

A meeting of the Local Review Body will be held on Wednesday 3 April 2024 at 4pm or following conclusion of the meeting of the Planning Board (if later).

Members may attend the meeting in person at the Greenock Municipal Buildings or via remote online access. Webex joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Committee Services by 12 noon on Tuesday 2 April 2024 how they intend to access the meeting.

In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation and as noted above.

Information relating to the recording of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

VICKY POLLOCK
Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services

BUSINESS

| 1. Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | Page |
|--|-------------|
| 2. Planning Application for Review (a) Mr M Orhan Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3) including installation of extraction flue on rear elevation of building: 17 Grey Place, Greenock (23/0009/IC) | p1 |
| (b) Mr Iain Hepburn Proposed extension comprising one-and-a-half storey rear extension with north facing dormer window and single storey side extension on north side topped with roof terrace: 22 Rosemount Place, Gourock (23/0184/IC) | p255 |

The reports are available publicly on the Council's website and the minute of the meeting will be submitted to the next standing meeting of the Inverclyde Council. The agenda for the meeting of the Inverclyde Council will be available publicly on the Council's website.

Please note: this meeting may be recorded or live-streamed via YouTube and the Council's internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded or live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during any recording or live-streaming will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site or YouTube.

If you are participating in the meeting, you acknowledge that you may be filmed and that any information pertaining to you contained in the recording or live-stream of the meeting will be used for webcasting or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. In making this use of your information the Council is processing data which is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. If you are asked to speak at the meeting then your submission to the committee will be captured as part of the recording or live-stream.

If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact the Information Governance team at dataprotection@inverclyde.gov.uk

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| Enquiries to - Colin MacDonald - Tel 01475 712113 |
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LOCAL REVIEW BODY

3 APRIL 2024

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

MR M ORHAN

**CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL PREMISES TO RESTAURANT
(CLASS 3) INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF EXTRACTION FLUE ON REAR
ELEVATION OF BUILDING
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK (23/0009/IC)**

Contents

- 1. Planning Application dated 17 January 2023 together with Plans, Elevations and Land Ownership Certificate**
- 2. Appointed Officer's Report of Handling dated 6 November 2023**
- 3. Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2019 Policy Extract**

To view the Inverclyde Local Development Plan see:

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/development-planning/ldp>

- 4. Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2019 Map Extract**
- 5. Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2019 Supplementary Guidance on Planning Application Advice Notes Policy Extract**
- 6. National Planning Framework 4**
- 7. Representations in relation to Planning Application**
- 8. Decision Notice dated 6 November 2023 issued by Head of Regeneration & Planning**
- 9. Notice of Review Form dated 5 February 2024 together with Statement of Appeal**
- 10. Further Representations submitted following receipt of Notice of Review**
- 11. Submission by Ferguson Planning in response to Further Representations**
- 12. Suggested Conditions and Advisory Note should Planning Permission be Granted on Review**

Note: Inverclyde Proposed Local Development Plan 2021 has been attached to the rear of the agenda papers as supplementary content.

- 1. PLANNING APPLICATION DATED 17 JANUARY 2023 TOGETHER WITH PLANS, ELEVATIONS AND LAND OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE**



Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY Tel: 01475 717171 Fax: 01475 712 468 Email: devcont.planning@inverclyde.gov.uk

Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid.

Thank you for completing this application form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100612355-001

The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning Authority will allocate an Application Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the planning Authority about this application.

Type of Application

What is this application for? Please select one of the following: *

- ☒ Application for planning permission (including changes of use and surface mineral working).
- ☐ Application for planning permission in principle.
- ☐ Further application, (including renewal of planning permission, modification, variation or removal of a planning condition etc)
- ☐ Application for Approval of Matters specified in conditions.

Description of Proposal

Please describe the proposal including any change of use: * (Max 500 characters)

Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3)

Is this a temporary permission? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

If a change of use is to be included in the proposal has it already taken place?
(Answer 'No' if there is no change of use.) *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has the work already been started and/or completed? *

☒ No ☐ Yes – Started ☐ Yes - Completed

Applicant or Agent Details

Are you an applicant or an agent? * (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting on behalf of the applicant in connection with this application)

☐ Applicant ☒ Agent

Agent Details

Please enter Agent details

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Company/Organisation: | Nicholson McShane Architects | | |
| Ref. Number: | | You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: * | |
| First Name: * | Douglas | Building Name: | Custom House |
| Last Name: * | Nicholson | Building Number: | 1-01 |
| Telephone Number: * | 01475 325025 | Address 1 (Street): * | Custom House Place |
| Extension Number: | | Address 2: | |
| Mobile Number: | | Town/City: * | Greenock |
| Fax Number: | | Country: * | Scotland |
| | | Postcode: * | PA15 1EQ |
| Email Address: * | consents@nicholsonmcshane.co.uk | | |
| Is the applicant an individual or an organisation/corporate entity? * | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation/Corporate entity | | | |

Applicant Details

Please enter Applicant details

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Title: | Mr | You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: * | |
| Other Title: | | Building Name: | Demkup Ltd |
| First Name: * | M. | Building Number: | |
| Last Name: * | Orhan | Address 1 (Street): * | 33 Harwood Street |
| Company/Organisation | | Address 2: | |
| Telephone Number: * | | Town/City: * | Glasgow |
| Extension Number: | | Country: * | Scotland |
| Mobile Number: | | Postcode: * | G32 6HY |
| Fax Number: | | | |
| Email Address: * | consents@nicholsonmcshane.co.uk | | |

Site Address Details

Planning Authority:

Inverclyde Council

Full postal address of the site (including postcode where available):

Address 1:

SHOP WEDDINGS

Address 2:

17 GREY PLACE

Address 3:

Address 4:

Address 5:

Town/City/Settlement:

GREENOCK

Post Code:

PA15 1YF

Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites

Northing

676753

Easting

227512

Pre-Application Discussion

Have you discussed your proposal with the planning authority? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Pre-Application Discussion Details Cont.

In what format was the feedback given? *

☐ Meeting ☐ Telephone ☐ Letter ☒ Email

Please provide a description of the feedback you were given and the name of the officer who provided this feedback. If a processing agreement [note 1] is currently in place or if you are currently discussing a processing agreement with the planning authority, please provide details of this. (This will help the authority to deal with this application more efficiently.) * (max 500 characters)

Mr Sinclair intimated that we would need to provide, plans, elevations, location of the flue, occupancy and opening hours. Opening hours will be 12pm to 11pm daily.

Title:

Mr

Other title:

First Name:

David

Last Name:

Sinclair

Correspondence Reference
Number:

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

29/11/2022

Note 1. A Processing agreement involves setting out the key stages involved in determining a planning application, identifying what information is required and from whom and setting timescales for the delivery of various stages of the process.

Site Area

Please state the site area:

373.00

Please state the measurement type used:

☐

Hectares (ha)

☒

Square Metres (sq.m)

Existing Use

Please describe the current or most recent use: * (Max 500 characters)

Retail unit

Access and Parking

Are you proposing a new altered vehicle access to or from a public road? *

☐

Yes

☒

No

If Yes please describe and show on your drawings the position of any existing. Altered or new access points, highlighting the changes you propose to make. You should also show existing footpaths and note if there will be any impact on these.

Are you proposing any change to public paths, public rights of way or affecting any public right of access? *

☐

Yes

☒

No

If Yes please show on your drawings the position of any affected areas highlighting the changes you propose to make, including arrangements for continuing or alternative public access.

How many vehicle parking spaces (garaging and open parking) currently exist on the application Site?

0

How many vehicle parking spaces (garaging and open parking) do you propose on the site (i.e. the Total of existing and any new spaces or a reduced number of spaces)? *

0

Please show on your drawings the position of existing and proposed parking spaces and identify if these are for the use of particular types of vehicles (e.g. parking for disabled people, coaches, HGV vehicles, cycles spaces).

Water Supply and Drainage Arrangements

Will your proposal require new or altered water supply or drainage arrangements? *

☐

Yes

☒

No

Do your proposals make provision for sustainable drainage of surface water?? *
(e.g. SUDS arrangements) *

☐

Yes

☒

No

Note:-

Please include details of SUDS arrangements on your plans

Selecting 'No' to the above question means that you could be in breach of Environmental legislation.

Are you proposing to connect to the public water supply network? *

☐

Yes

☐

No, using a private water supply

☒

No connection required

If No, using a private water supply, please show on plans the supply and all works needed to provide it (on or off site).

Assessment of Flood Risk

Is the site within an area of known risk of flooding? *

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

If the site is within an area of known risk of flooding you may need to submit a Flood Risk Assessment before your application can be determined. You may wish to contact your Planning Authority or SEPA for advice on what information may be required.

Do you think your proposal may increase the flood risk elsewhere? *

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

Trees

Are there any trees on or adjacent to the application site? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please mark on your drawings any trees, known protected trees and their canopy spread close to the proposal site and indicate if any are to be cut back or felled.

Waste Storage and Collection

Do the plans incorporate areas to store and aid the collection of waste (including recycling)? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes or No, please provide further details: * (Max 500 characters)

Refuse is stored in the adjoining close.

Residential Units Including Conversion

Does your proposal include new or additional houses and/or flats? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

All Types of Non Housing Development – Proposed New Floorspace

Does your proposal alter or create non-residential floorspace? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

All Types of Non Housing Development – Proposed New Floorspace Details

For planning permission in principle applications, if you are unaware of the exact proposed floorspace dimensions please provide an estimate where necessary and provide a fuller explanation in the 'Don't Know' text box below.

Please state the use type and proposed floorspace (or number of rooms if you are proposing a hotel or residential institution): *

Class 3 Restaurant/cafe

Gross (proposed) floorspace (In square meters, sq.m) or number of new (additional) Rooms (If class 7, 8 or 8a): *

255

If Class 1, please give details of internal floorspace:

Net trading spaces:

Non-trading space:

Total:

If Class 'Not in a use class' or 'Don't know' is selected, please give more details: (Max 500 characters)

Schedule 3 Development

Does the proposal involve a form of development listed in Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2013 *

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

If yes, your proposal will additionally have to be advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area of the development. Your planning authority will do this on your behalf but will charge you a fee. Please check the planning authority's website for advice on the additional fee and add this to your planning fee.

If you are unsure whether your proposal involves a form of development listed in Schedule 3, please check the Help Text and Guidance notes before contacting your planning authority.

Planning Service Employee/Elected Member Interest

Is the applicant, or the applicant's spouse/partner, either a member of staff within the planning service or an elected member of the planning authority? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Certificates and Notices

CERTIFICATE AND NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 15 – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATION 2013

One Certificate must be completed and submitted along with the application form. This is most usually Certificate A, Form 1, Certificate B, Certificate C or Certificate E.

Are you/the applicant the sole owner of ALL the land? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is any of the land part of an agricultural holding? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you able to identify and give appropriate notice to ALL the other owners? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Certificate Required

The following Land Ownership Certificate is required to complete this section of the proposal:

Certificate B

Land Ownership Certificate

Certificate and Notice under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

I hereby certify that

(1) - No person other than myself/the applicant was an owner [Note 4] of any part of the land to which the application relates at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application;

or –

(1) - I have/The Applicant has served notice on every person other than myself/the applicant who, at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application was owner [Note 4] of any part of the land to which the application relates.

Name:

Mr Zulfquar Ali

Address:

17, Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF

Date of Service of Notice: *

17/01/2023

(2) - None of the land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding;

or –

(2) - The land or part of the land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding and I have/the applicant has served notice on every person other than myself/himself who, at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application was an agricultural tenant. These persons are:

Name:

Address:

Date of Service of Notice: *

Signed: Douglas Nicholson

On behalf of: Mr M. Orhan

Date: 17/01/2023

☒ Please tick here to certify this Certificate. *

Checklist – Application for Planning Permission

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Please take a few moments to complete the following checklist in order to ensure that you have provided all the necessary information in support of your application. Failure to submit sufficient information with your application may result in your application being deemed invalid. The planning authority will not start processing your application until it is valid.

a) If this is a further application where there is a variation of conditions attached to a previous consent, have you provided a statement to that effect? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

b) If this is an application for planning permission or planning permission in principal where there is a crown interest in the land, have you provided a statement to that effect? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

c) If this is an application for planning permission, planning permission in principle or a further application and the application is for development belonging to the categories of national or major development (other than one under Section 42 of the planning Act), have you provided a Pre-Application Consultation Report? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

d) If this is an application for planning permission and the application relates to development belonging to the categories of national or major developments and you do not benefit from exemption under Regulation 13 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, have you provided a Design and Access Statement? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

e) If this is an application for planning permission and relates to development belonging to the category of local developments (subject to regulation 13. (2) and (3) of the Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2013) have you provided a Design Statement? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

f) If your application relates to installation of an antenna to be employed in an electronic communication network, have you provided an ICNIRP Declaration? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

g) If this is an application for planning permission, planning permission in principle, an application for approval of matters specified in conditions or an application for mineral development, have you provided any other plans or drawings as necessary:

☒ Site Layout Plan or Block plan.

☒ Elevations.

☒ Floor plans.

☒ Cross sections.

☐ Roof plan.

☐ Master Plan/Framework Plan.

☐ Landscape plan.

☐ Photographs and/or photomontages.

☐ Other.

If Other, please specify: * (Max 500 characters)

Provide copies of the following documents if applicable:

A copy of an Environmental Statement. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

A Design Statement or Design and Access Statement. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

A Flood Risk Assessment. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

A Drainage Impact Assessment (including proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems). *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

Drainage/SUDS layout. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

A Transport Assessment or Travel Plan

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

Contaminated Land Assessment. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

Habitat Survey. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

A Processing Agreement. *

☐ Yes ☒ N/A

Other Statements (please specify). (Max 500 characters)

Declare – For Application to Planning Authority

I, the applicant/agent certify that this is an application to the planning authority as described in this form. The accompanying Plans/drawings and additional information are provided as a part of this application.

Declaration Name: Mr Douglas Nicholson

Declaration Date: 17/01/2023

Payment Details

Cheque: Nicholson McShane, 0000000

Created: 18/01/2023 10:00

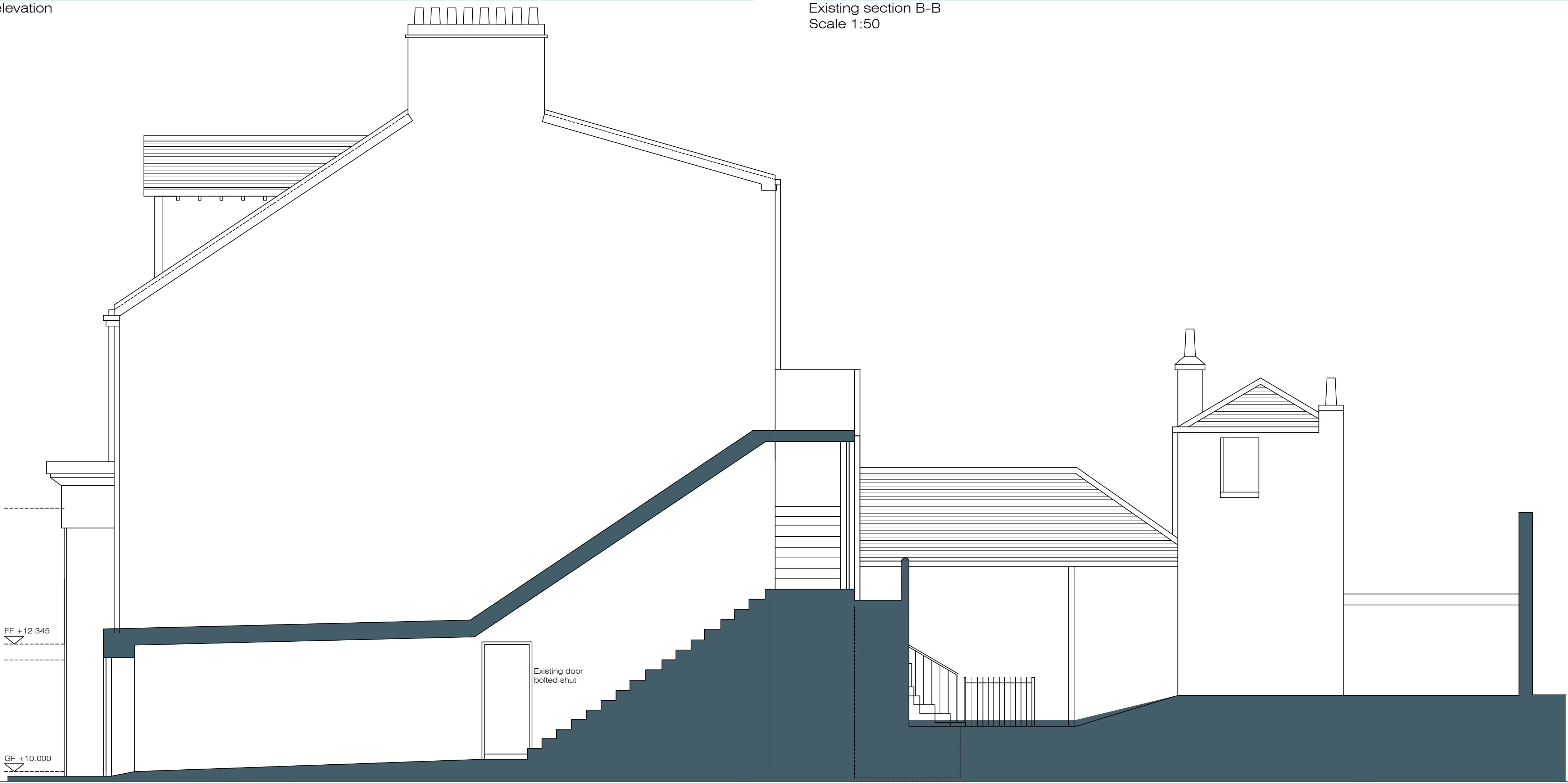
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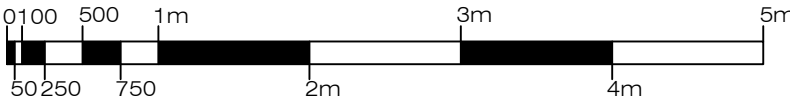
Existing front elevation
Scale 1:50



Existing section B-B
Scale 1:50



Existing section A-A
Scale 1:50



Scale 1:50

nm

a

NICHOLSON MCSHANE ARCHITECTS

SUITE 1-01
CUSTOM HOUSE
CUSTOM HOUSE PLACE
GREENOCK
INVERCLYDE
PA15 1EQ

email: info@nicholsonmcschane.co.uk
web: nicholsonmcschane.co.uk
tel: 01475 325025

| | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| CLIENT Mr M. Orhan | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE Conversion of retail unit to restaurant | | | |
| PROJECT ADDRESS 17 Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF | | | |
| DRAWING TITLE Existing elevation and sections | | | |
| DRAWING STATUS Planning | | | PAPER SIZE A1 |
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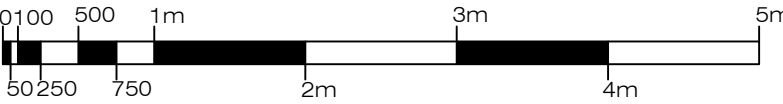
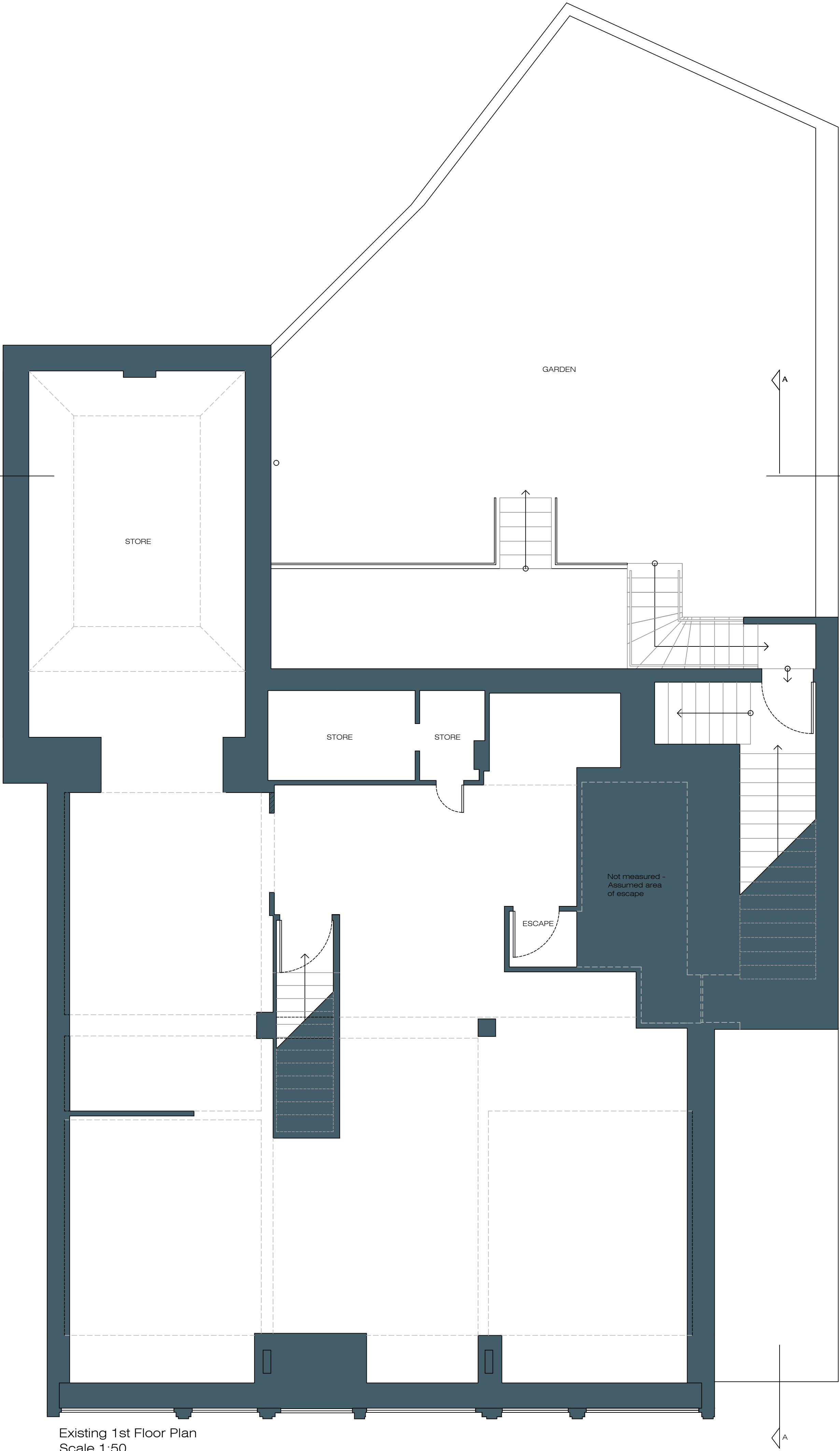
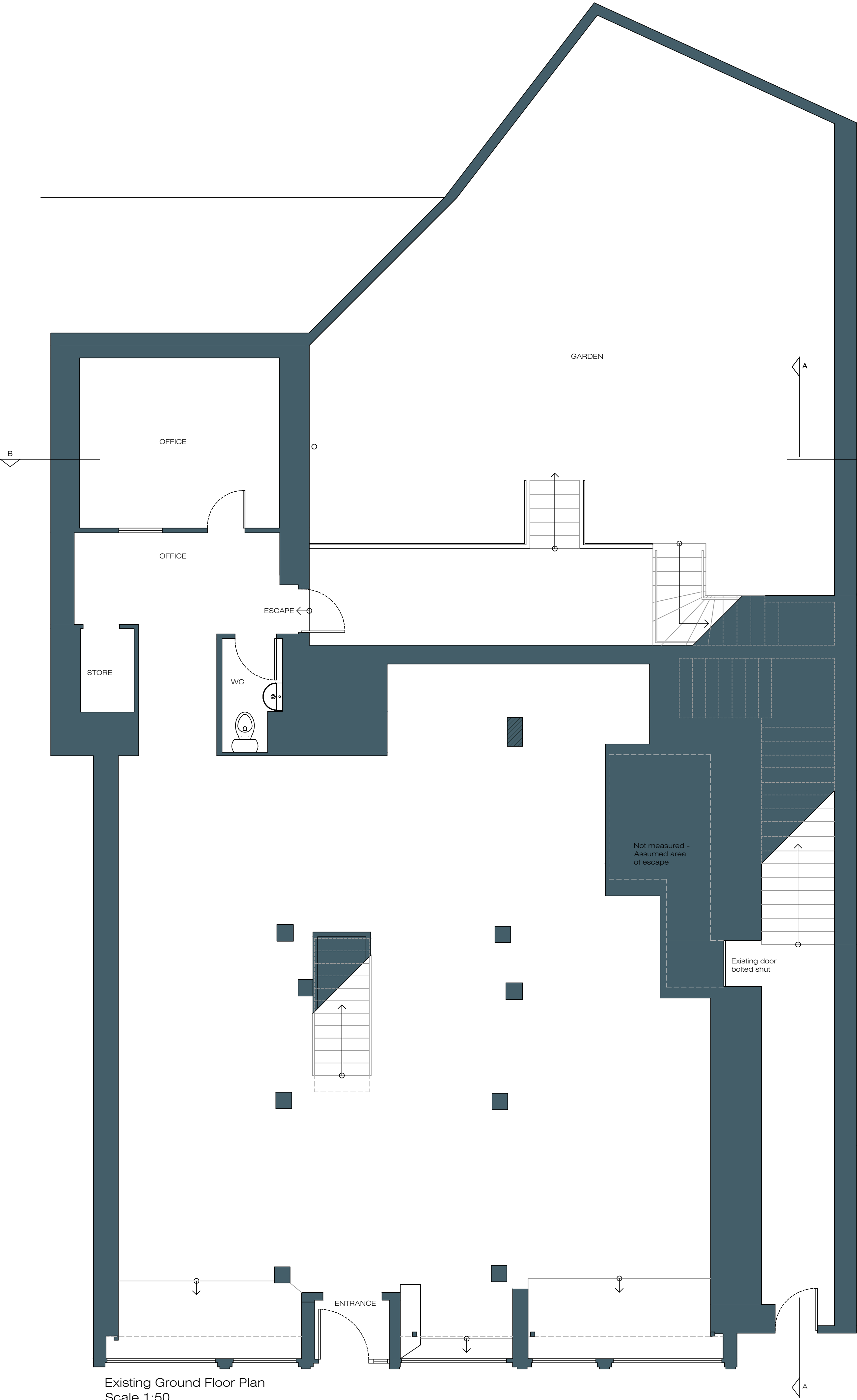
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Registration
Board

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| - | - | - |



nm

a

NICHOLSON MCSHANE ARCHITECTS

SUITE 1-01

CUSTOM HOUSE

CUSTOM HOUSE PLACE

GREENOCK

INVERCLYDE

PA15 1EQ

email: info@nicholsonmcs Shane.co.uk

web: nicholsonmcs Shane.co.uk

tel: 01475 325025

| | | | |
|---|----------|----------|------------|
| CLIENT | | | |
| Mr M. Orhan | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE | | | |
| Conversion of retail unit to restaurant | | | |
| PROJECT ADDRESS | | | |
| 17 Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF | | | |
| DRAWING TITLE | | | |
| Existing plans | | | |
| DRAWING STATUS | | | PAPER SIZE |
| Planning | | | A1 |
| DRAWING NUMBER | | | REVISION |
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| 1:50 | 06.07.23 | LG | - |

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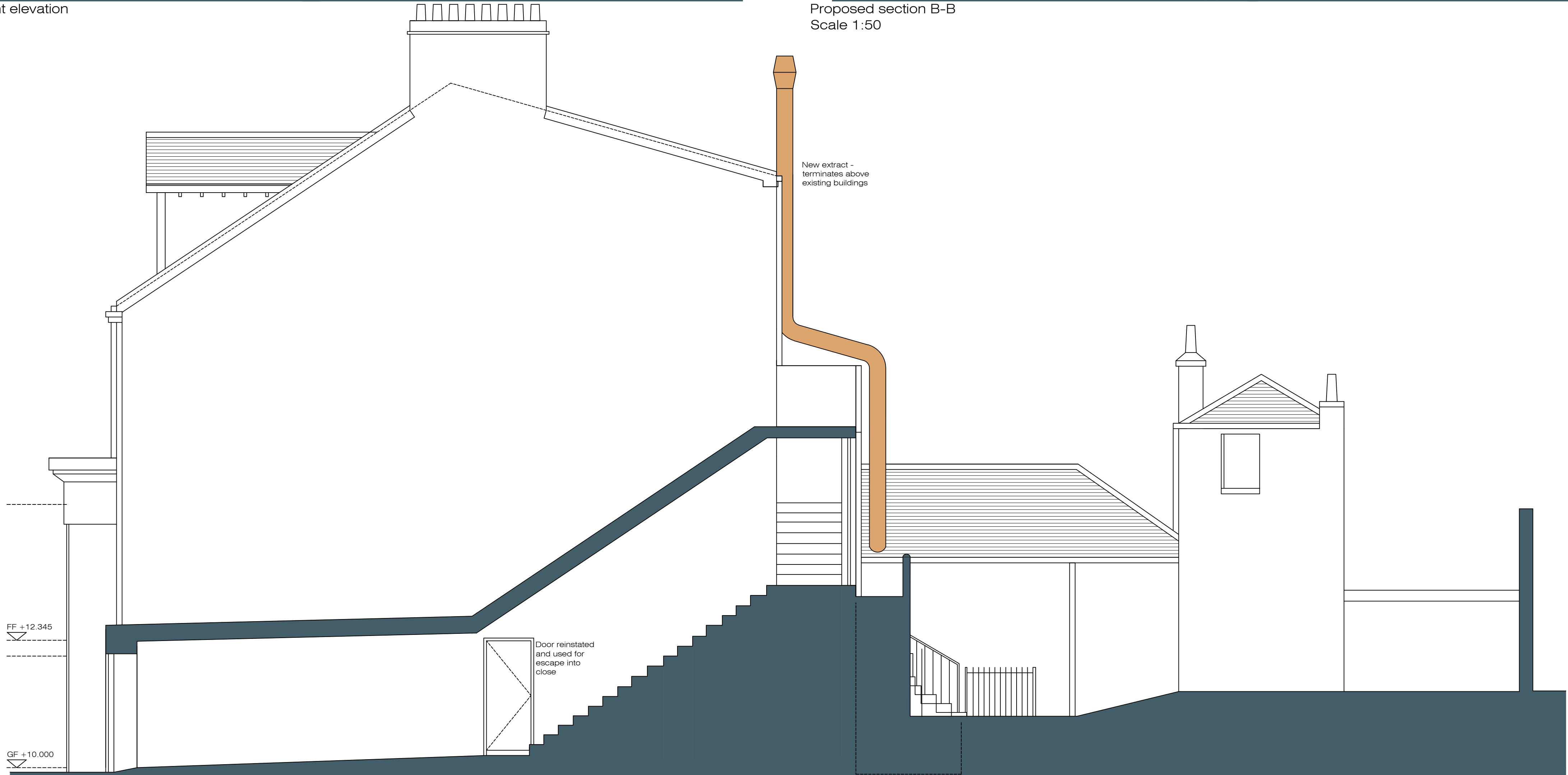
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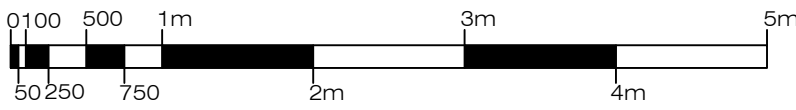
Proposed front elevation
Scale 1:50



Proposed section B-B
Scale 1:50



Proposed section A-A
Scale 1:50



Scale 1:50

nm

a

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SUITE 1-01

CUSTOM HOUSE

CUSTOM HOUSE PLACE

GREENOCK

INVERCLYDE

PA15 1EQ

email: info@nicholsonmcschane.co.uk

web: nicholsonmcschane.co.uk

tel: 01475 325025

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CLIENT | Mr M. Orhan |
| PROJECT TITLE | Conversion of retail unit to restaurant |
| PROJECT ADDRESS | 17 Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF |
| DRAWING TITLE | Proposed elevation and sections |
| DRAWING STATUS | Planning |
| DRAWING NUMBER | 22054_D_04 |
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| DATE | 16.06.23 |
| DRAWN BY | LG |
| CHECKED BY | - |

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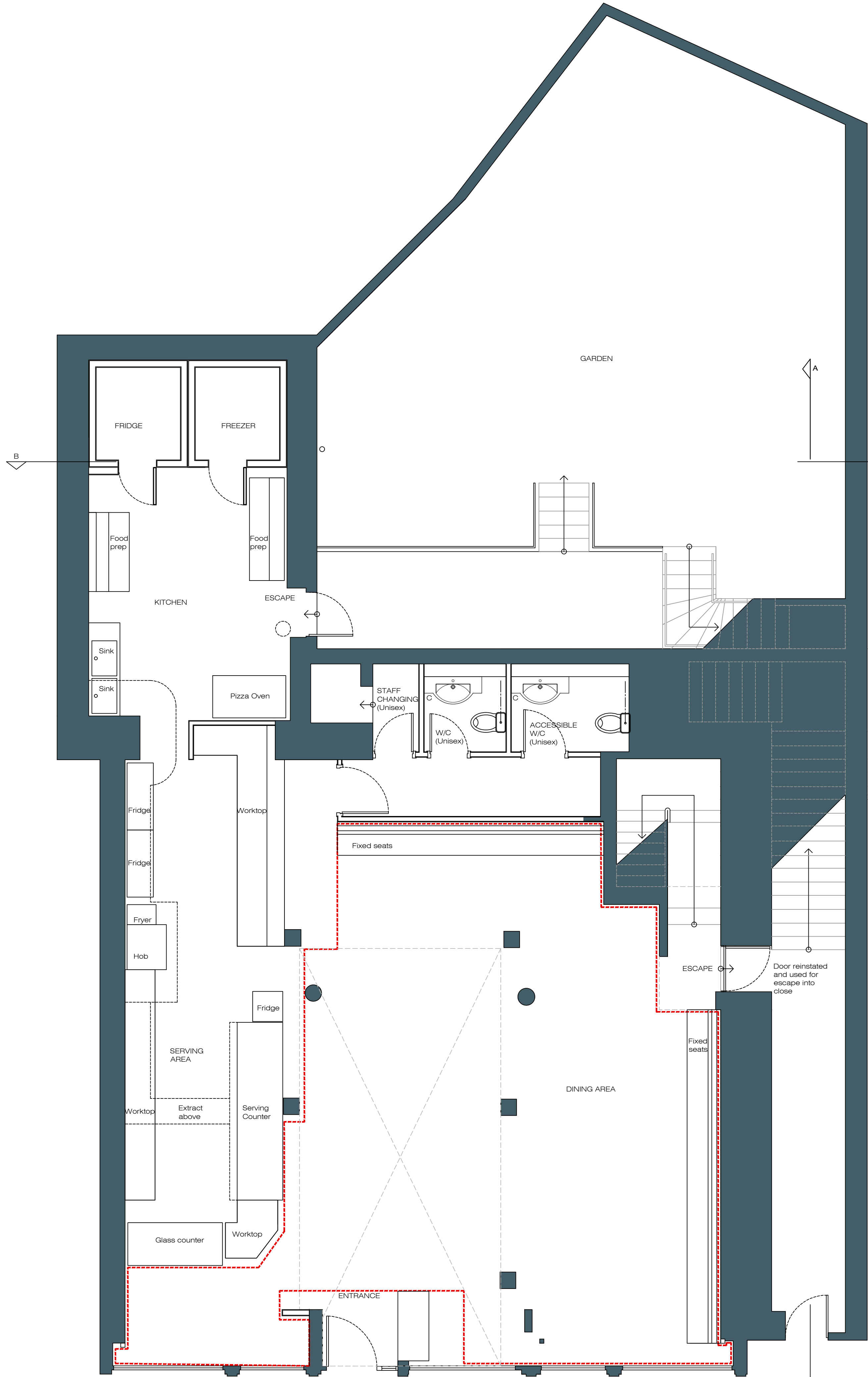
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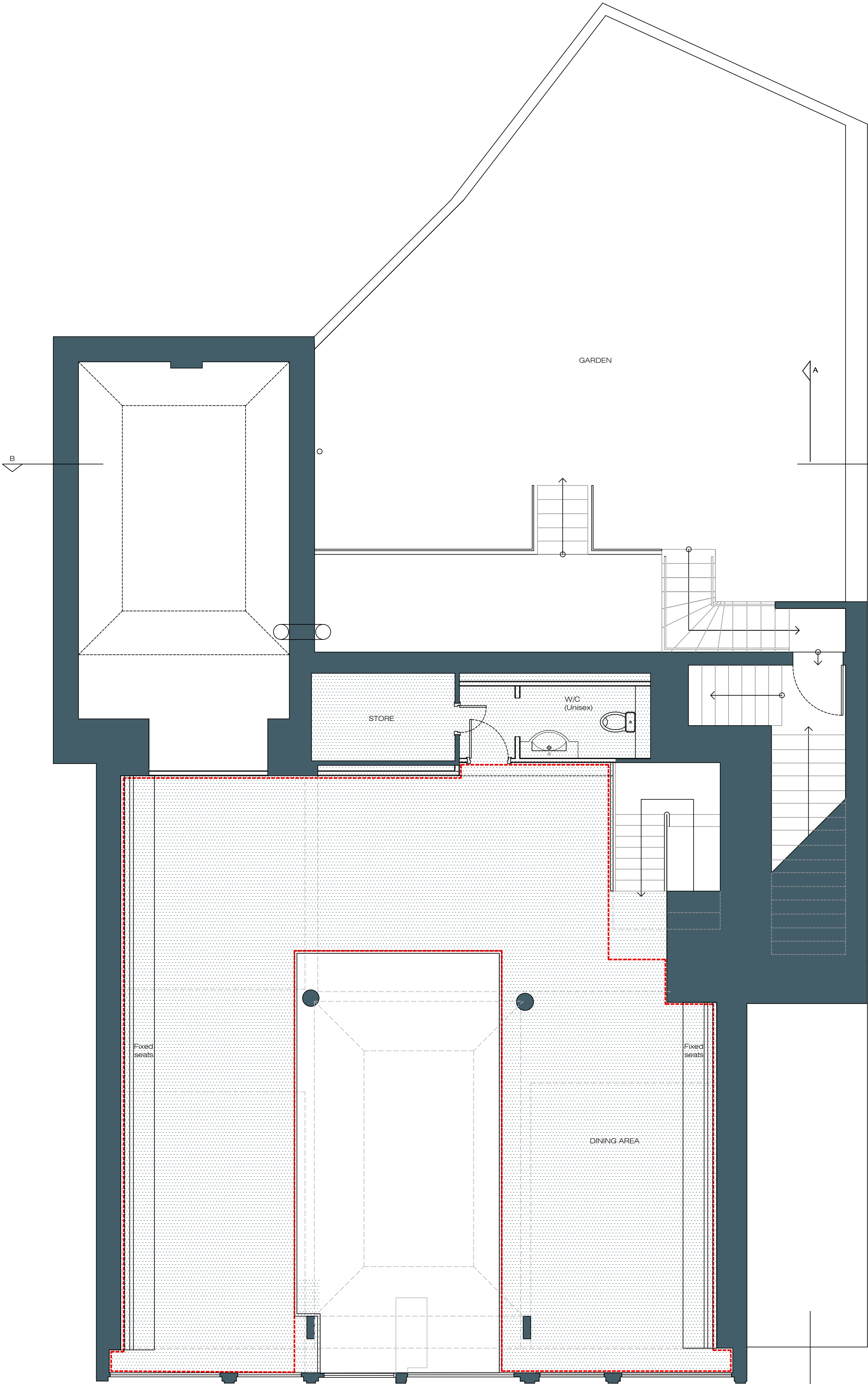
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| A | Planning revisions | 06.07.23 |
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Proposed Ground Floor Plan
Scale 1:50

