

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: Sustainable Design Guide

Prepared by: Alison Lax Local Plan / Policy Officer

Purpose

Following initial consideration at the meeting in Kingussie on 14 November, this revised report is to formally seek the Planning Committee's agreement to the purpose, scope and principles of the sustainable design guide.

Recommendation

That Members of the Planning Committee approve the purpose, principles and audience of the Sustainable Design Guide.

Background

1. The Sustainable Design Guide is one of the pieces of supplementary planning guidance that will be produced to support the policies included in the Local Plan. The importance of sustainable design has been fully endorsed by Scottish Government and reflected in various SPPs and PANs. The Park Authority has a commitment to make a positive contribution to climate change. The full list of the guidance to be produced was agreed at the Board meeting on 31 October 2008.
2. Work has been progressing gradually on the design guide for some time now. The latest element of this was the joint members / staff workshop that was held on 22/23 October. The event was well attended by both members and staff and focused on addressing the key issues relating to the design guide, namely, how it will be Cairngorms specific, how it will relate to the plethora of guidance on sustainable design that already exists and which can be utilised, and who the primary audiences will be.

3. On the basis of discussion at the workshop it is proposed that the guide is prepared in line with the following parameters.

Purpose

The purpose of the Sustainable Design Guide is to amplify and illustrate the principles set out in the Local Plan. Primarily it is to support policy 18 in the Local Plan which sets out the Sustainable Design basis for all new development in the Cairngorms National Park and to provide guidance and advice when planning for development. It is to be used in association with other Local Plan supplementary guidance and will signpost users to other external sources of information and advice where appropriate.

Principles

The Guide should be:

- Cairngorms Specific
 - The Guide will deal with issues that are relevant to the particular requirements of the Cairngorms National Park. It will not pick up on general issues where information is already available elsewhere. It is intended to fill a gap that exists in existing guidance on sustainable design. It will be a guide that truly makes a difference.
- Concise
 - The Guide will be as concise as possible, and will not repeat information that is available elsewhere, but instead will signpost the users to these sources.
- Customer focused
 - The Guide will be targeted at its primary audience, and will be helpful and encouraging in style and tone to help people deliver the best outcome for the Park and assist applications through the planning process as efficiently as possible.
- Outcome focused
 - The Guide will be focused on what needs to be achieved to meet the vision in Park Plan and Local Plan and should have an underlying emphasis on pragmatic elements in order to convey the message that sustainable design is both achievable and worthwhile.
- Have a Robust Status
 - The guide will be used as an important material consideration in planning matters. Having been developed through due process it will carry considerable weight and will be defensible as a decision making tool. The advice contained in guide will also be relevant to developments that do not require planning approval.
- A Guide that truly makes a difference

- o The Guide should be developed so that it can be used to support the relevant policy in the Local Plan to make a real difference, In particular, the combination of helpful text in the main body of the Guide, and the checklist to be submitted with each application, will act as in a mutually reinforcing way to encourage more sustainable forms of development.

Customers

- Primary Audience is people who are considering developing in the National Park
- The guide will be there to assist professionals and lay people alike.
- It will highlight the issues everyone should be considering when planning a development, and could be used by either individuals when speaking to architects, or by the architects themselves.

The guide will be produced by the National Park Authority, in conjunction with our partners to make the most of the expertise in this area, and it will be owned and delivered by everyone with an interest in development in the National Park.

Timetable

The timetable for the production of the sustainable design guide is moving apace, and the programme of work for the coming months is set out in **Annex 1**.

Alison Lax
Local Plan / Policy Officer 2 December 2008

Annex 1

Outputs and Related Activities	Year 2008	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year 2009	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	hold internal workshop		22-23														
project team agreement of action plan		31															
planning committee agreement of action plan / principles etc			14														
draft design guide																	
informal board discussion of draft guide																	
further revisions to guide																	
board approval of guide for public consultation								20									
local plan inquiry discussions of Policy 18																	
public consultation on draft SDG																	
board consideration of consultation responses												10					
revisions made to SDG																	
SDG adopted by board														30			
publication of final SDG																	