

Date:			
Issue:	General		
Objector(s):	Roy Turnbull	Objection ref(s):	390a
	Scottish Council for National Parks		434s
	Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group		400a

Reporter:	Mrs. Jill Moody and Mr. Hugh Begg
Procedure:	Hearing

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 This statement sets out the CNPA response to objections raised to the Deposit Local Plan as amended in respect of General issues, and supplements the response made to those objections by CNPA in its reports to Committee (CD7.3-7.5)

2.0 Provision of the Local Plan:

- 2.1 The Deposit Local Plan as modified clearly sets out the role of the Local Plan in contributing to the collective achievement of the 4 aims which is the general purpose of the CNPA under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. Within this context the Local Plan strikes an appropriate balance in terms of policies and allocations. This was clear in the original Deposit Local Plan, but has been further clarified through both sets of modifications.

3.0 Summary of objection(s)

- 3.1 This statement deals with 3 objections raising 3 issues:
- The plan is a retreat from the high hopes that accompanied the establishment of the Park and is focussed on the needs of developers and landowners at the expense of the 1st aim **(390a)**
 - Deposit Local Plan has left us disappointed, Consultative Draft gave indication that importance of Cairngorms was understood and would be promoted and protected. Tone does not give us same confidence. **(434s)**
 - Initial objections to lack of reference to wider international context over and above National Park Plan and lack of reference to compliance with NP Act. Following 1st modifications object that disappointed the plan has gone no further than could be expected of any rural planning authority; absence of reference to scale of recent development which will impair ability of public to comment; developments in the plan do not conform to definition of sustainable development in 5.2; object to scale of housing and degree to which plan promotes unsustainable housing growth – conflicts with 4 aims and Park Plan vision; concern at level of data on sites CNPA proposing for development, in which case precautionary principle should apply; all policies should be monitored in terms of impact they are having on natural and cultural heritage. **(400a)**

4.0 Summary of Cairngorms National Park Authority Response

- It is considered that the Local Plan as modified will ensure a balance is struck between development opportunities and protection of the Park's special qualities. The aims are at the heart of the Local Plan as reflected in Policy 1. **(390a)**
- The plan as modified has endeavoured to strike the right tone in terms of the collective achievement of the 4 aims. The context has been expanded and clarified in the modified document. The role and form of the plan are intended to meet the requirements of the National Parks and Planning Acts. **(434s)**

- The CNPA has clearly set out the context in the Local Plan and has offered further clarification via the modifications. This also applies to issues relating to the level of housing provision (which are also covered in evidence on specific policies). This objection is focused on the 1st aim of the Park and the scale of development in the Plan is considered appropriate and necessary to contribute to achievement of the 4th aim within the overall purpose of the CNPA to collectively achieve all of the aims in a co-ordinated way. Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21) and Topic Paper 3 “Approach to Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing” (CD7.23) expand on this and the latter sets out the approach to the allocation of land, including collection of data. The Local Plan (page 5) makes it clear that proposals must comply with all relevant policies and thus monitoring of developments for impact on natural and cultural heritage would be picked up throughout the plan and particularly under Policy I. **(400a)**

5.0 CNPA Commendation to Reporter

- 5.1 It is commended to the Reporter that the objections to the issues listed above are rejected as the Local Plan as modified strikes an appropriate balance for developments within a National Park context.

6.0 Strategic issues

- 6.1 As set out in Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21) and Topic Paper 3 “Approach to Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing” (CD7.23).