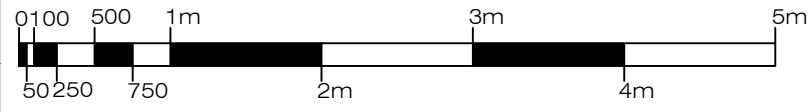


Proposed 1st Floor Plan
Scale 1:50

Key

----- Dining area

First Floor



Scale 1:50

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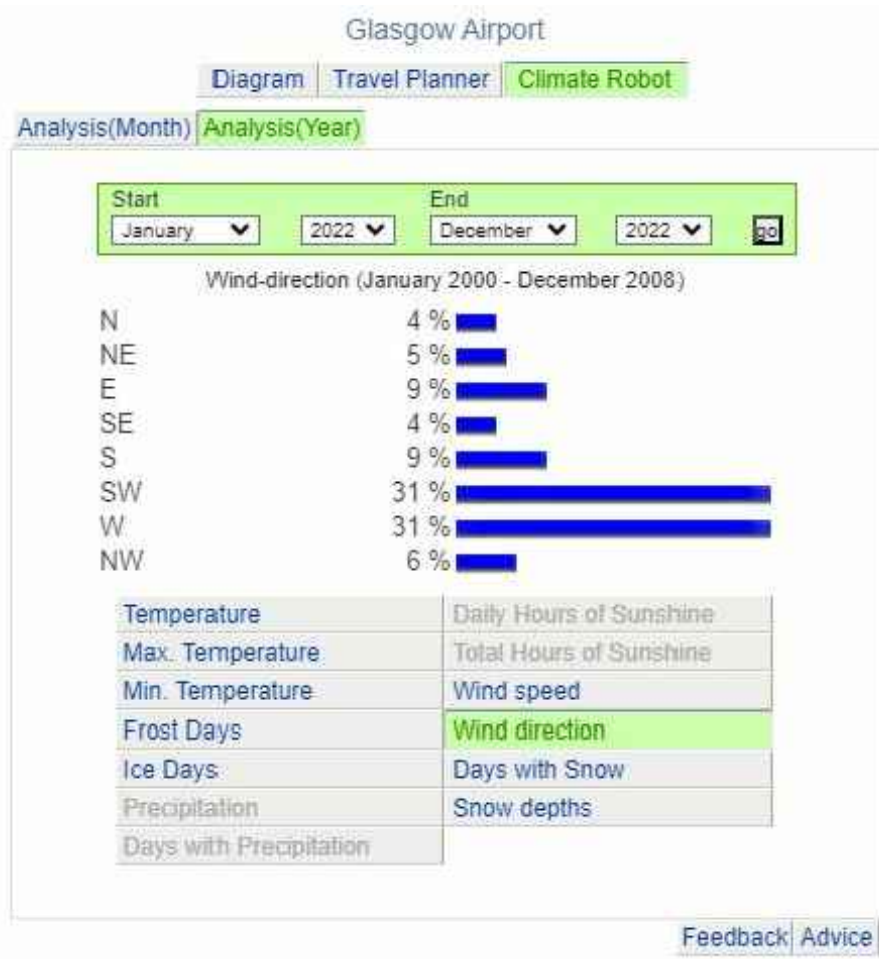
a SUITE 1-01
CUSTOM HOUSE
CUSTOM HOUSE PLACE
GREENOCK
INVERCLYDE
PA15 1ED
email: info@nicholsonmchane.co.uk
web: nicholsonmchane.co.uk
tel: 01475 325025

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CLIENT | Mr M. Orhan |
| PROJECT TITLE | Conversion of retail unit to restaurant |
| PROJECT ADDRESS | 17 Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF |
| DRAWING TITLE | Proposed plans |
| DRAWING STATUS | Planning |
| DRAWING NUMBER | 22054_D_02 |
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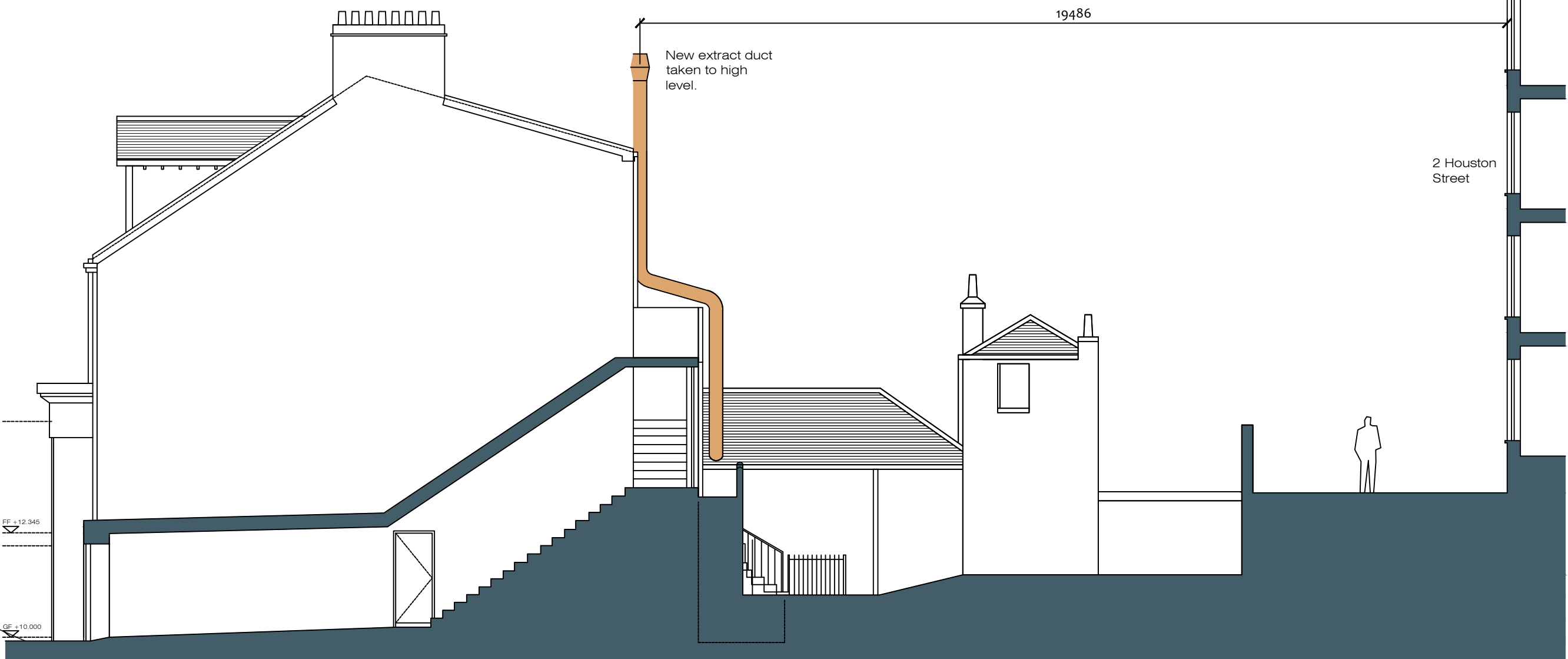
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WIND DIRECTION TABLE



Section showing neighbouring flats
Scale 1:100

0 200 750 2m 4m 6m
100 500 1m 3m 4m 6m
Scale 1:100

nm NICHOLSON MCSHANE ARCHITECTS
a SUITE 1-01
CUSTOM HOUSE
CUSTOM HOUSE PLACE
GREENOCK
INVERCLYDE
PA15 1EQ
email: info@nicholsonmcs Shane.co.uk
web: nicholsonmcs Shane.co.uk
tel: 01475 325025

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CLIENT | Mr M. Orhan |
| PROJECT TITLE | Conversion of retail unit to restaurant |
| PROJECT ADDRESS | 17 Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF |
| DRAWING TITLE | Proposed Site Plan |
| DRAWING STATUS | Planning |
| DRAWING NUMBER | 22054_D_05 |
| PAPER SIZE | A1 |
| REVISION | A |
| SCALE | 1:100 |
| DATE | 16.06.23 |
| DRAWN BY | LG |
| CHECKED BY | - |

Proposed block plan
Scale 1:100

23/0009/1C

CHANGE OF USE OF CLASS 1 RETAIL UNIT TO CLASS 3 RESTAURANT AT
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK.

REVISED OWNERSHIP CERTIFICATE.

**CERTIFICATES UNDER ARTICLE 15 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013**

Either certificate A or certificate B must be completed together with certificate E

CERTIFICATE A (To be completed where the applicant is owner of the whole application site including any access visibility splays and land required for drainage systems or water connections)

I hereby certify that:

No person other than * myself/the applicant was an owner (refer to note (a)) of any part of the land to which the application relates at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application

CERTIFICATE B (To be completed where the applicant does not own the whole application site including any access visibility splays and land required for drainage systems or water connections)

I further certify that:

* I have/the applicant has given the requisite notice (Notice No.1) to all persons other than * myself / the applicant who at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application were (refer to note (a)) owners of any part of the land to which the application relates.

| Name(s) of Owner | Address(es) | Date of Service of Notice(s) |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| REFER TO ATTACHED SCHEDULE | | |
| | | |
| | | |

* Delete whichever is inappropriate

NOTE (a) Any person who in respect of any part of the land is the proprietor of the dominium utile or is the lessee under a lease thereof of which not less than 7 years remains unexpired.

CERTIFICATES C (TO BE COMPLETED IN EVERY CASE)

I further certify that:

* (1) None of the land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding

* (2) I have / the applicant has given the requisite notice to every person other than myself / himself who at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the application was a tenant of any agricultural holding any part of which was comprised in the land to which the application relates

These persons are:

| Name | Address | Date of Service of Notice(s) |
|-------|---------|------------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

CERTIFICATED

I confirm that I have been unable to notify all parties under Certificates A, B and C

* Delete whichever is inappropriate

Signature of Applicant/Agent

FOR NICHOLSON McSHANE ARCHITECTS

On behalf of

MR. M. ORHAN

Date

10/07/2023

CHECKLIST - The following documentation should be submitted:

please tick all boxes

☐ TWO APPLICATION FORMS

☐ DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT
National and Major Applications Only

☐ TWO SETS OF PLANS

☐ PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION
REPORT

☐ FEE (Where appropriate)

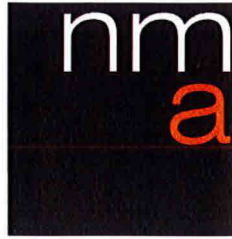
National and Major Applications Only

WARNING

If any person issues a certificate which purports to comply with the requirements of Section 35 of The Town and County Planning (Scotland) Acts, and contains a statement which he knows to be false or misleading in a material particular or recklessly issues a certificate which purports to comply with those requirements and which contains a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Data Protection: Inverclyde Council is obliged to comply with current Data Protection Laws and will use this information for the purpose of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and related purposes, legislation and regulation.

Further information can be found at www.inverclyde.gov.uk/privacy



NICHOLSON McSHANE ARCHITECTS

CHANGE OF USE OF CLASS 1 RETAIL PREMISES TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3)

17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK

SCHEDULE OF OWNERS

17 Grey Place, Greenock (REN25174)

Position: Westmost attic floor flat.

Owner: Peter Simpson, 77 Dempster Street, Greenock, PA15 4EE

17B Grey Place, Greenock (REN24026)

Position: Middle attic floor flat.

Owner: Jacqueline Woods, 96 Lyle Road, Greenock

Flat 2/1, 17 Grey Place, Greenock (REN23857)

Position: Eastmost attic floor flat.

Owner: Wego Home Ltd., Oak Cottage, Bridge Road, Colby, Norwich, NR11 7EA

17 Grey Place, Greenock (REN24025)

Position: Westmost first floor flat.

Owner: John Nelson McEleny and Morag McLaron, Craigdhu, 22 Shore Road, Skelmorlie, PA17 5DR

17 Grey Place, Greenock (REN24171)

Position: Middle first floor flat.

Owner: Harry Neil Grierson, 17 Grey Place, Greenock, PA15 1YF

17 Grey Place, Greenock (REN24172)

Position: Eastmost first floor flat.

Owner: John and Karen Rodgers, 19 Bawhirley Road, Greenock, PA15 1NS

2. APPOINTED OFFICER'S REPORT OF HANDLING DATED 6 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF HANDLING

Report By: David Sinclair

Report No: 23/0009/IC

**Local Application
Development**

**Contact
Officer:** 01475 712436

Date: 6th November 2023

Subject: Change of use of former Class 1 retail premises to restaurant (Class 3) including installation of extraction flue on rear elevation of building at 17 Grey Place, Greenock.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The application site comprises a vacant furniture shop located on the ground floor of a three-storey building with residential flats on the upper floors on the south-west side of Grey Place, Greenock. The shop contains an internal mezzanine floor. The building is finished with a grey slate roof with two front facing dormers; off-white painted brick frontage; a blue timber shopfront; grey render walls to sides and rear; a mixture of white timber sash and case and white uPVC flat profile windows; and brown uPVC dormer windows. A single storey extension is located along the east side of the rear elevation which also forms part of the shop.

The building adjoins a mixture of retail shops, barbers, beauty salons, offices, restaurants, and hot food take-away premises along Grey Place to the north-west and south-east, which contain residential flats in the upper floors. A furniture store is located within a two-storey, category 'B' listed building to the north-east across Grey Place and to the south-west the site adjoins four and six-storey buildings containing residential flats.

PROPOSAL

Planning permission is sought for a change of use of the premises from a furniture shop (Class 1) to a restaurant (Class 3), along with the reinstatement of glazing on the principal elevation of the building which is currently blocked up below the main fascia and for the installation of a high-level extraction flue on the rear of the main building. The drawings submitted indicate a dining area covering approximately 84sqm on the ground floor and a dining area covering approximately 96sqm on the first floor.

The flue is to exit from the roof of the single storey extension in the north-west corner adjoining the rear of the main building, ascending vertically for approximately 3.5m to clear the stairwell roof before ascending upwards at a 15-degree angle for 1.7m, then ascending vertically for approximately 5m, terminating approximately 2.1m above the eaves of the three-storey building.

Proposals for signage require to be considered under a separate application covered by the Control of Advertisement Regulations 1984.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 (NPF4)

NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13th February 2023. NPF4 forms part of the statutory development plan, along with the Inverclyde Local Development Plan and its supplementary guidance. NPF4 supersedes National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014). NPF3 and SPP no longer represent Scottish Ministers'

planning policy. The Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and associated supplementary guidance cease to have effect from 13th February 2023 and as such no longer form part of the development plan.

NPF4 contains 33 policies and the following are considered relevant to this application.

Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

Policy 9

d) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings will be supported, taking into account their suitability for conversion to other uses. Given the need to conserve embodied energy, demolition will be regarded as the least preferred option.

Policy 14

a) Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.

b) Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.

Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency.

Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the six qualities of successful places are set out in Annex D.

c) Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

Policy 27

a) Development proposals that enhance and improve the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres, including proposals that increase the mix of uses, will be supported.

c) Development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. These uses include:

- i. Hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans;
- ii. Betting offices; and
- iii. High interest money lending premises.

g) Development proposals for city or town centre living will take into account the residential amenity of the proposal. This must be clearly demonstrated where the proposed development is in the same built structure as:

- i. a hot food premises, live music venue, amusement arcade/centre, casino or licensed premises (with the exception of hotels, restaurants, cafés or off licences); and/or
- ii. there is a common or shared access with licenced premises or other use likely to be detrimental to residential amenity.

ADOPTED 2019 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Policy 1 – Creating Successful Places

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 3. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.

Policy 11 – Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards. Developers are required to provide or contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

Policy 22 – Network of Centres Strategy

The preferred locations for the uses set out in Schedule 6 are within the network of town and local centres identified in Schedule 7. Proposals which accord with the role and function of the network of centres as set out in Schedule 7 and the opportunities identified in Schedule 8 will be supported. Proposals for Schedule 6 uses outwith the network of centres or not conforming with the role and function of a particular centre will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) there is not a suitable sequentially preferable opportunity;
- b) there will not be an unacceptable impact on the vibrancy, vitality or viability of other centres within the network of centres; and
- c) there are clear community or economic benefits that can be best achieved at the proposed location.

Proposals for Business (Class 4), residential and hotel uses will also be supported in town and local centres.

Planning Application Advice Note (PAAN) 11 on “Shopfront Design” applies.

PROPOSED 2021 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Policy 1 – Creating Successful Places

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing and assessing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 2 and demonstrated in a design-led approach. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes and Design Guidance for New Residential Development Supplementary Guidance. When assessing proposals for the development opportunities identified by this Plan, regard will also be had to the mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report.

Policy 12 – Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards, including cycle parking standards. Developers

are required to provide or financially contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

Policy 23 – Network of Centres Strategy

The preferred locations for the uses set out in Schedule 5 are within the network of town and local centres identified in Schedule 6. Proposals which accord with the role and function of the network of centres as set out in Schedule 6 and the opportunities identified in Schedule 7 will be supported. Proposals for Schedule 6 uses outwith the network of centres or not conforming with the role and function of a particular centre will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) there is not a suitable sequentially preferable opportunity;
- b) there will not be an unacceptable impact on the vibrancy, vitality or viability of other centres within the network of centres; and
- c) there are clear community or economic benefits that can be best achieved at the proposed location.

Proposals for Business (Class 4), residential and hotel uses will also be supported in town and local centres.

Draft Planning Application Advice Note (PAAN) 11 on “Shopfront Design” applies.

CONSULTATIONS

Head of Service – Roads and Transportation – Advises as follows:

The existing use of the premises as Class 1 Retail requires 3 spaces per 100sqm. The GFA is currently approx. 373sqm therefore the parking requirements is 12 parking spaces.

The proposed use of the premises as Class 3 Food and Drink requires 1 space per 5sqm. The public GFA is approx. 133sqm which requires 27 parking spaces.

The site is located in the town centre next to public transport, with access to the train station and various bus services. This makes public transport a more attractive option therefore reducing the parking requirements.

The existing site has no parking. It is recognised that due to site location it is not possible to provide any additional parking as the site is within the town centre. There are controls on parking which are in place to discourage dangerous parking in this area and there are various public car parks nearby. It is therefore acceptable in these circumstances that no parking is provided as part of this application.

Public Protection Manager – Recommends that the application is refused due to:

The residential premises on Houston Street being at much higher level than the proposed exit point of the ventilation system; the exhaust from which should exit at velocity.

The effect of the topography of the area in conjunction with protection afforded by surrounding buildings on Grey Place, Houston Street and West Stewart Street creating a canyon effect meaning that the area is protected from prevailing winds which would, in other circumstances, reduce the risk of smell nuisance considerably.

The likely scale and complexity of the cooking operation at the premises.

As a consequence the likelihood is of statutory odour nuisance being caused to the residents by cooking operations at the premises.

Also recommends a condition regarding air conditioning units/heating units/refrigeration units/extract flues etc. if attached to the property must be suitably insulated or isolated. This is advised to minimise the effects of vibration in neighbouring properties.

PUBLICITY

An advertisement was placed in the Greenock Telegraph on the 10th March 2023 due to the proposal being a Schedule 3 (Bad Neighbour) Development.

SITE NOTICES

The nature of the proposal did not require a site notice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The application was the subject of neighbour notification. Four representations were received objecting to the proposal. Grounds for objection are summarised as follows:

Increase of property insurance due to the change of commercial use into a restaurant.

Devaluing of property.

There will be lesser chance of obtaining a mortgage for properties above the restaurant due to increased fire risks, fire hazards.

The restaurant will not be sympathetic with the surrounding areas and will cause increased noise and noise pollution.

Smoking area to the rear causing pollution/noise.

Increased footfall, noise and traffic.

The smell and odours from the kitchens will be detrimental to residents wishing to open windows and spend time in the rear garden.

Food waste odours.

Rubbish storage areas and the pests which the food would bring.

Loss of privacy to garden area.

Lack of parking.

There already is a lot of restaurants and take away outlets in this area. We do not need another one.

ASSESSMENT

The material considerations in determination of this application are the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan (LDP); the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan (LDP); and the consultation responses.

Both LDPs locate the application site within the Greenock Town Centre where Policies 1 and 27 of NPF4, Policies 1 and 22 of the adopted LDP and Policies 1 and 23 of the proposed LDP apply. Policy 1 of NPF4 requires consideration of the global climate and nature crises to be given to all development. Policy 27 of NPF4 supports development which enhances and improves the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres. Non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Where development results in residential properties and hot food premises being sited in the same built structure, the residential amenity is required to be assessed.

Policy 14 of NPF4 and Policy 1 of both LDPs refer to qualities of successful places. In Policy 14, the qualities of being Pleasant, Connected, Distinctive, Sustainable and Adaptable are relevant to this proposal. These are reflected in the qualities of being 'Distinctive', 'Adaptable', 'Resource Efficient', 'Easy to Move Around' and 'Safe and Pleasant' in Policy 1 of both LDPs. In the adopted LDP, the relevant factor to be considered 'Distinctive' is whether the proposal reflects local architecture and urban form. In the proposed LDP, the relevant factor is whether the proposal reflects local vernacular/architecture and materials. The relevant factors of being 'Adaptable' in both LDPs are to ensure buildings and spaces can be adapted for a range of uses and avoid creating buildings or spaces that will become neglected or obsolete. The relevant factors of being 'Resource Efficient' in both LDPs are making use of existing buildings and previously developed land, building at higher density in town and local centres and around public transport nodes and providing space for the separation and collection of waste. The relevant factor of being 'Easy to Move Around' in both LDPs is being well connected and the relevant factors of being 'Safe and Pleasant' are to avoid conflict with adjacent uses and minimise the impact of traffic and parking on the street scene. Policy 1 of both LDPs also

require consideration to be given to relevant supplementary guidance, of which the adopted and draft PAAN 11s are relevant to this proposal.

The proposal relates to a change of use of the existing Class 1 (Shops) premises into Class 3 (Food and drink). Policy 22 of the adopted LDP identifies Class 3 (Food and drink) as being a town centre use identified in Schedule 6, stating that the preferred locations for the uses set out in Schedule 6 are within the network of town and local centres identified in Schedule 7. In considering the suitability of the location, I note the comments in the objections received concerning an overprovision of the proposed use. The proposed use is not a type of use identified in Policy 27 of NPF4, or a 'sui generis' use identified in both LDPs of which overprovision of such would require to be considered due to potentially being detrimental to the town centre. Greenock Town Centre is identified in Schedule 7 as being the preferred location for the proposed use. Policy 23 of the proposed LDP continues this approach, identifying the use as a town centre use under Schedule 5 and the site's location as being within the network of town and local centres identified in Schedule 6. The change of use proposed is therefore acceptable in terms of Policy 22 of the adopted LDP and Policy 23 of the proposed LDP.

Whilst the principle of the proposed development and the use of the premises may be generally accepted at this location, it still needs to be considered if the impact on the overall amenity of the surrounding area is acceptable.

Considering Policy 1 of both LDPs, the proposal looks to develop a currently vacant town centre unit and bring it back into use, avoiding creating a building that will become neglected or obsolete. This meets the quality of being 'Adaptable' and complies with the quality of being 'Resource Efficient' through making use of existing buildings and building at higher density in town and local centres. The reuse of an existing building also can be supported under Policy 9 of NPF4 and will minimise the impacts of the proposal on climate change, in accordance with Policy 1 of NPF4. In considering whether the proposal meets the quality of being 'Distinctive', I shall assess this against the guidance given in both PAAN 11s on "Shopfront Design".

The guidance in both PAAN 11s states that the design and proportion of the shopfront is based on the framing of the window and door around the fascia board, stall risers and pilasters. It is inappropriate to consider the shopfront in isolation, as it should reflect other shopfronts both within the building (if in a tenement or parade of shops) and the street. The shopfront seeks to preserve the existing shopfront design, with the only alterations being the reinstatement of windows at mezzanine level underneath the main fascia which were previously boarded up. I am satisfied that the proposal will preserve the design of the existing shopfront and reflect the pattern of development along Grey Place, in accordance with the guidance in both PAAN 11s. In considering the proposed flue, this is to be located on a subsidiary elevation and will not form a prominent feature on the streetscape. The flue is to be secured to the building and will follow the form of the building. The provision of the flue is expected for the use proposed and the design and position are considered optimal in terms of minimising the impact on the character and appearance of the building and surrounding area. It stands that the proposal can be considered to have an acceptable impact on local architecture and urban form, meeting the quality of being 'Distinctive' in Policy 1 of both LDPs.

In terms of being 'Easy to Move Around' the site is reasonably well connected by public transport nodes, with the nearest bus stops being within 150 metres of the site on Grey Place and within 250 metres of the site on Brougham Street, however, at around 1 kilometre from the nearest train station is unlikely to be in reasonable proximity for access by rail. The site does provide good access to the core path network and the N75 cycle network, both of which run along Grey Place across the road from the front of the premises. I consider the proposal to have good connectivity and therefore meets the quality of being 'Easy to Move Around'.

In assessing the proposal against Policy 11 of the adopted LDP and Policy 12 of the proposed LDP, and whether it meets the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' with regard to the impact on traffic and parking in the street scene, I note the objections raised over lack of parking. In this regard I turn to the consultation response from the Head of Service – Roads and Transportation which offers no objections to the proposal in terms of traffic management and road safety, noting that the site is within the town centre where there are controls on parking to discourage

dangerous parking and various car parks nearby and good access to public transport, concluding that this development is acceptable. I consider the proposal will not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. It stands that the proposal is in accordance with Policy 11 of the adopted LDP and Policy 12 of the proposed LDP, as well as meeting the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' in this regard.

In considering the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant', in terms of avoiding conflict with adjacent uses, the proposed change of use to a restaurant will produce a level of noise and cooking odours to the area, both of which have the potential to impact on neighbouring amenity. I note the concerns raised in the objection regarding noise from occupants causing disturbance to neighbouring residents. The proposal is located within an established town centre where there is an established level of noise and activity both during the day and into the evening. The applicant has indicated daily opening hours between 12:00 and 23:00 which can be considered acceptable given the town centre location and proximity to similar uses which are open during these times. I note the Public Protection Manager offers no objections on the grounds of noise disturbance affecting the amenity of the area and concur that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on neighbouring uses in this regard. Regarding the advice given on controlling noise and vibration impacts from the extract ducting and flue through suitable isolation, this matter is more appropriately controlled by legislation under the Building Standards Regulations. I consider that this matter can be addressed by an advisory note if planning permission is granted.

With respect to the treatment of cooking odours and the potential for cooking odours to disturb the amenity of nearby properties, I note the objections raised over smells and odours being detrimental to residents being able to open their windows and enjoy the adjoining garden areas which the flue is to be sited above. Further concerns over odour nuisance have been raised in the objections in relation to food waste odours and concerns over improper waste storage attracting pests. In this respect the Public Protection Manager raises no concerns over issues relating to waste storage. I note the concerns raised in the objections over a lack of waste storage shown on the proposal and consider that further details in this respect can be addressed by a condition if planning permission is granted, in order to ensure that suitable waste provision is met within the site. The provision of suitable waste storage would allow the proposal to be considered 'Resource Efficient' in Policy 1 of both LDPs.

To address the concerns raised over odours, the applicant submitted a revised flue design which indicates that a discharge flue is to be installed on the rear of the building, which will terminate just over 2m above the roof plane, bringing it above the windows of the flats on Grey Place and level in height with the third-floor residential windows of the six-storey flatted property at 2 Houston Street. The repositioning of the flue increases the height of the flue extract point by just over 5m and increases the distance of the flue from the windows at 2 Houston Street from 12m to 19.5m.

In considering the suitability of the flue proposed, the Public Protection Manager does not consider this sufficient to address potential conflicts in terms of odour nuisance, advising that the flue is likely to result in statutory odour nuisance to the residential properties due to three factors:

- the residential premises on Houston Street being at much higher level than the extract point of the ventilation system;
- the likely scale of the cooking operation at the premises; and
- the topography of the land to the rear of the premises towards Houston Street forming a canyon type effect meaning that the area is protected from prevailing winds which would, ordinarily dissipate cooking odours away from neighbouring residences.

As such there is concerns over the effectiveness of any extract system being able to dissipate cooking odours away from neighbouring residential properties. The recommendation is that the application be refused on these grounds. In accordance with the advice given it has to be considered that the flue is not suitably sited to sufficiently mitigate odour nuisance and would likely create conflict with neighbouring uses. As such the proposal fails to meet the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' in Policy 1 of both LDPs. The proposal would be harmful to the

immediate amenity of the area, contrary to both Policy 14 and criterion c) of Policy 27 of NPF4. As such, the proposal cannot be considered to accord with these Policies.

Turning to matters raised in the objections not yet addressed, impacts on neighbouring property values and insurances are not material planning considerations and can have no bearing on the outcome of this application. Any issues relating to potential fire risks from the proposed use are more appropriately controlled under the Building Standards Regulations.

Overall, it remains to be considered whether the benefits of the proposal would outweigh the detrimental impacts the proposal would have on existing neighbouring residential properties. The proposal seeks to introduce a new town centre use into a currently vacant premises within the Greenock town centre. This will eliminate a vacant frontage which will have a positive visual impact on the streetscape and will also result in a positive contribution to the overall viability and vitality of the town centre. Nonetheless, any such benefits do not outweigh the potential serious harm to the amenity of neighbouring residents by way of adverse odour nuisance which presents a departure from a number of Development Plan Policies. As a result of the potential harm to surrounding amenity, the proposal cannot be considered as an acceptable development.

In conclusion, Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requires that planning applications are determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The proposal is acceptable with regard to Policies 1 and 9 of NPF4, Policies 11 and 22 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policies 12 and 23 of the proposed Local Development Plan. Notwithstanding this, the proposal will result in unacceptable nuisance from odours to the detriment of neighbouring residents, resulting in the proposal being contrary to Policies 14 and 27 of NPF4, Policy 1 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policy 1 of the proposed Local Development Plan. It is not considered that suitable mitigation measures can be implemented to prevent harm to neighbouring residential amenity. There are no material considerations which would suggest development should be supported and in accordance with Section 25 of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, I am unable to support the application.

RECOMMENDATION

That the application be refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposed use conflicts with Policy 1 in both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as, due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, the proposal fails to meet the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' by avoiding conflict with adjacent uses in terms of odours.
2. The proposed development conflicts with Policy 14 of NPF4, as due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, it is considered to be detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area, as required under criterion c).
3. The proposed development fails to accord with Policy 27 of NPF4, as due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, it would result in a detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity, contrary to criteria c) and g).

Signed:



David Sinclair
Case Officer



Stuart W Jamieson
Director
Environment and Regeneration

3. INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 POLICY EXTRACT

3.0 CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Introduction

3.1 Inverclyde has many fantastic and unique places. Examples include the Free French Memorial and Lyle Hill, which offer panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde; Quarriers Village, built in the 19th century as an orphans' village and filled with individually designed homes of that period; the A-listed Edwardian Wemyss Bay railway station; and the grid-pattern Greenock West End conservation area, which is contained to the north by the popular Greenock Esplanade. These, and other places, have stood the test of time and remain places where people want to live and visit.

3.2 The Council is keen to have more successful places in Inverclyde, and all new development will be expected to contribute to creating successful places. This is particularly important in relation to the Plan's Priority Projects and Priority Places, which reflect major Council investments and the larger scale regeneration opportunities in Inverclyde.

Creating Successful Places

3.3 The Council is keen that all development contributes to making Inverclyde a better place to live, work, study, visit and invest. To differing degrees, all scales and types of development have the potential to make an impact on the surrounding environment and community. It is important to the Council that this impact is a positive one. To this end, the Council will have regard to the six qualities of a successful place when considering all development proposals.

Distinctive

Adaptable

Resource Efficient

Easy to Move Around

Safe and Pleasant

Welcoming

3.4 **Figure 3** illustrates the factors that contribute to the six qualities of a successful place. Not all will be relevant to every development proposal and planning application, but where they are, the Council will expect development proposals to have taken account of them, and it will have regard to them in the assessment of planning applications.



Quarriers Village

POLICY 1 – CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 3. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.



Wemyss Bay Railway Station

FIGURE 3: Factors Contributing to Successful Places



Managing the Impact of Development on the Transport Network

5.7 Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. In order to identify any potential capacity issues on the strategic road network (i.e. A8 & A78), the Council consulted Transport Scotland on the development opportunities identified in the Plan. The Council subsequently completed a high level impact appraisal of several large scale development proposals along the A78 in consultation with Transport Scotland, which concluded there will not be a significant cumulative impact on the trunk road network as a result of the Plan's proposals. Mitigation measures may still be required, including for the rail network, as a result of individual developments coming forward and these can be determined through the Transport Assessment process.

5.8 To ensure that the road network continues to operate efficiently, the Council has standards in place for road development and parking, which new development is expected to comply with. This may require additional improvements to the transport network outwith the actual development site. Where this is the case, developers will be required to meet these costs.

POLICY 11 – MANAGING IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE TRANSPORT NETWORK

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards. Developers are required to provide or contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

Air Quality

5.9 As at 2018, Inverclyde does not have any Air Quality Management Areas or an air pollution reduction strategy. It does have busy transport corridors that can occasionally be congested where air quality is monitored. Some developments can directly affect air quality or change travel patterns in such a way that air quality is affected. In these instances the Council will expect an Air Quality Assessment to be undertaken and mitigation measures to be implemented.

