

Badenoch & Strathspey Conservation Group
STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE
Hearing Session

Provision of the Local Plan

5.79 Economic development

Summary of objection(s)

HC's 'enterprise strategy' should not be followed.

We understand that neither Aberdeenshire nor Moray local authorities have an equivalent aspiration to increase population.

The aspiration to increase the population. The population of the NP is projected to increase by approximately 9% in any case, irrespective of HC's enterprise strategy.

Increasing the population is an inappropriate aspiration for the CNPA, in conflict with the 1st aim, and with national and global responsibilities. World population is 6.77 billion today and is rising at such a rate that it is forecast to be 9 billion in 2040. Rich and poor countries put pressure on the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment, and the bigger the population the bigger those pressures are.

Whether it is gathering firewood on watersheds where the forest is protecting soil from erosion and the forest plays a major part in securing a useable water supply, or whether it is pressure for more affordable housing on exceptionally biodiversity-rich habitats, an expanded population exacerbates the environmental problems.

Recommendation.

Omit the reference to enterprise strategies.

Omit the aspiration to increase the population.