



Appendix 2 Joint Response Visitor Management Plan 2022 - Extract

Agenda Item 5

National Park Authority Board Meeting
13th June 2022

Paper for information

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1. Extract from Agenda Item 8 - Appendix 1 – Joint Response Visitor Management Plan 14th March 2022

1.1. The following extract from the Joint Response Visitor Management Plan 14th March 2022 sets the context for and notes progress on the Place Programme, a new, prioritised five year programme of visitor management infrastructure.

Investment in Visitor Infrastructure (Section 6.7)

6.7.1 The provision of high quality infrastructure and services in the right locations is essential in alleviating the pressures brought by increasing visitor numbers. Partners are working with each other, and with local and national stakeholders, to develop a new, prioritised five year programme of visitor management infrastructure and service enhancements. There is balance to be maintained between developing plans and delivering projects on the ground. By the end of 2022, NPSRAG partners will be in a positive position in this respect, whereby (for at least the next 5 years) we will have an annual cycle of projects being delivered on the ground, while the following year's projects are planned. Unfortunately there are still challenges with supply

chains and contractor availability, which remains a major risk to getting 'spades in the ground'.

6.7.2. From a planning perspective, building on the recent work of the East and West Loch Lomond Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Design studies will be important. These documents lay out a number of prioritised projects designed to reduce visitor pressures and improve the experience of local residents and the visitors themselves. It is hoped that two of these projects can start to be developed in 2022. At the time of writing this document, these projects have not yet been selected but sites being considered include; Arrochar car park (The Cobbler), Tarbet car park, Balmaha (which may require a Masterplan) and Rowardennan. To keep momentum, the National Park Authority will also be working with local stakeholders to develop two further Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Design studies for Strathard and The Trossachs and for Callander and the surrounding area respectively.

6.7.3. Subject to the required consents and agreements, the National Park Authority will over the course of 2022 look to design and install a new strategic facility at Loch Achray to support the transition from car use to sustainable transport alternatives whilst helping to alleviate current dangerous verge parking and irresponsible toileting in the area.

6.7.4. Upgrades to existing recreational infrastructure can also help to manage visitor pressures. In 2022, after the visitor season has ended, work will begin to upgrade the very popular Conic Hill path to help to address increasing soil erosion. The Bracklinn Falls Bridge which was recently removed will be replaced along with additional landscaping to better enhance the experience of the many visitors who come to enjoy the beauty of the Falls each year.

6.7.5. Wherever possible, partners will support community led visitor management projects which may be eligible for the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund that can only be directly accessed by the National Park and Local Authorities.

6.7.6. Building on the water safety work that was undertaken in 2021, partners will work to continue to assess sites next to water and install signage and Personal Rescue Equipment where appropriate.

6.7.7. Forestry and Land Scotland will continue to work to deliver its improvement programme at Ardentinn picnic site.

6.7.8. The use of technology to assist with managing visitors will likely be increasingly important to provide accurate information to tourists in advance of their visit, to help send resources such as Ranger staff to where they are most needed and to build evidence required to make and test the effectiveness of

future infrastructure investments. In 2022, partners including Stirling Council, Perth and Kinross Council, the National Park Authority, the Digital Office for Local Government, CENSIS and the Scottish Government will be continuing to work with a software developer to find solutions to all of these functions. This work forms part of a CivTech Alliance Challenge that began in 2021: How do we better plan, manage and respond to the experiences of visitors and communities at visitor hotspots in rural and remote locations.