

Cairngorms National Park Development Plan Scheme 6

April 2014

How the Cairngorms National Park Authority
will prepare the new Development Plan and
how you can get involved

‘Effective engagement with the public can lead to better plans, better decisions and more satisfactory outcomes and can help to avoid delays in the planning process. It also improves confidence in the fairness of the planning system.’ PAN3/2010 Community Engagement

‘The Scottish Government expects engagement with the public to be meaningful and to occur from the earliest stages in the planning process to enable community views to be reflected in development plans and development proposals.’ PAN3/2010 Community Engagement

Cairngorms National Park Development Plan Scheme 6

April 2014



© 2013 Ashworth Map & Interpretation Ltd 2013.
© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. All rights reserved.
Ordnance Survey Licence number 100040965
© Scottish Government.
National Park Boundary © Scottish Natural Heritage.

1. The Cairngorms National Park

The Cairngorms National Park was established in September 2003 and is the UK's largest at 4528 sq km. It was extended in October 2010 to include an area of north Perthshire. It was designated a National Park because of its outstanding natural environment and cultural heritage. Dominated by mountain plateau, it boasts extensive moorland, forest and straths, and is home to 25% of the UK's threatened bird, animal and plant species. Approximately 18,000 people live in the Park and it welcomes 1.4 million visitors each year.

2. Introduction

This is the sixth Development Plan scheme published by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) with regards to the ongoing work to maintain an up-to-date and relevant Local Development Plan. It contains updated information on the progress made towards preparing the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan and stages to prepare for future review.

To ensure more effective development planning in Scotland, a new type of plan – a Local Development Plan (LDP) – has been put in place. LDPs will replace existing local plans. Work to complete this Local Development Plan is now almost complete. It has been guided by the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017, which sets out a long-term vision for the National Park. The LDP will eventually replace the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan and the Perth & Kinross local plan for the part of the Park which falls within that Council boundary. The CNPA must ensure that this Local Development Plan is timely, up-to-date and valid, best reflecting the changing needs and context of the National Park and as a result, the CNPA must plan ahead for its replacement even before it is finally adopted.

This Development Plan Scheme comes at a time when work to prepare the Local Development Plan is almost complete, and thoughts of how to progress the next are beginning. This Development Plan Scheme therefore focuses on the final stages required to adopt the Local Development Plan and the preparatory work to begin work on the next.

- 1 Adopt the Local Development Plan
- 2 Monitor the Local Development Plan
- 3 Preparatory work to refine the process
- 4 Identification of the main issues to be addressed in the next Local Development Plan

3. Background

The current adopted Local Plan for the Cairngorms National Park was adopted on 29 October 2010. It was the first Local Plan for a National Park in Scotland and provides a framework of policies and proposals to guide and manage the development and use of land for a five-year period. As the statutory Local Plan for the Park, it replaced the existing local authority plans, within the Angus, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Highland council areas of the Park. The CNPA and these local authorities now use the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan for determining all planning applications in the National Park.

This Local Plan does not cover the area of Perth & Kinross which was included in the National Park boundary in October 2010. The relevant local plans produced by Perth & Kinross Council must still be referred to for any applications submitted in that area. The emerging Local Development Plan will eventually cover the entire National Park.

A guide to the various planning documents referred to in this publication is available on page 9.

4. Preparing the Local Development Plan

There are a number of key stages in the process of preparing and implementing the Local Development Plan.

- 1 Preparation and regular updating of the Development Plan Scheme, including Participation Statement (this document)
- 2 Preparation and publication of a Monitoring Statement
- 3 Preparation and publication of a Main Issues Report and Environmental Report
- 4 Preparation and publication of a Proposed Plan and Proposed Action Programme
5. Submission of the Proposed Plan, Action Programme and statement of conformity with the Participation Statement to Scottish Ministers
6. Examination (to consider any outstanding representations)
7. Adoption of the Plan

The CNPA have now reached the penultimate stage in the process of preparing the Local Development Plan and the examination, at the time of publication, is ongoing (January - September 2014).

