

TOURISM

Draft NPF 4 supports the recovery of the tourism sector, ensuring that communities have a share in the benefits of tourism, and that tourism uses are sustainable and safeguard our environmental, cultural and community assets.

Local Development Plans should:

- Support the resilience of the tourism sector by identifying proposals for tourism development which reflect tourism strategies.

Development proposals should:

- be supported for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation in locations that can contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of the local economy;
- should only be supported in areas where existing tourism provision is having adverse effects if satisfactory measures are proposed to alleviate existing pressures and prevent further adverse impacts;
- be supported for huts where the nature and scale of the activity will be compatible with the surrounding area and complies with relevant guidance;
- should not be supported for short term holiday lets when they would result in an unacceptable impact on the amenity or character of the area, or the loss of mainstream residential accommodation where such loss is not outweighed by local economic benefits;
- only be supported for the change of use of a tourism related facility if it can be demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and that there is no requirement for alternative tourist facilities in the area;
- take account of the contribution which it will make to local employment and community wealth building, compatibility with the surrounding area, impacts on communities, access, parking and traffic generation.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for the focus on enabling sustainable tourism, and the need to strike a balance between providing the infrastructure required to support tourism, protecting the interests of local communities and minimising environmental impacts.

An alternative view was taken by some respondents, arguing that the focus should be on making existing tourism more sustainable and inclusive, rather than seeking further growth in the sector. Some respondents also felt that the approach to

sustainable tourism should be tailored at a local and regional level, recognising the uneven distribution of tourism attractions and infrastructure.

Policy changes

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the spatial strategy outlined in SPP and NPF3 which recognised tourism as a key sector with particular opportunities for growth. The planning system should promote opportunities for tourism, including new developments and the protection and enhancement of existing facilities whilst recognising the need to protect the interests of local communities.