

Issue (ref and heading):	027: Policy 8: Green Networks – Whole Policy	
Development plan reference:	Policy 8 and Map 8 Page 14	Reporter: [Note: For DPEA use only.]
Body or person(s) submitting a representation raising the issue (including reference number):		
Seeking a Change Cairngorms National Park Authority (910266) Cupar Community Council (909152) Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) RSPB Scotland (910180) Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) Scott Hobbs Planning for Scottish Enterprise (909506)	Supporting as Written Dundee Civic Trust (845127) Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) NHS Tayside (908896) Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) Scottish Environment Protection Agency (835401) Scottish Natural Heritage (869435) Scottish Water (762198) Sustrans (346798) Tactran Regional Transport Partnership (441235)	
Provision of the development plan to which the issue relates:		
The green network policy is new. This developed out of an action in the Approved Action Programme (2012) (Doc3) on developing a green network strategy for the TAYplan area. The policy relates to the proposal set out in Map 8 for a new green network. This links the existing coastal routes and connecting Dundee and Perth green networks, strengthening policies to encourage more active travel, adaption to our changing climate, and design which achieves healthier lifestyles. This is part of a holistic strategy to improve place quality, safeguard important assets and to improve health and quality of life.		
Planning Authority's summary of the representation(s):		
Summary of Representations Seeking a Change		
<u>WHOLE POLICY AND MAP</u>		
Scott Hobbs Planning for Scottish Enterprise (909506) PLAN2015_352 supports the policy providing this has no impact upon the delivery of what they term 'economic development sites'.		
Cupar Community Council (909152) PLAN2015_232 supports the policy and suggest that there would be merit in adopting a policy of establishing a system of green networks linking the Eden Valley.		
<u>POLICY 8B</u>		
RSPB Scotland (910180) PLAN2015_366 support the policy and suggest this should include maintenance and creation of wetlands as well as planting native trees.		
Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) PLAN2015_469 and Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) PLAN2015_524 consider that there is no mention of the economic improvements, for example visitor facilities, such as farm shops or coffee shops, that are considered to be an integral part of green infrastructure. The respondent states that Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014 (Doc84) and the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Doc52) emphasise the importance of green infrastructure providing multiple benefits. The respondent considers that TAYplan's definition of green networks, including all their opportunities and multiple functions, should be fully articulated in the main policy text. The respondent considers that to ensure green networks are truly multi-functional the		

economic element cannot be underplayed.

POLICY 8C AND MAP

Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) PLAN2015_427 consider that there is no explanation of why the green network axis through Strathmore from Perth through Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie, Alyth, Forfar and Brechin is missed out. They consider that a similar argument could be made for the A9 corridor and the Angus Coast.

Cairngorms National Park Authority (910266) PLAN2015_389 consider that the National Cycle Network beyond the routes between Perth and Dundee should be referenced or identified.

Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) PLAN2015_471 consider that other strategic developments or assets to the north of the eastern side of the River Tay should be recognised on Map 8. The respondent considers Scone Palace and Estate to offer a key opportunity to enhance the Tay green network and 'attach them to attractive visitor facilities.'

Summary of Supporting Representations

WHOLE POLICY AND MAP

Scottish Water (762198) PLAN2015_273 supports the policy.

Scottish Natural Heritage (869435) PLAN2015_190 support the policy in explaining that the green network strategy is a targeted and prioritised approach that provides LDPs with a focus for delivery of green network enhancements in key strategic growth areas and near where most people live.

Tactran (441235) PLAN2015_363 support the policy which is consistent with and complements the Regional Transport Strategy (Doc94).

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (835401) PLAN2015_198 supports the policy, in particular the reference to the importance of blue networks and their relationship to green networks.

Dundee Civic Trust (845127) PLAN2015_286 supports the policy recognising the important contribution to quality of life and quality of place.

Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) PLAN2015_428 supports the policy, particularly the environmental and social benefits in relation to biodiversity, recreational activity, quality of life, and climate resilience.

NHS Tayside (908896) PLAN2015_327 supports the policy, particularly the expansion and development of green networks which are easy and accessible for people to use.

Sustrans (346798) PLAN2015_506 supports the policy, specifically in relation to active travel and strongly support the inclusion of Strategic Active Travel Links being incorporated within Local Development Plans to ensure that they are implemented as part of new developments where necessary.

