

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT

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Purpose of Report

This paper provides an overview of how the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2015 was used by both the National Park Authority and the Local Authorities whose area it covers over the first year of its implementation. The information shows how the Local Development Plan is currently being used and provides an indication of issues that may need to be addressed in its review.

Background

1. The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 27th March 2015. The LDP is the first development plan that covers the whole of the National Park, replacing the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010 and the Perth & Kinross Council Highland Area Local Plan 2000, which covered the part of Perth and Kinross that was added to the National Park in 2010.
2. This report represents the first monitoring report on the LDP's implementation. The monitoring period covers the period from 27th March 2015 to 31st March 2016.

Highlights

3. Appendix I has a complete monitoring report for the LDP covering the use of every policy within it. The bullets below provide a summary of key points to draw from the policy analysis.
 - a) A total of 361 applications were determined within the National Park during the monitoring period.
 - b) Of those applications, 27 (around 7%) were determined by the National Park Authority and 334 by the Local Authorities.
 - c) Of those applications, 351 were approved and 10 refused, giving an approval rate of around 97% over the monitoring period.
 - d) A further 28 applications were registered but were not determined due to either being withdrawn or being found not to require planning permission

- (e.g. they were for proposals within the permitted development rights of the applicant).
- e) The most frequently used policy was 'Policy 3 Sustainable Design'. This policy was also one of those used most frequently to refuse planning permission, demonstrating that both local authorities and the CNPA are prepared to refuse poorly designed or inappropriately sited development proposals when necessary.
 - f) The reasons for calling in applications are apparent from the use of some policies such as 'Policy 4 Natural Heritage' and 'Policy 5 Landscape' that were used more often by the CNPA determining its 7% of applications than by the local authorities in determining the majority of applications.
 - g) There are some positive patterns to the use of policies and potential contribution to the economy of the National Park. The approval rate for applications where 'Policy 2 Supporting Economic Growth' was relevant was around 99%.
 - h) Sub-policy information was not systematically recorded by planning authorities and there remain some gaps in our understanding of how policies were used. The short time frame of the monitoring period means that there are not enough decisions to provide a representative sample and therefore making assumptions based on the available data is not appropriate at this stage.
4. Information on allocated sites has not been included in the Monitoring Report as this information is provided in detail in the LDP's Action Programme, which is reviewed annually.

Next Steps

5. Work has begun on the next LDP and policy information within the Monitoring Report will need to be considered as part of that work. Policy information will continue to be monitored and reported annually.

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