
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 FINAL
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 during the full period of its implementation. The information shows how the Local Development Plan 2015 policies were used in determining planning applications and appeals during 2015 - 2021.

Background

1. The 2015 Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 27 March 2015. The LDP was 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 fifth and final monitoring report / statement on the implementation of the 2015 LDP, the last one having been seen by Committee in November 2020.
3. The monitoring period covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2021.

Highlights

4. Appendix I has a complete monitoring report for the 2015 LDP covering the use of each policy within it. The bullets below provide a summary of key points to draw from the policy analysis:
 - a) Over 2000 planning applications were determined within the National Park during the lifetime of the 2015 LDP.
 - b) Of those applications, 138 (around 7%) were determined by the National Park Authority and 1902 by the Local Authorities.
 - c) Of those applications, 1951 were approved and 89 refused, giving an average approval rate of around 91% over lifetime of the 2015 LDP.

- d) Reflecting the variety of applications submitted each year, there were annual fluctuations in the approval rates, varying between around 90% in 2017/18 and around 99% in 2020/21.
 - e) The most frequently referred to policy by both CNPA and Local Authorities was Policy 3: Sustainable Design, indicating that sustainable design is an important factor for development within the National Park.
 - f) Policies 1: New Housing Development and 2: Supporting Economic Growth were the second and third most commonly referred to policies, indicating their importance for consideration of development proposals in the National Park.
 - g) Policy 4: Natural Heritage and Policy 5: Landscape were referred to more by CNPA when determining called in applications than they were referred to by Local Authorities determining other applications. This indicates that potential effects on natural heritage and landscape interests are important reasons why applications are called in.
 - h) Sub-policy information was not systematically recorded by planning authorities resulting in gaps in our understanding of how policies were used. It is hoped that the way sub-policies have been numbered in the 2021 Local Development Plan will help address this issue for future monitoring.
 - i) Of the 34 appeals made during the lifetime of the 2015 LDP, 21 were against refusal of planning permission, with the remainder being against application of conditions. Of the 21 appeals against refusal of planning permission, 7 were against National Park decisions and 23 against Local Authority decisions. Eleven of the appeals against planning refusal were allowed (planning permission granted following appeal).
5. Information on allocated sites has not been included in the Monitoring Report as this information is provided in detail in the Action Programme for the LDP, which is reviewed annually.

Next Steps

6. This is the final Monitoring Report for the 2015 Local Development Plan. However information on policy use will continue to be monitored annually for the 2021 LDP and used to inform the development of future policies and procedures.

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