7.0 Assessment / Scope of Evidence

- 7.1 **(390a)** Objection: objects as the plan is a retreat from the high hopes that accompanied the establishment of the Park and is focussed on the needs of developers and landowners at the expense of the 1st aim.
- 7.2 **Response:** Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21), Topic Paper 2 “Special Qualities” (CD7.22), Topic Paper 3 “Approach to Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing” (CD7.23), and Topic Paper 4 “Site Selection” (CD7.24) clearly set out the context within which the Local Plan has been prepared. It has to contribute to the collective achievement of all 4 aims taking a strategic lead principally from the National Park Plan. The CNPA via the extensive consultation process has sought to strike the right balance within this context. Policy I clearly places the 4 aims at the heart of the plan, highlights the duty of collective achievement and the particular status of the first aim. Some objectors consider the plan to be pro-development, others pro-conservation. The Local Plan is both, but all within the context of the aims and delivering for the needs of communities in the National Park.
- 7.3 **(434s)** Objection: objects as the Deposit Local Plan has left us disappointed, Consultative Draft gave indication that importance of Cairngorms was understood and would be promoted and protected. Tone does not give us same confidence.
- 7.4 **Response:** Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21), Topic Paper 2 “Special Qualities” (CD7.22), Topic Paper 3 “Approach to Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing” (CD7.23), and Topic Paper 4 “Site Selection” (CD7.24) clearly set out the context within which the Local Plan has been prepared. It has to contribute to the collective achievement of all 4 aims taking a strategic lead principally from the National Park Plan. The CNPA via the extensive consultation process has sought to strike the right balance within this context. Policy I clearly places the 4 aims at the heart of the plan, highlights the duty of collective achievement and the

particular status of the first aim. Some objectors consider the plan to be pro-development, others pro-conservation. The Local Plan is both, but all within the context of the aims and delivering for the needs of communities in the National Park.

7.5 **(400a) Objection:** objects to lack of reference to wider international context over and above National Park Plan and lack of reference to compliance with NP Act. Following 1st modifications object that disappointed the plan has gone no further than could be expected of any rural planning authority; absence of reference to scale of recent development which will impair ability of public to comment; developments in the plan do not conform to definition of sustainable development in 5.2; object to scale of housing and degree to which plan promotes unsustainable housing growth – conflicts with 4 aims and Park Plan vision; concern at level of data on sites CNPA proposing for development, in which case precautionary principle should apply; all policies should be monitored in terms of impact they are having on natural and cultural heritage.

7.6 **Response:** The CNPA has clearly set out the context in the Local Plan and has offered further clarification via the modifications. This also applies to issues relating to the level of housing provision (which are also covered in evidence on specific policies). Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21), Topic Paper 2 “Special Qualities” (CD7.22), Topic Paper 3 “Approach to Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing” (CD7.23), and Topic Paper 4 “Site Selection” (CD7.24) clearly set out the context within which the Local Plan has been prepared. It has to contribute to the collective achievement of all 4 aims taking a strategic lead principally from the National Park Plan. The CNPA via the extensive consultation process has sought to strike the right balance within this context. Policy 1 clearly places the 4 aims at the heart of the plan, highlights the duty of collective achievement and the particular status of the first aim. The Local Plan (page 5) makes it clear that proposals must comply with all relevant policies and thus monitoring of developments for impact on natural and cultural heritage would be picked up throughout the plan and particularly under Policy 1. Some objectors consider the plan to be pro-development, others pro-conservation. The Local Plan is both, but all within the context of the aims and delivering for the needs of communities in the National Park.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 It is commended to the Reporter that the objections to the issues listed above are rejected as the Local Plan as modified strikes an appropriate balance for developments within a National Park context.

9.0 List of documents (including Core Documents)

- CD1.3 The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000
- CD1.18 Cairngorms National Park Designation Order 2003
- CD7.21 Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context”
- CD7.22 Topic Paper 2 “Special Qualities”
- CD7.23 Topic Paper 3 “Approach to Housing Land Supply and Affordable Housing”
- CD7.24 Topic Paper 4 “Site Selection”
- CD6.9 Consultative Draft Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2005
- CD6.13 Cairngorms National Park Deposit Local Plan as at 2nd modifications
- CD7.1 Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007

10.0 Cairngorms National Park Witnesses for Hearing

- Don McKee - Head of Planning