POLICY 12 – AIR QUALITY

Development that could have a detrimental impact on air quality, or would introduce a sensitive receptor to an area with poor air quality, will be required to be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment, which identifies the likely impacts and sets out how these will be mitigated to an acceptable level.

Communications Infrastructure

5.10 Inverclyde has good digital connectivity, with 4G mobile and superfast broadband coverage available across the majority of the area. This is of benefit to the economy and social networks and contributes towards it being an attractive place to live and invest.

POLICY 13 – COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council will support new digital communication infrastructure where it is sited to avoid adverse impact on: the streetscape; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; our natural and open spaces; and historic buildings and places.



Western Ferry, Gourock

8.0 OUR TOWN AND LOCAL CENTRES

Introduction

8.1 Inverclyde is well served by a network of town and local centres offering a range of shops and services in easily accessible locations. These centres also serve important civic, cultural, commercial and leisure functions, and are important employment locations.

8.2 Greenock is the largest town centre drawing visitors from across the authority area and beyond. It is identified as a Strategic Centre in the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan. It offers Inverclyde's largest concentration and selection of food and non-food shopping, and a wide range of non-retail services and businesses such as a cinema, the Waterfront Leisure Centre, the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, the Beacon Arts Centre, the Greenock West College Scotland campus and a number of restaurants, pubs and nightclubs that provide evening activity. It is also an important employment hub, with a number of large offices located there. In this and previous Plans, Greenock is recognised as having a Central Area, which is the main focus for shopping activity, and an Outer Area, which is more service orientated.

8.3 Port Glasgow town centre's role has changed in recent years from mainly convenience shopping for the town's residents to offering large format food and non-food shopping that draws shoppers from across Inverclyde.

8.4 Gourock serves as a convenient centre for the residents of the town and to travellers and commuters making use of the ferry connections to Argyll and Bute. Its waterfront location, traditional format and concentration of independent shops and cafes mean that it also attracts day visitors from across Inverclyde and beyond. It has benefitted from recent investment in its railway station, road network and parking facilities, and from environmental improvements along the waterfront and at the pierhead.

8.5 Local centres range from the traditional village centre of Kilmacolm, which has an attractive mix of independent traders, to the modern purpose-built local centre in Inverkip. All local centres have an important role in providing convenient services and a community focus.

Network of Centres Strategy

8.6 Together, our town and local centres form a network with each centre serving a specific purpose and community. The Plan seeks to manage development within and outwith these centres so that they continue to complement each other for the benefit of the whole area, whilst offering healthy competition for the benefit of customers. It does this by directing appropriate uses to the network of centres in preference to other locations and by controlling development that would have an unacceptable impact on centres within the network. This is consistent with the 'sequential approach' set out in paragraph 68 of Scottish Planning Policy. The Plan recognises and seeks to safeguard Greenock as the main town centre within Inverclyde. Residential development is encouraged within the network of centres as it contributes to footfall, activity and security.

POLICY 22 – NETWORK OF CENTRES STRATEGY

The preferred locations for the uses set out in Schedule 6 are within the network of town and local centres identified in Schedule 7. Proposals which accord with the role and function of the network of centres as set out in Schedule 7 and the opportunities identified in Schedule 8 will be supported. Proposals for Schedule 6 uses outwith the network of centres or not conforming with the role and function of a particular centre will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) there is not a suitable sequentially preferable opportunity;
- b) there will not be an unacceptable impact on the vibrancy, vitality or viability of other centres within the network of centres; and
- c) there are clear community or economic benefits that can be best achieved at the proposed location.

Proposals for Business (Class 4), residential and hotel uses will also be supported in town and local centres.

SCHEDULE 6 – Uses Directed to the Network of Centres

- Shops (Class 1)
- Financial, professional and other services (Class 2)
- Food and drink (Class 3)
- Non-residential institutions (Class 10)
- Assembly and leisure (Class 11)
- Amusement arcade/centre (Sui generis)
- Betting office (Sui generis)
- Beautician/Nail bar (Sui generis)
- Hot food takeaway (Sui generis)
- Pay day loan shop (Sui generis)
- Public house (Sui generis)
- Tattoo parlour (Sui generis)
- Taxi/private hire office (Sui generis)
- Theatre (Sui generis)
- Other uses most closely associated with, or most appropriately located within town or local centres.

(Descriptions in brackets as per Town and Country Planning (Use Classes)(Scotland) Order 1997 (as amended))



Grey Place, Greenock

SCHEDULE 7 – Network of Centres Strategy

| Centre | Status | Role and function |
|--|------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenock | Strategic Centre | Greenock Central Area is the preferred location for new retail development over 1,000 square metres. New retail development in the Greenock Outer Area should not exceed 1,000 square metres. Greenock town centre is the preferred location for other Schedule 6 uses with an Inverclyde-wide catchment. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Port Glasgow• Gourock | Town Centre | Second preferred locations for new retail development over 1,000 square metres. Preferred location for other Schedule 6 uses with whole town catchments |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Cross, Kilmacolm• Dubbs Road, Pt Glasgow• Sinclair Street, Greenock• Lymedoch Street, Greenock• Barrs Cottage, Greenock• Cumberland Walk, Greenock• Cardwell Road, Gourock• Kip Park, Inverkip• Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay• Inverkip Power Station*• Spango Valley, Greenock* | Local Centre | New retail development should not exceed 1,000 square metres. Preferred location for other Schedule 6 uses serving a local catchment. |
| * proposed local centre as part of comprehensive masterplan | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local facilities | | Proposals for new Schedule 6 uses outwith the town and local centres shall not exceed 250 square metres in total. |

SCHEDULE 8 – Network of Centre Opportunities

| Reference | Centre | Site/Location | Area |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|------|
| C1 | Greenock Town Centre | 15 Nelson Street | 0.11 |
| C2 | Greenock Town Centre | 16 West Stewart Street | 0.11 |
| C3 | Greenock Town Centre | 4 West Stewart Street | 0.06 |
| C4 | Greenock Town Centre | 25 West Stewart Street | 0.41 |
| C5 | Cumberland Walk Local Centre | Redevelopment of centre including retail and residential | 0.75 |
| C6 | Inverkip Local Centre | Main Street | 0.23 |

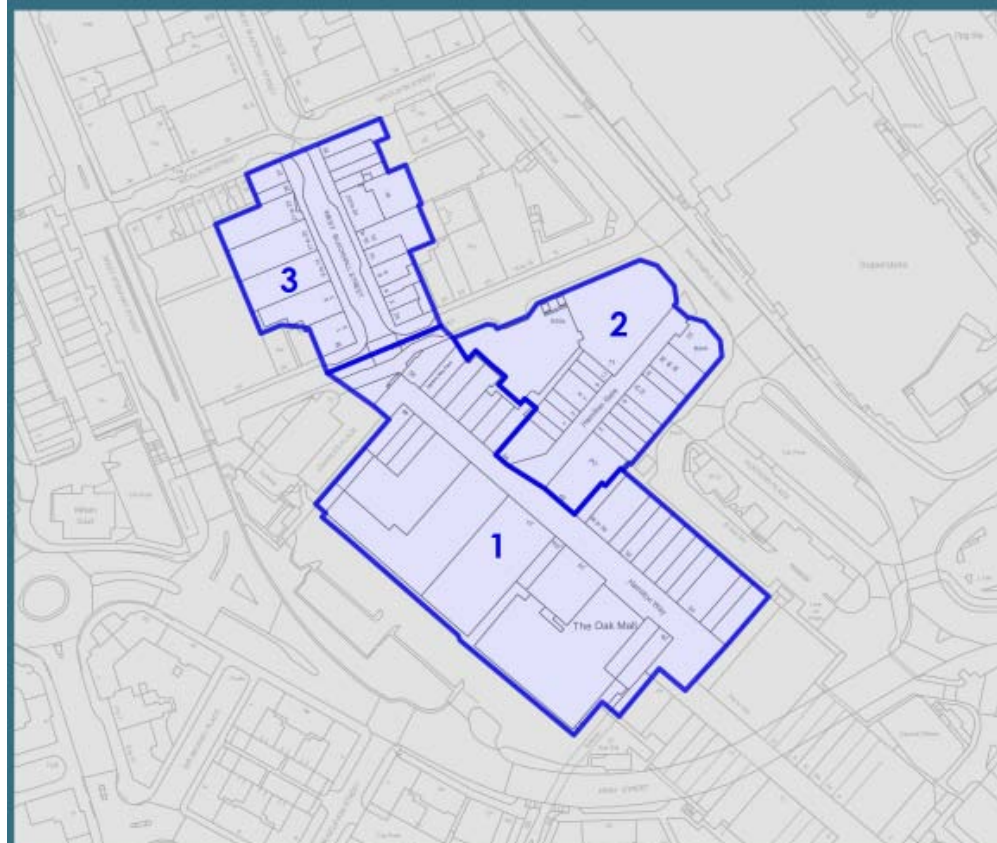
Greenock Town Centre Retail Core

8.7 At the heart of the Central Area of Greenock town centre is an area which has traditionally been the main focus of shopping activity. This includes much of the Oak Mall shopping centre and the eastern part of West Blackhall Street. Shopping remains a main reason for people to visit the town centre, and within a large town centre such as Greenock, it is still considered appropriate to maintain a retail core. Consequently there remains an area in which the Council will seek to control the amount of non-retail floorspace (see **Figure 4**). However, the Council does recognise trends towards having a wider variety of uses within the town centre, and has therefore reduced both the extent of the retail core and restrictions on what uses can locate within the different parts of the Outer Area of the town centre.

POLICY 23 – GREENOCK TOWN CENTRE RETAIL CORE

Proposals for change of use that will result in over 25% of ground floor frontage of the zones identified in Figure 4 being in non-Class 1 use will not be supported.

FIGURE 4 - GREENOCK TOWN CENTRE: RETAIL CORE



SCALE 1:2500

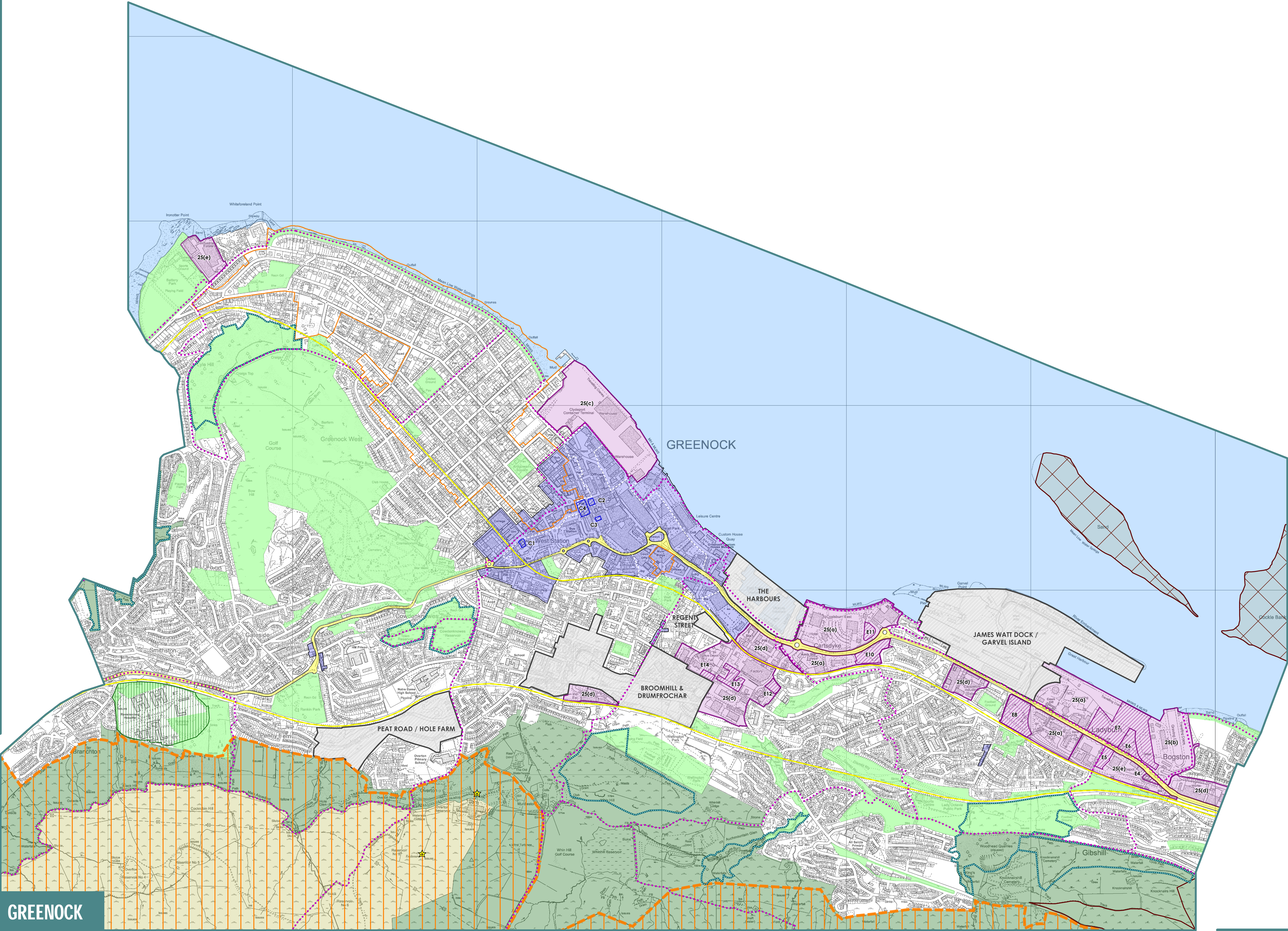
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4. INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 MAP EXTRACT

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2019



KEY

Sustainable Development Strategy

Priority Place

POLICY 3

Connecting People and Places

Trunk Road

POLICY 11

Railway

POLICY 11

Spatial Development Strategy

Green Belt

POLICIES 14 & 19

Countryside

POLICIES 14 & 19

Our Town and Local Centres

Town Centre / Local Centre

POLICY 22

Greenock Town Centre Central Area

POLICY 22

Network of Centres Opportunity

POLICY 22

Our Jobs and Businesses

Business & Industrial Area

POLICY 25

Business & Industrial Development Opportunity

POLICY 26

Our Historic Buildings and Places

Conservation Area

POLICY 28

Scheduled Monument

POLICY 31

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Special Protection Area / Ramsar Site

POLICY 33

Site of Special Scientific Interest

POLICY 33

Local Nature Conservation Site

POLICY 33

Tree Preservation Order

POLICY 34

Open Space

POLICY 35

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

POLICY 37

Core Path

POLICY 38

River Clyde / Firth of Clyde

Inverclyde council

SCALE 1:10,000

N

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**5. INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019
SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON PLANNING
APPLICATION ADVICE NOTES POLICY EXTRACT**

Planning Application Advice Note No. 11

SHOPFRONT DESIGN

Shopfronts are an important element in the streetscape. Their design can have a significant impact on the appearance of buildings and streets and on the image of a shopping area.

This Advice Note provides a guide to good design features that can enhance the image of the retailer.

Design and Proportion

The design and proportion of the shopfront is based on the framing of the window and door around the fascia board, stallrisers and pilasters. It is inappropriate to consider the shopfront in isolation, as it should reflect the other shopfronts both within the building (if in a tenement or parade of shops) and the street. Replacement shopfronts should comply with following design criteria:

- New shopfronts should either retain or reintroduce traditional high level windowheads and shallow fascias.

- Where alterations have resulted in lowered internal ceilings behind lowered secondary fascias, the high level fascias should be re-introduced with the lower level fascia replaced by mirrored glass.

- Stallriser heights may vary in depth, but are generally between 400 - 500mm. The finish of the stallriser should reflect the overall design on the building and shopfront.

- Pilasters act to delineate each shop and should run the full height of the shopfront through the stallriser, window height and fascia.

- The door and window positions and design should reflect the original design of the shopfront and building and the vertical emphasis.

- There are a variety of different materials available including stone, timber, aluminium, granite, marble and uPVC. Where a shopfront is in a listed building or a conservation area, the material should reflect the status of the building and utilise traditional materials.

- Shopfronts should be finished in any B Range matt or eggshell colour.

Canopies and Awnings

The re-introduction of traditional awnings, recessed at the base of the fascia, will be supported. Awnings should be matt finished canvas or cloth in a colour to reflect the shopfront. Gloss, plastic, or static canopies will not generally be supported.

Security

Shop window displays make an important contribution to the vibrancy and interest of shopping areas. This contribution is significant during the evenings when shop front displays are illuminated. This guide is aimed at ensuring that window displays continue to make a contribution while at the same time recognising the need for security.

In listed buildings and in conservation areas roller shutter blinds should comply with the following criteria:

- The shutter should be lattice gridded.
- The shutter should be positioned behind the shop window and / or door.
- The shutter box should be recessed behind the fascia.
- Where external security grilles are required, side hung grille panels, which may be removed daily at the commencement of trade, may be acceptable. Recessed doors may be protected by an appropriately designed security gate.





Cathcart Street, Greenock

In all other cases, roller shutters which protect the glazing will be permitted providing:

- The shutter should be latticed grilled.
- The shutter box should be recessed behind the fascia or, subject to appropriate design, a sub-fascia.
- In isolated shop units and in exceptional circumstances where evidence recognises a high level of vandalism and burglary, solid external security shutters may be permitted.
- Shutters and grilles should be painted to match shopfront.

Alarm boxes are acceptable in all cases subject to appropriate consideration of their design, size, colour and position.

Alternative security measures which limit the visual impact on the streetscape will be considered.

Signage

Signage should be limited to one fascia sign and one projecting sign per shopfront, subject to the following criteria:

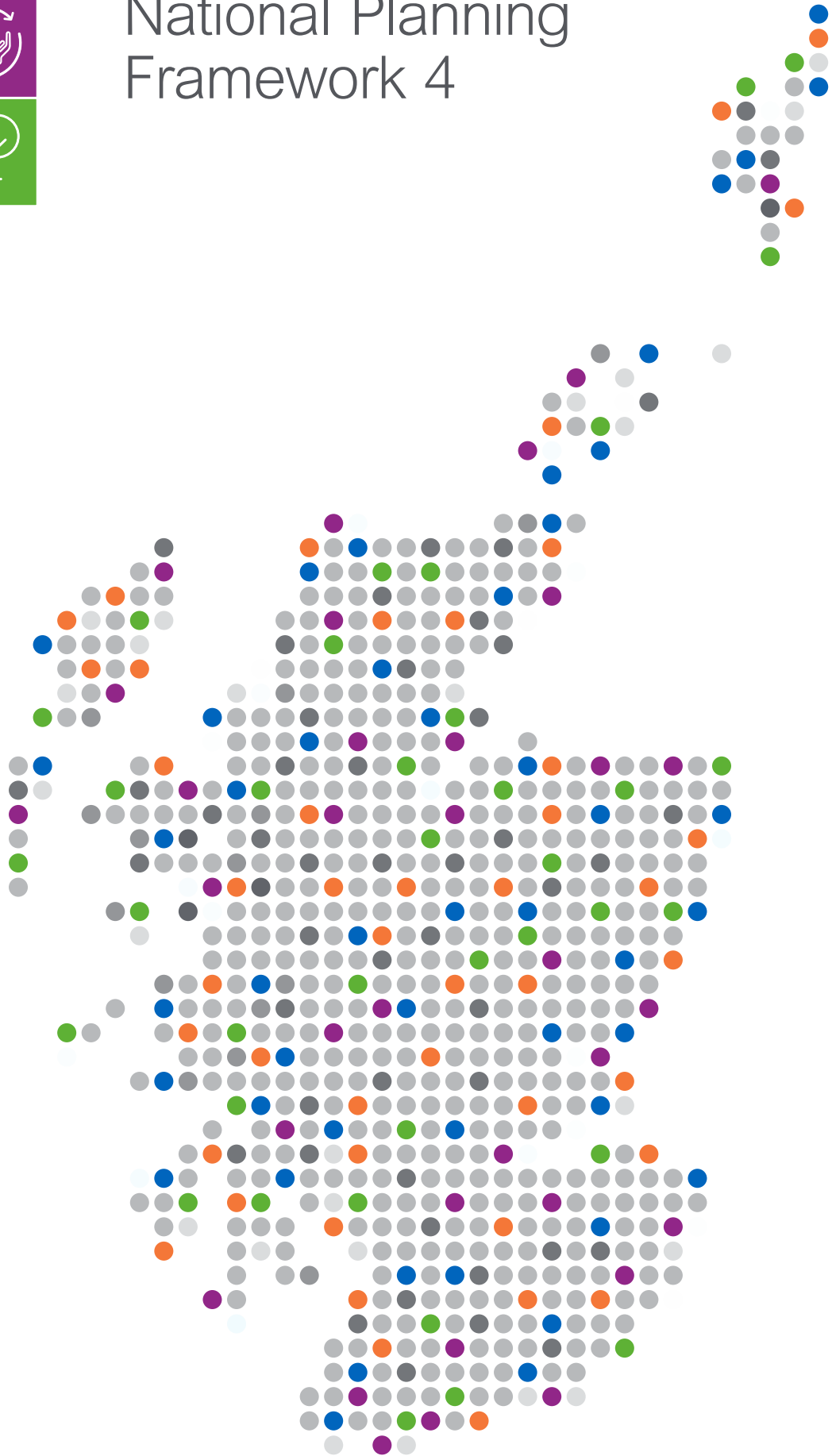
- Signage should in all cases be limited to the upper fascia. Lettering and advertising shall not generally be permitted on any lower fascia or on pilasters.
- In listed buildings and in conservation areas, fascia advertising shall generally be limited to the name of the business with no extraneous logos permitted. Any non-timber fascia panels should have a matt non-reflective finish. Illumination will generally only be permitted by way of individual internally illuminated letters or by appropriately designed downlighters.
- Projecting signs should be positioned at upper fascia level.
- In listed buildings and in conservation areas projecting signs should be top hung from a traditional wrought iron bracket. They should have a maximum dimension of 600mm. Internal illumination is not generally permitted. External illumination may be by trough light.

Where renovation works uncover previous shop signs of historic/heritage interest, the merits and practicalities of retaining that signage should be discussed with the Planning Service.

6. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4



National Planning Framework 4



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Sustainable Places
Liveable Places
Productive Places
National Spatial Strategy Map
National Developments Map
Regional Spatial Priorities:
North and West Coast and Islands
North
North East
Central
South



36 Part 2 – National Planning Policy

Sustainable Places

1. Tackling the climate and nature crises
2. Climate mitigation and adaptation
3. Biodiversity
4. Natural places
5. Soils
6. Forestry, woodland and trees
7. Historic assets and places
8. Green belts
9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
10. Coastal development
11. Energy
12. Zero waste
13. Sustainable transport



Liveable Places

14. Design, quality and place
15. Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
16. Quality homes
17. Rural homes
18. Infrastructure first
19. Heat and cooling
20. Blue and green infrastructure
21. Play, recreation and sport
22. Flood risk and water management
23. Health and safety
24. Digital infrastructure



Productive Places

25. Community wealth building
 26. Business and industry
 27. City, town, local and commercial centres
 28. Retail
 29. Rural development
 30. Tourism
 31. Culture and creativity
 32. Aquaculture
 33. Minerals
-

94 Part 3 – Annexes

A – How to use this document
B – National Developments Statements of Need
C – Spatial planning priorities
D – Six qualities of successful places
E – Minimum all-tenure housing land requirement
F – Glossary of definitions
G – Acronyms

Ministerial Foreword



Tom Arthur MSP

Minister for Public Finance,
Planning and Community Wealth

I am delighted to publish Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework. I am proud that, for the first time, we have brought together our long-term spatial strategy with a comprehensive set of national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan.

The world is changing, and so are Scotland's places. This strategy sets out how we will work together in the coming years to improve people's lives by making sustainable, liveable and productive places. This will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as our national outcomes.

Planning carries great responsibility – decisions about development will impact on generations to come. Putting the twin global climate and nature crises at the heart of our vision for a future Scotland will ensure the decisions we make today will be in the long-term interest of our country.

As we recover from the pandemic we are working towards achieving net zero in a way which also tackles longstanding challenges and inequalities. We live in challenging times, but better places will be an important part of our response to our strategic priorities of net zero, child poverty and a wellbeing economy. Planning will also play a critical role in delivering the National Strategy for Economic Transformation and in community wealth building.

Planning is already a fully devolved function of the Scottish Government. Our global reputation

for excellence and expertise in this field demonstrates what can be achieved when the choices are in our own hands. We can build on this. By securing a new future for Scotland as an independent country, additional powers will be available to support public and private sector investment in development and infrastructure across our country.

Changes to our places will not always be easy. People care about their neighbourhoods and rightly and reasonably expect that new development should improve their lives, rather than undermining what they value most. To help deliver on this strategy I am committed to involving a wider range of people in planning. A fairer and more inclusive planning system will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to shape their future so that our places work for all of us. I also recognise that planning authorities across Scotland will need support and guidance to put our proposals and policies into practice, and will continue to work with the profession and local government to ensure our system can realise its full potential.

The process for preparing this strategy has shown what can be achieved when we work together. I greatly appreciate the ideas that people and organisations have contributed. I am also very grateful to the Scottish Parliament for the time and energy they have put into their scrutiny of the draft document. National Planning Framework 4 has benefited considerably from their thoughtful and constructive input.

Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045

The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. We will need to respond to a growing nature crisis, and to work together to enable development that addresses the social and economic legacy of the coronavirus pandemic, the cost crisis and longstanding inequality.

Scotland's rich heritage, culture and outstanding environment are national assets which support our economy, identity, health and wellbeing. Many communities benefit from great places with excellent quality of life and quality, affordable homes. Many people can easily access high quality local greenspaces and neighbourhood facilities, safe and welcoming streets and spaces and buildings that reflect diverse cultures and aspirations. Increasingly, communities have been finding new ways to live sustainably, including by taking control of their property or land.

However, people living in Scotland have very different life chances, at least partly a result of the places where they live.

Past industrial restructuring has had significant impacts in some places and communities. Disadvantage, child poverty and poor health

outcomes are concentrated in parts of Scotland where life expectancy is significantly lower than in more advantaged areas. Access to the natural environment varies, and pollution and derelict land is concentrated in some places. Population change will bring further challenges in the future, particularly in rural parts of Scotland. Many people have limited access to opportunities because of the way our places have been designed in the past, and our city and town centres have experienced accelerating change in recent years.

We have already taken significant steps towards decarbonising energy and land use, but choices need to be made about how we can make sustainable use of our natural assets in a way which benefits communities.

Planning is a powerful tool for delivering change on the ground in a way which brings together competing interests so that decisions reflect the long-term public interest. Past, present and future challenges mean that we will need to make the right choices about where development should be located. We also need to be clear about the types of infrastructure we will need to build, and the assets that should be protected to ensure they continue to benefit future generations.

Spatial principles

We will plan our future places in line with six overarching spatial principles:

- **Just transition.** We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- **Conserving and recycling assets.** We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.
- **Local living.** We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
- **Compact urban growth.** We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- **Rebalanced development.** We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- **Rural revitalisation.** We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

These principles will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national outcomes.

Applying these principles in practice

We want our future places to work for everyone. Rather than compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social and economic objectives, this is an integrated strategy to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development.

By applying these spatial principles, our national spatial strategy will support the planning and delivery of:

- **sustainable places**, where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity;
- **liveable places**, where we can all live better, healthier lives; and
- **productive places**, where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Eighteen **national developments** support this strategy, including single large scale projects and networks of several smaller scale proposals that are collectively nationally significant. National developments will be a focus for delivery, as well as exemplars of the Place Principle, placemaking and a Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach to economic development. Regional spatial strategies and Local Development Plans (LDPs) should identify and support national developments which are relevant to their areas.

The strategy will be taken forward in different ways across Scotland, reflecting the diverse character, assets and challenges of our places. To guide this, we have identified **regional spatial priorities** for five broad regions of Scotland which will inform the preparation of regional spatial strategies (RSS) and LDPs by planning authorities.

Table 1 – National Planning Framework 4 Summary

| | Spatial principles | National Developments | Policies | Key policy links | Cross cutting policies |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sustainable places <i>SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> Environment, communities, economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just transition • Conserving and recycling assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Innovation Development on the islands. • Pumped Hydro Storage • Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure • Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities • Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions • Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling the climate and nature crises • Climate mitigation and adaptation • Biodiversity • Natural places • Soils • Forestry, woodland and trees • Historic assets and places • Green belts • Brownfield land, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings • Coastal development • Energy • Zero waste • Sustainable transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use – getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 – 2026 • Making things last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland • Scotland's Energy Strategy • Scotland's Environment Strategy • Scotland's Forestry Strategy • Scottish Biodiversity Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Plan • Climate Change Adaptation Programme |
| Liveable places <i>SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> Communities, culture, human rights, children and young people, health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liveable places • Compact urban growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Scotland Green Network • National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network • Edinburgh Waterfront • Dundee Waterfront • Stranraer Gateway • A Digital Fibre Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, quality and place • Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods • Quality homes • Rural homes • Infrastructure first • Heat and cooling • Blue and green infrastructure • Play, recreation and sport • Flood risk and water management • Health and Safety • Digital infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Connected Scotland • A Healthier Future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan • Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 • Creating Places • Culture Strategy • Heat in Buildings Strategy • Housing to 2040 • Learning Estate Strategy/Learning Estate Investment Programme • Public Health Priorities for Scotland • Remote, Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan (pub. Spring 2023) • Scotland's Population Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Transition Plans • National Transport Strategy • Infrastructure Investment Plan • Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 • National Islands Plan • National Marine Plan • Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan |
| Productive places <i>SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> Fair work and business, economy, poverty, communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebalancing development • Rural revitalisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clyde Mission • Aberdeen Harbour • Industrial Green Transition Zones • Hunterston Strategic Asset • Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment • High Speed Rail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community wealth building • Business and industry • City, town, local and commercial centres • Retail • Rural development • Tourism • Culture and creativity • Aquaculture • Minerals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Economic Transformation • Retail Strategy for Scotland • Report of the City Centre Recovery Taskforce • Scottish land rights and responsibilities statement • Town Centre Action Plan 2 | |



Sustainable places

Our climate is changing, with increasing rainfall, extreme weather events and higher temperatures that will intensify in the coming years. This will increase flood risk, water scarcity, environmental change, coastal erosion, impact on forestry and agriculture, and generate risks to health, food security and safety. Impacts will not be equal and communities who already face disadvantage will be particularly affected.

Scotland's high quality environment, and the natural capital it supports, underpin our approach to tackling climate change and the economy and is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. It provides the essentials we all need to survive, including clean air, water and food.

However, the health of the planet's ecosystems is declining faster than at any point in human history and our natural environment is facing significant challenges, including ongoing loss of biodiversity. Since the 1990s alone, wildlife populations in Scotland have declined, on average, by around a quarter. This threatens the capacity of the natural environment to provide the services we all rely on, and reduces our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Scotland's Climate Change Plan, backed by legislation, has set our approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and we must make significant progress towards this by 2030 including by reducing car kilometres travelled by 20% by reducing the need to travel and promoting more sustainable transport.

Just Transition sector plans, designed and delivered with those impacted, will play an important role in delivering the change we need to see. We must also adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already locked in, by delivering Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Scotland's Climate Assembly set out recommendations for how Scotland should change to tackle the climate emergency and gives us a key insight into the measures the Scottish Public expect for a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045.

Scotland's Energy Strategy will set a new agenda for the energy sector in anticipation of continuing innovation and investment. The interplay between land and sea will be critical, given the scale of offshore renewable energy resources. Our Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy are clear that we must work with our existing infrastructure assets first, before investing in additional assets.

Scotland's Environment Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's vision for tackling the twin climate and nature crises. Building on this, a new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will set targets for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring and regenerating biodiversity by 2045. Scotland's Land Use Strategy aims to make efficient use of our land by managing competing activities in a sustainable way.

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will be net zero, nature-positive places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.

Meeting our climate ambition will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place.

Every decision on our future development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place. We will encourage low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency, development that is accessible by sustainable travel, and expansion of renewable energy generation. It is also crucial that we build resilience to the future impacts of climate change including water resources and assets and development on our coasts. Our places will also need to evolve to help us cope with changing temperatures.

Our commitment to a **just transition**, means that our journey to a net zero society and nature recovery must involve, and be fair to, everyone. We will grow a circular economy and make best use of embodied carbon by **conserving and recycling assets**, including by encouraging sustainable design and the wise use of resources.

To respond to the global biodiversity crisis, nature recovery must be at the heart of future places. We will secure positive effects for biodiversity, create and strengthen nature networks and invest in nature-based solutions to benefit natural capital and contribute to net zero. We will use our land wisely including through a renewed focus on reusing vacant and derelict land to help limit the new land that we build on. We will protect and enhance our historic environment, and safeguard our shared heritage for future generations. We will also work together to ensure that development onshore aligns with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of sustainable places:

- **Energy Innovation Development on the Islands** provides infrastructure for low carbon fuels for communities and commerce, as well as for export. This will contribute to improved energy security, unlock opportunities for employment and business, and help to put Scotland at the forefront of low carbon fuel innovation.
- **Pumped Hydro Storage** extends hydro-electricity capacity to support the transition away from fossil fuels, whilst also providing employment opportunities in rural areas.
- **Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure** supports electricity generation and associated grid infrastructure throughout Scotland, providing employment and opportunities for community benefit, helping to reduce emissions and improve security of supply.
- **Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities** facilitates delivery of zero waste objectives by reducing the need for new materials, resource use and emissions.
- **Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions** is an exemplar of a nature based, infrastructure first approach to catchment wide surface water flood risk management to help our two largest cities adapt to the future impacts of climate change.
- **Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks** facilitates a shift towards sustainable transport in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen and their wider regions, helping to reduce transport related emissions and supporting accessibility for all.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 2](#) will ensure that emissions from new development are minimised as far as possible.

A healthy natural environment is key to reducing emissions. [Policies 3](#) and [4](#) protect biodiversity and natural assets, which in turn play a crucial role in carbon reduction. [Policy 5](#) provides significant protection for peatland and carbon rich soils and [Policy 6](#) aims to protect and expand forests, woodland and trees. Blue and green infrastructure is supported by [Policy 20](#). [Policy 10](#) encourages the use of natural solutions to coastal protection. [Policy 7](#) protects the embodied carbon in the historic built environment, and [Policy 9](#) makes better use of previously used land and buildings, helping to lock in carbon.

By supporting the transition of key emissions generating activities, [Policy 11](#) supports renewable energy development, [Policy 19](#) helps to decarbonise heat, alongside [Policy 18](#) and its encouragement of an infrastructure first approach. [Policy 12](#) encourages sustainable waste management, and [Policy 13](#) will facilitate a transition towards more sustainable, lower emissions travel including active travel and public transport.

Several policies support more local living and limit the use of additional land for development. This includes [Policy 8](#) which manages development in the greenbelt, [Policy 15](#) which promotes local living, including where feasible 20 minute neighbourhoods, and [Policy 16](#) which focuses on delivering new homes that are designed to a high standard and located in sustainable places. Minimising and reducing emissions is also integral to the six qualities of successful places, as set out in [Policy 14](#). [Policies 17](#) and [29](#) support rural development which is compatible with climate change targets. [Policy 24](#) facilitates the roll out of digital infrastructure, helping to reduce the need to travel. [Policy 27](#) promotes a town centre first approach to development and [Policy 28](#) restricts additional out of town retail development.

Policies relating to productive places are consistent with our ambition for green growth in the futures. More specifically, [Policy 33](#) is clear that fossil fuel exploration, development and production (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, and that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to secure positive effects for biodiversity.

The nature crisis, together with the global climate emergency, underpinned the spatial strategy as a whole. The action areas include proposals which protect and enhance the natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the nature crisis to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 4](#) protects and enhances natural heritage, and this is further supported by [Policy 5](#) on soils and [Policy 6](#) on forests, woodland and trees. [Policy 20](#) also promotes the expansion and connectivity of blue and green infrastructure, whilst [Policy 10](#) recognises the particular sensitivities of coastal areas.

Protection of the natural features of brownfield land is also highlighted in [Policy 9](#), and protection of the green belt in [Policy 8](#) will ensure that biodiversity in these locations is conserved and accessible to communities, bringing nature into the design and layout of our cities, towns, streets and spaces in [Policy 14](#).

Most significantly, [Policy 3](#) plays a critical role in ensuring that development will secure positive effects for biodiversity. It rebalances the planning system in favour of conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and promotes investment in nature-based solutions, benefiting people and nature. The policy ensures that LDPs protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and promote nature recovery and nature restoration. Proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including by restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks. Adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design, taking into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss. Development proposals for national, major or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks, so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity.



