

Date:		
Issue:	General – Links to other plans/policies	
Objector(s):	Scottish & Southern Energy plc	Objection ref(s): 447j
Reporter	Mrs Jill Moody and Mr Hugh Begg	
Procedure	Hearing	

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 This statement sets out the Cairngorms National Park Authority response to the objections raised to the Deposit Local Plan as modified in respect of general content on links to other plans and supplements the response made to those objections by the Cairngorms National Park Authority in its report to Committee (CD7.2-7.5). No changes are proposed.

2.0 Provision of the Local Plan:

- 2.1 The Deposit Local Plan as modified makes appropriate references to Scottish Planning Policy, explains the relationship with the National Park Plan and in Section 3 and Policy 1 sets out the position on special qualities and contribution of development to collective achievement of the 4 aims, with para 3.4 clarifying the issue of weight to be attached to the 1st aim. The mDLP is the result of an iterative and continuous process of consultation which includes the previous Consultative Draft. The wider international policy context and issues relating to climate change and carbon footprint have been addressed.

3.0 Summary of objection(s)

- 3.1 One objection raising 1 issue has been lodged on the general issue of links to other plans/policies:
- There are a number of policies in the DLP that conflict with national planning policy and advice, particularly SPPI which states that policies must provide clear guidance to developers and the public on the relevant planning issues affecting an area, are properly justified to explain their intention and are expressed simply and unambiguously. SPPI makes it clear that it is only if development plans meet these criteria will they offer a sound basis for consistent decision making. The local plan does not meet these standards in SPPI. It should also provide locational guidance with regard to transmission infrastructure and should specify the special qualities of the Park and provide spatial guidance on them and relate this to policies. In response to 1st mDLP the special qualities have still not been defined and still a lack of specific locational guidance for electricity infrastructure so still does not comply with SPPI. In response to 2nd mDLP, disappointed objections have not been reflected so all representations are maintained except for policy 30. **(447j)**

4.0 Summary of Cairngorms National Park Authority Response

- 4.1 The Deposit Local Plan as modified makes appropriate references to Scottish Planning Policy, explains the relationship with the National Park Plan and in Section 3 and Policy 1 sets out the position on special qualities and contribution of development to collective achievement of the 4 aims. Para 30 of SPPI states that for National Park areas the National Park Plan will provide a strategic context for development plans. The approach to special qualities in the mDLP is taken from the adopted National Park Plan that has been approved by Ministers. Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21) and Topic Paper 2 “The Special Qualities of the

Cairngorms National Park” (CD7.22) explain the context for a local plan in the National Park and set out the approach to special qualities. The suite of Supplementary Guidance that is in the course of being assembled, including one on Renewable Energy, will provide further guidance to prospective developers. Given the new impetus on pre-application discussions the CNPA would also expect to speak to developers early on in their planning process to discuss specific locational issues. It is considered that the mDLP if read as a whole provides a sound framework in accordance with Scottish Government Policy and obligations under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 on which to base decisions. No further changes are considered necessary.

5.0 CNPA Commendation to Reporter

5.1 It is commended to the Reporter that the objection to the general approach on links to other plans as listed above are rejected. No issues are raised that could lead the Cairngorms National Park Authority to consider the approach deficient.

6.0 Strategic issues

6.1 None other than the strategic context covered in Topic Papers listed below.

7.0 Other material considerations

7.1 Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21) and Topic Paper 2 “The Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park” (CD7.22).

8.0 Assessment / Scope of Evidence

8.1 **(447j)** Objection: Objects as there are a number of policies in the DLP that conflict with national planning policy and advice, particularly SPPI which states that policies must provide clear guidance to developers and the public on the relevant planning issues affecting an area, are properly justified to explain their intention and are expressed simply and unambiguously. SPPI makes it clear that it is only if development plans meet these criteria will they offer a sound basis for consistent decision making. The local plan does not meet these standards in SPPI. It should also provide locational guidance with regard to transmission infrastructure and should specify the special qualities of the Park and provide spatial guidance on them and relate this to policies. In response to 1st mDLP the special qualities have still not been defined and still a lack of specific locational guidance for electricity infrastructure so still does not comply with SPPI. In response to 2nd mDLP, disappointed objections have not been reflected so all representations are maintained except for policy 30.

8.2 **Response:** The Deposit Local Plan as modified makes appropriate references to Scottish Planning Policy, explains the relationship with the National Park Plan and in Section 3 and Policy 1 sets out the position on special qualities and contribution of development to collective achievement of the 4 aims. Para 30 of SPPI states that for National Park areas the National Park Plan will provide a strategic context for development plans. The approach to special qualities in the mDLP is taken from the adopted National Park Plan that has been approved by Ministers. Topic Paper 1 “Statutory National Park Context” (CD7.21) and Topic Paper 2 “The Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park” (CD7.22) explain the context for a local plan in the National Park and set out the approach to special qualities. The suite of Supplementary Guidance that is in the course of being assembled, including one on Renewable Energy, will provide further guidance to prospective developers. Given the new impetus on pre-application discussions the CNPA would also expect to speak to developers early on in their planning

process to discuss specific locational issues. Reference should also be made to evidence on Policy 16. It is considered that the mDLP if read as a whole provides a sound framework in accordance with Scottish Government Policy and obligations under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 on which to base decisions. No further changes are considered necessary.

9.0 Conclusions

9.1 It is commended to the Reporter that the objections to the general approach on links to other plans as listed above are rejected. No issues are raised that could lead the Cairngorms National Park Authority to consider the approach deficient.

10.0 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 “The Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park”
- CD6.13 Cairngorms National Park Deposit Local Plan as at 2nd modifications
- CD7.1 Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007
- CD2.2 SPP1 The Planning System

11.0 Cairngorms National Park Authority Witnesses for Hearing

- Don McKee – Head of Planning
- Hamish Trench – Head of Heritage and Land Management