



For decision

Title: Local Development Plan 2021 – Delivery Programme
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Purpose

This paper presents the Local Development Plan 2021 – Delivery Programme (2025). The Delivery Programme is an important project management tool. It is instrumental to achieving an outcomes-focused approach to development planning.

All local planning authorities are required to publish a Delivery Programme by 31 March 2025. The Board is being asked to note the Delivery Programme 2025 as set out in Annex 1 and approve its submission to Scottish Ministers.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a) Note the Local Development Plan Delivery Programme 2025 and approve its submission to Scottish Ministers.

Strategic context

1. The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan is the main document which influences built development in the National Park. It is a statutory requirement for the National Park, as a local planning authority. It is also a statutory requirement to publish a Delivery Programme (formerly known as an Action Programme) alongside the Local Development Plan. The Delivery Programme reports on progress and sets out actions for the delivery of the sites and proposals in the Local Development Plan. It is therefore a key tool for facilitating and supporting development. The Local Development Plan and Delivery Programme contribute to the National Park Partnership Plan's strategic outcomes across Nature, People and Place, but most particularly in relation to housing.



2. The Board adopted the current Local Development Plan in March 2021. An Action Programme was published alongside it to set out how the policies and proposals within the Local Development Plan would be implemented. A subsequent update to the Action Programme was published in 2022.
3. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (“the 2019 Act”) introduced significant changes to development planning. It renamed Action Programmes as Delivery Programmes. This was to emphasise their purpose, which is to achieve the outcomes of the Local Development Plan, rather than focus on monitoring specific actions. The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations subsequently came into force on 19 May 2023 and set out the matters which a Delivery Programme must contain.
4. A new delivery programme will be prepared alongside the new Local Development Plan and will fully meet the requirements set out in the Regulations. However, in the transitional period until the new Local Development Plan and Delivery Programme is prepared, each local planning authority is required¹ to update the Action Programme for their existing Local Development Plan and publish it as a Delivery Programme. In June 2024, a letter from the Government’s Chief Planner stated that Scottish Ministers required each planning authority to review the Action Programme for its ‘constituted local development plan and update it and publish it as a Delivery Programme’ by 31 March 2025.
5. This transitional document aims to respond to the new regulations, within the context of the adopted Local Development Plan. A key difference, compared to the requirements for action programmes, is the need to specify the ‘sequencing and timescale for the delivery of housing sites allocated by the Local Development Plan’. National Planning Framework 4 describes this as a ‘deliverable housing land pipeline’. It explains that the purpose of the pipeline is to provide a transparent view of the phasing of housing allocations so that interventions, including infrastructure that enable delivery, can be planned which leads to quality places. It explains that the pipeline phasing should represent when land will be brought forward across the short (one - three years), medium (four - six years) and long-term (seven - ten years).

¹ Regulation 5 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 12 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023



Scope of the Delivery Programme

6. This Delivery Programme seeks to provide greater clarity to stakeholders through its presentational approach. As an update and replacement for the Action Programme 2022, it introduces a colour-coded 'delivery pipeline' (section 2); provides details on affordable housing and financial contributions secured through planning permissions (section 3) and provides a greater level of detail on the planning history of each allocated site in each settlement (section 6).
7. A draft version of this Delivery Programme has been the subject of consultation with internal officers and other key stakeholders (local authorities, landowners, developers and key agencies). A list of the responses received is provided for information below. The aim has been to take this opportunity to continue to strengthen our relationship with these stakeholders.
8. The delivery pipeline presents the data available in each local authority's published housing land audit. It is colour-coded to reflect progress by categorising each site as either 'under construction', 'with permission' or 'no permission'. While red, amber and green colours are used, the colours are not an assessment of each site's deliverability status. It does not mean that red sites are considered to be 'constrained' or 'undeliverable'. The summary table is reproduced below (Table 1).

