunities at its heart.
- 3.10. The process of developing and consulting on the next Plan will draw on what worked well before, with a sharper focus on involving younger voices and under-represented groups. The proposal to co-opt onto the group is aimed at supporting better engagement and policy development.
- 3.11. Those Board members who are interested in joining the group should approach the Board & Committee Manager after the meeting.

#### **4. Proposed approach for developing our next NPPP**

- 4.1. The National Park Partnership Plan is the overarching strategic plan that guides our work. It informs more subject-specific plans which deliver NPPP outcomes. Early work has begun on developing our next Local Development Plan which will set out how our statutory planning function will play its part in delivery. The ambition set out in our emerging 'Future Nature' strategy will be reflected in the new Partnership Plan.
- 4.2. The proposed Steering Group will help map out our plan development processes. With several key strategies due for consultation in the coming period, we are acutely aware of the need to avoid consultation fatigue. We intend to work with the Group to ensure plan development and consultations focus on key issues, actions and policies and areas requiring urgent action. This mapping will help inform how we develop a programme approach to this strategic development work, making best use of Board, staff and stakeholder time.
- 4.3. While a detailed project plan is yet to be developed the initial target is to have completed a consultation on a draft National Park Partnership Plan during 2022-23, with submission to Ministers for approval during 2023.
- 4.4. In developing the next NPPP and Local Development Plan (LDP), the time is right to review the language and nomenclature of existing, related plans. The Group will review the hierarchy of plans, and their inter-relationship, to ensure that the next generation of documents and strategies are consistent with a new NPPP and Local Development Plan.

#### **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. Members are therefore asked to agree the recommendations in this report and the attached draft Terms of Reference to enable work on the new National Park Partnership Plan 2024-29 to progress.

Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference

**Author:** Gordon Watson, CEO  
Anna MacLean, Director of Engagement & Innovation  
**Executive Sponsor:** Gordon Watson, CEO