

# CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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## 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 four years of its implementation. The information shows how the Local Development Plan is currently being used.

### Background

1. The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> 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 3rd monitoring report / statement on the LDP's implementation, the last one having been published as part of the emerging LDP's statutory [Monitoring Statement](#). The monitoring period covers the period from 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### 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 1,480 applications were determined within the National Park during the monitoring period.
  - b) Of those applications, 87 (around 6%) were determined by the National Park Authority and 1,393 by the Local Authorities.
  - c) Of those applications, 1,409 were approved and 71 refused, giving an approval rate of around 95% over the monitoring period.

- d) A further 99 applications were registered but were not determined due to either being withdrawn or being found not to require planning permission (e.g. they were for proposals within the permitted development rights of the applicant).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 6% 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 96%.
  - h) Sub-policy information was not systematically recorded by planning authorities and there remain some gaps in our understanding of how policies were used. This has resulted in a change in the way policies have been formatted in the Proposed Plan, which provides the sub-policies with distinct references.
  - i) There were 15 appeals against refusal of planning permission. One was against National Park decisions and 14 against Local Authority decisions. Six (40%) of these appeals were allowed. A further two appeals were raised against non-determination, one was determined to not be within the jurisdiction of the DPEA to consider, the other was allowed.
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 and was presented to Planning Committee in June.

## **Next Steps**

5. Information on policy implementation will continue to be monitored annually and used to inform the development of future policies and procedures. In 2020 the current LDP (2015) will be replaced following the adoption of the new LDP, which is currently awaiting examination. There will therefore be one final Monitoring Report for this Plan to be published in 2020.

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