**PROPOSED LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANNING) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

**RESPONSE TO FURTHER INFORMATION REQUEST 02:**

**ISSUE 22 VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

**Information requested: (1) The park authority is requested to provide a clearer and more detailed explanation of the terminology used or intended in the proposed local development plan with regard to camping provision of different forms and to provide clarification concerning its related policy position if this varies between particular categories of camping provision.**

* 1. The Proposed Local Development Plan (PLDP) does not have an explicit policy in relation to camping, or indeed any other specific form of visitor accommodation. The Visitor Experience policies relate to the location and scale of all forms of tourism development i.e. hotels, self-catering accommodation and all forms of camping provision and does not distinguish between them. The Visitor Experience policies continue the approach of the Adopted Local Plan in not specifying types of visitor accommodation, however our new draft Visitor Experience Planning Guidance intends to compliment the policy and strategy and provide more detail. This responds to the first part of the request.
	2. The PLDP is concerned with the provision of policies to support delivery of a range of high quality visitor accommodation, facilities and infrastructure in suitable locations throughout the Park. It is not intended that there is a different policy position on different types of accommodation as the policy, in the Authorities view, provides support for new camp sites. The draft Visitor Experience Planning Guidance provides more detail on how the policies will be applied in practice and more detail on issues such as scale. This addresses the second part of the request.

**Information requested: (2) Additionally, to provide clarification regarding how and where the local development plan’s policy position on camping provision should cross-refer to and be supported by more detailed considerations set out in supplementary guidance – and on what basis the terminology used in those documents varies from the terminology used on camping provision in the ‘Your Park’ document.**

* 1. Currently the PLDP cross-refers to the draft Visitor Experience Planning Guidance at the foot of p98 within the grey shaded box. This is in keeping with the Plan’s approach across a number of topics. At present the text in the grey shaded box does not explicility state that the guidance covers more detailed considerations of camping provision.
	2. The representations received on Issue 22 comment on the PLDP and the supporting draft Visitor Experience Planning Guidance but it is our understanding that the Examination is only considering the representations to the Plan. We have proposed in the Schedule 4 Report for Issue 22: Visitor Experience to introduce additional wording to LDP Visitor Experience Policy 1 (page 98) to support development which will help deliver a visitor management strategy or action identified within the National Park Partnership Plan. This proposed modification is intended to provide a link with the Your Park programme, however it is worded more generically in order to provide policy provision for any other visitor management strategy/ies that may arise during the life of the plan.
	3. During the preparation of the PLDP the Authority started to progress a priority in the Partnership Plan in respect of camping management. This programme of work, Your Park, has been progressing in parallel although it is separate. Our intention is to review the draft Visitor Experience planning guidance once the PLDP is Adopted and address the comments raised in relation to terminology.

**Information requested: (3) The explanations required by (1) and (2) should include possible wording that could be used in the proposed plan to allow users to better understand the approach of the Park Authority regarding camping provision.**

* 1. Should the reporter consider that a more explicit cross reference to the more detailed considerations set out in the accompanying Planning (not supplementary) Guidance should be provided in the LDP this could be included by amending the text contained in the Planning Guidance grey shaded box at the foot of p98 of the LDP to read; “*Planning Guidance (Visitor Experience) provides definitions of what is meant by visitor facilities, accommodation and visitor infrastructure from hotels, self-catering units and campsites to piers, pontoons and picnic sites. It also defines the terminology used in Policy 1 including ‘safe walking distances’ and ‘small-scale’. For Policy 2 there is also guidance on business statements and management plans.”* (It should be noted that the layout of this page at design stage has meant that the PG box sits under Policy 3 instead of Policy 1. This will be addressed in the re-design of the Local Development Plan post examinations stage).
	2. As stated above, our intention is to review the draft Visitor Experience planning guidance once the PLDP is Adopted and therefore no recommendations for changes to wording within the guidance is proposed at this stage.