

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

TITLE: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON
PLANNING REFORM JANUARY 2013

PREPARED BY: Don McKee, Head Planner

PURPOSE OF PAPER

1. To update Members on Scottish Government progress with introducing planning reform.

BACKGROUND

2. As Members will be aware the reform of the planning system in Scotland has now been underway for the last 10 years or so with formal roll out following the new Planning Act in 2006. The reforms have covered all aspects of planning including development planning and development management with a central purpose of making the system more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the current economic climate. Sustainable Economic Growth lies at the heart of the national agenda.
3. The Planning Minister, Derek Mackay, launched consultations in 2012 on further reform and CNPA submitted extensive comments following a report to the Planning Committee in June 2012
<http://cairngorms.co.uk/resource/docs/boardpapers/22062012/CNPA.Paper.5097.Planning%20Committee.Paper.7.-.Consu.pdf>
4. In a debate in the Scottish Parliament on 15 January 2013 the Planning Minister set out how the Scottish Government intends to proceed.
5. The full text of the debate can be viewed on:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7681&mode=pdf>

6. The Scottish Government's key actions on planning reform following the debate and the accompanying press statement are appended to this report.
7. Members will note that Scottish Government will, for the large part, be implementing the range of measures consulted on in 2012 with the specific exception of removal of permitted development rights for agricultural and hill tracks. This aspect of the changes to permitted development rights received the largest level of comment and Scottish Government has decided not to proceed with changes, certainly at this point in time.
8. This is obviously frustrating as there has been considerable discussion involving Scottish Government, CNPA, Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland with a view to using the proposed revisions as a vehicle for addressing issues within the National Parks and eventually leading to removal of National Scenic Area designations within the Parks. It is understood from Scottish Government that more time is required to consider the various arguments and the situation may be reviewed in a year or thereabouts. CNPA staff will continue to work with all of the parties referred to above so that this further review is fully informed.
9. Members will note that the Planning Minister and COSLA chairing a group to support planning performance in Scotland. It is important that there is also National Park representation on this group and this has been raised with Scottish Government.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That Members accept this report for information.

Don McKee

planning@cairngorms.co.uk

24 January 2013