

Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance: Statement of Publicity and Consultation

September 2016

Statement prepared in accordance with Regulation 27(1) of The Town and Country Planning
(Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008



Introduction

This paper sets out the publicity measures undertaken by The Highland Council (THC) during the preparation of the Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (SG). Supporting evidence is included as hyperlinks (full web addresses are included as footnotes) and images.

The SG is based on an updated and revised version of the Onshore Wind Energy Interim Supplementary Guidance (March 2012) and the Small Scale Wind Turbine Proposals Interim Supplementary Guidance (November 2012). Both of these documents were subject to previous public consultation. These drafts of the SG were not adopted as part of the local development plan for a number of reasons including a rapidly evolving development pattern and a changing national policy context. The SG has now been refined, is fit to guide the determination of planning applications and is compliant with national policy.

Publicity measures undertaken

THC have a dedicated [webpage](#)¹ for the SG. The section on [Further Information](#)² sets out the previous consultation stages and links to relevant documents. The following sets out the key stages of consultation undertaken:

Evidence gathering

From November 2014 to February 2015 an 'initial consultation' was undertaken in light of a new National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy being published in June 2014. This stage of consultation was to enable people to highlight what key issues they considered to be relevant in the review of the SG. This consultation ran in parallel to the Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, where a series of public drop in events and evening workshops were held. This also enabled the council to provide advice on the [Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment of Wind Energy in Caithness](#) document which was published in July 2014.

Consultation Paper

Based on the results of this early evidence gathering a Consultation Paper was prepared that set out the main issues for discussion. A [paper](#)³ was presented to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (PDI) Committee on 18 February 2015. Public consultation ran from 16 March to the extended deadline of 22 May 2015. During this time Officers

¹ http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/local_and_statutory_development_plans/147/onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance

² http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/local_and_statutory_development_plans/147/onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance/2

³ http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/67434/item_13_-_onshore_wind_supplementary_guidance_-_review

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attended Ward Forums. Around 140 responses were received on the consultation. Various press releases were made online (e.g. [16th March 2016](#)⁴) and a public notice featured in local media:



THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Planning for Onshore Wind Energy in Highland: Consultation Paper
LAUNCH OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Highland Council are reviewing existing Supplementary Guidance for managing onshore wind energy development. An initial consultation about what issues should be considered ran from November 2014 – January 2015. The next stage in preparing the Supplementary Guidance is to consult on the Main Issues for the review of our existing onshore wind energy guidance as set out in a Consultation Paper. This is an important stage because changes to national planning policy mean the way we are required to plan for wind energy has changed.


A Consultation Paper has been published that sets out 11 main issues that we are inviting comments on. It is important to share your views on these issues because they will help us to shape the draft Supplementary Guidance.

After this consultation stage a draft of the Supplementary Guidance will be presented to the Council's Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee and the approved version consulted on thereafter.

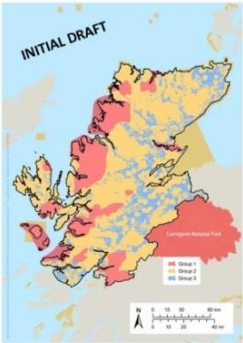
For most people the easiest way to read the Consultation Paper will be to view it online at www.highland.gov.uk/onshorewind. You can then submit comments using the online form. Anyone without access to the website can request a paper copy by contacting us. **Any comments on the Consultation Paper need to be received by us no later than 12 noon on Monday 11th May 2015.**

If you have questions you can email the Development Plans Team at devplans@highland.gov.uk. If you do not have access to the internet or want to request a paper copy of the Consultation Paper you can contact us in writing at: Development Plans Team, Development and Infrastructure Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX, or by telephone via the Council's Service Centre on 01349 886608.

An advert was also published in Energy North and Executive magazines:



Planning for Onshore Wind Energy



Interested to see where the wind turbines are in Highland?
Try using our interactive map now available at highland.gov.uk/windmap


Development information available to view and download.


We're reviewing our Supplementary Guidance and are asking for feedback on our initial ideas by the **extended** deadline of 22 May 2015. See highland.gov.uk/onshorewind

Consultation on Draft Supplementary Guidance later in 2015.

Want to find out about the review of our Highland-wide Local Development Plan? See our Development Plans Scheme on highland.gov.uk

Keep in touch devplans@highland.gov.uk or Facebook/Twitter.

@highlanddevplan 

facebook.com/highlandLDPs 

⁴ http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/8479/council_consulting_on_its_onshore_wind_energy_guidance

Draft SG

A [paper](#)⁵ summarising the results of the consultation paper and presenting a Draft of the SG for further consultation was presented to PDI committee on 19th August 2015. Consultation ran from 25th September 2015 to the extended deadline of 29th January 2016 in parallel to the Highland-wide Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, where a series of public drop in events and evening workshops were held. 70 organisations or individuals submitted comments on the Draft SG, raising 632 comments. Various press releases were made (e.g. [19th October 2015](#)⁶) and an advert featured in local media:

⁵ http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/68697/item_16_onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance

⁶ http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/8971/views_sought_on_highland_planning_policies_through_new_consultation_portal

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL CONSULTATION HIGHLAND-WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MAIN ISSUES REPORT, DRAFT ONSHORE WIND ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE & HIGHLAND LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The Highland Council is reviewing the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, 2012 (HwLDP) which sets out policies for determining planning applications, and influences how places grow and change. To start the process we have prepared a Main Issues Report (MIR) which has been published for public consultation from 25 September to 18 December 2015. The MIR is not a draft version of the HwLDP – it is a discussion document that seeks people's views on options for dealing with the main planning issues affecting Highland.

