

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004 AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

SUTHERLAND LOCAL PLAN (*)

AUGMENTED ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND PRE-DEPOSIT DRAFT

The Scottish Government have urged the Council to re-consult on its assessment of the environmental effects of the Sutherland Local Plan. The reason is to offer an earlier and more effective opportunity for comment on these effects and the Council's consideration of them. The Council has therefore decided to publish an augmented Environmental Report and to offer another opportunity for comment before it makes decisions about the contents of a new, more finalised, Deposit Draft Plan.

The only significant changes to the Plan material consulted upon during the period November 2007 to February 2008 are contained within the Supplement to the Environmental Report. This Supplement contains: an environmental assessment of options discounted at an earlier stage of the Plan process; corrections to factual errors and omissions from the original Report and its associated documentation, and; amplification of the reasoning behind the Council's options selection to date.

The full version of the Environmental Report and its Supplement (including full details of individual sites assessment) may be viewed free of charge during normal opening hours at: The Planning & Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, at the Drummie Office in Golspie or via The Highland Council's web-site at www.highland.gov.uk A short version is available to view at the places referred to below.

The other re-circulated Plan material which includes amendments only of a factual and explanatory nature, may be viewed free of charge as above and during normal opening hours at: Service Points, Libraries and Post Offices throughout Sutherland and at Edderton Village Hall.

Expressions of opinion on the augmented Environmental Report and any further representations on the other Plan material should be sent in writing to the address below. Opinions and representations should state the name and address of the person making comment, the matters to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made.

They should be sent to the: Director of Planning & Development, The Highland Council, Planning & Development Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX to arrive no later than Friday 27th June 2008. We will acknowledge receipt of them.

However, anyone who has already submitted representations to the Council on the "Deposit Draft October 2007" version of the Plan and associated documents and who has had an acknowledgment of receipt, should not submit those again. The submissions that were received will be carried forward and considered carefully by the Council after the new deadline.

We have prepared an information sheet which appears on the Council's website. If you have any queries not answered by that sheet please contact David Cowie on 01463 702827.

16th May 2008

J Stuart Black – Director of Planning and Development

(*) The area covered by the new Local Plan comprises The Highland Council Wards 1 and 5 and is shown in the documents that are available for inspection. The new Local Plan area substantially coincides with the combined areas of the North West Sutherland, Tongue & Farr, Golspie & Lairg and South & East Sutherland Local Plans, and also with some small parts of areas covered by the Caithness, Ross & Cromarty East and Wester Ross Local Plans. The new Local Plan, once adopted, will therefore replace these seven older Local Plans but only in so far as they relate to any part of the area of the new Sutherland Local Plan.