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Our Ref: HWLDP-EX1:22

Your Ref: LDP-270-3

Date: 18 October, 2011

Dear Ms Smith,

**HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION –
ISSUE 37 WIDER COUNTRYSIDE**

In reference to the reporters request for further information regarding the above issue the Council offer the following response.

Original request

Further to your letter of 7 September, and given the statement at paragraph 18.2 of the plan that planning applications will be assessed against all policies relevant to the proposal and location, the reporter would appreciate confirmation as to whether the council's intention is that renewable energy proposals should be assessed against relevant policies (especially Policies 68 and 69), but not policy 37? If so, the council is invited to submit a form of words to express that intention.

Council response

It is the Councils intention that the consideration of renewable energy proposals will be against Policy 68 Renewable Energy Developments & Policy 69 "Community" Renewable Energy Developments and not against Policy 37 Wider Countryside as indicated in the last paragraph of Policy 37. In order to further clarify this approach there is scope to add further to the supporting text. The Council commend the replacement of paragraph 19.9. 4 with;

"Development proposals within the wider countryside will be assessed against Policy 37 Wider Countryside. Exceptions to this are; development proposals for housing within the hinterlands around towns, to be determined in accordance with Policy 36 Housing in the Countryside (Hinterland Areas) and Renewable Energy development proposals, to be assessed against the Renewable Energy Policies; the non statutory Highland Renewable Energy Strategy and where appropriate, Onshore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance. All development proposals will be subject to the consideration of other relevant policy as appropriate."

The Council feels that in combination of the previous response of 7 September to Policy 37 this now provides adequate clarification on the application of the policy.

Yours sincerely

Brian MacKenzie
Principal Planner
Development Plans Team