Liveable places

The global pandemic has left a social legacy that requires urgent, as well as long-term action. Many people need better places to support their lifelong health and wellbeing and build their future resilience. In recent years communities have found ways to work together to find local solutions to shared challenges. However, the cost crisis is again underlining the need for our future buildings and places to do more to support our long-term resilience.

There remain significant differences between the healthy life expectancy of people living in the most and least deprived parts of Scotland. More people need to be involved in planning their future places so that the built environment is safe and welcoming to everyone, including women, disabled people, children and young people and black and ethnic minority groups.

Scotland's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan sets out actions required to continue to reduce the number of children living in poverty. It recognises the importance of place and continued investment in regeneration, targeted to areas where the need is greatest.

Access to affordable, quality homes in better places, as supported by Housing to 2040, will make an important contribution to addressing the impact of the cost crisis, particularly on younger people who will also benefit from reduced transport costs. The planning system has an important role to play in supporting the delivery of homes which meet our future needs.

Consistent with this, Scotland's Population Strategy reflects the need for planning to identify the amount of land required for future homes and to enable more balanced demographic change including sustainable rural development.

Health policies, including Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan reflect the importance of places which provide opportunities for exercise and access to healthy food. Our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness also recognises the importance of providing quality, accessible and welcoming places for everyone through placemaking and regeneration.

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will have homes and neighbourhoods that are healthier, affordable and vibrant places to live.

We have an opportunity to significantly improve our places, address longstanding inequality and eliminate discrimination, helping to transform our country for the better. Cleaner, safer and greener places and improved open spaces will build resilience and provide wider benefits for people, health and biodiversity, in a balanced way.

We will plan our future places in a way that improves **local living**, so that we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, safe and provides opportunities for learning. Quality homes will be better served by local facilities and services by applying the principles of local living to development proposals. The concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods will help to support this, particularly in more urban areas. In rural areas the approach to local living will be shaped by local context.

Planning must also enable the delivery of good quality, affordable homes by allocating enough land in the right locations to meet current and future needs and aspirations.

Recognising the need for liveable places to be consistent with our ambition for net zero and nature recovery, we will promote **compact urban growth**. Higher density development which will help to sustain public transport and support local living. Virtual connectivity and continued investment in active travel links will also be important.

We want to make better use of our spaces to support physical activity, relaxation and play, to bring people together and to celebrate our culture, diversity and heritage. Buildings and other physical assets can also support activities based on intangible cultural assets such as Gaelic language.

We will improve green infrastructure to bring nature into our towns and cities, connecting people with nature, building resilience and helping our biodiversity to recover and flourish. We will ensure we work towards a stronger infection-resilient society through adaptations to our buildings and the spaces around them.

Our strategy is to value, enhance, conserve and celebrate our places and to build better communities for future generations. A stronger commitment to placemaking, through a design-led approach and a focus on quality, will ensure every new development improves the experience of our places.

Underpinning this, everyone must have an opportunity to help shape their local neighbourhoods. We will continue to work to broaden involvement in the planning system as a whole.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of liveable places:

- **Central Scotland Green Network** restores nature at scale and acts as an exemplar of green infrastructure in placemaking that provides benefits for communities and supports a wellbeing economy. This will provide multiple benefits for health, biodiversity, and will help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Action should continue to focus on areas where community wellbeing and resilience would benefit most.
- **National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network** strengthens and extends a national active travel network to reduce emissions from transport, focusing on areas where improvements to accessibility are most needed.
- **Edinburgh Waterfront** creates a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, contributing to the sustainable future development of Scotland's capital city.
- **Dundee Waterfront** delivers a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place demonstrating resilient waterfront regeneration which anticipates and responds to climate impacts.
- **Stranraer Gateway** acts as a hub for surrounding communities. Regeneration will help create a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, optimising the area as a national and international gateway.
- A **Digital Fibre Network** enhances the connectivity of communities and help to facilitate more sustainable ways of living including in rural and island communities.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING SYSTEM

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

We expect everyone involved in planning to take steps to ensure that a wide range of people are involved in shaping their future places. Planning authorities are required to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998. As per the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality duty is applicable and Equality Impact Assessments, Fairer Scotland Duty Assessments and where applicable Island Communities Impact Assessments are required for LDPs. The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child also means that young people must be encouraged to play an active role in planning.

Throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals.

Our places can only work for everyone if the views of all users are properly understood, but experience shows that some people can find it more challenging to engage with planning.

There are opportunities to involve a wider range of people in the planning system. It is essential, and a statutory requirement, that people with protected characteristics, including disability, race, age, sex and sexual orientation, and including people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, are given particular support to express their views on plans and decisions, with consultations designed to meet the communication needs of people.

The spatial strategy as a whole is clear that our future development must support a just transition, and it highlights opportunities for development and regeneration that are designed to tackle social, economic and health inequalities. [Policy 14](#), focusing on the six qualities of successful places recognises that diversity is an integral part of placemaking. Children and young people will have an important contribution to make, given the long-term impacts of planning for future generations. Women, as well as disabled people and their representatives, can ensure that barriers and challenges of the design of our living and working environments are tackled effectively. We have also provided clear support for development that will help to ensure human rights are maintained, for example: [Policy 16](#) on quality homes which addresses the need for accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople yards, as well as homes for older people and disabled people; and [Policy 21](#) which supports and facilitates spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport in our natural and built environments for children and people for all ages.

Our impact assessment has demonstrated that there is potential for significant benefits from more sustainable, liveable and productive places which will be delivered by these and other policies. We recognise that delivery will also depend on fair and inclusive engagement with people, and we will therefore continue to promote best practice and innovation, including in guidance on effective community engagement.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

HOMES THAT MEET OUR DIVERSE NEEDS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs of older people and disabled people.

The spatial strategy has taken into account future population and household projections, and highlights areas where there will be particular challenges arising from an ageing population. Spatial principles, including local living and just transition, will also help to ensure that the needs of all people are reflected in our future places.

Policy 16 supports the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes that meet the needs of people throughout their lives. In particular, it supports proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision. This could include: accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes; homes that meet the needs of older people; a range of size of homes; and other specialist groups.

The majority of older people want to remain in their home as they age, preferring mainstream housing, and so accessible and adaptable homes can allow people to continue to live independently. The close alignment of planning and housing delivery at the local level, through LDPs and Local Housing Strategies, will help to deliver the right type and mix of homes in the right locations. In addition Housing to 2040 sets out a commitment to Scottish Accessible Home Standard in 2025/26.

Development that provides homes to meet the needs of older people and disabled people will be further promoted by LDPs. Evidence reports will explain the action taken to support and promote the construction and/ or adaptation of homes to meet their needs. Spatial strategies will take into account housing needs and the availability of land for new homes, including for older people and disabled people through the Accessible Home Standard, wheelchair housing targets and the consideration of accessibility in design of the wider development and local amenity. The planning authority must also keep their plan under review, and monitor any changes in this.

Placemaking and choices about the location of development will also help to meet the needs of older people and disabled people. **Policy 14** supports development that is consistent with the six qualities of successful places, including health and wellbeing, and safe and pleasant places for people to meet. **Policy 15** supports development that is consistent with the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, helping to ensure our homes and wider neighbourhoods meet all of our needs. As part of this, it recognises that affordable housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity are an integral part of more liveable places. **Policy 13** is also clear that the views of disabled people must be sought when seeking to reduce reliance on the car including by managing car parking provision.



Productive places

The economic performance of different parts of Scotland varies considerably, with challenges and opportunities for different places and sectors. At present, some communities are particularly affected by high rates of poverty, one in five people of working age is economically inactive, and there is significant scope to improve our productivity and the scale and rate of business development.

The unprecedented challenge of the pandemic has created difficult conditions for some sectors including hospitality, tourism, and culture. The cost crisis and our exit from the European Union have combined with this to exacerbate labour shortages particularly in our more remote, rural and island communities. World-wide supply chain issues have generated severe challenges, including for the construction sector.

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation aims to make Scotland a successful place with opportunities for everyone, in every region of Scotland, to share in our economic prosperity. It tackles the challenges of structural inequality, the transition to net zero, and achieving a green recovery from the pandemic. It also supports entrepreneurship and aims to play to the strengths and assets of each part of Scotland to build community wealth.

Building community wealth should be founded on an assessment of local assets in partnership with communities. It also involves better co-ordinated state investment at national, regional and local levels to strengthen of Scotland's indigenous business base and create sustainable fair work opportunities. Opportunities will flow from more land and assets being placed in the hands of communities or under their guiding influence.

Our city centres are socially and culturally important, supporting our productivity and stimulating innovation and investment. The pandemic has generated severe impacts and longer term challenges for these places. The City Centre Recovery Taskforce has developed a shared vision for their future with support from the City Centre Recovery Fund for recovery and repurposing. Through playing their part in the delivery of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Scotland's cities have a nationally significant opportunity to contribute to Scotland's economic recovery and to achieve a wellbeing economy.

The Town Centre Action Plan Review and our subsequent response recognises the critical importance of planning with and for communities sets a new vision for town centres, and reaffirms our commitment to the Town Centre First Principle. It recognises the critical importance of planning in diversifying the offer within our city and town centres, to help them thrive, improve their resilience and anticipate continuing societal, environmental and economic change. The Place Based Investment Programme supports our commitment to town centre action, places, local living and community wealth building.

National spatial strategy

Our future places will attract new investment, build business confidence, stimulate GDP, export growth and entrepreneurship, and facilitate future ways of working.

Planning will play a key role in creating a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy, with thriving and innovative businesses, quality jobs and fair work for everyone.

We will actively encourage investment where it is needed most by **rebalancing development**. This will play to the economic strengths and opportunities of each part of Scotland. Significant investment opportunities include strategic sites which were previously a focus for industrial activity but which have experienced decline. These locations will play a significant role in our transition to net zero as they are served by strategic infrastructure, well located on or close to developed coasts, and could provide added benefits for communities that are in greatest need. They also include areas that have been overlooked historically, but which are now strategically located for extensive renewable energy generation.

Planning can enable diversification of city, town and commercial centres, to better manage their role and respond to ongoing changes to the way we shop and access services. The way we work is changing, and we will need to be flexible to facilitate future business and employment that benefits communities and improves places. Digital connectivity will play a crucial role in supporting sustainable work in the future.

The way we plan our places can contribute to our short term recovery, as well as longer term restructuring to tackle long standing inequalities. Our strategy is to build a wellbeing economy that benefits everyone, and every place, in Scotland. We want the planning system to create a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all.

Scotland's national and international connectivity for people and freight will remain important, for the economic, social and cultural benefits it delivers and for supporting wider Government ambitions on trade, tourism, and business development. Airports, ports and rail links will provide vital connections within Scotland and beyond which will be crucial to building on a sustainable recovery whilst helping to decarbonise transport through low and zero emissions technologies. Looking ahead, there will also be opportunities to build on inclusive growth within communities and support economic transformation through Green Freeports in Scotland.

Rural revitalisation, achieved by distributing development, investment and infrastructure strategically and by actively enabling rural development in particular, will play an important role in this. Key sectors including energy and food and drink focus on natural resources and provide significant employment in rural parts of Scotland. These sectors also depend on supporting services and access to markets and there is significant potential for associated investment to develop a sustainable supply chain. Digital connectivity will also be critical to their continued success.

Urban areas are a focus for investment in the built environment and many of our industries and businesses are located in and around our cities. These areas will also be more attractive to future investors and their employees if they are greener and healthier places to live.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of productive places:

- **Clyde Mission** brings together substantial public and private investment to remediate and regenerate brownfield land along the River Clyde for economic, social and environmental uses.
- **Aberdeen Harbour** facilitates completion of the South Harbour and access to it as well as a more mixed use waterfront for Aberdeen on areas of the harbour that will not in future be required for port uses. This will contribute to international and national connectivity, freight and the renewable energy sector.
- **Industrial Green Transition Zones** support transformation of key sites including by putting in place the infrastructure needed to commercialise carbon capture and storage and decarbonise industry. Innovation will provide green jobs, reduce emissions and help Scotland lead the way on new technologies.
- **Hunterston Strategic Asset** supports re-use the port and wider site, engaging in new technologies and creating opportunities from nuclear decommissioning to make best use of existing infrastructure and provide local benefits.
- **Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment** involves the reuse of a key site to provide a range of economic opportunities for local communities. Energy produced will help to reduce heating and transport emissions within the wider region.
- **High Speed Rail** ensures connectivity with the United Kingdom (UK) and beyond, reduce long distance transport emissions and optimise the benefits more widely.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

RURAL REVITALISATION

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to retain and increase the population of rural areas of Scotland.

The spatial strategy reflects a wide range of proposals for development in rural areas, supported by national developments that recognise the potential and need to expand key sectors including renewable energy, sustainable transport and green infrastructure.

[Policy 17](#) promotes the development of rural homes, to ensure the needs of communities are met in a sustainable way. Similarly, [Policy 29](#) encourages development that will contribute to rural economies and communities. Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural businesses are supported while ensuring planning policies take into consideration local characteristics. Both policies support development in previously inhabited areas in a way that is guided by LDPs. Greater constraint will be applied in areas of pressure whilst in rural areas with fragile communities, a more enabling approach has been taken to support communities to be sustainable and thrive. LDPs are required to set out an appropriate approach to development in areas of pressure and decline informed by an understanding of population change and settlement characteristics and how these have changed over time as well as an understanding of the local circumstances including housing and travel.

Many policies will also play an important role in supporting rural communities and population growth. Some focus on supporting sustainable development in key sectors for rural areas such as [Policy 30](#) on tourism, which aims to ensure community, environmental and business considerations are fully taken into account. [Policy 32](#) encourages sustainable aquaculture, whilst [Policy 10](#) supports development in coastal areas that takes into account future vulnerability to climate change. [Policy 11](#) supports opportunities for renewable energy development whilst [Policy 24](#) will support the delivery of digital infrastructure to support investment and population growth in rural areas.

Care has been taken to ensure policies reflect the specific needs and constraints of rural areas. [Policy 13](#) ensures that in assessing the transport impacts of development, the area's needs and characteristics are taken into account. [Policy 15](#) aims to promote local living in broad terms, including through 20 minute neighbourhoods where practical, recognising varying settlement patterns and the particular characteristics and challenges of different areas in applying these principles in practice. [Policy 28](#) also recognises the importance of retail facilities for rural communities and economies.

Alongside this, recognising that environmental quality is a key asset for rural areas, Policies [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) ensure that natural assets are protected and enhanced.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to improve health and wellbeing. The spatial strategy as a whole recognises that there are significant health inequalities in Scotland that future development can help to address. The spatial principles aim to ensure that future development is directed to sustainable locations, recognising that the role of planning in supporting development in places which would benefit most from regeneration and investment.

The natural environment is fundamental to our health and wellbeing from the benefits we get from being in nature to the design and delivery of blue and green infrastructure. Policies [1](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) manage the effects of development on biodiversity and on natural places. [Policy 20](#) supports development that will provide good quality, accessible greenspaces and nature networks and [Policy 21](#) supports development that will provide opportunities for sport and play. Active travel is encouraged by [Policy 13](#) with walking and cycling providing wider health benefits.

[Policy 23](#) helps to protect health and wellbeing, including by ensuring that air and noise pollution are taken into account, and by planning and managing development to take hazards into account. [Policy 22](#) ensures that future flood risk is not exacerbated by development, and facilitates the delivery of sustainable flood risk management solutions. [Policy 10](#) manages development to reflect future vulnerability of coastal areas. [Policy 9](#) encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land, helping to reduce the impact of vacant and derelict sites on communities.

Housing plays a critical role in supporting our health and wellbeing. [Policy 16](#) enables the delivery of well planned, good quality, affordable, safe and warm homes. Alongside this, [Policy 13](#) supports development that provides, or is accessible by active travel and [Policy 15](#) ensures people have access to facilities from their homes, including healthcare facilities. Development is also required to take into account the capacity and any additional needs for community services and facilities, as part of the infrastructure first approach set out in [Policy 18](#).

[Policy 14](#) applies the six qualities of successful places to development proposals, including health and wellbeing. As part of this it prioritises key aspects including women's safety and suicide risk and aims to ensure development does not undermine the amenity of our existing homes and places. Climate related mental and physical health effects will be addressed by the strategy as a whole and in particular by Policies [1](#) and [2](#) by ensuring future development minimises emissions and is built to reflect the future risks of climate change. Health and wellbeing will also be supported by development that helps us to transition to net zero, as reflected in [Policy 11](#) on renewable energy, [Policy 12](#) on zero waste, and [Policy 19](#) on heat and cooling. Wider policies relating to economic development will have a further positive effect on overall health and wellbeing by supporting employment and investment in our places in a fair and sustainable way.

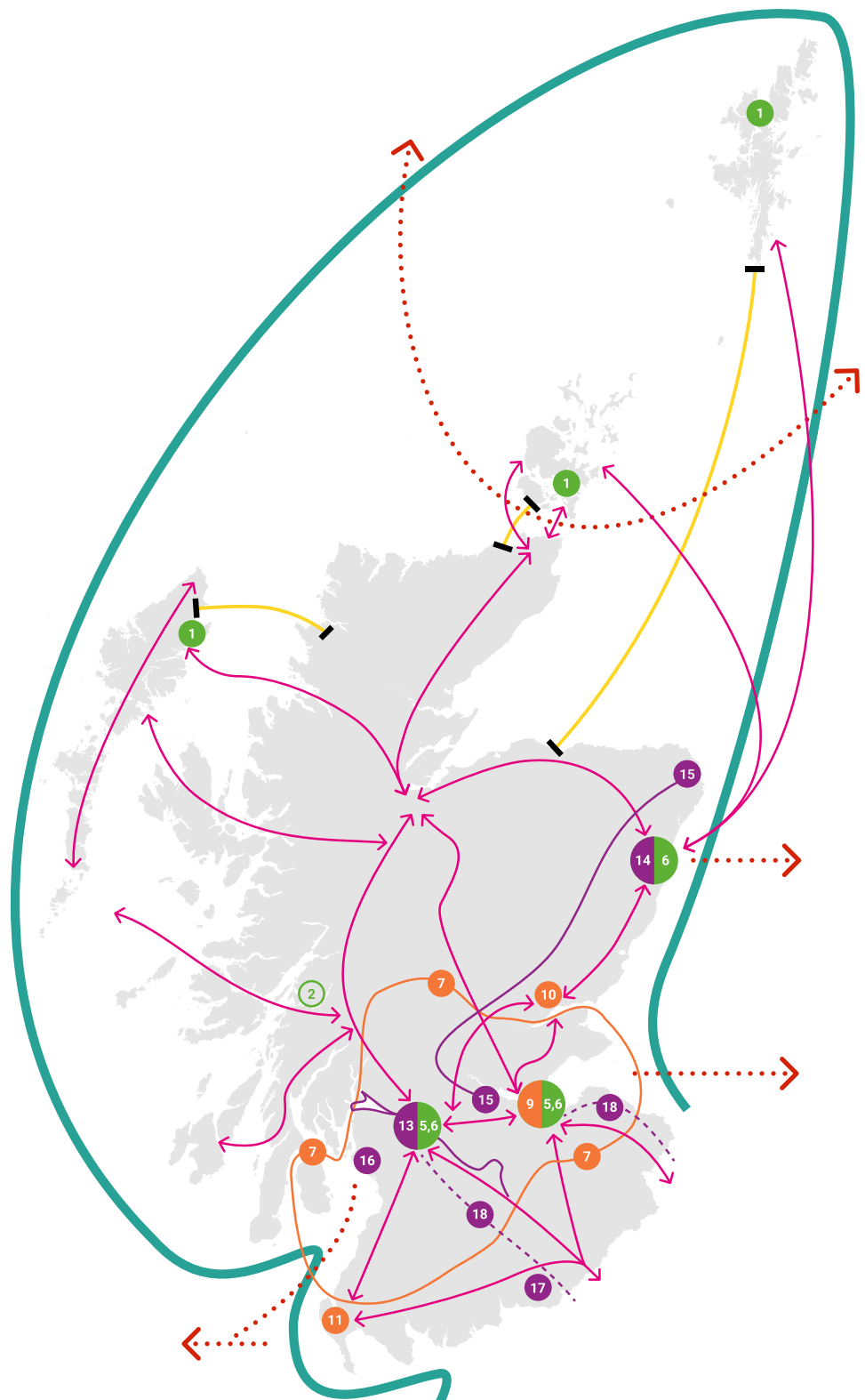
National Spatial Strategy

Legend

- ⋯→ Strategic maritime routes
- ↔ Strategic connection
- Blue economy
- Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

- 1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 13 Clyde Mission
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

National Developments

Legend

Sustainable Places

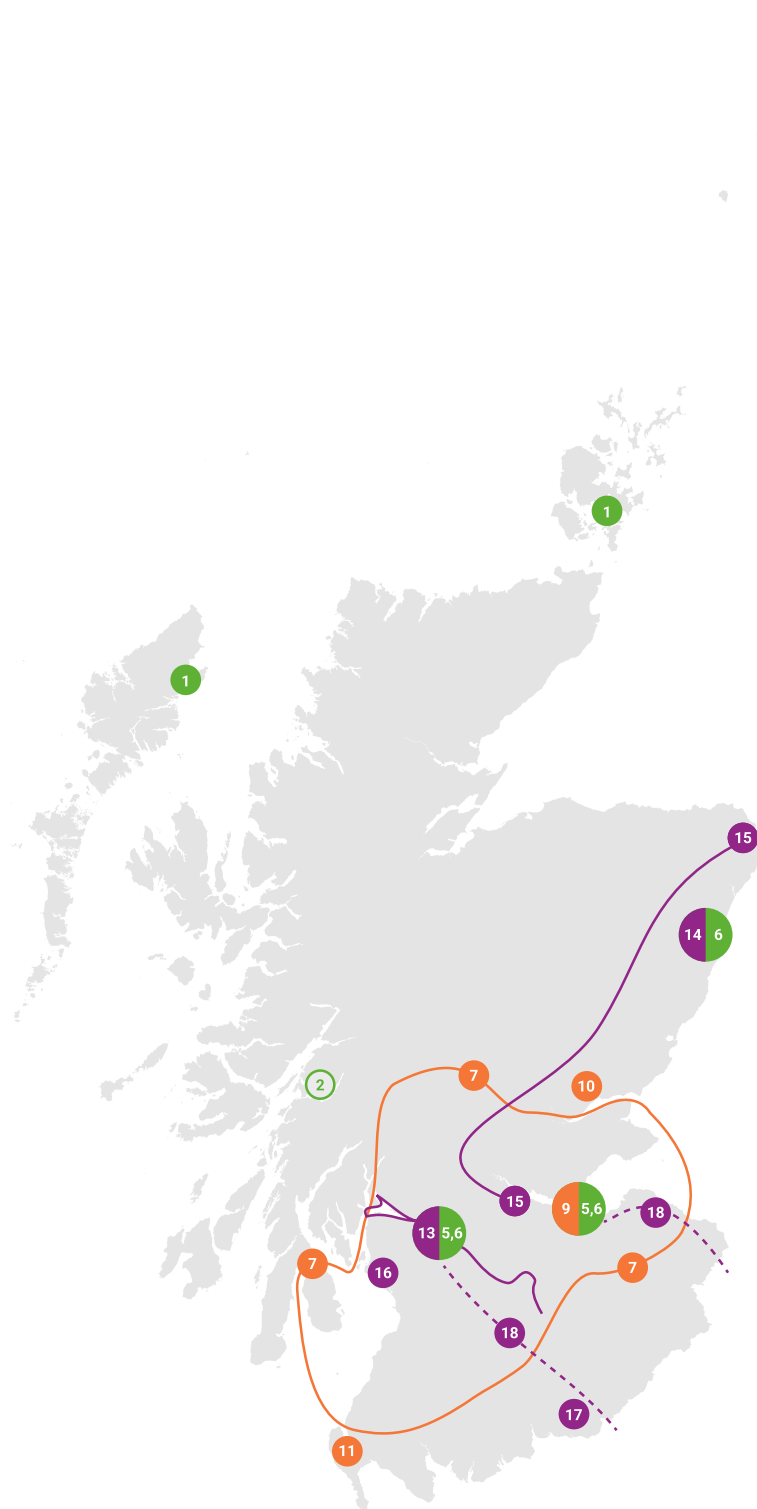
- 1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow

Liveable Places

- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide

Productive Places

- 13 Clyde Mission
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

Regional Spatial Priorities

North and West Coast and Islands

This part of Scotland will be at the forefront of our efforts to reach net zero emissions by 2045. It is a diverse area, from Shetland and Orkney in the north, to the Outer and Inner Hebrides and the coastal areas of Highland and Argyll and Bute. As one of the most renewable energy rich localities in Europe with significant natural resources, there is a real opportunity for this area to support our shared national outcomes.

Key centres where lifeline links provide access to the islands include Lerwick, Kirkwall, Stromness, Stornoway, Wick and Thurso, Ullapool, Mallaig and Oban, whilst Tarbert, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown are important hubs to the south of the area. These centres provide important services to their wider hinterlands. Local projects are ongoing, including the regeneration of Stromness, the Stornoway Deep Water Port development, the linked Islands Growth Deal Outer Hebrides Energy Hub project in Stornoway, and the Islands Growth Deal Knab Redevelopment project in Shetland.

The area has an exceptional environment with coastal and island landscapes that are an important part of our national identity. It is rich in biodiversity, sustaining many internationally significant ecological sites, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geoparks in the North West Highlands and Shetland, and Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and species including some of the best remaining temperate rainforest sites in Europe. It has a rich history, language and distinctive cultural heritage including the St Kilda and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These key assets require careful management to ensure they continue to benefit communities.

There will be significant climate challenges for this part of Scotland. Island and coastal ecosystems, and the communities they support, are naturally more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events. Of particular concern are the impacts on vulnerable low-lying coastal zones and

infrastructure, with potentially wide-ranging effects from biodiversity loss to coastal erosion, flooding and landslips. If we do not take action to plan and build resilience, communities could suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.

A climate and nature conscious approach to development of this area can help to tackle wider challenges. The Carbon Neutral Islands project will support six islands (Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell) to become carbon neutral by 2040. This will act as a catalyst for further climate action across all Scottish islands to make more attractive, resilient and sustainable communities in the long-term.

The relatively high levels of community land ownership, particularly in the Outer Hebrides, and strong ties with the land and sea reflect this area's strong sense of place and local resilience. Scotland's National Islands Plan aims to grow the population and economy, improve transport and housing, and ensure island communities are served by the facilities, jobs, education and services they need to flourish. Environmental wellbeing, clean and affordable energy, strong communities, culture and identity are also priorities.

Around 94 of Scotland's 900 islands are permanently inhabited. The size and composition of each population has changed over the years and continues to do so. Whilst most recent estimates indicate population growth across the majority of local authority areas with islands, population change within each area is more complex, with areas of growth and depopulation varying between islands and coastal communities, and across different strata of the population. An ageing population in some parts of the area will mean that we need to do more to reverse past patterns of population decline and sustain local facilities and services that support rural and dispersed communities.

Public service provision, transport, energy consumption, fuel poverty, child poverty and housing, including its affordability, will continue to be significant challenges. Employment varies across the area, and can tend to rely on the public sector, tourism and lower wage sectors,

limiting the scope and choice of skilled jobs in some locations. It can be difficult to attract and retain a local workforce to support some jobs, underlining the importance of building skills and promoting fair work principles to support future investment. Language skills are also important in many areas where Gaelic is used by the community.

Challenges from the end of free movement and changing markets, and the agriculture and fishing industries, will need support to ensure long-term sustainability, but there are also substantial economic opportunities presented by developments in sectors such as renewable energy generation.

Priorities

Alongside Scotland's marine planning authorities, we will work with the area's exceptional assets and natural resources to build a more resilient future for island and coastal communities. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

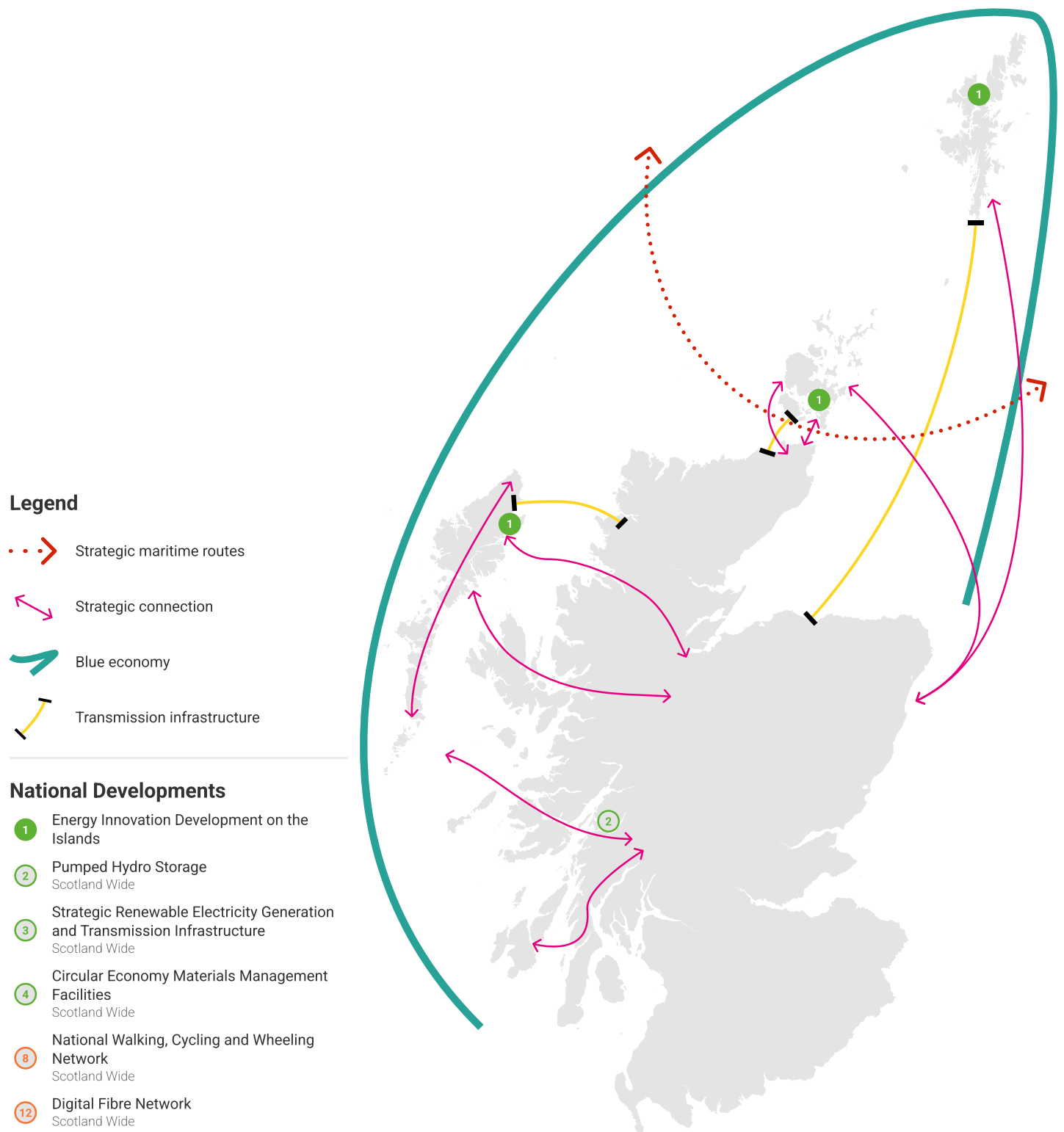
- Maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.
- Seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

The following national developments will support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Energy Innovation Development on the Islands](#)
- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

North and West Coast and Islands



Indicative

North

The Highlands of Scotland, Moray, mainland Argyll, northern parts of rural Stirling and Perthshire are world renowned for their stunning landscapes, rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Settlement patterns vary, from dispersed or low density crofting townships, to key centres such as Inverness, Ullapool, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey, Aviemore, Elgin, Pitlochry and Aberfeldy. Cairngorms National Park is a national asset with internationally significant habitats and landscapes and there is currently a proposal to make the Flow Country a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The northern part of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park also extends into this area.

Emissions here are partly offset by the climate sequestration from land use and forestry so that the area acts as a net carbon sink overall. There are few sources of significant industrial emissions. Climate change risks include changing levels of rainfall, increased storm events, temperature rise, flood risk, rising sea levels and associated erosion. Tailored measures will be required to assist communities in adapting to climate change and transitioning to net zero.

This rural heartland is much more than a place of beauty and isolation. Many thriving communities live here, and they depend on local jobs and learning to support their quality of life. Some communities have experienced outmigration, particularly the loss of younger people, especially outwith Inverness. Further population decline is a future risk, particularly for the west and north. People often depend on the car and more limited access to services creates disadvantage, despite the quality of life and good health that many living here enjoy. An ageing population will put pressures on some services.

Parts of the area have recently experienced an accelerated increase in house prices. The pandemic has reinforced long standing issues of affordability and a more mobile remote workforce has been attracted to the area, adding increased pressure. Without intervention, access to affordable homes, jobs and services that enable local people, including young people, to stay in their communities could become more challenging. Fuel and transport poverty is a particular challenge towards the north and west and there are significant areas which do not currently benefit from good quality digital connectivity.

The area's environmental quality, culture, language, landscape and wildlife sustain key economic sectors including tourism, food and drink, distilling and clean energy. Extensive areas of woodland and peatland act as a carbon sink, contributing significantly to our national sustainability. The area has a strong economy with growing income and low unemployment overall, but there remain pockets of deprivation both in urban areas and in more remote areas where there is a need for alternatives to low skilled and low paid jobs.

Priorities

This part of Scotland can continue to make a strong contribution towards meeting our ambition for a net zero and nature positive country by demonstrating how natural assets can be managed and used to secure a more sustainable future. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.
- Support local economic development by making sustainable use of the areas' world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.


The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)


Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

North

Legend

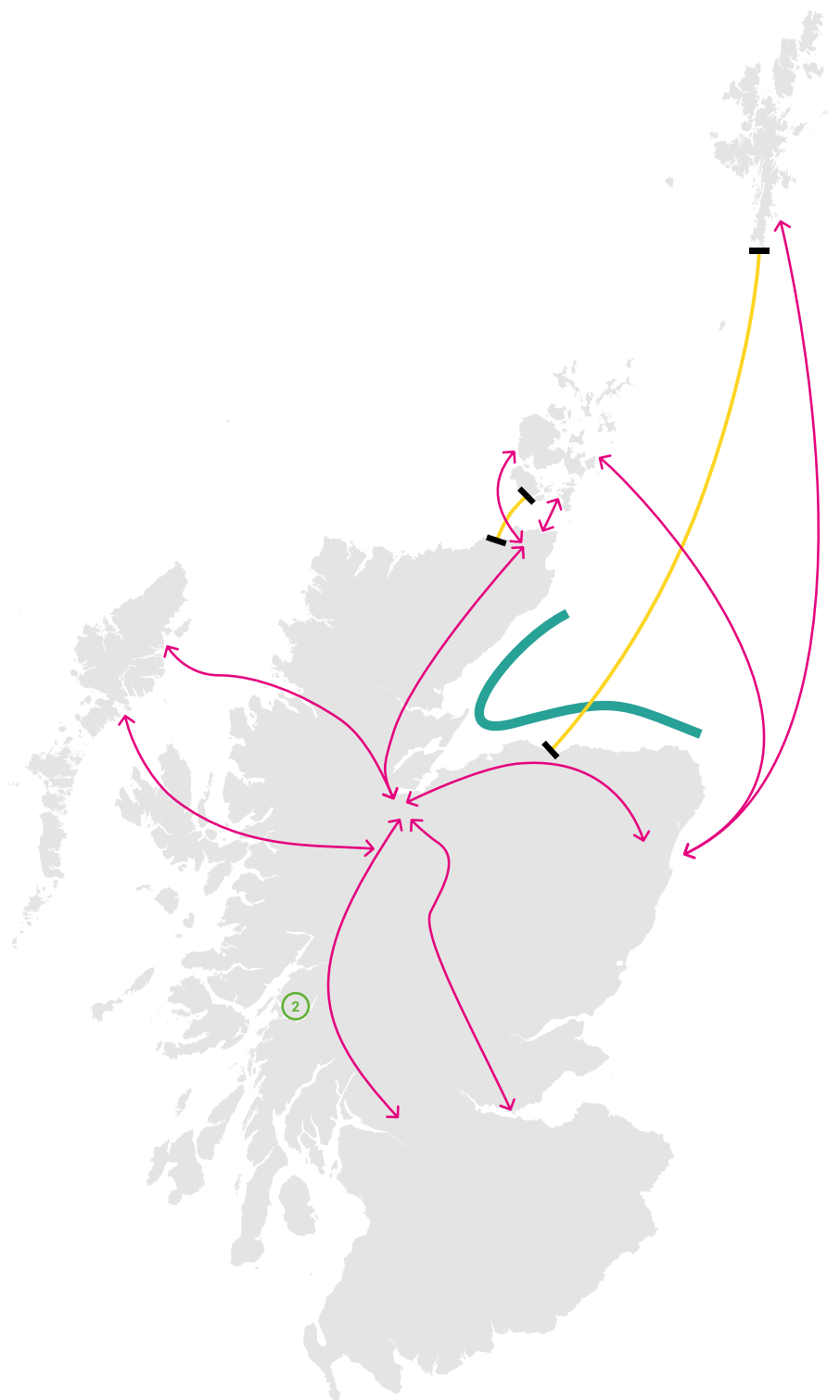
 Strategic connection

 Blue economy

 Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation
and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management
Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
Network
Scotland Wide
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide



Indicative

North East

The north east is a centre for the skills and expertise we will need to meet our climate change commitments. This area will evolve, through a just transition, to move industry and business away from the oil and gas sector towards a cleaner, greener future. Rich in natural assets, this area, along with the wider Moray and Cromarty Firths, has built on its oil and gas experience to pioneer new technologies. This makes it a uniquely investable proposition that could benefit Scotland as a whole. We can build on the area's experience to find innovative solutions to climate change.

