

Tourism

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate sustainable tourism development which benefits local people, is consistent with our net zero and nature commitments, and inspires people to visit Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Communities and places enjoy economic, social and cultural benefits from tourism, supporting resilience and stimulating job creation.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.

The spatial strategy should also identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.

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- a) Development proposals for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation, including caravan and camping sites, in locations identified in the LDP, will be supported.
- b) Proposals for tourism related development will take into account:
 - i. The contribution made to the local economy;
 - ii. Compatibility with the surrounding area in terms of the nature and scale of the activity and impacts of increased visitors;

- iii. Impacts on communities, for example by hindering the provision of homes and services for local people;
 - iv. Opportunities for sustainable travel and appropriate management of parking and traffic generation and scope for sustaining public transport services particularly in rural areas;
 - v. Accessibility for disabled people;
 - vi. Measures taken to minimise carbon emissions;
 - vii. Opportunities to provide access to the natural environment.
- c) Development proposals that involve the change of use of a tourism-related facility will only be supported where it is demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and that there is no requirement for alternative tourism-related facilities in the area.
 - d) Proposals for huts will be supported where the nature and scale of the development is compatible with the surrounding area and the proposal complies with relevant good practice guidance.
- e) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings for short term holiday letting will not be supported where the proposal will result in:
 - i. An unacceptable impact on local amenity or the character of a neighbourhood or area; or
 - ii. The loss of residential accommodation where such loss is not outweighed by demonstrable local economic benefits.