



Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2024-2029

Agenda Item 7

National Park Authority Board Meeting

11 March 2024

Paper for decision

1.	Purpose	1
2.	Recommendation(s).....	1
3.	Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Our 5-year Plan	2
4.	Background.....	2
5.	Next steps.....	3
6.	Appendices	3

1. Purpose

1.1. The [Gaelic Language \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) is the legislative cornerstone for the promotion and preservation of Gaelic language and culture in Scotland. This pioneering legislation aims to safeguard the status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, recognising its intrinsic value to the nation's cultural heritage and identity and one that should command equal respect to the English language.

1.2. The Act mandates various measures to support Gaelic, including the development of [Gaelic Language Plans by public bodies](#) like the National Park Authority and statutory responsibilities to help raise the status and profile of the language and provide practical opportunities for its use. Along with the National Gaelic Language Plan, these Plans overall aim is to deliver an increase in the use and learning of Gaelic.

1.3. Promoting the use and understanding of Gaelic in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park aligns with the overarching aims of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 particularly in relation to conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. Members are invited to:

- a) Approve the Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2024 – 2029, attached as Appendix 1, for consultation, subject to any minor editorial changes needed before consultation;
- b) Approve that a public consultation on the Draft Plan is carried out for a minimum of 6 weeks, in accordance with the statutory guidelines from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

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

- 3.1. The development and implementation of a Gaelic Language Plan for the National Park Authority is aligned to the National Park Partnership Plan 2024-2029 particularly in relation to the potential to enhance people's experience of the National Park by building a bond with our landscape and keeping important aspects of the Park's cultural and heritage (like Gaelic language) alive as part of the time they spend here.

4. Background

- 4.1. The [National Gaelic Language Plan \(2023-2028\)](#) sets out where action is needed to strengthen the Gaelic language in Scotland. It underpins the Scottish Government ambition to see an increase in the number of people speaking learning, using and supporting Gaelic in Scotland. The latest edition was approved by Scottish Government Ministers and published in December 2023. It provides a comprehensive framework for advancing Gaelic language and culture at a national level. It sets out strategic objectives and practical initiatives to support public bodies like ours who produce their own Gaelic Language Plans, in accordance with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 4.2. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is a Non-Departmental Public Body and is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development, including providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.
- 4.3. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority is required by the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 to have a Gaelic Language Plan that is renewed every 5 years.
- 4.4. The Park Authority's existing Gaelic Language Plan is now overdue for renewal. Pressures during COVID-19 meant resources were directed elsewhere and since then we wanted to align our next Gaelic Language Plan with the new National Park Partnership Plan. We have kept in contact Bòrd na Gàidhlig throughout the process of developing this Plan and while our current Gaelic Language Plan is overdue for renewal, we have been living the spirit of the Plan, creating engaging Gaelic content such as [these videos](#)

by Gaelic-speaking outdoor enthusiasts Calum MacLean and Kerry MacPhee and celebrating events like World Gaelic Week with our own .

- 4.5. The Draft Gaelic Language Plan presented to Board members today is the third edition of our Plan and has been drafted in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act and having regard to the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans.
- 4.6. This Draft Gaelic Language Plan is ready for public consultation – a requirement of the Act 2005 – prior to the final version being considered by the National Park Board and if approved it will then be submitted to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig for final approval and adoption. Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2024-2029 is included as Appendix 1.
- 4.7. The Cairngorms National Park Authority is currently in the process of consulting on their equivalent [Gaelic Language Plan](#) and officers have been liaising with colleagues at Cairngorms National Park Authority to ensure we are shared learning and good practice in relation to the planned consultation and on bringing Gaelic to life.
- 4.8. The template used for the draft Plan (as Appendix 1) is one designed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig for all Gaelic Language Plans to follow. The campaign that will support the consultation on the Draft Plan will bring the ideas and proposals within the draft Plan to life. Our communications will help break down the content of the Plan and help the public understand the responsibilities of the Park Authority in relation to Gaelic.
- 4.9. In preparing this Draft Plan for consultation we have sought informal feedback from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and that feedback has been built into the version set before members for approval.

5. Next steps

- 5.1. Subject to Board approval, a formal consultation and engagement campaign around that are planned for April/May in order to gather feedback from the public on the Draft Plan.
- 5.2. Following consideration of what we learn through the consultation, a final version of the third edition of the Authority's Gaelic Language Plan will be presented to Board members later in the year for final approval, before being submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for their consideration and approval.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2024-2029

Appendix 2 – Summary of the findings from our internal Gaelic Capacity Review
2023

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