



## Call for Issues Template

The [Local Development Plan \(LDP\)](#) for the Outer Hebrides sets out a vision and spatial strategy for the development of land in the Islands over the next 10-20 years, and is reviewed every five years. The Comhairle has commenced a review of the current LDP and preparation of a new Plan.

In order to support the preparation of the new LDP the Comhairle is seeking your views on what you think the main planning and land use issues are that the new LDP should be considering. What has changed that planning should be addressing? We would welcome your views on what you see as the key issues – these may relate to a specific topic (e.g. design, natural heritage etc.) or to a specific area (e.g. harbours, Stornoway Town Centre etc.).

<b>Your Details:</b>	
Name	Helen McDade
Company/Organisation	John Muir Trust
Job title	Head of Policy
Contact address	Tower House Station Road Pitlochry Perthshire PH16 5AN
Email	helen.mcdade@jmt.org
Tel	01796 484935

<b>Key Planning Issue(s)</b>	<i>Please provide as much detail as possible.</i>
<p><b>Scottish Government planning policy changes in NPF3 and SPP2 regarding Wild Land Areas</b> need to be referenced in all relevant Policies and Supplementary Guidance within the LDP , with detail of how that will be implemented and how the national resource will be protected in planning decisions.</p>	<p>The current CnES Local Development Plan references wild land in Policy 1 but has very limited detail in further Policies and Supplementary Guidance of how that resource will be taken into account. Since the LDP was written, Scottish Government has brought in strengthened planning protection for Wild Land Areas (2014) – as mapped by SNH - and so the updated LDP needs to demonstrate how CnES will implement that in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy 5 (Landscape);</li> <li>Policy 19 (Energy Resources)- does not currently reference wild land;</li> <li>Policy 28 (Natural Heritage);</li> <li>Supplementary Guidance for Wind Energy Development;</li> <li>Wind Energy Spatial Policy 1 Map: Broad Areas of Search;</li> <li>Wind Energy Spatial Policy 2 Map: Areas of Potential Constraint;</li> <li>Wind Energy Spatial Policy 3 Map: Areas of Significant Protection;</li> </ul> <p><b>Please see further detail in Appendix 1 – John Muir Trust response for CnES LDP Main Issues</b></p>

<p><b>Supplementary Guidance for Wind Energy Development</b> – the issue is the lack of reference to or method for protection of Wild Land Areas</p>	<p>The Supplementary Guidance makes no reference to wild land in its Spatial Strategy Policies or Development Criteria Policies. Revised guidance needs to refer explicitly to the need, and planning requirement, to avoid impacts on nationally important natural resources with specific reference to wild land.</p> <p><b>Please see further detail in Appendix 1 – John Muir Trust response for CnES LDP Main Issues</b></p>
<p><b>Wind Energy Spatial Policies 1-3</b> – there is a requirement for the areas in these maps to be redrawn to ensure that all parts of Wild Land Areas are included in Areas of Significant Protection</p>	<p>All parts of Wild Land Areas - as mapped by Scottish Natural Heritage and referenced by the Scottish Government in NPF3 and SPP2 - should be included in Policy 3, Map 3, Areas of Significant Protection. This includes some significant changes from the current LDP which should also be reflected in the Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p><b>Please see further detail and maps in Appendix 1 – John Muir Trust response for CnES LDP Main Issues</b></p>
<p><b>LDP Policies need to recognise the link between protecting peat and Wild Land Areas</b> (which in CnES are predominantly peatlands). Policies need to emphasis the benefit for multiple national aims of protecting and enhancing both peat and wild Land Areas</p>	<p>Policy 10 (Soil Resources) includes peatland protection. Reference should be made to the links between peatlands and Wild Land Areas as there is very significant overlap between them. LDP should refer to the multiple benefits of protection and enhancement of peatlands such as water quality; air quality; carbon emissions reduction – this is an area where more scientific data has become available and awareness increased in recent years.</p> <p>Specifically, the current LDP refers to deep peat being defined as over 2 metres. Scottish Natural Heritage defines “deep peat” as anything over 0.5 metres.</p> <p><b>Clearly this is a very significant matter in CnES landscape areas and will lead to significant changes in the new LDP, which should also be reflected in the Strategic Environmental Assessment.</b></p>

Forms should be returned by Friday 15 May 2015 to [localdevplan@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:localdevplan@cne-siar.gov.uk) or sent to:

Development Plans Team  
Development Department  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Sandwick Road  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis  
HS1 2BW

For further information please contact the Development Plans Team, by e-mail [localdevplan@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:localdevplan@cne-siar.gov.uk) or visit [www.cne-siar.gov.uk/planningservice/localdevplan.asp](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/planningservice/localdevplan.asp) or telephone on 01851 822690 or 01870 604990

**THANK YOU**

**Please note that the information on your submitted form will be made public along with any supporting documentation, except any information which would be subject to the Data Protection Act 1998.**