POLICY 8C AND MAP

Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) PLAN2015_523 supports Policy 8c.

Modifications sought by those submitting representations:

WHOLE POLICY AND MAP

Scott Hobbs Planning for Scottish Enterprise (909506) PLAN2015_352

- Seek no change providing the requirement to provide the green network does not affect the implementation of the economic development sites, particularly within the Strategic Development Areas, and Dundee Waterfront and Montrose Port in particular.

Cupar Community Council (909152) PLAN2015_232

- Seek a policy of establishing a system of green networks linking the Eden Valley.

POLICY 8B

RSPB Scotland (910180) PLAN2015_366

- Propose for Policy 8Biii to insert after "management": "to include maintenance and creation of wetlands as well as planting native trees for the benefit of local BAP species and habitats".

Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) PLAN2015_469 and Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) PLAN2015_524

- Propose a change to the policy should be made to incorporate an additional point as follows: 'v. policies setting an appropriate level of support for economic development activities to promote fully functional green networks.'

POLICY 8C AND MAP

Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) PLAN2015_427

- Propose inclusion of a green network axis through Strathmore from Perth through Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie, Alyth, Forfar and Brechin.

Cairngorms National Park Authority (910266) PLAN2015_389

- Propose inclusion of a reference to or identification of the National Cycle Network beyond the routes between Perth and Dundee.

Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) PLAN2015_471

- Propose changing policy C, as follows: 'A further opportunity should be added to Map 8 with the appropriate number to state Scone- Improve access networks between Perth and land to north and east of the River Tay.'

Summary of responses (including reasons) by Planning Authority:

Authority's response to proposed modifications

WHOLE POLICY AND MAP

Scott Hobbs Planning for Scottish Enterprise (909506) PLAN2015_352

TAYplan welcome the support for this policy. In respect of the changes sought TAYplan consider that the green network will be an asset to the area socially, environmentally and economically. Access to open space, active travel routes and green networks, in general, have been shown to support the economic competitiveness of an area (see page 31 of Topic Paper 4: Place Shaping – part 7.12 Benefits and Values of Green Infrastructure) (Doc106). The detail of any development proposal and how TAYplan's green network policy and proposals link to that is a consideration, amongst others, at masterplanning and planning application stage. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

Cupar Community Council (909152) PLAN2015_232

TAYplan welcome the support for this policy. In respect of the changes sought, whilst TAYplan has focused on the linkages between Dundee and Perth core areas and the strategic development areas, this does not diminish the importance of other green networks across the area. More localised green networks will be set out in Local Development Plans (LDP) level. TAYplan held workshops to establish what was considered to be 'strategic' in terms of the green network (Topic Paper 4: Place Shaping pages 29-43) (Doc106). At a strategic scale, TAYplan have focused on the area with the greatest concentration of people, cross boundary and where most development will occur and through which green network linkages can be delivered at a larger scale. A green network linking the Eden Valley is not considered to be strategic. The priority area represents an area where population growth is predicted to exceed 10% within the lifetime of the plan and as such represents main areas of land use change and development pressures and is cumulatively strategic. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

POLICY 8B

RSPB Scotland (910180) PLAN2015_366

TAYplan welcome the support for this policy. In respect of the changes sought, TAYplan consider that the suggested change is too detailed for a strategic policy and would be considered further through the Local Development Plans. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) PLAN2015_469 and Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) PLAN2015_524

TAYplan consider that Policy 8B iv) provides scope for appropriate tourism/ economic improvements to be considered. Such proposals would be considered, under this sub-section of the policy, on a case by case basis by the local planning authority. This policy is not an economic development policy, such proposals will be considered against Local Development Plan economic development policies. This policy does however recognise that maximising opportunities to enhance green networks can contribute to economic growth. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

POLICY 8C AND MAP

Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) PLAN2015_427

Whilst TAYplan has focused on the linkages between Dundee and Perth core areas and the Strategic Development Areas, this does not diminish the importance of other green networks across the area. More localised green networks will be set out in Local Development Plans level. TAYplan held workshops to establish what was considered to be 'strategic' in terms of the green network (Topic Paper 4: Place Shaping pages 29-43) (Doc106). At a strategic scale, TAYplan have focused on the area with the greatest concentration of people, cross boundary and where most development will occur and through which green network linkages can be delivered at a larger scale. A green network through Strathmore from Perth through Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie, Alyth, Forfar and Brechin is not considered to be strategic. The priority area represents an area where population growth is predicted to exceed 10% within the lifetime of the plan and as such represents main areas of land use change and development pressures and is cumulatively strategic. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