Current Plans**Structure Plans**

North East Scotland Together NEST 2001
 The Highland Structure Plan 2001
 Moray Structure Plan 2007
 Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2002
 Perth & Kinross Structure Plan 2001

Local Plans

Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010
 Perth & Kinross Highland Area Local Plan 2000
 Perth & Kinross Eastern Area Local Plan 1998

Park Plan

Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017

**Future Plans**

Cairngorms National Park Local
 Development Plan (expected
 to be adopted in Summer 2014)

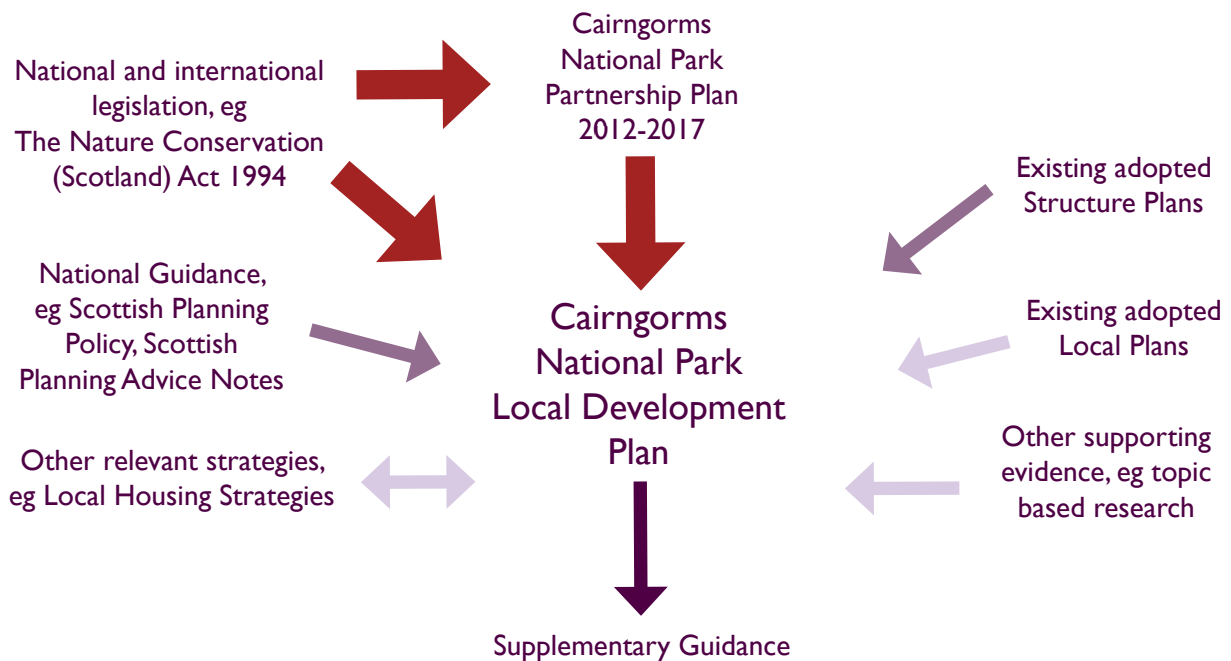
5. The Local Development Plan's relationship to other plans

The Local Development Plan is not produced in isolation. It is one of a number of key documents and strategies, which together form the policy context for all new development within the Cairngorms National Park. It is influenced by, and influences, a range of other documents.

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan, published by the CNPA in 2012, is a material planning consideration, though it is not part of the formal Development Plan for the National Park. However, it sets out the strategic objectives which will inform the Local Development Plan and sets a framework for the overall management of the Cairngorms National Park – which will be implemented through a wide range of partners and stakeholders – and details the Park Authority's policy for managing and co-ordinating its functions.

The key relationship for the Local Development Plan is with the National Park Partnership Plan. It provides the strategic overview, direction and vision, from which the policies in the Local Development Plan will flow.



6. Timetable

The CNPA recognises that the work to keep the Local Development Plan is a constant cycle and is making preparations to being work on the next plan already. Keeping the timetable of work up-to-date and under review is a key requirement of the Development Plan Scheme and helps people understand how they can engage at key stages of the process. The timetable on page 5 sets out the expected timings of the main stages in the Local Development Plan Schemes.

