
CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

FOR INFORMATION

Title: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 MONITORING REPORT

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Purpose of Report

This paper provides an overview of how the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2015 was used by both the National Park Authority and the Local Authorities whose area it covers over the five years of its implementation. The information shows how the Local Development Plan 2015 policies have been used during 2015 - 2020.

Background

1. The 2015 Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 27 March 2015. The LDP was the first development plan that covers the whole of the National Park, replacing the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010 and the Perth & Kinross Council Highland Area Local Plan 2000, which covered the part of Perth and Kinross that was added to the National Park in 2010.
2. This report represents the fourth monitoring report / statement on the 2015 LDP's implementation, the last one having been seen by Committee in October 2019.
3. The monitoring period covers a five year period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020.

Highlights

4. Appendix I has a complete monitoring report for the 2015 LDP covering the use of each policy within it. The bullets below provide a summary of key points to draw from the policy analysis:
 - a) A total of 1,790 applications were determined within the National Park during the monitoring period.
 - b) Of those applications, 116 (around 6.5%) were determined by the National Park Authority and 1,674 by the Local Authorities.
 - c) Of those applications, 1,703 were approved and 87 refused, giving an approval rate of around 95% over the monitoring period.
 - d) A further 198 applications were registered but were not determined due to either being withdrawn, found not to require planning permission (eg they

- were for proposals covered by permitted development rights) or remained under consideration/were determined outwith the monitoring period.
- e) The most frequently referred to policy by both CNPA and Local Authorities was Policy 3: Sustainable Design, indicating that sustainable design is an important factor for development within the National Park.
 - f) Policy 4: Natural Heritage and Policy 5: Landscape were referred to more by CNPA when determining called in applications than they were referred to by Local Authorities determining other applications. This indicates that potential effects on natural heritage and landscape interests are important reasons why applications are called in.
 - g) There are some positive patterns to the use of policies for developments with potential socio-economic benefits for the National Park. The approval rate for applications where Policy 1: New Housing or Policy 2: Supporting Economic Growth were referred to was around 94% for both policies.
 - h) Sub-policy information was not systematically recorded by planning authorities resulting in gaps in our understanding of how policies were used. It is hoped that the way sub-policies have been numbered in the Local Development Plan 2020 will help address this issue for future monitoring.
 - i) There were 29 appeals against refusal of planning permission. Seven were against National Park decisions and 22 against Local Authority decisions. One appeal was subsequently withdrawn. Around 61% (17) of appeals were allowed.
5. Information on allocated sites has not been included in the Monitoring Report as this information is provided in detail in the 2015 LDP's [Action Programme](#), which is reviewed annually.

Next Steps

6. This is the final Monitoring Report for the 2015 Local Development Plan. However information on policy use will continue to be monitored annually for the 2020 LDP and used to inform the development of future policies and procedures.

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