Emissions generated from this area arise mainly from transport, industrial and commercial activity and domestic properties, with land use and forestry providing carbon sequestration. Car ownership is particularly high in Aberdeenshire. Significant parts of the coast will be vulnerable to future climate impacts.

This area is amongst the most prosperous parts of Scotland, but has experienced significant economic challenges in recent years and has pockets of deprivation. The area comprises a mix of rural and urban communities, with the city of Aberdeen and a surrounding network of towns including Huntly, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Ellon, Inverurie and Stonehaven, and significant rural areas including countryside around Aberdeen city. Whilst parts of the area have experienced population decline, several settlements around Aberdeen have grown. Links from Aberdeenshire to communities in Moray, Angus and Tayside are also important.

Affordability and choice of homes is acute across the area, especially within Aberdeen. The growing proportion of retirees in Aberdeenshire presents a further challenge to housing and service delivery. There are lower levels of educational attainment and limited access to services for communities along the Aberdeenshire and Moray coast. Many of these places will benefit from further regeneration that builds on their identity and natural assets.

The excellent quality of the built environment, natural assets and cultural heritage already contribute to health and wellbeing in the area

and can form the basis of a transition to net zero. Some of our highest quality productive agricultural land is concentrated here, together with other land-based industries, and the economy benefits from a strong fishing industry, alongside its globally significant energy sector. The dominance of these sectors, together with wider changes including from the pandemic, European Union (EU) Exit and global markets, means that economic diversification and repurposing of buildings and infrastructure will be key priorities.

Priorities

This part of Scotland will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.
- Focus on continued regeneration through the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.
- Support continued economic diversification and innovation.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Aberdeen Harbour](#)
- [Industrial Green Transition Zones](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

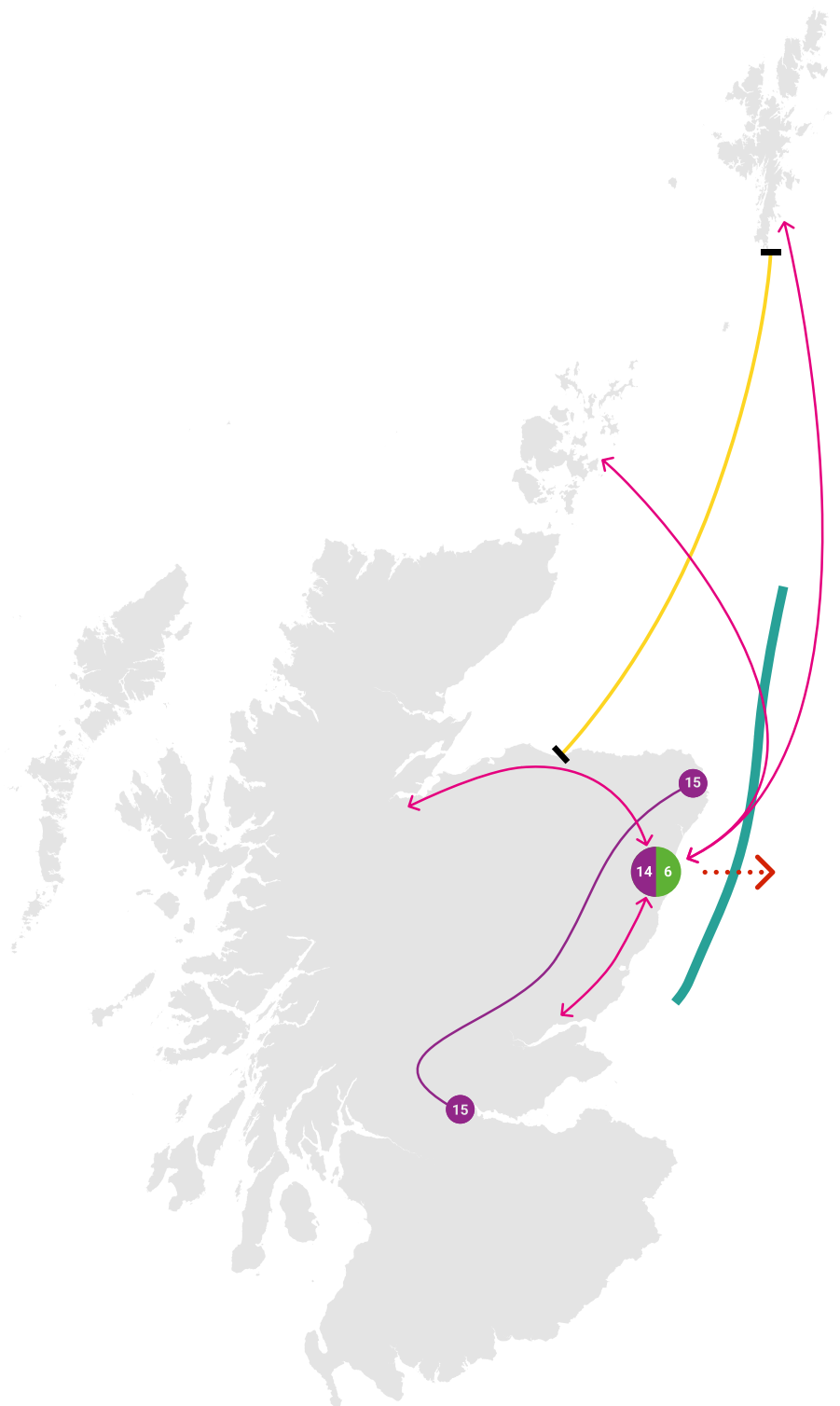
North East

Legend

- ⋯→ Strategic maritime routes
- ↔ Strategic connection
- Blue economy
- Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones



Indicative

Central

We will only meet our climate change commitments if we make significant changes to the densely populated central belt of Scotland. Our urban communities will play a critical role in reducing the emissions generated by the way we live our lives.

This area includes the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dundee and Perth city regions as well as networks of towns and smaller settlements, and more rural surroundings.

Many of our largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions are located in this area, including Grangemouth where industrial activity is concentrated, providing high value manufacturing and employment, and playing a key role in our resilience. Other key sources include industrial, manufacturing and waste management sites and facilities. Overall emissions from domestic properties and transport are high as a result of the area's population density and the scale of daily movement within and between city regions. The growing risk of flooding could have significant impacts in the future, as many key settlements and economic assets are located on the Clyde, Forth and Tay estuaries.

We need to work together to decarbonise buildings and transport and tackle congestion, make more efficient use of existing land and buildings, generate renewable energy and establish supporting electricity and heat networks and create more inclusive, greener and sustainable places that will stand the test of time. By weaving blue and green infrastructure across our urban fabric we can ensure that nature and the outdoors are accessible to everyone, supporting lifelong health and wellbeing and creating places that are more resilient to flooding.

There are significant social and economic differences across the area – at a broad scale there are relatively high concentrations of poor health, child poverty, economic disadvantage and population decline in parts of the Glasgow city region contrasting with strong demand

and expected population growth in parts of the Edinburgh city region. The broad pattern is repeated for children living in poverty, who are more likely to live in the Glasgow city region. Across the area as a whole, however, there are localised areas of high and low deprivation.

As a nation we have a particular obligation to do more to tackle the concentration of poor health outcomes in west central Scotland. Action is needed to reduce inequality and improve health and wellbeing so that everyone is able to thrive. Better places can do more to support lifelong health and wellbeing by providing warm homes that are connected to services. Access to quality greenspace and nature-based solutions can help to mitigate health inequalities and improve physical and mental health, by providing opportunities for play, socialising, relaxation and physical activity. Developing our communities to promote local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can help reduce inequalities in health. The frequency of urban car use can be reduced by improving local liveability and improved access to facilities, helping to reduce emissions and air pollution. Access to health and social care facilities will need to be built into our future places and can benefit from continuing investment in digital infrastructure and innovation.

Household projections show there will be a continuing demand for more homes across the most urban parts of Scotland. There has been a strong market, high levels of housebuilding and pressure on infrastructure in some 'hot spots' including the Edinburgh city region, Stirling and Falkirk, and Perth. In contrast, despite good connections and infrastructure capacity, it can be more challenging to encourage the market to deliver new homes particularly in parts of the west where unemployment is also higher.

There are also inequalities across each of the city regions, with local concentrations of economic deprivation and many former coalfield communities. Overall, economic performance is higher in Edinburgh and Glasgow and lower in surrounding areas including Inverclyde, Ayrshire, along parts of the Clyde Coast and Lanarkshire.

The diverse business base reflects nationally important sectors including financial services, business administration, life sciences, distribution and transport, retail and commercial, and manufacturing and production. City centres are experiencing significant challenges, caused or accelerated by the pandemic, but each retain a strong character and distinctive identity, offering opportunities for new business, homes, and services. Similar issues apply to the towns across this area.

A wellbeing economy goes beyond strategic investment sites to link more closely with the wellbeing of communities and their local environments. It will be critical to recognise the importance of anchor institutions who can support local investment in our places and natural and historic assets, provide education, employment and other services, and act as community hubs. Significant investment in our health and social care, justice and learning estates will continue to provide important sources of employment and income for smaller scale local businesses.

Around the area's settlements there are many high quality environments, from World Heritage Sites, historic burghs and conservation areas to protected biodiversity sites of international importance, ancient woodlands and areas of high landscape quality, including the coastline, country and national parks, and canals. This brings opportunities for outdoor recreation within a short distance of the majority of Scotland's population.

The coast is an integral part of the area's identity, combining natural and cultural heritage and acting as a focus for investment and regeneration. We have made progress in restoring and reusing areas that were historically a focus for heavy industry and mining, leaving a legacy of disused sites and areas blighted by dereliction. Key sites for further investment include urban waterfronts and former industrial sites where existing infrastructure can be reused to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

Priorities

A coherent strategy that focuses on climate change and responds to the challenges of the pandemic will drive forward change to tackle inequalities and build a new, greener, future for this part of the country. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Provide net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.
- Pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.
- Target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions](#)
- [Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks](#)
- [Central Scotland Green Network](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Edinburgh Waterfront](#)
- [Dundee Waterfront](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Clyde Mission](#)
- [Industrial Green Transition Zones](#)
- [Hunterston Strategic Asset](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

Central

Legend

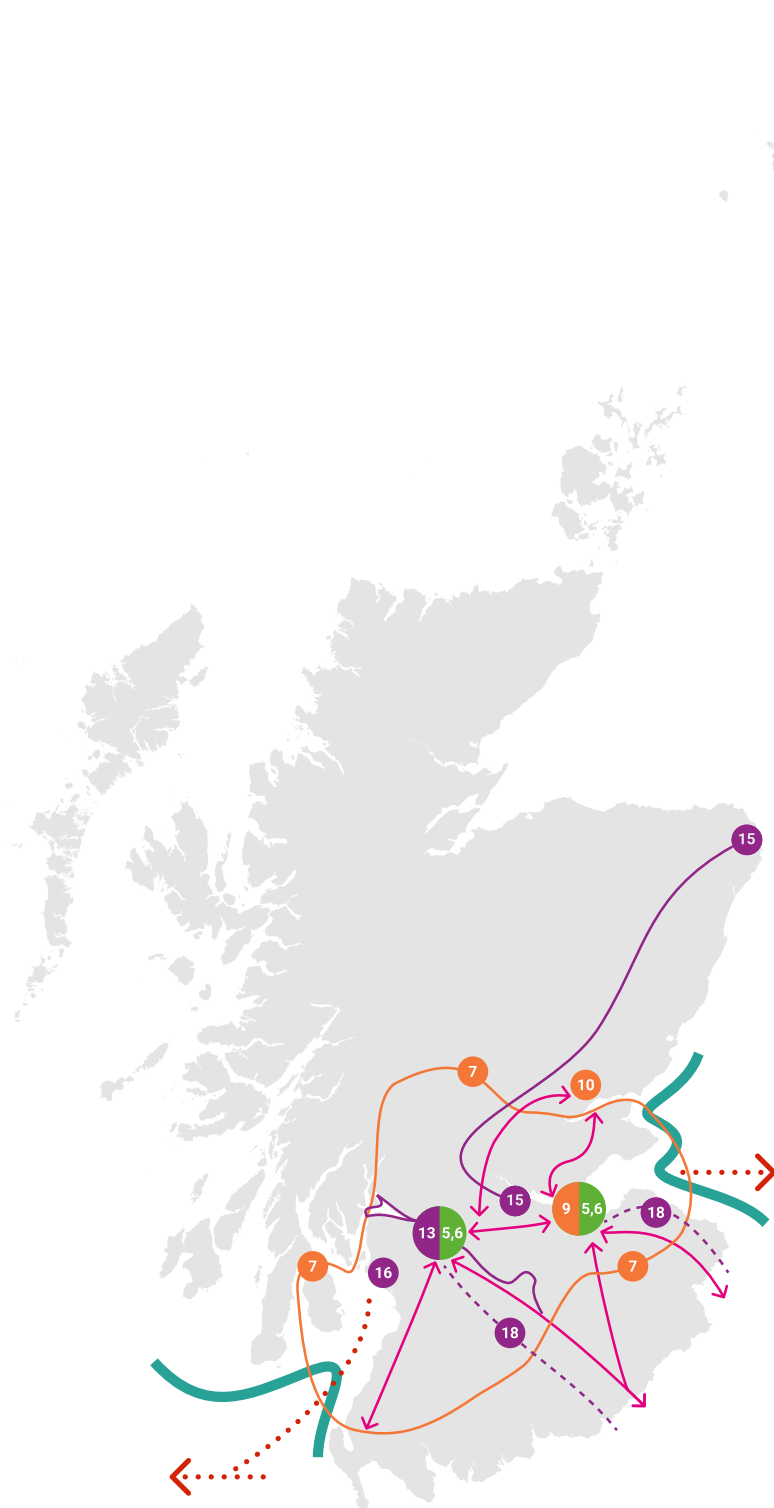
...> Strategic maritime routes

↔ Strategic connection

➤ Blue economy

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
Mapping is indicative
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 13 Clyde Mission
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

South

The South of Scotland is strategically important with a strong sense of identity centred on networks of towns and villages, supported by distinctive landscapes and coasts. This is a place with a rich cultural heritage and exceptional environmental assets and natural resources, such as the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park. This area is ambitious for positive change in the coming years, and the immediate work to recover from the pandemic will form the basis of a longer term plan to respond to the challenges of climate change and support nature restoration and recovery.

Settlements across this area provide services to the surrounding rural communities. Towns are well placed to be models of sustainable living, with many undergoing regeneration. Larger settlements include Dumfries, Stranraer, Galashiels, Hawick, with a network of towns and villages throughout Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders. The area extends northwards to include Ayrshire towns such as Ayr, Girvan, Dalmellington and Cumnock in the west, as well as towards the southern rural parts of East Lothian in the east and parts of South Lanarkshire including Biggar and Moffat. Beyond the towns there are many small settlements and rural homes, farms and smallholdings.

Cross border relationships are important in this area, together with strategic transport connections to England, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Emissions in this area are moderate, with transport and industry emissions being partly offset by land use. The area has significant areas of woodland and peatland which act as a carbon sink and form the basis for future investment opportunities. The few sites that are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions include industrial and commercial activities, including some food and drink processing facilities. Coastal erosion and flood risk is expected to be a significant challenge in the future, particularly where there is a risk of impacts on key transport corridors or settlements.

Working with communities to find new ways of rural living that are consistent with climate change will be a challenge for this part of Scotland, given the relatively high levels of dependence on the car, limited public transport, housing affordability challenges and the dispersed population.

Despite having high levels of wellbeing and quality of life, population decline is projected to continue in some regions to the west of the area, with fewer younger people and more retired people living in the area in the future. Economic diversification will help to address dependence on low wage and public sector employment.

Priorities

Our strategy aims to ensure that this part of Scotland fulfils its potential. There is significant potential for the area to develop and increase recognition of it as a place to live, work and visit. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.
- Increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.
- Support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Stranraer Gateway](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Clyde Mission](#)
- [Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

South

Legend

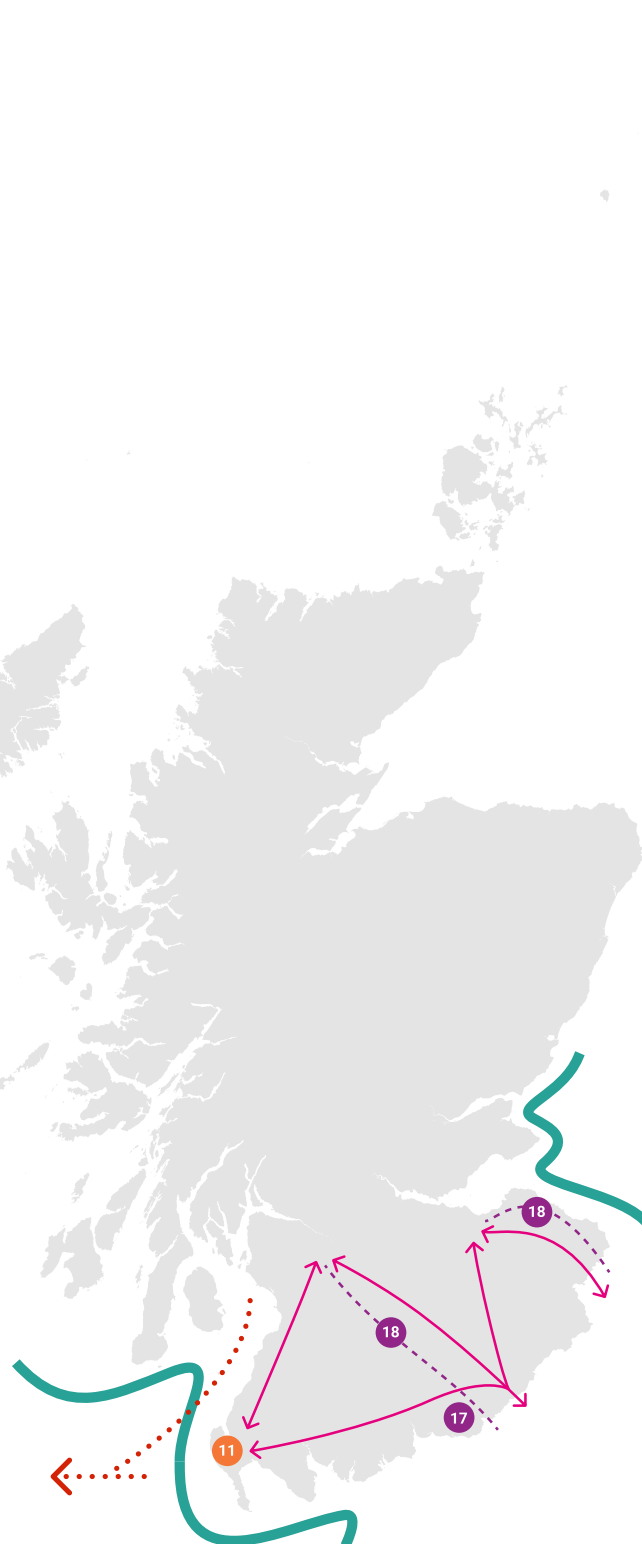
...> Strategic maritime routes

↔ Strategic connection

➤ Blue economy

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation
and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management
Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
Network
Scotland Wide
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

Part 2 – National Planning Policy



Sustainable Places

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

Policy Outcomes:

- Zero carbon, nature positive places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.

Policy Outcomes:

- Emissions from development are minimised; and
- Our places are more resilient to climate change impacts.

Local Development Plans:

The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles should form the basis of the spatial strategy, helping to guide development to, and create, sustainable locations. The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.

Policy 2

- Development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.
- Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.
- Development proposals to retrofit measures to existing developments that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate change will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.

Biodiversity

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

Policy Outcomes:

- Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.

Policy 3

- Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions, where possible.
- Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. This will include future management. To inform this, best practice assessment methods should be used. Proposals within these categories will demonstrate how they have met all of the following criteria:
 - the proposal is based on an understanding of the existing characteristics of the site and its local, regional and national ecological context prior to development, including the presence of any irreplaceable habitats;
 - wherever feasible, nature-based solutions have been integrated and made best use of;
 - an assessment of potential negative effects which should be fully mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy prior to identifying enhancements;
 - significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation. This should include nature networks, linking to and strengthening habitat connectivity within and beyond the development, secured within a reasonable timescale and with reasonable certainty. Management arrangements for their long-term retention and monitoring should be included, wherever appropriate; and
 - local community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks have been considered.
- Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with national and local guidance. Measures should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.
- Any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design. This will take into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss, safeguard the ecosystem services that the natural environment provides, and build resilience by enhancing nature networks and maximising the potential for restoration.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

Natural places

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions.

Policy Outcomes:

- Natural places are protected and restored.
- Natural assets are managed in a sustainable way that maintains and grows their essential benefits and services.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.

Policy 4

- a) Development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported.
- b) Development proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on an existing or proposed European site (Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Areas) and are not directly connected with or necessary to their conservation management are required to be subject to an “appropriate assessment” of the implications for the conservation objectives.

- c) Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:

- i. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
- ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

All Ramsar sites are also European sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are extended protection under the relevant statutory regimes.

- d) Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:
 - i. Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or
 - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.
- e) The precautionary principle will be applied in accordance with relevant legislation and Scottish Government guidance.
- f) Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on species protected by legislation will only be supported where the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on a site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish its presence. The level of protection required by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of development, and potential impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of any application.

g) Development proposals in areas identified as wild land in the Nature Scot Wild Land Areas map will only be supported where the proposal:

- i. will support meeting renewable energy targets; or,
- ii. is for small scale development directly linked to a rural business or croft, or is required to support a fragile community in a rural area.

All such proposals must be accompanied by a wild land impact assessment which sets out how design, siting, or other mitigation measures have been and will be used to minimise significant impacts on the qualities of the wild land, as well as any management and monitoring arrangements where appropriate. Buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

Soils

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development.

Policy Outcomes:

- Valued soils are protected and restored.
- Soils, including carbon-rich soils, are sequestering and storing carbon.
- Soils are healthy and provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and our economy.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.

Policy 5

- a) Development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed:
 - i. In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land; and
 - ii. In a manner that protects soil from damage including from compaction and erosion, and that minimises soil sealing.
 - b) Development proposals on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use, as identified by the LDP, will only be supported where it is for:
 - i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft or for essential workers for the rural business to be able to live onsite;
 - iii. The development of production and processing facilities associated with the land produce where no other local site is suitable;
 - iv. The generation of energy from renewable sources or the extraction of minerals and there is secure provision for restoration; and
- In all of the above exceptions, the layout and design of the proposal minimises the amount of protected land that is required.
- c) Development proposals on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitat will only be supported for:
 - i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. The generation of energy from renewable sources that optimises the contribution of the area to greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets;
 - iii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft;
 - iv. Supporting a fragile community in a rural or island area; or
 - v. Restoration of peatland habitats.
 - d) Where development on peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat is proposed, a detailed site specific assessment will be required to identify:
 - i. the baseline depth, habitat condition, quality and stability of carbon rich soils;
 - ii. the likely effects of the development on peatland, including on soil disturbance; and
 - iii. the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.

This assessment should inform careful project design and ensure, in accordance with relevant guidance and the mitigation hierarchy, that adverse impacts are first avoided and then minimised through best practice. A peat management plan will be required to demonstrate that this approach has been followed, alongside other appropriate plans required for restoring and/ or enhancing the site into a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

- e) Development proposals for new commercial peat extraction, including extensions to existing sites, will only be supported where:
- i. the extracted peat is supporting the Scottish whisky industry;
 - ii. there is no reasonable substitute;
 - iii. the area of extraction is the minimum necessary and the proposal retains an in-situ residual depth of peat of at least 1 metre across the whole site, including drainage features;
 - iv. the time period for extraction is the minimum necessary; and
 - v. there is an agreed comprehensive site restoration plan which will progressively restore, over a reasonable timescale, the area of extraction to a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Energy](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Rural development](#)

Forestry, woodland and trees

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and expand forests, woodland and trees.

Policy Outcomes:

- Existing woodlands and trees are protected, and cover is expanded.
- Woodland and trees on development sites are sustainably managed.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks. The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This will be supported and informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

Policy 6

- Development proposals that enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover will be supported.
- Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in:
 - Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition;
 - Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy;
 - Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy;
 - Conflict with Restocking Direction, Remedial Notice or Registered Notice to Comply issued by Scottish Forestry.

- Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered.
- Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Tourism](#)

Historic assets and places

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.

Policy Outcomes:

- The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.
- Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses.
- Recognise the social, environmental and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.

Policy 7

- a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change.

Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records.

- b) Development proposals for the demolition of listed buildings will not be supported unless it has been demonstrated that there are exceptional circumstances and that all reasonable efforts have been made to retain, reuse and/or adapt the listed building. Considerations include whether the:
- i. building is no longer of special interest;
 - ii. building is incapable of physical repair and re-use as verified through a detailed structural condition survey report;
 - iii. repair of the building is not economically viable and there has been adequate marketing for existing and/or new uses at a price reflecting its location and condition for a reasonable period to attract interest from potential restoring purchasers; or
 - iv. demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community.
- c) Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest.
- d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced. Relevant considerations include the:
- i. architectural and historic character of the area;
 - ii. existing density, built form and layout; and
 - iii. context and siting, quality of design and suitable materials.
- e) Development proposals in conservation areas will ensure that existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and its setting, including structures, boundary walls, railings, trees and hedges, are retained.

- f) Demolition of buildings in a conservation area which make a positive contribution to its character will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that:
 - i. reasonable efforts have been made to retain, repair and reuse the building;
 - ii. the building is of little townscape value;
 - iii. the structural condition of the building prevents its retention at a reasonable cost; or
 - iv. the form or location of the building makes its reuse extremely difficult.
- g) Where demolition within a conservation area is to be followed by redevelopment, consent to demolish will only be supported when an acceptable design, layout and materials are being used for the replacement development.
- h) Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:
 - i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided;
 - ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or
 - iii. exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.
- i) Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes will be supported where they protect, preserve or enhance their cultural significance, character and integrity and where proposals will not significantly impact on important views to, from and within the site, or its setting.
- j) Development proposals affecting nationally important Historic Battlefields will only be supported where they protect and, where appropriate, enhance their cultural significance, key landscape characteristics, physical remains and special qualities.
- k) Development proposals at the coast edge or that extend offshore will only be supported where proposals do not significantly hinder the preservation objectives of Historic Marine Protected Areas.
- l) Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.
- m) Development proposals which sensitively repair, enhance and bring historic buildings, as identified as being at risk locally or on the national Buildings at Risk Register, back into beneficial use will be supported.
- n) Enabling development for historic environment assets or places that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, will only be supported when it has been demonstrated that the enabling development proposed is:
 - i. essential to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss; and
 - ii. the minimum necessary to secure the restoration, adaptation and long-term future of the historic environment asset or place.

The beneficial outcomes for the historic environment asset or place should be secured early in the phasing of the development, and will be ensured through the use of conditions and/or legal agreements.
- o) Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations.

When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Green belts

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate compact urban growth and use the land around our towns and cities sustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, urban density is increased and unsustainable growth is prevented.
- The character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced.
- Nature networks are supported and land is managed to help tackle climate change.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should consider using green belts, to support their spatial strategy as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.

Green belts will not be necessary for most settlements but may be zoned around settlements where there is a significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside.

Green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of LDPs. Boundary changes may be made to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.

Policy 8

- a) Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will only be supported if:
- i) they are for:
- development associated with agriculture, woodland creation, forestry and existing woodland (including community woodlands);
 - residential accommodation required and designed for a key worker in a primary industry within the immediate vicinity of their place of employment where the presence of a worker is essential to the operation of the enterprise, or retired workers where there is no suitable alternative accommodation available;
 - horticulture, including market gardening and directly connected retailing, as well as community growing;
 - outdoor recreation, play and sport or leisure and tourism uses; and developments that provide opportunities for access to the open countryside (including routes for active travel and core paths);
 - flood risk management (such as development of blue and green infrastructure within a “drainage catchment” to manage/mitigate flood risk and/or drainage issues);
 - essential infrastructure or new cemetery provision;
 - minerals operations and renewable energy developments;
 - intensification of established uses, including extensions to an existing building where that is ancillary to the main use;
 - the reuse, rehabilitation and conversion of historic environment assets; or
 - one-for-one replacements of existing permanent homes.
- and

ii) the following requirements are met:

- reasons are provided as to why a green belt location is essential and why it cannot be located on an alternative site outwith the green belt;
- the purpose of the green belt at that location is not undermined;
- the proposal is compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character;
- the proposal has been designed to ensure it is of an appropriate scale, massing and external appearance, and uses materials that minimise visual impact on the green belt as far as possible; and
- there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality of the green belt.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

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[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Retail](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Minerals](#)

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for greenfield development.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, maximising the use of existing assets and minimising additional land take.
- The contribution of brownfield land to nature recovery is recognised and opportunities for use as productive greenspace are realised where appropriate.
- Derelict buildings and spaces are regenerated to improve wellbeing and transform our places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.

Policy 9

- Development proposals that will result in the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and buildings, whether permanent or temporary, will be supported. In determining whether the reuse is sustainable, the biodiversity value of brownfield land which has naturalised should be taken into account.
- Proposals on greenfield sites will not be supported unless the site has been allocated for development or the proposal is explicitly supported by policies in the LDP.

- Where land is known or suspected to be unstable or contaminated, development proposals will demonstrate that the land is, or can be made, safe and suitable for the proposed new use.
- Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings will be supported, taking into account their suitability for conversion to other uses. Given the need to conserve embodied energy, demolition will be regarded as the least preferred option.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Coastal development

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Policy Outcomes:

- Coastal areas develop sustainably and adapt to climate change.

Local Development Plans:

LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. This should recognise that rising sea levels and more extreme weather events resulting from climate change will potentially have a significant impact on coastal and islands areas, and take a precautionary approach to flood risk including by inundation. Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets. LDP spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

Policy 10

- a) Development proposals in developed coastal areas will only be supported where the proposal:
 - i. does not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
 - ii. is anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change.
- b) Development proposals in undeveloped coastal areas will only be supported where they:
 - i. are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or to contribute to the economy or wellbeing of communities whose livelihood depend on marine or coastal activities, or is for essential infrastructure, where there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. do not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
 - iii. are anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change; or
 - iv. are designed to have a very short lifespan.
- c) Development proposals for coastal defence measures will be supported if:
 - i. they are consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
 - ii. nature-based solutions are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
 - iii. any in-perpetuity hard defense measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- d) Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

Energy

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).

Policy Outcomes:

- Expansion of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should seek to realise their area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development.

Policy 11

- a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:
 - i. wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms;
 - ii. enabling works, such as grid transmission and distribution infrastructure;
 - iii. energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped storage hydro;
 - iv. small scale renewable energy generation technology;
 - v. solar arrays;
 - vi. proposals associated with negative emissions technologies and carbon capture; and
 - vii. proposals including co-location of these technologies.
- b) Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported.
- c) Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.
- d) Development proposals that impact on international or national designations will be assessed in relation to Policy 4.
- e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:
 - i. impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;
 - ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;
 - iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;
 - iv. impacts on aviation and defence interests including seismological recording;
 - v. impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;
 - vi. impacts on road traffic and on adjacent trunk roads, including during construction;
 - vii. impacts on historic environment;
 - viii. effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;
 - ix. biodiversity including impacts on birds;
 - x. impacts on trees, woods and forests;
 - xi. proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;
 - xii. the quality of site restoration plans including the measures in place to safeguard or guarantee availability of finances to effectively implement those plans; and
 - xiii. cumulative impacts.

In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development. It is for developers to agree connections to the grid with the relevant network operator. In the case of proposals for grid infrastructure, consideration should be given to underground connections where possible.

- f) Consents for development proposals may be time-limited. Areas identified for wind farms are, however, expected to be suitable for use in perpetuity.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

Zero waste

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.

Policy Outcomes:

- The reduction and reuse of materials in construction is prioritised.
- Infrastructure for zero waste and to develop Scotland's circular economy is delivered in appropriate locations.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

Policy 12

- a) Development proposals will seek to reduce, reuse, or recycle materials in line with the waste hierarchy.
- b) Development proposals will be supported where they:
 - i. reuse existing buildings and infrastructure;
 - ii. minimise demolition and salvage materials for reuse;
 - iii. minimise waste, reduce pressure on virgin resources and enable building materials, components and products to be disassembled, and reused at the end of their useful life;
 - iv. use materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions, such as recycled and natural construction materials;
 - v. use materials that are suitable for reuse with minimal reprocessing.
- c) Development proposals that are likely to generate waste when operational, including residential, commercial, and industrial properties, will set out how much waste the proposal is expected to generate and how it will be managed including:
 - i. provision to maximise waste reduction and waste separation at source, and
 - ii. measures to minimise the cross-contamination of materials, through appropriate segregation and storage of waste; convenient access for the collection of waste; and recycling and localised waste management facilities.
- d) Development proposals for waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and energy from waste facilities) will be only supported where:
 - i. there are no unacceptable impacts (including cumulative) on the residential amenity of nearby dwellings, local communities; the transport network; and natural and historic environment assets;
 - ii. environmental (including cumulative) impacts relating to noise, dust, smells, pest control and pollution of land, air and water are acceptable;
 - iii. any greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the processing and transportation of waste to and from the facility are minimised;
 - iv. an adequate buffer zone between sites and sensitive uses such as homes is provided taking account of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
 - v. a restoration and aftercare scheme (including appropriate financial mechanisms) is provided and agreed to ensure the site is restored;
 - vi. consideration has been given to co-location with end users of outputs.
- e) Development proposals for new or extended landfill sites will only be supported if:
 - i. there is demonstrable need for additional landfill capacity taking into account Scottish Government objectives on waste management; and
 - ii. waste heat and/or electricity generation is included. Where this is considered impractical, evidence and justification will require to be provided.

- f) Proposals for the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste water treatment plant will be supported.
- g) Development proposals for energy-from-waste facilities will not be supported except under limited circumstances where a national or local need has been sufficiently demonstrated (e.g. in terms of capacity need or carbon benefits) as part of a strategic approach to residual waste management and where the proposal:
 - i. is consistent with climate change mitigation targets and in line with circular economy principles;
 - ii. can demonstrate that a functional heat network can be created and provided within the site for appropriate infrastructure to allow a heat network to be developed and potential local consumers have been identified;
 - iii. is supported by a heat and power plan, which demonstrates how energy recovered from the development would be used to provide electricity and heat and where consideration is given to methods to reduce carbon emissions of the facility (for example through carbon capture and storage)
 - iv. complies with relevant guidelines published by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and
 - v. has supplied an acceptable decarbonisation strategy aligned with Scottish Government decarbonisation goals.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Compact urban growth

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Minerals](#)

Sustainable transport

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport for everyday travel and reduce the need to travel unsustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Investment in transport infrastructure supports connectivity and reflects place-based approaches and local living.
- More, better, safer and more inclusive active and sustainable travel opportunities.
- Developments are in locations which support sustainable travel.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services.

