

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Planning, Environment & Development Committee

12 August 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

DRAFT HIGHLAND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Report by Director of Planning and Development

SUMMARY

This paper provides an outline of the draft Highland Coastal Development Strategy. The draft Strategy is available on the Member's bulletin which accompanies the Committee meeting. The draft Strategy highlights the potential issues and opportunities surrounding coastal development and classifies the Highland coast into one of 3 categories: Developed, Undeveloped or Isolated. It sub-divides the Highland coast into 3 areas: East, North and West and provides more detailed information on the issues and opportunities for each. It is intended that the Coastal Development Strategy will become supplementary guidance incorporated within the Highland-wide Development Plan. The Committee is invited to consider the draft Highland Coastal Development Strategy, and recommend it for progressing to public consultation.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Highland Coastal Development Strategy (HCDS) is being prepared as supplementary guidance to complement the statutory, terrestrial elements of the Highland-wide Development Plan. The strategy will not only form supplementary guidance, but may help to guide future work on the Scottish Marine Regions, as outlined in the Scottish Marine Bill.

The aims of the Strategy are to:

- guide the sustainable development and use of Highland's coastal zone whilst safeguarding its natural and cultural heritage assets, and;
- provide a strategic planning framework for the coast and nearshore area of Highland which takes account of national policy guidance and the need for more detailed plan coverage in appropriate areas.

1.2 Split into 7 parts, the draft Strategy covers:

1. background and the need for the HCDS;
2. aims;
3. methodology of the coastal classification;
4. key coastal legislation and policies;
5. sectorial breakdown of the coastal resource;
6. sub-regional overviews and
7. monitoring and review.

2.0 Summary of the Key Parts

2.1 In accordance with NPPG13, the Highland coast has been classified as 'Developed' 'Undeveloped' or 'Isolated'; maps are provided in the appendices to the Strategy.

Within the draft Strategy, linkage is made with the following policies:

- EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive,
- Draft UK and Scottish Marine Bills,
- NPPG 13 and PAN 53, and;
- Developing Highland Wide Development Strategy.

The issues and opportunities for 14 key coastal topics are discussed, including tourism, agriculture, fisheries, conservation, coastal industries and climate change.

The Highland coast is split into 3 sub-regions: East, North and West and for each, the 14 topic areas are examined in more detail.

Strategic direction for each of the three coastal areas is suggested.

The HCDS is progressing through the SEA process, as required by SEA regulations.

Pending approval, it is proposed that consultation on the Draft CDS will take place alongside consultation on the HWDP. Consultation, including road shows will take place during August and September 2009.

3.0 Single Outcome Agreement

3.1 Preparing the HCDS supports the following Local Outcomes established in the Single Outcome Agreement.

1. Our natural heritage is protected and enhanced to make the most of economic, health and learning benefits.

4.0 Fit with Programme of The Highland Council

4.1 Preparing the HCDS fulfils a specific action within the Programme of the Highland Council 2009-2011; to prepare a Coastal Development Strategy by 2009.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1

There are no resource implications resulting from this report.

Recommendation

The committee is invited to:

(a) Consider the draft Highland Coastal Development Strategy, and;

(b) Approve the Draft Strategy for public consultation commencing in Aug 2009 alongside consultation on the Highland Wide Development Plan.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Planning and Development

Date: 4 August 2009

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