Table 1 Summary of Housing Supply

Status	Total site capacity	All completions to 31 March 2023	Total dwellings remaining
Under construction	574	260	314
With permission	104		104
No permission	468		468
Totals	1,146	260	886

9. The summary table includes Local Development Plan allocated sites as well as windfall sites (non-allocated sites which have planning permission) of four or more dwellings. It shows that 260 dwellings have been built on these sites between April 2020 and April 2023 – the first three years of the Local Development Plan. This equates to an average of 87 dwellings per year. The Local Development Plan's housing land requirement is 484 dwellings for the five years from 2020 to 2024 and 335 dwellings from 2025 to 2029. This totals 819 dwellings over a 10-year



period, or an average of 82 dwellings per year. Housing completions over the first three years of the Local Development Plan are therefore in line with the requirements set out in the plan.

Strategic policy consideration

10. This Delivery Programme is an update to the Action Programme 2022, produced to comply with the 'transitional provisions' under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.
11. The transitional provision regulations state that the Action Programme for each local planning authority's Local Development Plan must be kept under review, updated and republished as a Delivery Programme 'whenever required to do so by the Scottish Ministers'. The Scottish Ministers have required all local planning authorities to do so by 31 March 2025.
12. The Board are not being asked to consider options other than the recommended course of action. A new Delivery Programme will be prepared alongside the new Local Development Plan and strategic policy considerations will be important at that time.

Strategic risk management

13. No strategic risks from the Park Authority's strategic risk register are triggered by the publication of the Delivery Programme. Its publication is a statutory requirement of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 12 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023.
14. Failing to publish the Delivery Programme would constitute a reputational risk given the direction from Scottish Ministers to publish a Delivery Programme by 31 March 2025, as set out in the Scottish Government Chief Planner's letter dated 27 June 2024.



Implications

15. The proposed publication of the Delivery Programme does not have strategic resource implications and its preparation and implementation is part of the statutory function of the local planning authority. It does not expose the Authority to new areas of liability.

Success measures

16. Publishing this Delivery Programme by 31 March 2025 will meet the requirement of Scottish Ministers to review the action programme for our constituted Local Development Plan and update it and publish it as a Delivery Programme.

Supporting information

17. Annex 1 - Proposed Delivery Programme 2025
18. Annex 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

Links

[Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 – Action Programme 2022](#)

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13 March 2025

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Annex 2

Summary of Consultation Responses

Stakeholder	Response
Local Authorities	
Aberdeenshire Council	Planning Information and Delivery Team – confirmed that the figures match the published housing land audit. Suggested improvements to general layout and minor word changes. Provided advice in relation to developer contributions for education and health care infrastructure capacity.
The Highland Council	Development Plans Team – advice in relation to development contributions for education infrastructure capacity. Agreement to meet to strengthen relationship between the two planning authorities in relation to developer contributions.
Moray Council	Strategic Planning and Development – confirmed that the figures reflect the most up to date information Moray Council hold.
Perth and Kinross Council	Place Strategies Team – Clear and easy to follow. No specific comments to make.
Key Agencies	
Historic Environment Scotland	Welcome the preparation of the document, no detailed comments required.
Nestrans	Acknowledge the role of the regional transport strategies and how they are linked to the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan and Local Development Plan.
National Health Service	NHS Grampian – no comments in addition to advice provided on NHS Grampian assets in relation to the emerging local development plan.
NatureScot	No comments to make.
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks	No comments to make.
Scottish Enterprise	Have considered the document and have no comments to make.



Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Requested specific minor word changes.
Scottish Forestry	Grampian Conservancy – highlight broadleaved woodland designation of site allocation H1 Dinnet.
Transport Scotland	Suggested amendments to wording of their infrastructure projects.
Aviemore Community Council	Note the contents, no comments to make.
Landowners and Developers	
Braemar Community Ltd	Update in relation to site H3 Braemar.
Invercauld Estate / Scotia Homes	Update in relation to site H1 Ballater.
Mar Estate	Update in relation to site H1 Braemar.
Tulloch Homes	Update in relation to sites H1 Newtonmore and H1 / H2 Aviemore.