LDPs should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. This could include low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing-in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development; local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; car ownership levels; the accessibility of proposals and allocations by sustainable modes; and the accessibility for users of all abilities.

LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance. Plans should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable

mitigation proposed to inform the plan's infrastructure first approach. Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network, early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.

Policy 13

- a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:
 - i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.
 - ii. which support a mode shift of freight from road to more sustainable modes, including last-mile delivery.
 - iii. that build in resilience to the effects of climate change and where appropriate incorporate blue and green infrastructure and nature rich habitats (such as natural planting or water systems).
- b) Development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the transport requirements generated have been considered in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies and where appropriate they:
 - i. Provide direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before occupation;
 - ii. Will be accessible by public transport, ideally supporting the use of existing services;
 - iii. Integrate transport modes;
 - iv. Provide low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points in safe and convenient locations, in alignment with building standards;
 - v. Supply safe, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and which is more conveniently located than car parking;
 - vi. Are designed to incorporate safety measures including safe crossings for walking and wheeling and reducing the number and speed of vehicles;

- vii. Have taken into account, at the earliest stage of design, the transport needs of diverse groups including users with protected characteristics to ensure the safety, ease and needs of all users; and
 - viii. Adequately mitigate any impact on local public access routes.
- c) Where a development proposal will generate a significant increase in the number of person trips, a transport assessment will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance.
- d) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses will not be supported in locations which would increase reliance on the private car, taking into account the specific characteristics of the area.
- e) Development proposals which are ambitious in terms of low/no car parking will be supported, particularly in urban locations that are well-served by sustainable transport modes and where they do not create barriers to access by disabled people.
- f) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses, or smaller-scale developments where it is important to monitor travel patterns resulting from the development, will only be supported if they are accompanied by a Travel Plan with supporting planning conditions/obligations. Travel plans should set out clear arrangements for delivering against targets, as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- g) Development proposals that have the potential to affect the operation and safety of the Strategic Transport Network will be fully assessed to determine their impact. Where it has been demonstrated that existing infrastructure does not have the capacity to accommodate a development without adverse impacts on safety or unacceptable impacts on operational performance, the cost of the mitigation measures required to ensure the continued safe and effective operation of the network should be met by the developer.

While new junctions on trunk roads are not normally acceptable, the case for a new junction will be considered by Transport Scotland where significant economic or regeneration benefits can be demonstrated. New junctions will only be considered if they are designed in accordance with relevant guidance and where there will be no adverse impact on road safety or operational performance.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
- [Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
- [Design, quality and place](#)
- [Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
- [Infrastructure first](#)
- [Quality homes](#)
- [Rural homes](#)
- [Blue and green infrastructure](#)
- [Business and industry](#)
- [City, town, local and commercial centres](#)
- [Retail](#)
- [Rural development](#)
- [Tourism](#)



Liveable Places

Design, quality and place

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate well designed development that makes successful places by taking a design-led approach and applying the Place Principle.

Policy Outcomes:

- Quality places, spaces and environments.
- Places that consistently deliver healthy, pleasant, distinctive, connected, sustainable and adaptable qualities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be place-based and created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the [six qualities of successful places](#). LDPs should provide clear expectations for design, quality and place taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should also identify where more detailed design guidance is expected, for example, by way of design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes.

Planning authorities should use the Place Standard tool in the preparation of LDPs and design guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders. They should also where relevant promote its use in early design discussions on planning applications.

Policy 14

- Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.
- Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.

Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the [six qualities of successful places](#) are set out in Annex D.

- Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[All other policies.](#)

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

Policy Outcomes:

- Places are planned to improve local living in a way that reflects local circumstances.
- A network of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods which support health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- New and existing communities are planned together with homes and the key local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces, health and social care, digital and sustainable transport links.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the varying settlement patterns and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.

Policy 15

- a) Development proposals will contribute to local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods. To establish this, consideration will be given to existing settlement pattern, and the level and quality of interconnectivity of the proposed development

with the surrounding area, including local access to:

- sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
- employment;
- shopping;
- health and social care facilities;
- childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
- playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities;
- publicly accessible toilets;
- affordable and accessible housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

Quality homes

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes, in the right locations, providing choice across tenures that meet the diverse housing needs of people and communities across Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Good quality homes are at the heart of great places and contribute to strengthening the health and wellbeing of communities.
- Provision of land in the right locations to accommodate future need and demand for new homes, supported by the appropriate infrastructure.
- More energy efficient, net zero emissions homes, supporting a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy and community wealth building, tackling both fuel and child poverty.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement for the area they cover. This is to meet the duty for a housing target and to represent how much land is required. To promote an ambitious and plan-led approach, the Local Housing Land Requirement is expected to exceed the 10 year [Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement \(MATHLR\) set out in Annex E](#).

Deliverable land should be allocated to meet the 10 year Local Housing Land Requirement in locations that create quality places for people to live. Areas that may be suitable for new homes beyond 10 years are also to be identified. The location of where new homes are allocated should be consistent with local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods and an infrastructure first approach. In rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored approaches to housing which

reflect locally specific market circumstances and delivery approaches. Diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas, as well as allocating land to ensure provision of accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where need is identified.

The LDP delivery programme is expected to establish a deliverable housing land pipeline for the Local Housing Land Requirement. The purpose of the pipeline is to provide a transparent view of the phasing of housing allocations so that interventions, including infrastructure, that enable delivery can be planned: it is not to stage permissions. Representing when land will be brought forward, phasing is expected across the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years). Where sites earlier in the deliverable housing land pipeline are not delivering as programmed, and alternative delivery mechanisms identified in the delivery programme are not practical, measures should be considered to enable earlier delivery of long-term deliverable sites (7-10 years) or areas identified for new homes beyond 10 years. De-allocations should be considered where sites are no longer deliverable. The annual Housing Land Audit will monitor the delivery of housing land to inform the pipeline and the actions to be taken in the delivery programme.

Policy 16

- a) Development proposals for new homes on land allocated for housing in LDPs will be supported.
- b) Development proposals that include 50 or more homes, and smaller developments if required by local policy or guidance, should be accompanied by a Statement of Community Benefit. The statement will explain the contribution of the proposed development to:
 - i. meeting local housing requirements, including affordable homes;
 - ii. providing or enhancing local infrastructure, facilities and services; and
 - iii. improving the residential amenity of the surrounding area.

- c) Development proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision, will be supported. This could include:
- i. self-provided homes;
 - ii. accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes;
 - iii. build to rent;
 - iv. affordable homes;
 - v. a range of size of homes such as those for larger families;
 - vi. homes for older people, including supported accommodation, care homes and sheltered housing;
 - vii. homes for people undertaking further and higher education; and
 - viii. homes for other specialist groups such as service personnel.
- d) Development proposals for public or private, permanent or temporary, Gypsy/Travellers sites and family yards and Travelling Showpeople yards, including on land not specifically allocated for this use in the LDP, should be supported where a need is identified and the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies, including human rights and equality.
- e) Development proposals for new homes will be supported where they make provision for affordable homes to meet an identified need. Proposals for market homes will only be supported where the contribution to the provision of affordable homes on a site will be at least 25% of the total number of homes, unless the LDP sets out locations or circumstances where:
- i. a higher contribution is justified by evidence of need, or
 - ii. a lower contribution is justified, for example, by evidence of impact on viability, where proposals are small in scale, or to incentivise particular types of homes that are needed to diversify the supply, such as self-build or wheelchair accessible homes.
- The contribution is to be provided in accordance with local policy or guidance.
- f) Development proposals for new homes on land not allocated for housing in the LDP will only be supported in limited circumstances where:
- i. the proposal is supported by an agreed timescale for build-out; and
 - ii. the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies including local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods;
 - iii. and either:
 - delivery of sites is happening earlier than identified in the deliverable housing land pipeline. This will be determined by reference to two consecutive years of the Housing Land Audit evidencing substantial delivery earlier than pipeline timescales and that general trend being sustained; or
 - the proposal is consistent with policy on rural homes; or
 - the proposal is for smaller scale opportunities within an existing settlement boundary; or
 - the proposal is for the delivery of less than 50 affordable homes as part of a local authority supported affordable housing plan.
- g) Householder development proposals will be supported where they:
- i. do not have a detrimental impact on the character or environmental quality of the home and the surrounding area in terms of size, design and materials; and
 - ii. do not have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking.
- h) Householder development proposals that provide adaptations in response to risks from a changing climate, or relating to people with health conditions that lead to particular accommodation needs will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

Rural homes

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable rural homes in the right locations.

Policy Outcomes:

- Improved choice of homes across tenures so that identified local needs of people and communities in rural and island areas are met.
- Homes are provided that support sustainable rural communities and are linked with service provision.
- The distinctive character, sense of place and natural and cultural assets of rural areas are safeguarded and enhanced.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be informed by an understanding of population change over time, locally specific needs and market circumstances in rural and island areas.

LDPs should set out tailored approaches to rural housing and where relevant include proposals for future population growth – including provision for small-scale housing such as crofts and woodland crofts and the appropriate resettlement of previously inhabited areas. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Plans should reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches. Previously inhabited areas that are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

Policy 17

- a) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will be supported where the development is suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area and the development:
 - i. is on a site allocated for housing within the LDP;
 - ii. reuses brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
 - iii. reuses a redundant or unused building;
 - iv. is an appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
 - v. is demonstrated to be necessary to support the sustainable management of a viable rural business or croft, and there is an essential need for a worker (including those taking majority control of a farm business) to live permanently at or near their place of work;
 - vi. is for a single home for the retirement succession of a viable farm holding;
 - vii. is for the subdivision of an existing residential dwelling; the scale of which is in keeping with the character and infrastructure provision in the area; or
 - viii. reinstates a former dwelling house or is a one-for-one replacement of an existing permanent house.
- b) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account identified local housing needs (including affordable housing), economic considerations and the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals for new homes in remote rural areas will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. supports and sustains existing fragile communities;
 - ii. supports identified local housing outcomes; and

- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals for new homes that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
- i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
 - ii. is designed to a high standard;
 - iii. responds to its rural location; and
 - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

Infrastructure first

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate an infrastructure first approach to land use planning, which puts infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking.

Policy Outcomes:

- Infrastructure considerations are integral to development planning and decision making and potential impacts on infrastructure and infrastructure needs are understood early in the development planning process as part of an evidenced based approach.
- Existing infrastructure assets are used sustainably, prioritising low-carbon solutions.
- Infrastructure requirements, and their planned delivery to meet the needs of communities, are clear.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should:

- be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure;
- set out the infrastructure requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered; and
- indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in-kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required.

Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.

Policy 18

- a) Development proposals which provide (or contribute to) infrastructure in line with that identified as necessary in LDPs and their delivery programmes will be supported.
- b) The impacts of development proposals on infrastructure should be mitigated. Development proposals will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that provision is made to address the impacts on infrastructure. Where planning conditions, planning obligations, or other legal agreements are to be used, the relevant tests will apply.

Where planning obligations are entered into, they should meet the following tests:

- be necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms
- serve a planning purpose
- relate to the impacts of the proposed development
- fairly and reasonably relate in scale and kind to the proposed development
- be reasonable in all other respects

Planning conditions should only be imposed where they meet all of the following tests. They should be:

- necessary
- relevant to planning
- relevant to the development to be permitted
- enforceable
- precise
- reasonable in all other respects

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Heat and cooling

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that supports decarbonised solutions to heat and cooling demand and ensure adaptation to more extreme temperatures.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is connected to expanded heat networks which use and store heat from low or zero emission sources.
- Buildings and places are adapted to more extreme temperatures.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should take into account the area's Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).

Policy 19

- Development proposals within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone identified in a LDP will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to connect to the existing heat network.
- Proposals for retrofitting a connection to a heat network will be supported.
- Where a heat network is planned but not yet in place, development proposals will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to allow for cost-effective connection at a later date.
- National and major developments that will generate waste or surplus heat and which are located in areas of heat demand, will be supported providing wider considerations, including residential amenity, are not adversely impacted. A Heat and Power Plan should demonstrate how energy recovered from the development will be used to produce electricity and heat.

- Development proposals for energy infrastructure will be supported where they:
 - repurpose former fossil fuel infrastructure for the production or handling of low carbon energy;
 - are within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone; and
 - can be cost-effectively linked to an existing or planned heat network.
- Development proposals for buildings that will be occupied by people will be supported where they are designed to promote sustainable temperature management, for example by prioritising natural or passive solutions such as siting, orientation, and materials.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

Blue and green infrastructure

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks.

Policy Outcomes:

- Blue and green infrastructure are an integral part of early design and development processes; are designed to deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management.
- Communities benefit from accessible, high quality blue, green and civic spaces.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure. The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand existing provision including new blue and/or green infrastructure. This may include retrofitting. Priorities for connectivity to other blue and/or green infrastructure assets, including to address cross-boundary needs and opportunities, should also be identified.

LDPs should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure. Where this is temporary, this should not prevent future development potential from being realised.

LDPs should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks.

Policy 20

- a) Development proposals that result in fragmentation or net loss of existing blue and green infrastructure will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not result in or exacerbate a deficit in blue or green infrastructure provision, and the overall integrity of the network will be maintained. The planning authority's Open Space Strategy should inform this.
- b) Development proposals for or incorporating new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will be supported. Where appropriate, this will be an integral element of the design that responds to local circumstances.

Design will take account of existing provision, new requirements and network connections (identified in relevant strategies such as the Open Space Strategies) to ensure the proposed blue and/or green infrastructure is of an appropriate type(s), quantity, quality and accessibility and is designed to be multi-functional and well integrated into the overall proposals.

- c) Development proposals in regional and country parks will only be supported where they are compatible with the uses, natural habitats, and character of the park.
- d) Development proposals for temporary open space or green space on unused or under-used land will be supported.
- e) Development proposals that include new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Play, recreation and sport

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport.

Policy Outcomes:

- Natural and built environments are improved, with more equitable access to opportunities for play and recreation.
- Physical and mental health are improved through provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation, play and sport facilities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.

Policy 21

- a) Development proposals which result in the loss of outdoor sports facilities will only be supported where the proposal:
 - i. is ancillary to the principal use of the site as an outdoor sports facility; or
 - ii. involves only a minor part of the facility and would not affect its use; or
 - iii. meets a requirement to replace the facility which would be lost, either by a new facility or by upgrading an existing facility to provide a better quality facility. The location will be convenient for users and the overall playing capacity of the area will be maintained; or
 - iv. can demonstrate that there is a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand in the area, and that the site would be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision.
- This should be informed by the local authority's Open Space Strategy and/or Play Sufficiency Assessment and in consultation with sportscotland where appropriate.
- b) Development proposals that result in the quantitative and/or qualitative loss of children's outdoor play provision, will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand or the existing play provision will be replaced by a newly created, or improved existing asset, that is better quality or more appropriate.
- This should be informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment.
- c) Development proposals for temporary or informal play space on unused or underused land will be supported.
 - d) Development proposals likely to be occupied or used by children and young people will be supported where they incorporate well-designed, good quality provision for play, recreation, and relaxation that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and existing provision in the area.
 - e) Development proposals that include new streets and public realm should be inclusive and enable children and young people to play and move around safely and independently, maximising opportunities for informal and incidental play in the neighbourhood.
 - f) New, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and as appropriate:
 - i. provide stimulating environments;
 - ii. provide a range of play experiences including opportunities to connect with nature;
 - iii. be inclusive;
 - iv. be suitable for different ages of children and young people;
 - v. be easily and safely accessible by children and young people independently, including those with a disability;

- vi. incorporate trees and/or other forms of greenery;
 - vii. form an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;
 - viii. be well overlooked for passive surveillance;
 - ix. be linked directly to other open spaces and play areas.
- g) Development proposals that include new or enhanced play or sport facilities will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Flood risk and water management

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.

Policy Outcomes:

- Places are resilient to current and future flood risk.
- Water resources are used efficiently and sustainably.
- Wider use of natural flood risk management benefits people and nature.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation measures; and identifying opportunities to implement improvements to the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure.

Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.

Policy 22

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
- essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
 - water compatible uses;
 - redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
 - redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that long-term safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice.

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;
- there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes;
- the development remains safe and operational during floods;
- flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and
- future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, for development proposals meeting criteria part iv), where flood risk is managed at the site rather than avoided these will also require:

- the first occupied/utilised floor, and the underside of the development if relevant, to be above the flood risk level and have an additional allowance for freeboard; and
- that the proposal does not create an island of development and that safe access/egress can be achieved.

- b) Small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings will only be supported where they will not significantly increase flood risk.
- c) Development proposals will:
 - i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.
 - ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue-green infrastructure. All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer;
 - iii. seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.
- d) Development proposals will be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains. If connection is not feasible, the applicant will need to demonstrate that water for drinking water purposes will be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.
- e) Development proposals which create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management, including blue and green infrastructure, will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Business and industry](#)

Health and safety

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect people and places from environmental harm, mitigate risks arising from safety hazards and encourage, promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing.

Policy Outcomes:

- Health is improved and health inequalities are reduced.
- Safe places protect human health and the environment.
- A planned approach supports health infrastructure delivery.

Local Development Plans:

LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.

LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide.

Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.

Policy 23

- a) Development proposals that will have positive effects on health will be supported. This could include, for example, proposals that incorporate opportunities for exercise, community food growing or allotments.

- b) Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on health will not be supported. A Health Impact Assessment may be required.
- c) Development proposals for health and social care facilities and infrastructure will be supported.
- d) Development proposals that are likely to have significant adverse effects on air quality will not be supported. Development proposals will consider opportunities to improve air quality and reduce exposure to poor air quality. An air quality assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or the air quality in the location suggest significant effects are likely.
- e) Development proposals that are likely to raise unacceptable noise issues will not be supported. The agent of change principle applies to noise sensitive development. A Noise Impact Assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or its location suggests that significant effects are likely.
- f) Development proposals will be designed to take into account suicide risk.
- g) Development proposals within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major accident hazard pipeline (because of the presence of toxic, highly reactive, explosive or inflammable substances) will consider the associated risks and potential impacts of the proposal and the major accident hazard site/pipeline of being located in proximity to one another.
- h) Applications for hazardous substances consent will consider the likely potential impacts on surrounding populations and the environment.
- i) Any advice from Health and Safety Executive, the Office of Nuclear Regulation or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that planning permission or hazardous substances consent should be refused, or conditions to be attached to a grant of consent, should not be overridden by the decision maker without the most careful consideration.
- j) Similar considerations apply in respect of development proposals either for or near licensed explosive sites (including military explosive storage sites).

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

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[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

[Minerals](#)

Digital infrastructure

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the roll-out of digital infrastructure across Scotland to unlock the potential of all our places and the economy.

Policy Outcomes:

- Appropriate, universal and future proofed digital infrastructure across the country.
- Local living is supported and the need to travel is reduced.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.

Policy 24

- Development proposals that incorporate appropriate, universal, and future-proofed digital infrastructure will be supported.
- Development proposals that deliver new digital services or provide technological improvements, particularly in areas with no or low connectivity capacity, will be supported.
- Development proposals that are aligned with and support the delivery of local or national programmes for the roll-out of digital infrastructure will be supported.
- Development proposals that deliver new connectivity will be supported where there are benefits of this connectivity for communities and the local economy.
- Development proposals for digital infrastructure will only be supported where:
 - the visual and amenity impacts of the proposed development have been minimised through careful siting, design, height, materials and, landscaping, taking into account cumulative impacts and relevant technical constraints;

- it has been demonstrated that, before erecting a new ground based mast, the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure, replacing an existing mast and/or site sharing has been explored; and
- there is no physical obstruction to aerodrome operations, technical sites, or existing transmitter/receiver facilities.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)



Productive Places

Community wealth building

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels.

Policy Outcomes:

- local economic development that focuses on community and place benefits as a central and primary consideration – to support local employment and supply chains.
- support community ownership and management of buildings and land.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be aligned with any strategy for community wealth building for the area. Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.

Policy 25

- Development proposals which contribute to local or regional community wealth building strategies and are consistent with local economic priorities will be supported. This could include for example improving community resilience and reducing inequalities; increasing spending within communities; ensuring the use of local supply chains and services; local job creation; supporting community led proposals, including creation of new local firms and enabling community led ownership of buildings and assets.
- Development proposals linked to community ownership and management of land will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
- [Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
- [Business and industry](#)

Business and industry

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate business and industry uses and to enable alternative ways of working such as home working, live-work units and micro-businesses.

Policy Outcomes:

- Recovery within the business and industry sector is sustainable and inclusive.
- Investment in the business and industrial sector contributes to community wealth building.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should allocate sufficient land for business and industry, taking into account business and industry land audits, in particular ensuring that there is a suitable range of sites that meet current market demand, location, size and quality in terms of accessibility and services. This allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader objectives of delivering a low carbon and net zero economic recovery, and a fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Policy 26

- Development proposals for business and industry uses on sites allocated for those uses in the LDP will be supported.
- Development proposals for home working, live-work units and micro-businesses will be supported where it is demonstrated that the scale and nature of the proposed business and building will be compatible with the surrounding area and there will be no unacceptable impacts on amenity or neighbouring uses.
- Development proposals for business and industry uses will be supported where they are compatible with the primary business function of the area. Other employment uses will be supported where they will not prejudice the primary function of the area and are compatible with the business/industrial character of the area.

- Development proposals for business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses outwith areas identified for those uses in the LDP will only be supported where:
 - It is demonstrated that there are no suitable alternatives allocated in the LDP or identified in the employment land audit; and
 - The nature and scale of the activity will be compatible with the surrounding area.
- Development proposals for business and industry will take into account:
 - Impact on surrounding residential amenity; sensitive uses and the natural and historic environment;
 - The need for appropriate site restoration at the end of a period of commercial use.
- Major developments for manufacturing or industry will be accompanied by a decarbonisation strategy to demonstrate how greenhouse gas emissions from the process are appropriately abated. The strategy may include carbon capture and storage.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

City, town, local and commercial centres

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development in our city and town centres, recognising they are a national asset. This will be achieved by applying the Town Centre First approach to help centres adapt positively to long-term economic, environmental and societal changes, and by encouraging town centre living.

Policy Outcomes:

- Centres are vibrant, healthy, creative, enterprising, accessible and resilient places for people to live, learn, work, enjoy and visit.
- Development is directed to the most sustainable locations that are accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes and provide communities with easy access to the goods, services and recreational opportunities they need.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support sustainable futures for city, town and local centres, in particular opportunities to enhance city and town centres. They should, where relevant, also support proposals for improving the sustainability of existing commercial centres where appropriate.

LDPs should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision.

LDPs should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non-retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities. They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.

LDPs should provide a proportion of their Local Housing Land Requirements in city and town centres and be proactive in identifying opportunities to support residential development.

Policy 27

- a) Development proposals that enhance and improve the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres, including proposals that increase the mix of uses, will be supported.
- b) Development proposals will be consistent with the town centre first approach. Proposals for uses which will generate significant footfall, including commercial, leisure, offices, community, sport and cultural facilities, public buildings such as libraries, education and healthcare facilities, and public spaces:
 - i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
 - ii. will not be supported outwith those centres unless a town centre first assessment demonstrates that:
 - all centre and edge of centre options have been sequentially assessed and discounted as unsuitable or unavailable;
 - the scale of development cannot reasonably be altered or reduced in scale to allow it to be accommodated in a centre; and
 - the impacts on existing centres have been thoroughly assessed and there will be no significant adverse effect on the vitality and viability of the centres.

Town Centre First Assessment

For development proposals which are out of city/town centre and which will generate significant footfall a Town Centre First Assessment will be provided. Applicants should agree the data required with the planning authority before undertaking the assessment, and should present information on areas of dispute in a succinct and comparable form.

The town centre first assessment should:

- identify the potential relationship of the proposed development with the network of centres identified in the LDP;
- demonstrate the potential economic impact of the development and any possible displacement effects, including the net impact on jobs; and
- consider supply chains and whether local suppliers and workers will be a viable option; and
- the environmental impact of transporting goods and of staff and visitors travelling to the location.

The town centre first assessment should be applied flexibly and realistically for community, education, health and social care and sport and leisure facilities so that they are easily accessible to the communities they are intended to serve.

- c) Development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. These uses include:
- i. Hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans;
 - ii. Betting offices; and
 - iii. High interest money lending premises.

- d) Drive-through developments will only be supported where they are specifically supported in the LDP.

Town centre living

- e) Development proposals for residential development within city/town centres will be supported, including:
- i. New build residential development.
 - ii. The re-use of a vacant building within city/town centres where it can be demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and the proposed change of use adds to viability and vitality of the area.
 - iii. The conversion, or reuse of vacant upper floors of properties within city/town centres for residential.
- f) Development proposals for residential use at ground floor level within city/town centres will only be supported where the proposal will:
- i. retain an attractive and appropriate frontage;
 - ii. not adversely affect the vitality and viability of a shopping area or the wider centre; and
 - iii. not result in an undesirable concentration of uses, or 'dead frontages'.
- g) Development proposals for city or town centre living will take into account the residential amenity of the proposal. This must be clearly demonstrated where the proposed development is in the same built structure as:
- i. a hot food premises, live music venue, amusement arcade/centre, casino or licensed premises (with the exception of hotels, restaurants, cafés or off licences); and/or
 - ii. there is a common or shared access with licenced premises or other use likely to be detrimental to residential amenity.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
[Historic assets and places](#)
[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
[Sustainable transport](#)
[Design, quality and place](#)
[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
[Infrastructure first](#)
[Quality homes](#)
[Blue and green infrastructure](#)
[Play, recreation and sport](#)
[Health and safety](#)
[Community wealth building](#)
[Business and industry](#)
[Retail](#)
[Rural development](#)
[Tourism](#)
[Culture and creativity](#)

Retail

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate retail investment to the most sustainable locations that are most accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes.

Policy Outcomes:

- Retail development and the location of shops support vibrant city, town and local centres.
- Communities can access the shops and goods they need by a range of sustainable transport modes including on foot, by bike, and by public transport, as part of local living.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision, this may be:

- where a retail study identifies deficiencies in retail provision in terms of quality and quantity in an area; or
- when allocating sites for housing or the creation of new communities, in terms of the need for neighbourhood shopping, and supporting local living.

LDPs should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported.

Policy 28

- a) Development proposals for retail (including expansions and changes of use) will be consistent with the town centre first principle. This means that new retail proposals:
- i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
 - ii. will be supported in edge-of-centre areas or in commercial centres if they are allocated as sites suitable for new retail development in the LDP.
 - iii. will not be supported in out of centre locations (other than those meeting policy 28(c) or 28(d)).

- b) Development proposals for retail that are consistent with the sequential approach (set out in a) and click-and-collect locker pick up points, will be supported where the proposed development:
 - i. is of an appropriate scale for the location;
 - ii. will have an acceptable impact on the character and amenity of the area; and
 - iii. is located to best channel footfall and activity, to benefit the place as a whole.
- c) Proposals for new small scale neighbourhood retail development will be supported where the proposed development:
 - i. contributes to local living, including where relevant 20 minute neighbourhoods and/or
 - ii. can be demonstrated to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- d) In island and rural areas, development proposals for shops ancillary to other uses such as farm shops, craft shops and shops linked to petrol/service/charging stations will be supported where:
 - i. it will serve local needs, support local living and local jobs;
 - ii. the potential impact on nearby town and commercial centres or village/local shops is acceptable;
 - iii. it will provide a service throughout the year; and
 - iv. the likely impacts of traffic generation and access and parking arrangements are acceptable.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Rural development

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area and the service function of small towns, natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.

Policy Outcomes:

- Rural places are vibrant and sustainable and rural communities and businesses are supported.
- A balanced and sustainable rural population.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify the characteristics of rural areas within the plan area, including the existing pattern of development, pressures, environmental assets, community priorities and economic needs of each area. The spatial strategy should set out an appropriate approach to development in rural areas which reflects the identified characteristics. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Spatial strategies should support the sustainability and prosperity of rural communities and economies. Previously inhabited areas which are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

Policy 29

- a) Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities and local rural economy will be supported, including:
 - i. farms, crofts, woodland crofts or other land use businesses, where use of good quality land for development is minimised and business viability is not adversely affected;
 - ii. diversification of existing businesses;
 - iii. production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example sawmills, or local food production;
- b) Development proposals in rural areas should be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area. They should also consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals in remote rural areas, where new development can often help to sustain fragile communities, will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. will support local employment;
 - ii. supports and sustains existing communities, for example through provision of digital infrastructure; and
 - iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, siting, design and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
 - ii. is designed to a high standard;
 - iii. responds to their rural location; and
 - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

- iv. essential community services;
- v. essential infrastructure;
- vi. reuse of a redundant or unused building;
- vii. appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
- viii. reuse of brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
- ix. small scale developments that support new ways of working such as remote working, homeworking and community hubs; or
- x. improvement or restoration of the natural environment.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

[Minerals](#)

Tourism

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate sustainable tourism development which benefits local people, is consistent with our net zero and nature commitments, and inspires people to visit Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Communities and places enjoy economic, social and cultural benefits from tourism, supporting resilience and stimulating job creation.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.

The spatial strategy should also identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.

Policy 30

- a) Development proposals for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation, including caravan and camping sites, in locations identified in the LDP, will be supported.
- b) Proposals for tourism related development will take into account:
 - i. The contribution made to the local economy;
 - ii. Compatibility with the surrounding area in terms of the nature and scale of the activity and impacts of increased visitors;

- iii. Impacts on communities, for example by hindering the provision of homes and services for local people;
 - iv. Opportunities for sustainable travel and appropriate management of parking and traffic generation and scope for sustaining public transport services particularly in rural areas;
 - v. Accessibility for disabled people;
 - vi. Measures taken to minimise carbon emissions;
 - vii. Opportunities to provide access to the natural environment.
- c) Development proposals that involve the change of use of a tourism-related facility will only be supported where it is demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and that there is no requirement for alternative tourism-related facilities in the area.
 - d) Proposals for huts will be supported where the nature and scale of the development is compatible with the surrounding area and the proposal complies with relevant good practice guidance.
 - e) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings for short term holiday letting will not be supported where the proposal will result in:
 - i. An unacceptable impact on local amenity or the character of a neighbourhood or area; or
 - ii. The loss of residential accommodation where such loss is not outweighed by demonstrable local economic benefits.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Culture and creativity

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development which reflects our diverse culture and creativity, and to support our culture and creative industries.

Policy Outcomes:

- Locally distinctive places reflect the diversity of communities and support regeneration and town centre vibrancy.
- Cultural and creative industries are expanded, providing jobs and investment.
- Communities have access to cultural and creative activities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.

Policy 31

- Development proposals that involve a significant change to existing, or the creation of new, public open spaces will make provision for public art. Public art proposals which reflect diversity, culture and creativity will be supported.
- Development proposals for creative workspaces or other cultural uses that involve the temporary use of vacant spaces or property will be supported.
- Development proposals that would result in the loss of an arts or cultural venue will only be supported where:
 - there is no longer a sustainable demand for the venue and after marketing the site at a reasonable rate for at least 12 months, through relevant local and national agents and online platforms, there has been no viable interest from potential operators; or
 - the venue, as evidenced by consultation, no longer meets the needs of users and cannot be adapted; or

- alternative provision of equal or greater standard is made available at a suitable location within the local area; and
 - the loss of the venue does not result in loss or damage to assets or objects of significant cultural value.
- Development proposals within the vicinity of existing arts venues will fully reflect the agent of change principle and will only be supported where they can demonstrate that measures can be put in place to ensure that existing noise and disturbance impacts on the proposed development would be acceptable and that existing venues and facilities can continue without additional restrictions being placed on them as a result of the proposed new development.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
[Historic assets and places](#)
[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
[Zero waste](#)
[Sustainable transport](#)
[Design, quality and place](#)
[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
[Blue and green infrastructure](#)
[Play, recreation and sport](#)
[Health and safety](#)
[Digital infrastructure](#)
[Community wealth building](#)
[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)
[Rural development](#)
[Tourism](#)

Aquaculture

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate aquaculture development and minimise any adverse effects on the environment, including cumulative impacts.

Planning should support an aquaculture industry that is sustainable, diverse, competitive, economically viable and which contributes to food security, whilst operating with social licence, within environmental limits and which ensures there is a thriving marine ecosystem for future generations.

Policy Outcomes:

- New aquaculture development is in locations that reflect industry needs and considers environmental impacts.
- Producers will contribute to communities and local economies.
- Prosperous finfish, shellfish and seaweed sectors.
- Migratory fish species are safeguarded.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should guide new aquaculture development in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.

Policy 32

- To safeguard migratory fish species, further salmon and trout open pen fish farm developments on the north and east coasts of mainland Scotland will not be supported.
- Development proposals for aquaculture will be supported where they comply with the LDP, the National Marine Plan and, where relevant, the appropriate Regional Marine Plan.
- Development proposals for fish farms will demonstrate that operational impacts (including from noise, acoustic deterrent devices (where applicable) light, access,

navigation, containment, deposition, waste emissions and sea lice, impacts on wild salmonids, aquaculture litter (and odour and impacts on other marine users)) are acceptable and comply with the relevant regulatory framework.

- Development proposals for fish farm developments will only be supported where the following impacts have been assessed and mitigated:
 - landscape and visual impact of the proposal including the siting and design of cages, lines and associated facilities taking into account the character of the location;
 - the impact of any land based facilities, ensuring that the siting and design are appropriate for the location;
 - impacts on natural heritage, designated sites and priority marine features; and
 - impacts on historic marine protected areas.
- Applications for open water farmed finfish or shellfish development are excluded from the requirements of policy 3b) and 3c) and will instead apply all relevant provisions from National and Regional Marine Plans.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
- [Historic assets and places](#)
- [Natural places](#)
- [Biodiversity](#)
- [Coastal development](#)
- [Design, quality and place](#)
- [Health and safety](#)
- [Community wealth building](#)
- [Business and industry](#)
- [Rural development](#)

Minerals

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To support the sustainable management of resources and minimise the impacts of the extraction of minerals on communities and the environment.

Policy Outcomes:

- Sufficient resources are available to meet industry demands, making an essential contribution to the Scottish economy.
- Important raw materials for manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and other industries are available.
- Important workable mineral resources are protected from sterilisation by other developments.
- Communities and the environment are protected from the impacts of mineral extraction.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.

Policy 33

- a) Development proposals that seek to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances. Any such exceptions will be required to demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with national policy on energy and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- b) The Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. This means development connected to the onshore exploration, appraisal or production of coal bed methane or shale oil or shale gas, using unconventional oil and gas extraction techniques, including hydraulic fracturing and dewatering for coal bed methane.
- c) Development proposals that would sterilise mineral deposits of economic value will only be supported where:
 - i. there is an overriding need for the development and prior extraction of the mineral cannot reasonably be undertaken; or
 - ii. extraction of the mineral is impracticable or unlikely to be environmentally acceptable.
- d) Development proposals for the sustainable extraction of minerals will only be supported where they:
 - i. will not result in significant adverse impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural environment, sensitive habitats and the historic environment, as well as landscape and visual impacts;
 - ii. provide an adequate buffer zone between sites and settlements taking account of the specific circumstances of individual proposals, including size, duration, location, method of working, topography, and the characteristics of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
 - iii. can demonstrate that there are no significant adverse impacts (including cumulative impact) on any nearby homes, local communities and known sensitive receptors and designations;
 - iv. demonstrate acceptable levels (including cumulative impact) of noise, dust, vibration and potential pollution of land, air and water;
 - v. minimise transport impacts through the number and length of lorry trips and by using rail or water transport wherever practical;
 - vi. have appropriate mitigation plans in place for any adverse impacts;
 - vii. include schemes for a high standard of restoration and aftercare and commitment that such work is undertaken at the earliest opportunity. As a further

safeguard a range of financial guarantee options are available, and the most effective solution should be considered and agreed on a site-by-site basis. Solutions should provide assurance and clarity over the amount and period of the guarantee and in particular, where it is a bond, the risks covered (including operator failure) and the triggers for calling in a bond, including payment terms.

- e) Development proposals for borrow pits will only be supported where:
- i. the proposal is tied to a specific project and is time-limited;
 - ii. the proposal complies with the above mineral extraction criteria taking into account the temporary nature of the development; and
 - iii. appropriate restoration proposals are enforceable.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Health and safety](#)

Part 3 – Annexes

Annex A – How to use this document

Purpose of Planning

The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest.

The decisions we make today will have implications for future generations. Scotland in 2045 will be different. We must embrace and deliver radical change so we can tackle and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity

loss, improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities, build a wellbeing economy and create great places.

