

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

Reference Number:	HWLDP-MIR-304
Organisation/Individual:	Sleat Community Council (John MacInnes)

Action:

Immediate Response Required	
Meeting required with Respondent	
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		Previously used Land	
NPF2 for Scotland		Wild Land	
Vision for the Highlands		Water Environment	
Inverness and A96		Renewable Energy	
The A96 Corridor		Flooding	
Phasing of Development		Waste Management	
Developer Contributions		Air Quality	
East Inverness		Sustainable Design	
Nairn		Business and Industrial Land	
Tornagrain		Accessibility and Transport	
Smaller Settlements in A96		Agricultural Land	
Caithness and North Sutherland		Subdivision of Existing Crofts	
Easter Ross and Nigg		Allocation of Inbye Land	
Development of Local Centres		New Crofting Township	
Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas		Small Scale New Crofts	
Population and Housing		Coastal Development	
Housing in the Countryside		Forestry and Woodland	
Affordable Housing		Minerals	
Planning for an Ageing Population		Open Space and Physical Activity	
Gypsies/Travellers		Access to the Outdoors	
Retailing		Comments on Consultation Process (+ve)	
Developer Contributions		Comments on Consultation Process (-ve)	
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage			

Key:

Background	Spatial Strategy	Policy Options	Consultation
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Notes:

More balanced growth with less emphasis on Inverness
 Development proposals should be compatible with existing settlement patterns
 Tourism should be promoted to help area become a year round destination

Action Sheet Completed by:	SH
Date:	15/12/09

Sleat Community Council

Alltan, Ferindonald. Sleat. Isle of Skye IV44 8RF

Alltan

Ferindonald

Isle of Skye

IV44 8RF

5th Nov 2009

Director of Planning and Development

Highland Council

Freepost SC05568

Inverness IV35BR

Dear Sir,

H.C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE		
11 Nov 2009		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE
RH		
MM		
C.H.E. REF:		

Highland Wide Local Development Plan-Main Issues Report

I refer to the above report circulated for consultation in August 2009

At a meeting of Skye Community Councils on 3 November 2009 discussion took place on the content of the report. It was noted that four new Local Development Plans will be prepared by 2014, and that the purpose of the Highland wide Local Development Plan is to put in place policies for decision making on Planning applications across the Highland Area and sets out proposals for development particularly proposals as to where development should and should not occur.

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Highland Area and sets out proposals for development particularly proposals as to where development should and should not occur.

CATEGORIES

The report divides into five main categories i.e

Inverness and the A96 Corridor

Caithness and North Sutherland

Easter Ross and Nigg

Development of local Centres

Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas

The report is dominated by detailed proposals for development of the A96 corridor Inverness East to Nairn. This will absorb a large amount of capital on infrastructure development and in employment generation for the projected new population of some 17000 people by 2021. The expenditure of this level of capital in one area leads to the conclusion in these times of scarce resources that there will be less funding available for capital projects in the fragile areas and wider countryside, and will in turn lead to significant migration of population from these areas to the new areas of opportunity around Inverness

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The report is therefore imbalanced with a development bias in favour of Inverness and the A 96 corridor and a corresponding lack of proposals for the fragile areas and the wider countryside.

PROPOSED CHANGES

It is suggested that the report should be re-balanced with less emphasis on the A96 corridor and with proposals for development in the wider Highlands in order to maintain investment and continuing improvements in infrastructure and to retain a balanced age structure among the wider Highland population. Recent reports suggest that Highland youth are migrating to other parts of the country to seek employment opportunities and there is a need for development to take place throughout the Highlands to provide opportunities for young people. The report should contain proposals for development including housing throughout towns and villages where these are compatible with existing settlement patterns and appropriate infrastructure provisions should be made where these are at present inadequate. Provision should be included for strategic development based on natural resources.e g alternative energy aquaculture food processing and the development of small businesses.

TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Skye is a world class tourist destination and tourism infrastructure should be enhanced to provide a year round tourist industry and not just the seasonal industry as at present. This should include a strategic

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co-ordinated transport network with an all year round ferry service Mallaig –Armadale. Linked to this should be the marketing and promotion of the railway lines Glasgow/ Mallaig, Kyle/ Inverness , and Inverness/Glasgow to provide rail tourists with an all round experience of some of the major railway journeys of the world

An Air Service should be developed to Service Skye and the West Coast

CONCLUSIONS

The wider Highland areas require significant investment in both development and infrastructure in order to keep pace with the changing needs of employment and the long term viability of these communities. The concentration of a critical mass of investment along the A96 corridor could have a negative impact on the remainder of the Highlands in terms of availability of capital for infrastructure and development purposes.

It is therefore suggested that the report acknowledges the need for investment in the wider countryside and fragile areas and that the report be redrafted with proposals for development throughout the Highlands and with less emphasis on the A96 corridor.

Yours faithfully

John D MacInnes

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