Cairngorms National Park Authority (910266) PLAN2015_389

TAYplan supports the desire to enhance active travel networks through the National Cycle Network. In Topic Paper 4 (Place Shaping) (pages 29-43) (Doc106) there is greater detail around the background to the green network strategy and what has

been included in this policy/ map. A detailed mapping exercise was carried out in developing the green network strategy and it was agreed, with key partners that in the Proposed Plan the National Cycle Network would be represented where it was relevant to the focus of the policy. Further linkages will be considered through Local Development Plans. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

Savills-SmithsGore for Scone Estate (909972) PLAN2015_471

The TAYplan green network strategy focuses on the core areas of Dundee and Perth, in addition to the Strategic Development Areas. TAYplan consider that within Perth Core Area, through the use of map symbols, the linkages across the whole of Perth Core Area are represented clearly. As Scone Palace and Estate is not a Strategic Development Area, it is not specifically considered within the strategic green network strategy. Perth & Kinross Council will consider local green infrastructure and networks through the Local Development Plan process. Therefore TAYplan does not consider any change to be necessary.

Authority's response to supporting representations

WHOLE POLICY AND MAP

And

POLICY 8C AND MAP

Dundee Civic Trust (845127) PLAN2015_286, Friends of the Earth Tayside (845935) PLAN2015_428, NHS Tayside (908896) PLAN2015_327, Savills-SmithsGore for Errol Estate (909974) PLAN2015_523, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (835401) PLAN2015_198, Scottish Natural Heritage (869435) PLAN2015_190, Scottish Water (762198) PLAN2015_273, Sustrans (346798) PLAN2015_506 and Tactran Regional Transport Partnership (441235) PLAN2015_363

TAYplan welcome the overall support for the green network strategy.

The corridor between Perth and Dundee and around the Tay coastline is included as a key project of the strategy. TAYplan's 2 cities are only 22 miles apart and TAYplan considers this to be an ambitious opportunity which focuses on the existing and potential linkages between the cities. This is consistent with Scottish Planning Policy (2014) (paragraph 223, page 51) (Doc84) emphasises the need for Strategic Development Plans to consider cross boundary green network linkages.

However, whilst TAYplan has outlined the linkage between Dundee, Perth and the coastline being a key project, this does not diminish the importance of ensuring that green networks are a core component of all other Strategic Development Areas. This will be set out through Local Development Plans and/or Masterplans. The Local Development Plans will outline any detailed green network proposals. Local Development Plans will also recognise other linkages and networks e.g. along the Fife and Angus coasts.

TAYplan propose that active travel will be a core component of green networks. In developing green network linkages along the Carse of Gowrie, this will not only be from new development, but also from other projects e.g. delivered by the Tay Landscape Partnership.

Progress in developing the key green network priorities identified in the Proposed Plan will remain up to date through regular monitoring through TAYplan's Action Programme. Early work has already begun in looking at the path network between Newburgh and the Bridge of Earn/ Oudenarde.

CONCLUSIONS

TAYplan considers that all of the issues raised do not warrant any change to the Proposed Strategic Development Plan (May, 2015) (Doc80) and propose that the elements dealt with in this Schedule 4 Summary of Unresolved Issues remain as written and unchanged.

TAYplan is satisfied that many of these issues are dealt with appropriately by the Policy as currently written or by supporting elements of Policies 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10.

Green networks are a central element in delivering the Proposed Plan vision and objectives for developing better quality places. The approach taken to the green networks strategy in the Proposed Plan has been developed through partnership working with key agencies and local authorities. Scottish Natural Heritage, Tactran, Forestry Commission, Scottish Water, SEPA and NHS Tayside in particular have all been involved in developing this policy and related proposals. Over half of respondents (53%) have supported this policy. This is recognised in the representations of support. This approach has been considered the most appropriate in connecting TAYplan's communities and deliverable through the Strategic Development Areas and in line with projects promoted by other partnerships e.g. the Tay Landscape Partnership.

Reporter's conclusions:
DPEA use only
Reporter's recommendations:
DPEA use only