Role of the National Planning Framework

Scotland 2045: our Fourth National Planning Framework, commonly known as NPF4, is required by law to set out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land. It plays a key role in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

National Performance Framework

Our Purpose, Values and National Outcomes



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



NPF4 includes a long-term spatial strategy to 2045. This reflects the spatial aspects of a range of Scottish Government policies, including the Infrastructure Investment Plan.

The Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) identified that NPF4 would include housing land requirements framed within a spatial strategy that aligns with the investment programme and principles, and highlighted that national planning policies would include an infrastructure first approach.

The NPF4 strategy, policies and national developments are aligned to the strategic themes of the IIP: enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability; driving inclusive economic growth; and building resilient and sustainable places. The policies and instruction for LDPs activate the IIP priorities within the themes to the degree that those priorities involve physical development, opportunities for people and improvements for place. Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirements are set out at [Annex E](#). The investment hierarchy influences the approach to NPF4 overall and features specifically in instructions for LDPs in Policy 18 'Infrastructure First'.

NPF4 replaces National Planning Framework 3 (2014) and Scottish Planning Policy (2014). NPF4 should be read as a whole. It represents a package of planning policies to guide us to the place we want Scotland to be in 2045.

NPF4 is required by law to contribute to 6 outcomes:

- Meeting the **housing needs** of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people,
- Improving the **health and wellbeing** of people living in Scotland,
- Increasing the **population of rural areas** of Scotland,
- Improving **equality** and eliminating discrimination,
- Meeting any targets relating to the **reduction of emissions** of greenhouse gases, and
- Securing positive effects for **biodiversity**.

Statements setting out further detail on the contribution of NPF4 to each outcome are set out in Part 1.

Plan-led Approach

A plan-led approach is central to supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and broader sustainable development goals. It is a legislative requirement that planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The statutory development plan for any given area of Scotland consists of the National Planning Framework and the relevant LDP(s). The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 prescribes four different plans, at different scales:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| National Planning Framework (NPF) | <p>The National Planning Framework sets out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land.</p> <p>The NPF must have regard to any adopted regional spatial strategy.</p> <p>NPF4 is part of the statutory development plan.</p> |
| Regional spatial strategies (RSS) | <p>The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty requiring the preparation of regional spatial strategies.</p> <p>A planning authority, or authorities acting jointly will prepare these long-term spatial strategies for the strategic development of an area.</p> <p>RSS are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing future versions of the NPF and LDPs.</p> |
| Local development plans (LDPs) | <p>Planning authorities must prepare one or more LDPs for their area.</p> <p>The LDP sets out a spatial strategy for the development of that area. It must take into account the National Planning Framework and any registered local place plan in the area it covers. It must have regard to the authority's adopted regional spatial strategy. The LDP must also have regard to any local outcomes improvement plan for the area it covers.</p> <p>LDPs are part of the statutory development plan.</p> |
| Local place plans (LPPs) | <p>Local place plans are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. They must have regard to the NPF, any LDP which covers the same area, and also any locality plan which covers the same area.</p> <p>LPPs are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing LDPs.</p> |

Spatial Strategy

[Part 1](#) sets out our spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045, identifying:

- [6 spatial principles](#) which will influence all our plans and decisions:
 - Just transition
 - Conserving and recycling assets
 - Local living
 - Compact urban growth
 - Rebalanced development
 - Rural revitalisation
- 3 themes, linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Scottish Government National Performance Framework:
 - Sustainable places where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity
 - Liveable places where we can all live better, healthier lives
 - Productive places where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy

LDPs should take account of these principles and outcomes, and they should also be reflected within regional spatial strategies and local place plans.

National Developments

Eighteen national developments have been identified. These are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver the spatial strategy. They are intentionally high level and focus on key elements, as the projects are at different stages.

National development status does not grant planning permission for the development and all relevant consents are required.

Their designation means that the principle of the development does not need to be agreed in later consenting processes, providing more certainty for communities, business and investors.

Their designation is not intended to describe in detail how the projects should be designed, matters to consider, or impact assessments and mitigation to be applied. In addition to the statement of need at [Annex B](#), decision makers for applications for consent for national developments should take into account all relevant policies.

LDPs should take forward proposals for national developments where relevant and facilitate their delivery. This could be through supporting land allocations, policy intervention and LDP delivery programmes.

Regional Spatial Priorities

Regional spatial priorities set out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. The detail of these priorities should be further considered and consulted upon through the local development planning process, and where appropriate through regional spatial strategies and regional transport strategies.

The maps are indicative, and certain authorities may have a role to play in more than one regional area. The broad areas identified in NPF4 are intended to act as a flexible framework to guide the preparation of future Regional Spatial Strategies. It is open to planning authorities to decide for themselves, including by working in partnership with others, the most appropriate scale and extent of areas to be covered by Regional Spatial Strategies.

Statutory guidance will guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies.

National Planning Policy

[Part 2](#) sets out our policy framework by topic under the three themes.

Planning is complex and requires careful balancing of issues. The **policy intent** is provided to aid plan makers and decision makers to understand the intent of each policy and to help deliver policy aspirations.

The **policy outcomes** set out what we want to achieve and will help to influence future monitoring of the planning system.

The **Local Development Plan** section clarifies the expected role of LDPs for each topic. The focus for LDPs should be on land allocation through the spatial strategy and interpreting this national policy in a local context. There is no need for LDPs to replicate policies within NPF4, but authorities can add further detail including locally specific policies should they consider to be a need to do so, based on the area's individual characteristics.

The **policy** sections are for use in the determination of planning applications. The policies should be read as a whole. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to policies on a case by case basis. Where a policy states that development will be supported, it is in principle, and it is for the decision maker to take into account all other relevant policies.

The **policy impact** section shows which spatial principles the policy will help to deliver.

The **key policy connections** help to show the key connections between policies, but are not intended to be comprehensive.

Annex B – National Developments Statements of Need

National developments are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver our spatial strategy.

Eighteen national developments will support the delivery of our spatial strategy. These national developments range from single large scale projects or collections and networks of several smaller scale proposals. They are also intended to act as exemplars of the Place Principle and placemaking approaches.

The statements of need set out in this annex are a requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and describe the development to be considered as a national development for consent handling purposes.

An assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets¹ (with the meaning given in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) has been undertaken. The assessment is based on the detail provided at the time of the assessment, and the conclusion may alter depending on the nature and detail of the projects taken forward.

The potential for national developments to affect European designated sites, depending on the precise design, location and construction of individual projects, has been identified by the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of NPF4. Any such development would need to be considered carefully at project level and all relevant statutory tests met.

¹ Research project: Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NPF4 Proposed National Developments Assessment Findings (LUC 2021) available online at <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>

1. Energy Innovation Development on the Islands

This national development supports proposed developments in the Outer Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney island groups, for renewable energy generation, renewable hydrogen production, infrastructure and shipping, and associated opportunities in the supply chain for fabrication, research and development.

Any strategy for deployment of these technologies must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero.

This is aligned with low carbon energy projects within the Islands Growth Deal that have been developed with local partners such as the Islands Centre for Net Zero and encompasses other projects that can facilitate net zero aims.

The use of low and zero emission fuels will play a crucial role in decarbonising island and mainland energy use, shipping, strengthening energy security overall and creating a low carbon energy economy for the islands and islanders. The developments will add value where they link into national and international energy expertise, learning and research and development networks.

Location

Outer Hebrides, Shetland, Orkney and surrounding waters.

Need

These classes of development support the potential of the three island authorities to exemplify a transition to a net zero society. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy by helping to sustain communities in rural and island areas by stimulating employment and innovation.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Energy Innovation Development on the Islands' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

Outer Hebrides – Supporting the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132 kilovolts (kv) and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Improved oil storage infrastructure for Stornoway, with appropriate emissions abatement; and
- e) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Arnish.

Shetland Islands – Supporting the Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks (ORION) Clean Energy Project

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of renewable and low carbon aspects of the ORION project:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of/ or exceeding 132kv;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport, storage, and utilisation infrastructure at Sullom Voe;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Sullom Voe, Scatsta, Lerwick, and Dales Voe (Lerwick);
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Sullom Voe to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions; and
- f) New infrastructure, and/or upgraded buildings and facilities to support the transportation and storage of captured carbon.

Orkney Islands – Supporting Scapa Flow Future Fuels Hub and Orkney Harbours

The classes below apply to development that is for the delivery of the Future Fuels Hub, new quay in Scapa Flow, and the Orkney Logistics Base at Hatston, which support services for the renewable and marine energy and shipping sectors:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;

- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132kv and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at, Scapa Flow, and Hatston (Kirkwall); and
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Scapa Flow to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

2. Pumped Hydro Storage

This national development will play a significant role in balancing and optimising electricity generation and maintaining the operability of the electricity system as part of our transition to net zero. This is necessary as we continue to move towards a decarbonised system with much more renewable generation, the output from which is defined by weather conditions.

This national development supports additional capacity at existing sites as well as at new sites. Cruachan in Argyll is a nationally important example of a pumped storage facility with significant potential for enhanced capacity that could create significant jobs in a rural location.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This national development supports pumped hydro storage capacity within the electricity network through significant new or expanded sites. This supports the transition to a net zero economy through the ability of pumped hydro storage schemes to optimise electricity generated from renewables by storing and releasing it when it is required.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Pumped Hydro Storage' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water holding reservoir and dam;
- b) New and/or upgraded electricity generating plant structures or buildings;
- c) New and/or upgraded pump plant structures or buildings;
- d) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water inlet and outlet pipework;
- e) New and/or upgraded substations and/or transformers; and
- f) New and/or replacement transmission cables.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure

This national development supports renewable electricity generation, repowering, and expansion of the electricity grid.

A large and rapid increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets. Certain types of renewable electricity generation will also be required, which will include energy storage technology and capacity, to provide the vital services, including flexible response, that a zero carbon network will require. Generation is for domestic consumption as well as for export to the UK and beyond, with new capacity helping to decarbonise heat, transport and industrial energy demand. This has the potential to support jobs and business investment, with wider economic benefits.

The electricity transmission grid will need substantial reinforcement including the addition of new infrastructure to connect and transmit the output from new on and offshore capacity to consumers in Scotland, the rest of the UK and beyond. Delivery of this national development will be informed by market, policy and regulatory developments and decisions.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

Additional electricity generation from renewables and electricity transmission capacity of scale is fundamental to achieving a net zero economy and supports improved network resilience in rural and island areas. Island transmission connections in particular can facilitate capturing the significant renewable energy potential in those areas as well as delivering significant social and economic benefits.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) On and off shore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) New and/or replacement upgraded on and offshore high voltage electricity transmission lines, cables and interconnectors of 132kv or more; and
- c) New and/or upgraded Infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables and interconnectors including converter stations, switching stations and substations.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local Living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

4. Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities

This national development supports the development of facilities required to achieve a circular economy. This sector will provide a range of business, skills and employment opportunities as part of a just transition to a net zero economy.

The range and scale of facilities required to manage secondary materials and their circulation back into the economy is not yet clear. However, sites and facilities will be needed to retain the resource value of materials so that we can maximise the use of materials in the economy and minimise the use of virgin materials in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly significant for the construction and demolition industries and decommissioning industry.

Careful assessment of specific proposals will be required to ensure they provide sustainable low carbon solutions, include appropriate controls, manage any emissions and mitigate localised impacts including on neighbouring communities and the wider environment.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This national development helps maximise Scotland's potential to retain the energy and emissions values within materials already in the economy.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) Facilities for managing secondary materials; and
- b) Recycling facilities.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local Living
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

5. Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions

This national development aims to build on the benefits of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, to continue investment and extend the approach to the Edinburgh city region.

Our biggest cities and their regions will require improved infrastructure to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. A strategic, catchment scale approach to adaptation through surface water and drainage infrastructure investment will reduce impacts and risks for our urban population and is an example of an infrastructure first approach. Catchment scale nature-based solutions which may include blue and green infrastructure should be prioritised. Grey infrastructure should be optimised and only used when necessary to augment blue-green infrastructure solutions. Delivery of multiple climate, wellbeing and economic benefits should form the basis of the approach. Whilst this national development focuses on Edinburgh and Glasgow other cities and towns may benefit from similar approaches.

Location

Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions and their wider water catchment areas.

Need

A large proportion of our population lives in our largest cities. The management of surface water drainage at scale across these city regions will help us to adapt to extreme weather events that will become more frequent as a result of climate change. A nature-based approach to surface water management has the potential to deliver multiple health, wellbeing, economic and climate adaptation and emissions reduction benefits and it may free up sewer capacity.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions' in the location described, within the Class of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) Spaces, infrastructure, works, structures, buildings, pipelines, and nature-based approaches, for surface water management and drainage systems.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

6. Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks

This national development supports low carbon mass/rapid transit projects for Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

To reduce transport emissions at scale, we will require low carbon transport solutions for these three major cities that can support transformational reduction in private car use.

Development of the Glasgow 'Metro' and Edinburgh Mass Transit in these cities and their associated regions plus the Aberdeen Rapid Transit system are recommendations from the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2.

This will support placemaking and deliver improved transport equity across the most densely populated parts of Scotland, improving access to employment and supporting sustainable investment in the longer term. It can function as part of a broader transport network that includes active travel, and this places importance on multi-modal hubs or transport interchange points.

The type of interventions will be determined through the on-going development of business cases and studies but could include the provision of new systems or extensions to existing sustainable and public transport networks.

Location

Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions.

Need

This national development will help reduce transport related emissions overall, improve air quality, reduce the demand for private vehicle use, support the roll out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and improve transport equity.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development. This relates to development supported by the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 consisting of new or upgraded:

- a) Track or road infrastructure;
- b) Fuelling or power infrastructure;
- c) Passenger facilities; and
- d) Depots servicing the networks.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Just transition

7. Central Scotland Green Network

This national development is one of Europe's largest and most ambitious green infrastructure projects. It will play a key role in tackling the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss including by building and strengthening nature networks. A greener approach to development will improve placemaking, can contribute to the roll-out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and will benefit biodiversity connectivity. This has particular relevance in the more urban parts of Scotland where there is pressure for development as well as significant areas requiring regeneration to address past decline and disadvantage. Regeneration, repurposing and reuse of brownfield land should be a priority.

Priorities include enhancement to provide multi-functional green and blue infrastructure that provides greatest environmental, lifelong physical and mental health, social wellbeing and economic benefits. It focuses on those areas where greening and development can be mutually supportive, helping to improve equity of access to quality green and blue space, and supporting communities where improving wellbeing and resilience is most needed, including to help people adapt to future climate risks.

Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation may include woodland expansion and peatland restoration as a priority. The connectivity of biodiversity rich areas may be enhanced through nature networks, including corridors and stepping stones to provide enhanced natural capital and improved ecosystem services.

Location

Central Scotland local authorities within a boundary identified by the Green Action Trust.

Need

This national development is needed to improve quality of place and create new opportunities for investment. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy which highlights the importance of accelerating urban greening in this most densely populated part of Scotland.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Central Scotland Green Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- Development to create and/or enhance multi-functional green infrastructure including for: emissions sequestration; adaptation to climate change; and biodiversity enhancement;
- Reuse of vacant and derelict land and buildings for greening and nature-based solutions;
- New and/or upgraded sustainable surface water management and drainage systems and the creation of blue space;
- Use of land for allotments or community food growing; and
- Routes for active travel and/or recreation.

Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

8. National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network

This national development facilitates the shift from vehicles to walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and is highly beneficial for health and wellbeing.

The upgrading and provision of additional active travel infrastructure will be fundamental to the development of a sustainable travel network providing access to settlements, key services and amenities, employment and multi-modal hubs. Infrastructure investment should be prioritised for locations where it will achieve our National Transport Strategy 2 priorities and outcomes, to reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver a wellbeing economy and to improve health and wellbeing. This will help to deliver great places to live and work, including through connecting neighbourhoods, villages and towns, active freeways and long distance routes.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

Reducing the need to travel unsustainably is the highest priority in the sustainable transport investment hierarchy. This national development will significantly support modal shift and deliver multiple outcomes including our commitment to a 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030, associated emissions reduction, health and air quality improvement. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by creating a more sustainable distribution of access across Scotland as a whole.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) New/and or upgraded routes suitable for a range of users for walking, cycling and wheeling that help create a national network that facilitates short and longer distance journeys and linkages to multi-modal hubs.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Just transition

9. Edinburgh Waterfront

This national development supports the regeneration of strategic sites along the Forth Waterfront in Edinburgh.

The waterfront is a strategic asset that contributes to the city's character and sense of place and includes significant opportunities for a wide range of future developments.

Development will include high quality mixed use proposals that optimise the use of the strategic asset for residential, community, commercial and industrial purposes, including support for off-shore energy relating to port uses. Further cruise activity should take into account the need to manage impacts on transport infrastructure.

This will help maintain and grow Edinburgh's position as a capital city and commercial centre with a high quality and accessible living environment. Development locations and design will need to address future resilience to the risks from climate change, impact on health inequalities, and the potential to incorporate green and blue infrastructure.

Location

Leith to Granton.

Need

Waterfronts in our largest urban areas are frequently under-utilised and contain significant areas of brownfield land as well as existing infrastructure assets. Their location may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and likely risks will require careful management. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy, which recognises the importance of our urban coastline in supporting our sense of place, economy and wellbeing.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Edinburgh Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- e) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes; and
- f) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, and marine sector services.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

10. Dundee Waterfront

This national development supports the redevelopment of the Dundee Waterfront Zones including: the Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Nature Park, and the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Continued delivery of the waterfront transformation is crucial to securing the role of the city as a location for investment in the net zero economy. Supporting population growth alongside economic opportunities, and skills and career development, is important in continuing to demonstrate the sustainability of urban living in Scotland and a just transition to the net zero economy.

Further projects associated with this include: the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc which will become an innovation hub for net zero emission mobility; the Eden Project; and an improvement of facilities at Dundee Port. This national development includes reusing land on and around the Dundee Waterfront to support the lifelong health and wellbeing of communities, deliver innovation and attract investment. As the development progresses it will be important to support sustainable and active transport options and to build in adaptation to future climate risks.

Location

Dundee Waterfront zones: Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Riverside Nature Park; Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Need

This national development supports the continued revitalisation of Dundee Waterfront, expanded to include Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc in support of the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy and its continued use for economic purposes. Waterfront locations may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and so development requires to be carefully designed to manage likely risks.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Dundee Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business, storage, distribution, research, educational, and/or tourism use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes;
- e) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, freight handling and marine sector services; and
- f) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

11. Stranraer Gateway

This national development supports the regeneration of Stranraer.

Stranraer is a gateway town. It is located close to Cairnryan, a key port connecting Scotland to Northern Ireland, Ireland and beyond to wider markets.

High quality place-based regeneration will help address socio-economic inequalities in Stranraer and to support the wider population of south west Scotland by acting as a hub and providing a platform for future investment. This will be supported by any strategic transport interventions including road and rail that emerge from the second Strategic Transport Projects Review which embeds the National Transport Strategy's sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.

Location

Stranraer and associated transport routes.

Need

Loch Ryan and Stranraer act as a gateway to Scotland. Reusing the assets in this location will support the wellbeing, economy and community in line with the regional growth deal. It will help to deliver our spatial strategy by driving forward regeneration of a key hub.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Stranraer Gateway' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Development contributing to Stranraer Waterfront regeneration;
- b) Marina expansion;
- c) Redevelopment of Stranraer harbour east pier;
- d) Sustainable, road, rail and freight infrastructure for access to Stranraer and/or Cairnryan;
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for the transportation and use of low carbon fuels; and
- f) Reuse of vacant and derelict buildings and brownfield land, including regeneration of Blackparks industrial estate.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

12. Digital Fibre Network

This national development supports the continued roll-out of world-class broadband across Scotland.

Our strategy requires enhanced digital connectivity to provide high speed broadband or equivalent mobile services, prioritising those areas with weaker networks as part of the Reaching 100% (R100) programme and Project Gigabit, including urban, island specific and rural enhancements. This is a significant utility including 4G and 5G mobile infrastructure facilitating home based working, renewable energy development, rural repopulation and access to services. The data transmission network can also support the availability and use of 'big data.' Digital capability is a feature of a number of City Region and Growth Deals.

Opportunities should be taken to deliver the infrastructure as part of other infrastructure upgrades or installation works such as energy transmission, transportation, and travel networks where appropriate.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This is a fundamentally important utility, required to support development, community wellbeing, equal access to goods and services, and emissions reduction from reduced demand for travel. This will help to deliver our spatial strategy by complementing a new emphasis of living locally, and by helping to sustain and grow rural and island communities.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Digital Fibre Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Installation of new and/or upgraded broadband cabling on land and sub-sea for fixed line and mobile networks; and
- b) Green data centres.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall negligible impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

13. Clyde Mission

This national development is a national, place-based Mission to make the Clyde an engine of economic success for Glasgow, the city region and Scotland.

The Clyde Mission is focused on the River Clyde and the riverside from South Lanarkshire in the east to Inverclyde and Argyll and Bute in the west and focusing on an area up to around 500 metres from the river edge. This footprint includes the parts of the Clyde Gateway, River Clyde Waterfront, North Clyde River Bank and River Clyde Corridor frameworks, and Glasgow Riverside Innovation District.

Across this area significant land assets are under-utilised, and longstanding inequality, in relation to poor environment and health outcomes require to be tackled as a national priority. An ambitious redevelopment programme is being taken forward under [Five Missions](#). It is a collective, cross-sector effort and partnership working will help bring forward assets and sites that are ready for redevelopment to sustain a range of uses. This will repurpose and reinvigorate brownfield and supporting local living as well as adapting the area to the impacts of climate change, where nature-based solutions would be particularly supported.

Location

The river and land immediately next to it (up to around 500 metres from the river) along its length.

Need

These classes of development revitalise a major waterfront asset which is currently under-utilised. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by attracting investment and reuse of brownfield land in west central Scotland where there is a particular need to improve quality of place, generate employment and support disadvantaged communities. It will also support adaptation to climate risks.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Clyde Mission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Mixed use, which may include residential, redevelopment of brownfield land;
- b) New, reused and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for residential, commercial, business and industrial uses on brownfield land;
- c) Upgrade of existing port and harbour assets for servicing marine functions including freight and cruise uses and associated landside commercial and/or industrial land for supporting services;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel and recreation routes and infrastructure; and
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for climate adaptation, including nature-based, green and blue solutions.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net negative impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

14. Aberdeen Harbour

This national development supports the continued relocation and repurposing of Aberdeen Harbour. The harbour is a strategically important asset supporting the economy of the north east of Scotland.

The south harbour can act as a cluster of port accessible offshore renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services. The facilities are also important for international connections.

At the south harbour the focus should be on regenerating existing industrial land and reorganising land use around the harbour in line with the spatial strategy of the LDP. By focusing future port activity here, parts of the existing harbour in the city centre will become available for mixed use development, opening up development land to help reinvigorate Aberdeen city centre.

This can help provide significant economic opportunities, in line with the objectives of the Aberdeen City Region Deal. Environmental benefits, for example to enhance access and improve the quality of green space and active travel options should be designed-in to help offset any potential impacts on the amenity of local communities with relevant projects addressing environmental sensitivities through careful planning, assessment and implementation.

The extent to which this should include additional business and industrial development outwith the existing north and south harbours is a matter to be determined in the relevant LDP, and is outwith the scope of this national development.

Location

Port of Aberdeen North and South Harbours.

This national development supports the optimisation of Aberdeen Harbour to support net zero and stimulate economic investment. It is also a significant opportunity to support better placemaking including city centre transformation, and regeneration of existing land by optimising the use of new and existing assets. This will

deliver our spatial strategy by helping the north east of Scotland to achieve a just transition from a high carbon economy whilst improving quality of place.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Aberdeen Harbour' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- Mixed use development reusing land at the existing (north) Aberdeen Harbour;
- Upgraded port facilities at Aberdeen Harbour and completion of South Harbour;
- New and/or upgraded green infrastructure;
- Buildings and facilities for commercial, manufacturing and industrial uses;
- Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- Transport infrastructure, including for sustainable and active travel, for the South Harbour as supported by the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

15. Industrial Green Transition Zones

To secure a just transition to a net zero economy, the decarbonisation of nationally important industrial sites in a way that ensures continued jobs, investment and prosperity for these areas and the communities that depend on them is essential. Industrial Green Transition Zones (IGTZ) will support the generation of significant economic opportunities while minimising carbon emissions. Technologies that will help Scotland transition to net zero will be supported at these locations, with a particular focus on low carbon and zero emissions technologies including renewables and the generation, storage and distribution of low carbon hydrogen.

The deployment of hydrogen and CCUS at these locations must demonstrate decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero. Hydrogen and CCUS are emerging industries, both government and industry in Scotland wish to accelerate and maximise the deployment of green hydrogen. For projects that utilise carbon capture and storage, we want to ensure the highest possible carbon capture rates in the deployment of these technologies. While there are examples internationally where CCUS projects have been associated with offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery, we understand there to be no plans for offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery as part of the Scottish Cluster. However, if any IGTZ is found to be incompatible with Scotland's transition to net zero, Scottish Government policy, along with designations of and classes of development, will change accordingly.

Industrial Green Transition Zones are:

- **The Scottish Cluster** encompasses a carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects network and is a key strategic vehicle for industrial decarbonisation, energy generation, and the transportation and storage of captured carbon. The designation relates to projects that form a Scottish Cluster in the first instance specifically Peterhead, St Fergus and Grangemouth. Further industrial transition sites are expected to emerge in the longer

term and benefit from the experience gained within the Scottish Cluster but do not form part of this national development. This national development will support the generation of significant economic opportunities for low carbon industry as well as minimising carbon emissions at scale, and will play a vital part in maintaining the security and operability of Scotland's electricity supply and network. The creation of hydrogen and deployment of negative emissions technologies, utilising CCUS, at commercial scale will establish the opportunities to decarbonise industry, transport and heat, as well as other sectors, and pave the way for the transportation and storage infrastructure to support the growing hydrogen economy in Scotland.

- **Grangemouth investment zone** currently hosts strategic and critical infrastructure, high value employment and manufacturing of materials that are currently vital for every-day life. This role will continue in the long-term but must seek to decarbonise given the significant contribution of the industrial activities to Scotland's emissions. It is a key location in the Scottish Cluster for carbon capture and storage, and hydrogen deployment. The Grangemouth Investment Zone will be a focus for transitioning the petro-chemicals industry and associated activities into a leading exemplar of industrial decarbonisation, significantly helped through the coordination activities of the Scottish Government's Grangemouth Future Industry Board. Decarbonisation could include opportunities for: renewable energy innovation; bioenergy; hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage; and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines.

Location

St Fergus, Peterhead, and Grangemouth.

Need

This national development is required to meet our targets for emissions reduction. It also supports a just transition by creating new jobs in emerging technologies and significant economic opportunities for lower carbon industry. It will help to decarbonise other sectors, sites and regions, paving the way for increasing demand

to be complemented by the production of further hydrogen in the future. This will also help to deliver our spatial strategy by supporting investment in the North East and the Central Belt where there has been a relatively high level of output from fossil fuel industries.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Industrial Green Transition Zones' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development.

- a) Carbon capture with high capture rates and negative emission technologies, transportation and storage of captured carbon forming part of or helping to create an expandable national network;
- b) Pipeline for transportation and storage of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- c) Onshore infrastructure including compression equipment, supporting pipeline transportation and shipping transportation of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- d) Offshore storage of captured carbon;
- e) New and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for the utilisation of captured carbon;
- f) Infrastructure for the production of hydrogen on shore or off shore where co-located with off shore wind farms within 0-12 nautical miles;
- g) Infrastructure for the storage of hydrogen on shore or off shore, including on or near-shore geological storage;
- h) Port facilities for the transport and handling of hydrogen and carbon dioxide;
- i) The application of carbon capture and storage technology to existing or replacement thermal power generation capacity;
- j) Production, storage and transportation with appropriate emissions abatement of: bioenergy; hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- k) New and/or upgraded buildings for industrial, manufacturing, business, and educational or research uses related to the industrial transition;
- l) Town centre regeneration at Grangemouth;
- m) Grangemouth flood protection scheme;
- n) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- o) New and/or upgraded utilities and/or local energy network; and
- p) New and/or upgraded facilities at the port for inter-modal freight handling at Grangemouth.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive effect on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rural revitalisation
- ✔ Just transition

16. Hunterston Strategic Asset

This national development supports the repurposing of Hunterston port as well as the adjacent former nuclear power station sites and marketable business land of the Hunterston Estate. Hunterston has long been recognised as a strategic location for the port and energy sectors given its deepwater access and existing infrastructure. Hunterston is a key site, anchoring other opportunities around the Firth of Clyde.

The location and infrastructure offers potential for electricity generation from renewables, and a variety of commercial uses including port, research and development, aquaculture, the circular economy, and environmental and economic opportunities around nuclear decommissioning expertise.

New development will need to optimise the capacity of the transport network, include active travel links and be compatible with a location adjacent to sites with nuclear power uses. Designated biodiversity sites will require protection and enhancement where possible, and sustainable flood risk management solutions will be required for the area. Aligned with the Ayrshire Growth Deal, jointly funded by the Scottish and UK Governments, investment in this location will support a wellbeing economy by opening up opportunities for employment and training for local people. A community wealth building approach has been embedded within the Deal and Regional Economic Strategy within Ayrshire, and would be expected to form a part of future development proposals to ensure the economic benefits are retained locally as far as possible, strengthening local supply chains and supporting businesses and communities across Ayrshire.

Location

Hunterston Port, nuclear power station sites and marketable employment land at Hunterston Estate.

Need

These classes of development support the redevelopment and reuse of existing strategic assets and land contributing to a net zero economy. It also supports delivery of our spatial strategy by stimulating investment in the west of Scotland, potentially contributing to the wider aim of tackling inequalities.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Hunterston Strategic Asset' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) Infrastructure to support a multi-modal deep water harbour;
- b) Land and buildings for bulk handling, storage, processing and distribution;
- c) Facilities for marine energy generation technology fabrication and decommissioning;
- d) Facilities for marine energy servicing;
- e) Land and buildings for industrial, commercial, research and development, and training uses;
- f) Infrastructure for the capture, transportation and long-term storage of greenhouse gas emissions, where transportation may be by pipe or vehicular means;
- g) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- h) Infrastructure for the generation and storage of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts; and
- i) Electricity transmission infrastructure of 132kv or more.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rural revitalisation
- ✔ Just transition

17. Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment

This national development supports the redevelopment of Chapelcross, a former nuclear power station site of significant scale regionally and nationally, and our strategy supports the reuse of the site to help deliver on net zero and provide opportunities for communities in the South of Scotland.

Final uses for the site remain to be agreed, but the site has locational advantage to act as an energy hub with opportunities including: business development with a particular focus on energy and energy supply chain; energy generation from solar; electricity storage; generation of heat; production and storage of low carbon and renewable hydrogen. This could link to ambitions for low carbon heat and vehicle fuel at Stranraer.

The proposal aims to create new job opportunities, including high value employment. A community wealth building approach will ensure that benefits are retained locally as far as possible, and this in turn will help to sustain and grow the local population. We also support opportunities to reduce the fuel costs for local communities to tackle fuel poverty. Sustainable access to the site for workers and commercial vehicles will be required.

Location

Site of the former Chapelcross power station.

Need

This national development supports the reuse of a significant area of brownfield land in a rural area with economically fragile communities. It will also support the just transition to net zero.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and office related development occurring on the Chapelcross development site;
- b) Generation of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- d) Active and sustainable travel connection to the site.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

18. High Speed Rail

This national development supports the implementation of increased infrastructure to improve rail capacity and connectivity on the main cross-border routes, the east and west coast mainlines.

Rail connectivity that can effectively compete with air and road based transport between the major towns and cities in Scotland, England and onward to Europe is an essential part of reducing transport emissions, making best use of the rail network and providing greater connectivity opportunities. There can be significant emissions savings of approximately 75% to be made when freight is transported by rail instead of road.

Enhancement would be in addition to and in conjunction with High Speed 2 (HS2) and other enhancements identified by the UK Government.

Scottish Ministers have an agreement with the UK Government to develop infrastructure enhancements 'North of HS2' and Scottish Ministers continue to press the UK Government on the imperative that all nations and regions of Britain benefit from the prosperity that HS2 will deliver both in its construction and its implementation. The Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 is appraising through recommendation 45 and will provide the strategic case for investment in the rail network in Scotland, over and above the commitments within HS2.

Location

Central and southern Scotland to the border with England.

Need

This national development aims to ensure a low emissions air-competitive journey time to cities in the UK as well as connectivity with European cities and benefits to freight. This will support Scotland's ability to attract and compete for investment.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'High Speed Rail' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded railway track and electrification solution (overhead cabling and pylons or on track);
- b) New and/or upgraded multi-modal railway stations to service high-speed lines; and
- c) Depot facilities for high speed trains and/or related to the construction and onward maintenance of the UK high-speed rail infrastructure.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

Annex C – Spatial Planning Priorities

This information is intended to guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies and LDPs to help deliver Scotland's national spatial strategy.

North and West Coast and Islands

This area broadly comprises the island communities of Shetland, Orkney, the Outer Hebrides, and parts of Highland and Argyll and Bute, and the north and west coastline of the Scottish mainland.

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans should maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

This area's natural and cultural assets will require careful planning and management so that their special qualities can continue to form a strong foundation for future development and investment. There are opportunities for local projects across this area to come together and create an enhanced nature network which benefits quality of life and contributes to biodiversity recovery and restoration as well as carbon sequestration.

Resilience and a growing green economy will depend on delivery of improved grid connections, including high voltage grid cables connecting the three island groups to the mainland. This will be complemented by the innovation in low and zero carbon fuels and the roll out of locally distributed energy systems to reduce emissions from buildings, address significant fuel poverty and secure longer term resilience.

Significant peatland restoration and woodland creation and restoration, along with blue carbon opportunities will secure wider biodiversity benefits and be a focus for investment to

offset carbon and secure existing natural carbon stores. The Lewis Peatlands and the Flow Country are internationally recognised as accounting for a significant proportion of the world's blanket bog habitat, and there are opportunities to protect and expand Scotland's temperate rainforest, including some of the best remaining rainforest sites in Europe. Access to the outdoors, as well as active travel, can benefit from continued investment in long distance walking and cycling routes with a range of projects emerging at a regional scale.

Communities in this area will need resilient transport connectivity to maintain accessibility and lifeline links, and further innovation will be required to help modernise connections and decarbonise transport systems. A net zero islands air network and decarbonisation of ferry services will help to secure the viability and service stability of island and remote coastal communities. Communities are keen to explore long-term ambitions for fixed links for example across the Sound of Harris and Sound of Barra, and potentially to connect the Outer Hebrides to mainland Scotland. An Islands Connectivity Plan will consider the role of ferries, fixed links and low carbon aviation in securing lifeline links and marine access for both leisure and freight. In addition to the investment potential of the area's ports and harbours, the strategic location of the Northern Isles as a hub for future shipping using long distance trade routes has significant potential for investment and growth over the longer term. There is also potential to consider decarbonisation of fishing fleets and the aquaculture industry in the future.

Electric vehicle ownership is already high in some parts of the area and continued expansion of charging networks will support further decarbonisation. Key routes and hubs are emerging – examples include the aspiration for an electric spinal route that extends across the Outer Hebrides. This should be viewed as one part of a wider system response to net zero that also strengthens active travel across the area.

Improved digital connectivity is a priority to sustain current businesses and create ‘smart’ communities. We are committed to investment in ultrafast broadband to ensure every property is connected and to improve mobile coverage. This will unlock opportunities for rural businesses and remote working, and make future community growth more feasible. Full benefits will be realised by actively tackling the digital divide by building skills, literacy and learning and addressing the financial barriers to internet access. Key projects include the Outer Hebrides Giga Fibre Network and the North Isles Fibre Project.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.

Future-proofing local liveability will benefit people as well as the planet. Island and coastal communities can apply the concept of local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, in a flexible way and find local solutions to low carbon living, for example by identifying service hubs in key locations with good public transport links. The aim is to build long-term resilience and self-reliance by minimising the need to travel whilst sustaining dispersed communities and rural patterns of development. Communities in this area will continue to rely to an extent on the private car, and low carbon solutions to the provision of services will need to be practical and affordable. Innovation including electric vehicle charging and digital connectivity will play an important role.

Increased coastal flooding and erosion arising from future climate change will need to be considered along with impacts on associated infrastructure such as bridges and transport networks. The majority of island populations live in coastal locations and there is a need for a pro-active and innovative approach that works with local communities to address this issue.

