

Highland wide Local Development Plan - Main Issues Report Consultation Summary and Actions Sheet

Reference Number:	HWLDP-MIR-70
Organisation/Individual:	THC Access Team (Stewart Eastlaugh)

Action:

Immediate Response Required	
Meeting required with Respondent	x
Issue for Area Local Development Plan	
Further Information Required	
Other (Please Specify)	

If no box ticked - issues raised will be dealt with in preparation of the Proposed Plan.

Issues Raised in Response:

Purpose of Main Issues Report	
NPF2 for Scotland	
Vision for the Highlands	
Inverness and A96	
The A96 Corridor	
Phasing of Development	
Developer Contributions	
East Inverness	
Nairn	
Tornagrain	
Smaller Settlements in A96	
Caithness and North Sutherland	
Easter Ross and Nigg	
Development of Local Centres	
Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas	x
Population and Housing	
Housing in the Countryside	x
Affordable Housing	
Planning for an Ageing Population	
Gypsies/Travellers	
Retailing	
Developer Contributions	
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	x

Previously used Land	
Wild Land	x
Water Environment	x
Renewable Energy	x
Flooding	
Waste Management	
Air Quality	
Sustainable Design	x
Business and Industrial Land	x
Accessibility and Transport	x
Agricultural Land	
Subdivision of Existing Crofts	
Allocation of Inbye Land	
New Crofting Township	
Small Scale New Crofts	
Coastal Development	
Forestry and Woodland	
Minerals	
Open Space and Physical Activity	
Access to the Outdoors	x
Comments on Consultation Process (+ve)	
Comments on Consultation Process (-ve)	

Key:

Background	Spatial Strategy	Policy Options	Consultation
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Notes:

<p>Further meetings required to discuss policy wording with the Access Team Elements of access rights could be addressed within the other policy areas</p>
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Action Sheet Completed by:	SH
Date:	8/12/09

MEMORANDUM

To: Director of Planning and Development
From: Access Team
Date: 9 November, 2009
Our Ref:
Your Ref: Highland Wide Development Plan Main Issues Report
Please ask for: Stewart Eastaugh

Thank you incorporating access to the outdoors as a main issue in your report.

Commenting on the other issues:

Q.11 Wider countryside and fragile areas

We wondered if there might be scope to mention green networks here although we realise that they do feature prominently in Q.37 Open space and physical activity.

Q.13 Housing in the countryside

When considering a Housing in the Countryside Design Guide it would be appreciated if access to the outdoors was incorporated into it either specifically in terms of protecting opportunities for recreation and active travel or more generally as part of the Open Space in New Residential Developments Supplementary Guidance.

For multiple dwelling developments in the countryside a Design Guide might also consider more sustainable access opportunities between development sites and local services. Small scale schemes have consistently relied on the car as a means of transport and travel; failing to provide for more sustainable means such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Q.19 Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage

In order for the economic, health and learning benefits of the natural environment to be achieved, there is a need for appropriate and sufficient access to enable people to come into contact with, and understand/appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of the Highlands. Is it possible to encourage developers to provide these opportunities across their sites and adjoining areas?

Q.21 Wild land

If you decide to develop a policy to assess applications on or near wild land it would be useful to assess their impact on access to the outdoors. The effect such developments may have on paths [whatever their status] or on making land legally inaccessible could be detrimental to both recreation and tourism.

Q.22 Water environment

River Basin Management Plans will make reference to the recreational use of inland water where access rights also apply. It would be handy if the impact of development on such rights were also considered when making decisions on planning applications.

Q.23 Renewable energy

In preparing new guidance on wind energy it may be useful to identify best practice in managing access during and after the construction of on-shore wind farms.

Q.27 Sustainable design

In addition to guidance on Open Space supplementary guidance on sustainable design and residential layout might logically include considerations for active travel and recreational access to reduce reliance on motorised transport.

Q.28A Business and industrial land

In developing policies for economic development in the right places the value of open space and access should not be underestimated. The footprints of business developments, location, populations [albeit temporary] and impact on travel volumes and patterns would suggest that the environmental and social returns for good active travel and open space provision would go some way to mitigating against the negative impact of such developments.

Q.28B Accessibility and transport

Ideally there would be one or two changes made here but we recognise that the bullet points are based on the core policies of the Draft Local Transport Strategy which we will comment on in due course.

Q.38 Access to the outdoors

Once again we appreciate your including this topic as a major issue and for consulting the team when putting the paper together.

Para 1 might read:

Access to the outdoors is important to Highland for leisure, recreation and tourism. It can also help maintain healthy lifestyles and be used for active travel. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 formalised access rights across Scotland. To help the Council meet the aspirations of the Act it has produced an Access Strategy which aims to:

Whilst the Core Path Plan is integral to the Access Strategy as you suggest, the Core Path Plan itself is a statutory duty under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Preferred Option

As the Local Authority has a duty to uphold access rights we suggest the change from 'encourage' to 'ensure'

Bullet point 4 in preferred options would more properly read "...Long Distance Routes..." i.e. upper case.