

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Planning Committee: 14 August 2013

Subject: National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To seek endorsement of the responses sent to the Scottish Government in respect of the consultations on National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee endorse the responses sent to the Scottish Government in respect of the consultations on National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

3. Background

- 3.1** The National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy form two major parts of the Scottish Government's Planning and Architecture Policy. The current National Planning Framework (NPF2) was published in 2009. The current Scottish Planning Policy was published in 2010.
- 3.2** The National Planning Framework sets out a long-term strategy for the spatial development of Scotland. The document is reviewed every 5 years and previous versions were published in 2004 and 2009. The next version (NPF3) is due to be approved by the Scottish Parliament in 2014, and as part of the preparation process a Main Issues Report and Draft Framework were published for consultation on 30 April.
- 3.3** Scottish Planning Policy sets out the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The version published in 2010 consolidated a suite of 23 Scottish Planning Policy documents into one, without significantly revising significant policy content. The revision updates national planning policy.
- 3.4** The consultation period on the documents closed on 23 July. As this was before the Committee date, the responses have been sent in draft form to the Scottish Government, and the Government has been advised that final responses will be submitted after they have Planning Committee approval.

4. Main Issues

National Planning Framework

- 4.1** The Council's response to the National Planning Framework is set out in Appendix 1. The response is structured around the consultation questions contained in the document.
- 4.2** The draft framework sets the following vision for Scotland:
- A low carbon place
 - A natural place to invest
 - A successful, sustainable place
 - A connected place
- 4.3** It identifies 14 National Developments, 2 of which – the Central Scotland Green Network and the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan – cover West Dunbartonshire.
- 4.4** Key issues identified by the document for the Clyde Corridor area include:
- Recognition of the importance of Glasgow City Centre, the Clyde gateway and waterfront and Ravenscraig.
 - Transformation of place, green infrastructure and regeneration of vacant and derelict land.
 - Addressing the impact of the economic downturn on the urban environment and supporting investment in renewable energy, biosciences, the creative industries, tourism and recreation.
 - Long-term, regional approaches to climate change adaptation.
- 4.5** Comments submitted in respect of the National Planning Framework, as set out in Appendix 1, include:
- National Developments are focused on the north and east of the country. Because of the location of natural resources this is, to a certain extent, understandable. However, there should be measures included in the NPF to ensure that economic and other growth does not become imbalanced within Scotland as a result. One means could be by recognising the role the west of Scotland can play in accommodating growth in key sectors of the economy.
 - The document should have a clearer spatial focus, with less general text.
 - Support for retention of Central Scotland Green Network, Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan, High Speed Rail and Airport Enhancements as National Developments.
 - Support for the identification of long distance path routes in Scotland, and the suggestion that these could include the Antonine Wall, the John Muir Trail and the canal network, and the recognition of these assets and the National Park to tourism

Scottish Planning Policy

- 4.6** The Council's response to the SPP is set out in Appendix 2. The response is structured around the consultation questions contained in the document.

- 4.7** The revised document has a stronger emphasis on economic growth, delivery and placemaking.
- 4.8** Comments submitted in respect of Scottish Planning Policy, as set out in Appendix 2, include:
- That 'appropriate' rather than significant weight should be given to the economic benefits of development to ensure a correct balance between economic and other considerations.
 - Support for the preparation of town centre health checks and strategies but in line with the development plan cycle (5 years) rather than every 2 years as suggested for health checks.
 - Support for 'town centre first' approach being applied to a wider range of developments including retail, leisure and public buildings.
 - Concern that the requirement to apply a generosity allowance of 10-20% to the housing land supply will increase the requirement for greenfield land and dilute settlement strategies that focus on previously developed land.
 - Clarification required as to how Housing Supply Targets have to emerge from the strategic/local development plan/local housing strategy process.
 - Concern that the new approach to preparing spatial frameworks for wind energy is more complex and detailed than the current approach.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There are no known risks associated with this report.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for both documents by the Scottish Government.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** The views of other sections of the Council have been sought in the preparation of the Council's response.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy cover a wide range of topics and is considered to contribute to all of the Council's strategic priorities and in particular towards:

- Economic growth and employability
- Local housing and sustainable infrastructure

Elaine Melrose
Executive Director of Housing, Environmental
and Economic Development
Date: 30 July 2013

Person to Contact: Pamela Clifford, Planning & Building Standards Manager,
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development,
Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank, G81 1TG

Alan Williamson, Team Leader – Forward Planning,
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development
Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank, G81 1TG

Appendices: Appendix 1: Council response to National Planning
Framework 3: Main Issues Report and Draft Framework
Appendix 2: Council response to Scottish Planning
Policy: Consultation Draft

Background Papers: National Planning Framework 3: Main Issues Report and
Draft Framework
Scottish Planning Policy: Consultation Draft

Wards Affected: All