
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR DECISION

Title: ADOPTION OF NON-STATUTORY GUIDANCE

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Purpose of Report

To ask the Planning Committee to adopt 7 items of non-statutory guidance to support the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021.

Recommendation:

That the Board to adopt the following 7 items of non-statutory guidance to support the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021:

- I. Supporting Economic Growth
- II. Natural Heritage
- III. Landscape
- IV. Renewable Energy
- V. Resources
- VI. Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- VII. Cultural Heritage

Background

1. The Planning Committee approved the Natural Heritage, Renewable Energy, Landscape and Cultural Heritage Non-statutory Supplementary Guidance (NSG) documents for public consultation at committee on 24 April 2020 and the Supporting Economic Growth, Resources and Open Space, Sport and Recreation NSG documents for public consultation on 26 June 2020.
2. Both public consultation periods subsequently ran for 6 weeks, with some organisations given an extension to respond where the impact of covid-19 constrained their capacity at that time.
3. The guidance documents will support the implementation of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (LDP). Some minor amendments to all of the policies or their supporting text were required following examination. Where required, the guidance documents have been updated to reflect the revised wording.

None of the post-examination policy changes significantly altered the main content of the guidance documents.

4. The purpose of the guidance documents is to provide supporting information for the relevant policy in the LDP. They supplement site specific advice that would be given at the pre-application stage of planning proposals. The documents signpost readers to the key issues to consider and to more detailed information provided by organisations with a statutory remit for the particular topic (eg NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland, SEPA, etc). The signposting approach helps keep the guidance documents concise and reader friendly, while also reducing the risk of the content being superseded and becoming incorrect over time.
5. This report presents a numerical summary of the changes suggested by responders and whether it was possible to make such changes. Appendix I is an anonymised table of all the responses received, along with whether the guidance documents have been amended and the reasons why/why not.

Highlights

6. The bullets below provide a summary of key points arising from analysis of the consultation responses:
 - a) Responses were received from 16 separate individuals or organisations as a result of the consultation. Most commented on more than one of the guidance documents, resulting in 46 responses in total.
 - b) 13 out of the 16 respondents welcomed or otherwise supported the guidance documents they commented on or responded to inform the CNPA that they had not comments to make.
 - c) The 16 responders made 172 separate suggestions for amending the content of the guidance documents. Of these, 60 resulted in changes being made, while 112 of the suggested changes were not possible (see below) or considered to already be covered by the guidance.
 - d) A number of the responses requested changes to the LDP policy text and/or requested that additional topics were included in the guidance. However, the guidance cannot introduce any additional requirements or topics not contained in the relevant policy of the LDP. Therefore such changes were not possible.
 - e) There were 13 suggestions made in relation to the Supporting Economic Growth guidance document, one of which was suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance.
 - f) There were 31 suggestions made in relation to the Natural Heritage guidance document, 14 of which were suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance (4 were addressed through changes required after examination to strengthen the Natural Heritage policy in relation to ancient woodlands).

- g) There were 31 suggestions made in relation to the Landscape guidance document, 5 of which were suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance.
- h) There were 26 suggestions made in relation to the Renewable Energy guidance document, 12 of which were suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance.
- i) There were 35 suggestions made in relation to the Cultural Heritage guidance document, 7 of which were suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance.
- j) There were 22 suggestions made in relation to the Resources guidance document, 18 of which were suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance.
- k) There were 17 suggestions made in relation to the Open Space, Sport and Recreation guidance document, 3 of which were suitable for addressing with minor changes to the guidance.

Next Steps

- 7. Following adoption, the non-statutory supplementary guidance will be published to be used alongside the Local Development Plan 2021.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Table of Consultation Responses
Appendix 2 - Supporting Economic Growth
Appendix 3 - Natural Heritage
Appendix 4 - Landscape
Appendix 5 - Renewable Energy
Appendix 6 - Resources
Appendix 7 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Appendix 8 - Cultural Heritage

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