Adoption of Local Development Plan 2014

Stage	Action Plan	Strategic Environmental Assessment	Timescale
Stage 6	Submit the proposed Local Development Plan, Action Programme & Report of Conformity to Scottish Ministers.	Submit Environmental Report	January 2014
Stage 7	On receiving the Plan, an Examination will be held to examine the Plan, where any unresolved representations will be considered.	Modifications if required	August 2014 - October 2014 (examination Jan - Sep 2014)
Stage 8	Adopt and publish the Local Development Plan and Action Programme, advertise intention to adopt.	Publish revised SEA Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment	November 2014
Stage 9	Put Plan in place and monitor against Action Programme.	Publish post-adoption SEA Statement	December 2014 & monitor annually

Preparation of next Local Development Plan

Stage	Action Plan	Strategic Environmental Assessment	Timescale
Annually	Prepare and publish the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) including the Participation Statement.	None	Update annually
Stage 1	Gather evidence base and prepare monitoring statement.	None	2014/15
Stage 2	Initial publicity and engagement to inform Main Issues Report. Search for potential sites and engage with key agencies.	SEA Screening & Scoping Reports and Process	Spring 2015
Stage 3	Put Plan in place and monitor against Action Programme.	Publish post-adoption SEA Statement	Summer 2015 - Autumn 2016
Stage 4	Prepare, publish and consult on Proposed Plan and Action Programme - formal consultation, 6 weeks minimum (CNPA standard 12 weeks).	Formal consultation	Winter 2017
Stage 5	Prepare note of representations, summary of unresolved issues, Report of Conformity with Participation Statement.	Consider responses	2018
Stage 6	Examination of Proposed Plan.	None	Spring 2019
Stage 7	Consider Reporters Recommendations, publish any changes if required, advertise	Modifications if required	Autumn 2019
Stage 8	Adopt the Plan and implementation programme, publicise intention to adopt, submit to Scottish Ministers if required.	Adopt the SEA report	2019
Stage 9	Put Plan in place and monitor	None	2019

7. The CNPA participation statement: how we will engage others in the process of adopting the Local Development Plan and beginning work on the next Local Development Plan

The CNPA is committed to encouraging participation with stakeholders and communities. Their input is vital to inform the work of plan preparation and plan implementation. The CNPA therefore places a strong emphasis on actively engaging with communities with the National Park, in an open and transparent way.

The work on the Local Development Plan is not carried out in isolation – links are made to many other plans, including local community plans, partner strategies etc. Nor is it prepared by us alone. We work with partner organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors. In particular, we make links with the Community Planning Partnerships in the Park, and work with our local authorities to ensure our statutory roles and responsibilities link well together. We also work closely with local developers through our established Developers Forum. We have established a network of community council and association representatives who each have a planning representative as a key contact for engagement in the work associated with the Planning Service.

We also work with Inclusive Cairngorms and other advisory forums to ensure we gain the input and engagement of a wide variety of individuals and organisations with an interest in the National Park. This will help us to identify and address the barriers that prevent people from getting involved in the planning process.

Good practice in community engagement

The CNPA board has agreed standards which are based on the National Standards for Community engagement. Read these at: www.cairngorms.co.uk/cnpaservices/consultations

This means we are committed to involving communities (both geographical and of interest) in all stages of the formulation of the Local Development Plan, including preparing for any engagement, the engagement itself, and the implementation of identified actions. The production of the Local Development Plan is only one part of this ongoing commitment and work of the CNPA.

We recognise the importance of ensuring clear messages are given to all interested parties at various stages in the Plan process. We will ensure that everyone understands how and when they can get involved, and what is expected of them at each stage in the process.

How and when to get involved

General Principles

- 1 The CNPA will ensure people and communities are aware of the process and the opportunities to make representations to the proposed Local Development Plan. We will distribute information, in council offices, National Park Authority offices, and will also disseminate information through Community Councils, our Community Liaison Officers and any other community planning networks.
- 2 The CNPA will widely encourage involvement through the use of e-participation and e-planning systems. We will publish information on the CNPA website and publicise the consultation process through the local media, newspaper adverts and articles.
- 3 The CNPA will produce documents which are accessible, transparent and written in plain English, using jargon-free language which avoids technical terms.
- 4 The CNPA will publish an updated Development Plan Scheme every year, setting out how and when people can get involved in the preparation process.
- 5 The CNPA will add your name to the CNPA's Local Development Plan consultee database, to ensure that you are kept up-to-date with the ongoing process of engagement.
- 6 The CNPA will assist interested parties gain third party independent assistance in the process through its links with Planning Aid for Scotland.

Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS)

Planning Aid for Scotland provides a free, independent and impartial planning advice service which aims to stimulate interest in planning issues, as well as providing knowledge, unravel planning policy and procedures, and explain how to get involved effectively, for example writing effective representations. PAS has also developed SP=EED, a benchmarking tool for community engagement in planning. More information is available from:

www.planningaidscotland.org.uk

The next stages in the process to adopt the Local Development Plan

- 7 The CNPA will inform all interested parties on the final stages in the process to adopt the Local Development Plan and complete formal engagement on final post examination modifications to the Plan.

Initial stages to begin work on the next Local Development Plan

- 8 Through engagement with the network of Community Councils and Associations the CNPA will review the processes followed to prepare the LDP to refine the key engagement phases to allow better engagement with key stakeholders and communities.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

This is a requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Local Development Plan must be assessed for its impacts on the environment at all stages in its production, and the findings from each stage of the assessment fed into the next production stage of the Plan.

Who will we consult at key stages in the process?

- Key Agencies: SNH, SEPA, Scottish Water, HIE, Scottish Enterprise, Crofters Commission, Regional Transportation Partnerships, Health Boards
- Other Agencies: Transport Scotland, Historic Scotland, Forestry Commission
- Infrastructure providers
- Community Councils, associations and groups
- Conservation bodies and other interest groups
- Communities, landowners and notifiable neighbours
- Developers Forum
- Cairngorms Business Partnership and other groups with an interest in economic investment in the Cairngorms National Park
- Individuals with an interest in the Cairngorms National Park

8. A guide to planning documents

Development Plan Scheme – this outlines the programme for the development of the Local Development Plan, what is involved at each stage and how the public can get involved in the process.

Participation Statement – this states when, how and with whom consultation on the Plan will take place and the Park Authority's proposals for public involvement in the Plan preparation process.

Main Issues Report – this outlines the main issues which need to be addressed in the Local Development Plan and the general policy and proposal options for the Cairngorms National Park and any reasonable alternatives.

Monitoring Statement – this forms part of the evidence base for the Plan. The Park Authority is required to monitor changes in the characteristics of the Park and the impact of the existing policies and plans of the existing Local Plan.

Proposed Plan – this is an initial version of the Local Development Plan. It is expected to represent the Park Authority's settled version of what the Plan should be; new or controversial elements shouldn't be added at this stage.

Local Development Plan – this is a detailed statement of the Park Authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the Cairngorms National Park. It must contain a Spatial Strategy and a vision statement, alongside maps focusing on a ten-year period, but providing a broad indication of the scale and location of growth for up to 20 years.

Proposed Modifications – these are changes which have been made as a result of the community consultation and any representations.

Examination – an independent testing of the issues arising from unresolved representations, examining the specific issues raised. The Report will set out recommendations to modify the Plan.

Report of Conformity – this outlines how the consultation commitments, outlined in the Development Plan Scheme, have been met.

Supplementary Guidance – this provides additional detailed planning guidance and advice on specific topics, for example, affordable housing.

Action Programme – this outlines how the Local Development Plan will be implemented.

Environmental Report – this outlines the strategic environmental assessment of the Local Development Plan.

For further information, please contact the CNPA Local Development Plan team. Please see back page for contact details.

Any questions? Need more information?

Please contact the Local Development Plan team:

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Albert Memorial Hall

Station Square

Ballater AB35 5QB

Tel: 013397 53601

Fax: 013397 55334

Email: planning@cairngorms.co.uk

www.cairngorms.co.uk

For a large print version of this publication, please contact the Cairngorms National Park Authority, tel: 01479 873535. It can also be viewed on our website and is available in other formats on request.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

14 The Square

Grantown-on-Spey

PH26 3HG

Tel: 01479 873535

Fax: 01479 873527