At the same time the Council is seeking views on two other documents, the draft Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance and the Local Housing Strategy. The draft Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance sets out the suggested criteria for assessing proposals for wind energy development. This draft follows consultation carried out in Spring 2015 on the issues for review of our current guidance, such as impact on communities, natural heritage and cumulative impacts. The Highland Housing Strategy will inform how the Highland Council and others tackle housing issues across the privately owned, social and privately rented sectors, and how and where to direct investment in housing and related services.

A series of public events are being held across Highland to raise awareness of these documents and to provide an opportunity to talk to officers. For each event there will be a **drop-in session which you can visit any time between 2pm and 5.30pm**, then a **round-table discussion workshop which starts at 6.30pm**. No matter where you live, you are welcome to attend either or both parts of any of the following events:

PLACE & DATE	TIME	VENUE
FORT WILLIAM Wednesday 30 September 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	Fort William Library, High Street, PH33 6EU
	6.30pm	Highland Council Offices, Lochaber House, High Street, PH33 6EL
PORTREE Monday 5 October 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	Council Offices, Tigh na Sgìre, Park Lane, IV51 9GP
	6.30pm	
NAIRN Wednesday 7 October 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	The Court House, High Street, IV12 4AU
	6.30pm	
GAIRLOCH Monday 26 October 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	The Gale Centre, IV21 2BH
	6.30pm	Gairloch Community Hall, Achtercairn, IV21 2BP
DORNOCH Wednesday 28 October 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	Dornoch Social Club, School Hill, IV25 3PF
	6.30pm	
WICK Monday 2 November 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	New Council Offices, Caithness House, Market Place, KW1 4AB
	6.30pm	Town Hall, Bridge Street, KW1 5NS
KINLOCHBERVIE Tuesday 3 November 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	Village Hall, Manse Road, IV27 4RG
	6.30pm	
INVERNESS Monday 9 November 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	Town House, Bridge Street, IV1 1JJ
	6.30pm	
DINGWALL Wednesday 11 November 2015	2pm – 5.30pm	Town Hall, Church Street, IV15 9SB
	6.30pm	Council Offices, Council Chamber, High Street, IV15 9QN

The easiest way to read and comment on the HwLDP MIR and the Draft Onshore Wind Energy SG is through our new consultation portal at consult.highland.gov.uk You will need to create a login to make comments and this can then be used for any future development plan consultation. Comments should be submitted online no later than **12 noon on Friday 18 December 2015**. **Comments by letter or email will not be accepted unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Development Plans Team**. Anyone without internet access can view paper copies of these documents at all Highland Council Service Points and Public Libraries within the plan area. Extra copies and supporting background documents are also available to view at Highland Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. If you require a large print copies or have any questions please contact the Development Plans Team at hwldp@highland.gov.uk or 01349 886608.

HIGHLAND-WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MAIN ISSUES REPORT & DRAFT ONSHORE WIND ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE – PUBLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS FOR CONSULTATION

The Highland Council has prepared Environmental Reports for the HwLDP MIR and for the Draft Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance. These reports are available online at consult.highland.gov.uk and also to view at Council Headquarters, Inverness for from 25 September to 18 December 2015. During this time expressions of opinion on the content of the Environmental Reports can be made in writing by e-mail to hwldp@highland.gov.uk or by letter to Development Plans Team, Development and Infrastructure, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. **Comments on the Environmental Reports should be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday 18 December 2015**. If you have any questions please contact the Development Plans Team at hwldp@highland.gov.uk or 01349 886608.

This notice is provided in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 and The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Finalised SG for Adoption

Based on these comments the SG was further refined and, alongside a summary and response to comments received, a draft for adoption was presented to committee in a [paper](#)⁷ (with associated [appendix 1](#)⁸ and [appendix 2](#)⁹) on 17th August 2016. This committee paper summarises comments made on the draft SG and makes recommended council responses to issues that set out how the issues should be taken into account. At committee Members agreed these recommendations, as set out in the [Minutes of the meeting](#)¹⁰, and therefore this paper (including the linked-to Committee Reports and Minutes) meets the Council's obligations as required by Regulation 27(1) of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008. Should Scottish Ministers require a copy of that committee paper (with associated appendices) and minutes, rather than accessing the document online, THC would be happy to provide it.

⁷ http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/70632/item_10_onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance_-_review

⁸ http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/70664/item_10_onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance_appendix_1

⁹ http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/70633/item_10_onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance_appendix_2

¹⁰ http://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3726/planning_development_and_infrastructure_committee/attachment/70780