Regionally and locally driven plans and strategies will identify areas for future development that reflect these principles – for example planned population growth on the Western Seaboard of Argyll and in a growth corridor from Tobermory to Oban and on to Dalmally. Community hubs, where people can easily access a variety of services, will need to evolve and grow to support communities and sustain a range of functions. Ports and harbours can be a focal point for electric vehicle charging as well as employment. Sustainable and fair access to affordable healthier food will support future resilience and broader objectives including reduced child poverty and improved health outcomes. Innovative and equitable service provision, including digital solutions, will be needed to support dispersed communities in a low carbon way.

Communities will need greater choice and more flexible and affordable homes to support varying needs. This can be achieved to an extent by refurbishing the existing building stock to reduce the release of embedded carbon, as well as by delivering more affordable, energy efficient homes. The additional costs of island homebuilding and development generally, as well as in delivering net zero, is a challenge that needs to be factored into a planned approach.

There is a clear need for affordable housing provision across the region to improve choice and access to homes, to support local economies, and in some areas to help offset the impact of second home ownership and short term lets on the market. Local solutions may include key worker housing, temporary homes for workers in remote areas, and self-provided homes including self-build and custom-build. Continued innovation of holistic place-based solutions, such as the Rural and Islands Housing Fund, will be required to create homes that meet diverse community needs, including homes for an ageing population and to help young people to stay in or return to their communities. Greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places could support this, as well as helping more people access land and crofts and the reuse of abandoned sites where appropriate.

To reverse past depopulation and support existing settlements, planning can help to sustain communities in more peripheral and fragile areas in a way that is compatible with our low carbon agenda and resilient to climate change impacts. Further action should be taken where appropriate to encourage economically active people to previously inhabited areas. This will also need to reflect climate commitments and wider aspirations to create sustainable places that incorporate principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and active travel networks. Coasts will continue to evolve, and development will be needed to sustain and grow communities in a sustainable way. Collaboration and strong alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, at all levels, will also be needed.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and the opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

This area has significant opportunities for investment that capitalise on its natural assets and further strengthen the synergies between people, land and sea. This will require strong collaboration and alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, especially as further development of related blue economy activities in the terrestrial environment may increase competition for marine space and resources offshore. To significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, more onshore and offshore renewable energy generation will be needed, bringing unprecedented opportunities to strengthen local economies, build community wealth and secure long-term sustainability. The island authorities have set targets for creating green jobs and for rolling out clean and efficient energy systems to build local resilience. We expect to see continued innovation to unlock the infrastructure and business opportunities arising from a blue and green prosperity agenda.

As a result of its natural advantages, the area is growing its research excellence, and driving low-carbon is a core theme of the Islands Growth Deal. This will support the emergence of the planned joint Islands Centre for Net Zero, alongside island-specific initiatives. Orkney has been home to the European Marine Energy Centre since 2003 and the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus (ORIC) in Stromness provides a focus for Orkney's renewable and low carbon industries and research facilities. There are plans to grow the role of Orkney's ports and harbours to support net zero. The Outer Hebrides Energy Hub plans to establish the initial infrastructure necessary to support the production of low carbon hydrogen from renewable energy and conduct a 'large village' trial for Stornoway, and there may also be co-benefits to be gained for aquaculture in the area. Shetland aims to grow its net zero contribution including through a planned ultra-deep water port development, which would support servicing the energy sector, oil and gas decommissioning and large-scale offshore renewables. In addition, Oban is developing as a university town, and the European Marine Science Park is a key opportunity to build the local economy and provide education locally.

Sea ports are a focus for investment in the blue economy and further diversification of activities could generate additional employment across the area. Potential for business development ranges from long distance freight to supporting the cruise and marine leisure sectors and decommissioning opportunities. There may also be opportunity for ports in the islands to establish themselves as near-Arctic marine transport and logistics hubs, including for transshipment operations.

There is an aspiration for the servicing of ultra large container ships with associated facilities within Scapa Flow. The potential for such development to adversely affect European site(s) has been identified through the HRA of NPF4. Therefore, this would need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on

the integrity of European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests can be met.

New infrastructure and repurposing of land will help to shift industrial activity towards supporting the offshore renewables sector. Key strategic sites for industrial investment and associated port infrastructure and facilities include plans for: Dales Voe and Scapa Flow as part of the Islands Growth Deal; Cullivoe; Arnish in Stornoway; Wick; Scrabster; Gills Bay; Kishorn; Oban; Port Askaig; and Hatston, Kirkwall. Other key nodes on the ferries network, including Ullapool, Uig and Mallaig, will continue to act as important hubs to support communities, investors and visitors.

Proposed space ports, which make use of the area's relatively remote location and free airspace, could support our national ambitions to grow this sector. This includes plans for an Outer Hebrides Spaceport 1 in Scolpaig, North Uist and an emphasis on space research and skills development in Shetland as part of the Islands Growth Deal, a space port at Machrihanish and ancillary buildings at Benbecula. Planning permission has been granted for a space port at Melness in Sutherland, making use of its location away from populated areas to provide a vertical launch facility that could link with wider opportunities for manufacturing, research and development across Scotland.

Food and drink is a key sector, with aquaculture, distilleries, commercial fishing, and seaweed farming providing a crucial and growing source of employment for many local communities. This sector is of national significance, with whisky generating an estimated £5 billion to the UK economy and salmon accounting for more than 40% of total food exports. By improving the resilience of existing infrastructure we will ensure continued access to international markets. There are significant opportunities to build on experience and expertise through associated research and development. A development hub at Machrihanish to support aquaculture research in association with Stirling University could open up wider opportunities to expand

onshore aquaculture at sites across Scotland. Within Orkney, farming is still the main industry providing products for local consumption and for Scotland's food and drink sector.

Targeted investment in tourism infrastructure will ensure the coast and islands can capitalise on their rich natural assets, heritage and culture to support better quality and more stable jobs in the sector whilst providing a positive experience for visitors and residents. This sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and a short term focus on recovery can be underpinned by efforts to secure longer term sustainability. Planning can help to ensure that the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund is targeted to places where the pressure is most significant. Priorities include visitor management of the area's World Heritage Sites. Through the Islands Growth Deal, plans are in place for the Orkney World Heritage Site Gateway that will manage and disperse visitors to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the Outer Hebrides Destination Development Project will support the strategic development of tourism infrastructure, bringing together key assets including St Kilda World Heritage Site, the Iolaire Centre, the Hebridean Way, Food and Drinks trail and the Callanish standing stones. Other ongoing projects, including long distance routes such as the Kintyre Way and the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and Crinan Canal can help to expand a high quality offer of exceptional marine tourism across the area as a whole.

Regionally and locally there is a need for smaller scale investment across the area to put in place low maintenance, carefully designed facilities which better support and manage the impact of informal tourism including camping, campervans and day trips. This should reflect the scale and nature of operators including community trusts, which can have broad impact and influence. Efforts to provide access to education and build skills locally will also support this, with key projects including plans for the redevelopment of the Shetland Campus. Additionally, the lessons we have learned from the pandemic about remote working could also help to grow communities by extending the range of high quality jobs available locally.

North

This area broadly includes parts of Highland with parts of Argyll and Bute, Moray, Cairngorms National Park, as well as the north of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Stirling and Perth and Kinross, with links west and north to coastal and island communities.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

The area's natural capital will play a vital role in locking in carbon and building our resilience by providing valuable ecosystem services. This includes sustainable flood risk management, biodiversity, access and education.

Land and sea assets will play an internationally significant role in renewable energy generation and carbon sequestration. The area can act as a strategic carbon and ecological 'mitigation bank' that can make a major contribution to our national climate change commitments. A programme of investment in forestry, woodland creation, native woodlands and peatland restoration will play a key role in reducing our national emissions, providing investment opportunities, supporting ecosystems and biodiversity and benefiting current and future generations. There are also opportunities to explore the decarbonisation of the forestry sector, processing and the transport of timber, and to build community wealth through new businesses, such as a nationally important tree nursery in Moray.

Wider but closely related priorities include continuing conservation at a landscape-scale, to develop resilient nature networks, deer and moorland management, visitor management and recreation, rural housing, community empowerment and economic development. This will provide good quality local employment,

strengthen and diversify local economies and help to secure a sustainable future for local people. The area's rivers are also strategic assets that will continue to benefit from aligned land use, climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement.

The Cairngorms National Park is bringing together conservation, the visitor experience and rural development to provide benefits that extend well beyond the park boundary. Landscape-scale solutions to build resilience to climate change, to manage sustainable tourism and outdoor access, and a commitment to reversing biodiversity decline and increasing woodland expansion and peatland restoration, are all key priorities. Demand for development, including in pressured areas, will require a planned response to minimise the impact of second homes on local communities and ensure new homes are affordable and meet local needs.

This area also makes an important contribution to our climate change targets by supporting renewable energy generation. Repowering and extending existing wind farms will optimise their productivity and capitalise on the area's significant natural energy resources, and there is potential to increase offshore wind energy capacity. A carefully planned approach can reduce environmental and other impacts and retain more benefits locally. Community ownership of renewable energy projects at all scales could play a key role in improving resilience, empowering local people to take control of their own assets and helping tackle fuel poverty. **Pumped hydro storage** at Cruachan and other sites such as Coire Glas can support the energy network, as well as providing tourism and recreation opportunities, and we expect to see a growth in solar power. As technologies continue to develop, storage and other forms of generation will grow. The electricity distribution and transmission network will require upgrading to support the large increase in onshore and offshore electricity generation required to achieve net zero, as well as to meet new demand from heat and transport. There will also be a need for more community-scale energy generation to serve the needs of local communities directly and build resilience.

The transport system as a whole will need to be planned to support a shift to more sustainable transport whilst maintaining access to markets and facilities. In line with the transport sustainable investment hierarchy, development should first be focused in locations which make the best use of existing infrastructure and services before building new infrastructure or providing new services.

Improvements to the Highland Main Line through electrification and delivery of new stations including at Inverness Airport, will help to create a sustainable commuter network for Inverness and open up more rural areas to lower carbon development. Our rolling programme of efficient electrification is also a key enabler for growth in rail freight, creating improved connectivity and providing additional capacity with faster journey times, better use of track capacity and lower unit costs. A continued modal shift to rail for both passengers and freight will bring significant environmental benefits over time.

Roads will continue to be arteries upon which local communities and businesses depend. There will be a need to adapt key routes due to the impacts of climate change alongside creating a strong network of charging points, including improvements to the A96 to improve safety and to the A9 to maintain a resilient road link from Thurso and Inverness to the central belt. Remote and rural areas including islands are dependent on reliable accessibility by road including connecting to ferries and ports, facilitating reliable public transport by road, access to essential services and transporting of goods. There is an urgent need for improvements to the A83 to ensure the resilience of the economy and communities of wider Argyll, as well as resilience challenges for other key routes such as the A82.

Continued investment in the national long distance walking and cycling network provides an opportunity to assist in decarbonising tourism and recreation across the area, whilst also providing, and acting as a spine for, sustainable active travel connections for everyday travel in the vicinity of towns and villages.

Inverness and Oban airports are hubs for air connections to dispersed communities and Wick John O'Groats Airport and Broadford Airstrip on Skye are key connections. Oban Airport is also an opportunity for investment in compliance operations and future drone technology. The Highlands and Islands are aiming to become the world's first net zero aviation region by 2040 by pioneering new approaches including electric aircraft. Investment in technology and facilities will be required to achieve this. The proposed Moray Aerospace Advanced Technology and Innovation Campus (MAATIC) at Lossiemouth intends to create a skilled workforce for the Moray region through focusing on aviation sector and supply chain.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.

We will do all we can to help reverse depopulation across rural Scotland. Here, as with other more rural areas of Scotland, 20 minute neighbourhoods can be tailored to work with both larger towns and more dispersed settlement patterns.

Inverness plays a vital role as a regional centre for services, health, justice, employment, education, sport, culture and tourism and has seen significant expansion in recent years. Key sites for its growth are located primarily to the east along the Moray coast. A sustainable and adaptive growth strategy will continue to be supported by planned investment in education and health and social care services, as well as employment uses. The new railway station serving Inverness Airport will help to connect local communities with growing employment opportunities in the wider area. Inverness Castle, as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, will be redeveloped and opened up to the public, attracting national and international tourists and encouraging visits to the wider Highlands and Islands.

Fort William, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey and Aviemore are key settlements, and the area has strong relationships with adjacent, more coastal settlements such as Mallaig, Oban, Wick and Thurso. Moray also has a strong network of towns including Forres, Elgin and Nairn. In more remote communities there is a need to reverse population decline. A place-based approach (as demonstrated by Fort William 2040), including work to improve town centres and reuse redundant buildings, will support recovery in a way which responds to the strong character and identity of each of the area's towns and villages. Such an approach is evident in Growth Deal projects such as Moray's Cultural Quarter proposal.

A positive approach to rural development could support the development of a network of hubs, and future service provision will require imaginative solutions so that places can be resilient and self-supporting. Investment in strategic health, justice and education facilities is already planned. In the longer term, digital solutions, including mobile and remote health services and virtual education, as well as continued investment in improved connectivity, will play an increasingly important role.

As with other parts of Scotland, more homes will be needed to retain people and attract new residents of all ages. Many communities have taken ownership of their land and this could form the foundations for future development by unlocking further development sites. Refurbishment of existing rural buildings and halting the loss of crofts could help to sustain the area, and new homes should align with infrastructure and service provision. They should also be located and designed to minimise emissions and to complement the distinctive character of existing settlements and wider landscapes. As climate change continues to have an impact, water supplies and drainage will need to be secured and maintained. Flood risk management and changing ecosystems will need to be factored into future plans to ensure nature-based adaptation solutions complement local living. Addressing fuel poverty will require

greater energy efficiency and affordable, low carbon, distributed heat and electricity networks, with a model for increased local generation, having potential to bring benefits. Maintaining connectivity will be essential, particularly through public transport that includes rail access and other active travel networks.

We will continue to support further investment in digital connectivity but will need to go further to adapt to climate change and make use of emerging technologies. Priorities include satellite and mobile solutions to address 'not spots', and to support local living by reducing the need to travel unsustainably. To complement existing physical connections, smart solutions, local hubs, demand responsive transport, and active travel networks will help people to access services and employment and make low carbon local living a more viable option.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development by making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

Natural assets and environmental quality underpin the area's main economic sectors and must therefore be protected, restored and used sustainably. Planning will help to attract investment, grow and diversify businesses and enable local entrepreneurship, micro enterprises, self-employment and social enterprises to flourish. Remote working can be capitalised on to build economically active local communities. This will require the continued roll out of high quality digital infrastructure and maintenance and decarbonisation of transport routes to wider markets. Food miles can be reduced over time with the help of local community-led food growing networks, by supporting locally driven public procurement and, from a land use perspective, protecting higher quality agricultural land.

Ideas are emerging for the area to secure a low carbon future for tourism. Assets such as the North Coast 500 and, more recently, the Kintyre 66 in the adjacent coastal area, as well as the area's high quality environment and associated food and drink products, attract visitors. However, they also require investment in improvements to infrastructure to support local communities and visitors. This will maintain the quality of the experience and the environment, facilitate lower carbon transport, promote 'leave no footprint' and encourage longer stays. This could involve extending the availability of transport services. There are also many regionally significant opportunities to create jobs by growing support services for outdoor activities such as mountain biking, climbing, walking and angling and in support of the country's winter sport and recreation sector that is primarily focussed in this area.

Investment in research and development, business opportunities and local centres of expertise will help to retain benefits locally and broaden the range of skilled jobs. There will also be opportunities to build on and repurpose existing assets to create greener jobs, such as the former nuclear installation at Dounreay and development at Fort William associated with the Lochaber Smelter.

The area's coastline contributes to the beauty and experience of the area and is also a hub for economic activity including fishing, the cruise and marine leisure sectors, and the offshore renewable energy sector. Key ports include the Cromarty Firth (including Port of Cromarty, Nigg and Highland Deephaven), Corpach, Ardersier, Gills Bay, Inverness, Kishorn and Buckie. Through Opportunity Cromarty Firth and other projects, new facilities and infrastructure will help ports to adapt, unlocking their potential to support the transition from fossil fuels through oil and gas decommissioning, renewable energy (including the significant opportunities for marine energy arising from Scotwind) and low carbon hydrogen production and storage, and the expansion of supply chain and services. This will in turn benefit communities by providing employment and income for local businesses.

North East

This area focuses on Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with cross-boundary links to Moray, and south towards Angus and the Tay estuary.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero, whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.

Action is required to tackle industrial emissions and transition towards a greener future that benefits existing communities and attracts further investment.

Greener energy choices, including hydrogen and on and offshore renewables, have a natural home here and will be at the heart of the area's future wellbeing economy. Investment opportunities focus on the green and blue economy and energy innovation. Significant infrastructure will be required to deliver a hydrogen network for Scotland, including repurposing of existing facilities and the creation of new capacity. £62 million in the Energy Transition Fund is supporting four projects to protect existing jobs and create new jobs in the North East, and across Scotland, by opening up opportunities through energy transition and harnessing private sector funding. This funding aligns with the Aberdeen City Region Deal and continuing support for retraining and skills development. Ports and harbours throughout the area are key assets in the blue economy. As offshore renewables are an important part of Scotland's energy transition, there will be a need to align terrestrial and marine development so as to maximise the potential of this sector.

The area's growth strategy includes a commitment to building with nature by creating multi-functional blue and green networks and improving green spaces in and around settlements, connecting with the national long distance cycling and walking network

and facilitating active travel. Community-led climate action will help to provide locally-driven solutions. A new water supply and waste-water systems will play an important role in building long-term resilience.

Aberdeen is a key transport hub providing vital connections internationally, as well as lifeline services to Orkney and Shetland. Congestion will be reduced as a result of the construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and the A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement project. In the city, work is ongoing to lock in the benefits and prioritise sustainable transport, including Aberdeen Rapid Transit. More widely the Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Improvements will bring benefits to both passengers and freight.

The area can lead the way in promoting low emissions vehicles, active travel and public transport connectivity as part of its contribution to net zero. Links south to the Central Belt and west towards Inverness remain vital. Work is progressing on the £200m investment being made to improve journey times and capacity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt for passengers and freight. Continuing improvements to digital connectivity and active travel will reduce the need to travel by unsustainable modes and facilitate further remote, home or hub based working.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should focus on continued regeneration and encourage more 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.

A new focus on local living could help to address the high levels of car ownership and respond to the area's dispersed settlement pattern. Growth corridors extending from Aberdeen to Peterhead, Huntly and Laurencekirk will be a focus for future development, and strategic sites include new communities at Chapelton, Grandhome and Countesswells. There is significant potential to promote more compact growth by making better use of brownfield sites and increasing density.

There will be benefits for people of all ages arising from an increase in local living and a shift towards 20 minute neighbourhoods and the creation of connected, walkable, liveable and thriving places, in both urban and rural contexts. The aim is to encourage sustainable travel options, provide communities with local access to the wider range of facilities, services and amenities to support healthier and flourishing communities. In rural places, social and community infrastructure can be designed with different settlements working in clusters as a 'network of places', providing services and amenities that best meet the needs of local rural communities.

The area's towns contribute to its sense of place and further town centre regeneration will help communities to adapt to current challenges and future change. Service provision also needs to reflect the area's character. Several new or extended primary and secondary schools and community facilities are planned and the area will support wider rural communities by hosting a new centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care. Access to good quality open space and opportunities for local food growing, including allotments and community orchards, can benefit health and wellbeing and tackle inequalities as an integral part of placemaking.

The area benefits from a productive coastline that will be a focus for future economic activity and investment associated with offshore renewable energy and the blue economy. The coast is home to communities who will benefit from continued regeneration and a move towards 20 minute neighbourhoods that reduces the need to travel. Key regional priorities include the regeneration of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Future coastal vulnerability to erosion, sea level rise and flood risk will need to be factored into development strategies. The fishing industry will continue to contribute to the area's strong sense of place and shared heritage, communities and economy, with some ports and harbours also having opportunities in the cruise and marine leisure sectors.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support continued economic diversification and innovation.

The relocation of some activity at [Aberdeen Harbour](#) to the south harbour has been an important element in planning for the future. Further investment will help to realise its full potential as a low carbon hub and gateway, and there may be opportunities for development at the South Harbour to support the carbon capture and storage and hydrogen innovation work at St Fergus and Peterhead in Northern Aberdeenshire. This is also a significant opportunity to improve urban liveability by unlocking waterfront sites for mixed use development close to the city centre. Local people will need to be involved in deciding how potentially significant industrial and business activity can be accommodated, alongside regenerating a vibrant, redesigned city centre in the coming years.

It is essential that environmental impacts arising from relocation of the harbour and any onward reorganisation of the land uses around it are carefully managed in a way that recognises the location's natural assets and sensitivities. We expect the LDPs and consenting processes to be informed by the required impact assessments, to play a crucial role in guiding future development and addressing environmental sensitivities.

Central

This area broadly covers central Scotland from the Glasgow city region and the Ayrshires in the west to Edinburgh city region in the east, including the Tay cities, the Forth Valley and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.

Blue and green infrastructure

The greening of the built environment, including former industrial areas, is a long held ambition that we now need to expedite to significantly reduce emissions, adapt to the future impacts of climate change and tackle biodiversity loss. Investment in green infrastructure will support urban sustainability, help to restore biodiversity, contribute to our overall targets for reducing emissions and improve health and wellbeing.

There is much that we have already learned from past work, for example initiatives to naturalise former mining features, reclaiming canals as a cultural heritage and natural asset, and extensive woodland creation. Wider woodland expansion across more urban areas could make a significant contribution to improving air quality and quality of life by reducing pollution, managing water and cooling urban environments. Blue and green networks can help to deliver compact and liveable cities.

Many initiatives will come together to achieve urban greening:

- The [Central Scotland Green Network](#) will continue to bring together environmental enhancement projects. Initiatives such as the John Muir Pollinator Way demonstrate how nature networks can help restore and better connect biodiversity and enhance green infrastructure at a landscape scale.

- The Glasgow City Region Green Network, a long-term transformational programme of environmental action, can achieve a step change in the quality and benefits of green places across west central Scotland and bring enhanced biodiversity closer to communities. As part of this, the Clyde Climate Forest is proposing natural solutions at scale across the Glasgow city region.
- The Inner Forth Futures Partnership is tackling the effects of climate change and providing recreation benefits through projects such as peatland restoration and woodland expansion, and supporting the creation of habitat networks.
- The River Leven Project in Fife is a holistic place-based approach to development. Blue and green infrastructure will support investment and provide environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for communities.
- The Tayside strategic green and active travel network also aims to create regionally significant assets that contribute to the quality of the area.
- Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership (PNCP) encompasses a long-term, nature-based vision for Perth and Kinross that aims to create a distinct connection between the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Parks.
- There is a particular opportunity to build on the successful regeneration of our canals to provide an invaluable strategic greenspace that connects communities across the area as a whole, contributes to its strong post-industrial heritage and provides wider functions such as water management to support future resilience to climate change. The potential of a canal asset should be recognised as a shared priority.

There is a continuing need to invest in renewing and improving the capacity of flooding, water and drainage infrastructure to build the resilience of communities. A catchment-scale approach, using nature-based solutions, can also provide benefits for the health and quality of life of Scotland's urban communities, particularly where solutions seek to deliver multiple benefits, including biodiversity gain and active travel

routes. This approach can also be more cost-effective than hard engineering solutions and create lasting jobs. For example, the Glasgow city region recognises the challenges for future adaptation and is identifying sustainable solutions to sea level rise, urban overheating, and water management.

Engineered solutions to adapt our water and drainage infrastructure will be required in some circumstances, but should support more natural benefits as far as possible. There is scope to continue, and extend, the lessons from the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership to future proof infrastructure in support of the long-term growth and development of Edinburgh. The Lothian Drainage Partnership is taking this forward with projects emerging within Edinburgh and at the ClimatEvolution Zone in East Lothian.

At a local scale there is significant potential to expand raingardens and sustainable urban drainage systems to help manage surface water as part of blue and green infrastructure for our future cities and towns.

Whilst predominantly urban, this part of Scotland benefits from a rich and diverse rural area and there are many areas where town meets countryside. These green areas and natural spaces are key assets, sustaining communities that could become better places to live if we can achieve this in a way that is compatible with our wider aims for climate change, nature restoration and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The pandemic has demonstrated that many people are looking for more space at home and in their communities. It will be important to plan positively and imaginatively to make sustainable use of the countryside around our cities and towns.

These areas have important functions – productive agricultural land, providing vital ecosystem services and spaces for local food growing, outdoor access and recreation. They support carbon sequestration, including through peatland restoration, woodland creation and conserving natural habitats, and there is scope for innovation in key sectors including sustainable food production.

Planning has the potential to address the impact of climate change on communities whilst also generating renewable heat and facilitating urban cooling from our rivers. Mine water, solar and onshore support for offshore renewables, including development that makes use of existing infrastructure at strategic hubs, all provide opportunities for decarbonisation.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park has landscape-scale opportunities to restore and enhance nature and respond to climate change, including through woodland creation and peatland restoration, as well as natural flood risk management. The National Park will continue to support the quality of life and health of the urban population and its future priorities include new infrastructure provision to provide a quality visitor experience and support people to connect with nature, as well as a greener tourism sector supported by innovative low carbon transport solutions. Long distance active travel and rail routes have untapped potential to provide sustainable tourism solutions. The area's communities can adapt to support more localised living and working opportunities, with improved digital connectivity and affordable housing. More integrated planning and land management offers opportunities to support land use change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The approach also links with and relates to the action area to the north.

Urban accessibility

A focus on community wealth building, together with growing opportunities for longer term remote working, could address the high levels of transport movement by private car and challenges of congestion and air pollution across the area. Local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, will help to minimise future commuting and ensure jobs and income can be spread more evenly across the area. Accessibility and transport affordability can support more resilience which benefits communities who are less connected.

By putting in place [mass/rapid transit systems](#) for Edinburgh through plans to extend the tram network, and for Glasgow including the Clyde Metro and multi-modal connectivity, we have an

opportunity to substantially reduce levels of car-based commuting, congestion and emissions from transport at scale.

Connections to the rest of the UK will be strengthened in the longer term through [high speed rail](#) connectivity, with stations expected in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Decarbonisation of freight will require the construction of new hubs and associated facilities to support logistics. This will also support growing interest in express logistics from rail operators that would see passenger Electrical Multiple Units converted to carry small freight, targeting the UK parcel market. Ports on the Clyde, Forth and Tay coasts will also play a key role in this transition.

Digital connectivity will facilitate remote working, supporting the growth of towns and villages outwith the larger cities and potentially leading to a renaissance in more rural living. It will be crucial to address digital inequality, whether through cost, infrastructure or skills development, as virtual service provision continues to grow.

To deliver [liveable places](#), Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.

20 minute neighbourhoods

The diversity of this area, from metropolitan districts to rural and dispersed settlements, will require concerted effort to develop networks of places that meet the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and with fair access to a range of services that support sustainable living. Planning should focus on revitalising cities and towns at scale, supporting a finer grained approach to placemaking, and a more intricate mix of land uses and density. This should incorporate networks of natural spaces and blue and green infrastructure, to create health and wellbeing benefits, increase resilience to climate change and support the growth of green job opportunities.

The car-based design of some of our places, including many suburban areas and new towns, mean that a significant shift to a more people centred approach will be required. Planning can help retrofit facilities and services into areas where they are scarce, such as predominantly residential areas, to enable better integrated, mixed-use areas. City, town and neighbourhood centres can be at the heart of this if they are planned to strengthen self-sufficiency and bring services and jobs closer to homes. The recommendations of the recent town centre review can be delivered by supporting a wider range of uses and making the most of their assets.

Accessibility will be a key part of the transition and will involve investment in infrastructure and services in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies, to improve fair access and reduce carbon emissions. Active travel networks will need to expand to make walking, wheeling and cycling an attractive, convenient, safe, and sustainable choice for everyday travel. There are significant opportunities for investment in heat networks, energy storage and the circular economy to create more sustainable neighbourhoods.

Energy efficient, affordable homes

As well as building new homes to net zero standards, more will need to be done to meet the bigger challenge of upgrading the existing housing stock to reduce emissions and adapt to future climate impacts. Emissions from our homes need to be very substantially reduced – by 2030, they must fall by 68% from 2020 levels.

Improved energy efficiency will be needed, by providing zero emissions heating solutions and more sustainable water management practices for existing settlements and homes. Improving sustainable travel options and reliability will help to reduce transport based emissions associated with our homes.

There is a particular pressure for housing solutions, including provision of affordable homes that meet future needs, in the south east of Scotland. Edinburgh has committed to building affordable homes at scale, and will

need to work with the region to accommodate wider need and demand in a strategic way. Seven strategic sites, supported through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, could accommodate up to 45,000 homes and associated economic and employment benefits including: Blindwells, Calderwood, Dunfermline, Edinburgh Waterfront, Shawfair, Tweedbank and Winchburgh. The need for proposals to be supported by low carbon transport solutions, in line with the Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy investment hierarchies and infrastructure first approach, will be critical to their success. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal identifies infrastructure investment as part of this. These interventions and commitments, taken with the additional transport investment made through the Deal, will ensure the city region continues to grow and flourish. Regionally significant services, including healthcare and social care facilities and investment in the learning estate, is also planned to support future growth and sustain the wellbeing of existing, new and expanding communities.

Waterfront regeneration

The region's coasts and firths define the area's history and shape its sense of place. There is potential to unlock the strategic importance of coasts, estuary and river corridors for climate mitigation, resilience, and positive environmental change. Coastal change, driven by climate change, will need to be managed to build long-term resilience and future-proof our waterfronts, where this is feasible. Progress has been made to create long distance walking and cycling routes to open up access to waterfront spaces and reclaim them as a resource for people as well as industry. There will be a need to anticipate and mitigate risk from coastal erosion, flood risk and storm surges, with a focus on natural solutions which work with the unique biodiversity and landscape character of these important places.

These coasts are rich in cultural and natural heritage. Along the Inner Forth, various projects provide multiple benefits, including flood management, cultural landscape enhancement, habitat creation, access and

tourism. Edinburgh's waterfront regeneration is ongoing, with Granton benefiting from an ambitious masterplan, the tram extension to Leith progressing and potential development at Seafield helping to redefine the city's relationship with its coastline. This is reusing existing assets and helping Edinburgh to become a more liveable city. A masterplanned approach to regenerating the [Edinburgh Waterfront](#) can take into account opportunities for the Port of Leith to service the offshore energy sector. More broadly, port facilities should continue to be capable of servicing freight traffic within the Firth of Forth given the importance of east coast freight links.

The successful regeneration of [Dundee Waterfront](#) has demonstrated the potential to make sustainable use of our urban coasts, and ongoing proposals include the creation of a marina at Victoria Dock and further development of central waterfront sites. Dundee port has an aspiration to expand its operational area into the Firth of Tay. The HRA of NPF4 has identified that such development would have a high probability of resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of European site(s). This would therefore need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the HRA process to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests are met.

Reuse of brownfield land

A more liveable Central Belt means that we will need to do more to reuse empty buildings and brownfield land, including vacant and derelict land, particularly spaces which have not been used for decades and can be accessed by sustainable modes. This will reduce further urban sprawl and improve local environments. Around 40% of Scotland's vacant and derelict land is concentrated in the Glasgow city region and its reuse for a range of uses is a key priority. Edinburgh has committed to building a significant share of future housing development on brownfield sites and progress is being made in Dundee to repurpose disused sites, including the creation of a new innovation park on the former Michelin site.

A combination of incentives, investment and policy support for productively reusing brownfield land and buildings at risk will be required to steer development away from greenfield locations, whilst also acknowledging their biodiversity value and potential for urban greening. Public-sector led development can shape future markets and deliver development in places where change is needed the most and can deliver multiple benefits. Redevelopment should include, but not be limited to, housing development. By de-risking sites and taking an infrastructure first approach, this land can help to achieve a better distribution of new homes to meet our future needs. This will also reduce pressure in places where growth is no longer sustainable. Key projects include the Eden project on the sites of the former Dundee gasworks, and the redevelopment of Ravenscraig, a longstanding post-industrial site where new development, including improved transport connectivity, can bring new models of low carbon living at scale.

To deliver [productive places](#), Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

This area has a diverse business base and is a key engine of growth for Scotland as a whole. There are many clusters of sites and businesses which form the basis of regional propositions for investment. In line with our aspirations to build a wellbeing economy, opportunities for investment and development should be designed to maximise economic, social and environmental wellbeing, rather than focusing on growth alone. A planned approach can help to target future development in areas of significant economic disadvantage so that new and better jobs are more fairly distributed to help address national, regional and more localised inequality.

City and town centres

The pandemic has brought obvious challenges for our city centres, but has also unlocked opportunities to take forward new models of working that could better support wellbeing and improve our places in the longer term. The continued growth of remote and local working and the creation of hubs within groups of settlements could significantly reduce the need to travel, whilst also helping to grow local businesses and communities.

This raises significant questions for the future of city centres. Existing offices have the potential to be repurposed to achieve higher density mixed use neighbourhoods with a lower carbon footprint and require careful planning to ensure future communities are properly supported by appropriate services.

Glasgow city centre, an exceptional asset and a primary location and cultural destination, has been significantly impacted by unprecedented changes in working patterns, service provision and the retail sector. Whilst these changes may not be sustained in the long-term, now is the time to accelerate work to diversify the city centre and invest in maintaining and re-using existing buildings so that it can evolve to be a more carbon conscious place. Existing connections mean the centre could sustain many more homes to meet a commitment to doubling the city centre population, revitalising places and creating a 24 hour city that is safe and open to everyone. Significant investment in schools, community services and greenspace will be needed to achieve this and more creative use of the public realm and a low emission zone will help to make this a safer and healthier environment for people of all ages. Innovative solutions, such as retrofitting energy efficiency measures to social housing across the city, could be extended to help improve the built fabric of the city centre's commercial properties.

Edinburgh has similar challenges and opportunities for positive change. High interest in investment and associated demand for new homes means that planning will need to help deliver sustainable development that supports the quality of life of existing and future residents.

As a capital city with a World Heritage Site at its core, it will be crucial that future development takes into account the capacity of the city itself and its surrounding communities and makes the most of its exceptional heritage assets, places and cultural wealth. The City Centre Transformation Plan supports a move away from a car-based city centre to create a more liveable and attractive place to live, work and visit. The Forth Bridge is also an inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site, and our rich industrial and cultural heritage remains apparent across the area.

Dundee is well on the way towards reinventing itself through regeneration of the waterfront, unlocking strategic sites for new homes and new opportunities for innovation and economic development arising, such as the Michelin Scotland Innovation Park and at the port. Continued regeneration in this area, building on the city's rich culture, sense of place and appetite to innovate will also contribute to the overall aims for this part of Scotland. The V&A will continue to be a focal point for this, evolving to become a National Centre for Design within this UNESCO City of Design.

Town centres throughout this area will also play a critical role in driving a new economic future. The recent town centre review highlights opportunities to expand the range of services and facilities they offer, reuse redundant buildings and provide new homes for a wide range of people. This in turn will ensure their crucial role in defining our sense of place is protected and enhanced, future proofing a key asset for Scotland as a whole.

Strategic sites

Many business and investment sites are located along key transport corridors and new approaches may be required as investment transitions away from locations that can only be reached by car towards more accessible areas that are connected by low carbon and active travel options.

The [Clyde Mission](#) will stimulate investment in sites along the Clyde to build a wellbeing economy and achieve a step-change in the quality of the environment for communities. This

ambitious project will reuse extensive areas of vacant and derelict land in accessible locations and requires a sustainable approach to manage the future impact of climate change. Key sites extend from Greenock Ocean Terminal to Queens Quay, Tradeston, the Broomielaw and Glasgow City Centre, to Clyde Gateway – a longstanding regeneration project which has made exceptional progress in transforming communities and overcoming inequality. A national collaboration to support delivery of the project has significant potential to accelerate change, attract investment and achieve wider benefits for communities. The wider Clyde Coast, an iconic area rich in cultural heritage and natural assets, can be reimaged through collective efforts on regeneration in nearby coastal communities, such as Dunoon and Rothesay. The area's accessibility by train and water means that it is an ideal location for low carbon tourism and leisure.

Aligning with the Clyde Mission, the Ayrshire Councils are working together through their Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building programme to build economic resilience and address unemployment, poverty and inequality across their area, with town centres at the heart of communities. This includes proposals for advanced manufacturing and aerospace engineering which will make use of the existing infrastructure and investment opportunities available at Glasgow and Prestwick airports. Glasgow is already a centre of expertise for manufacturing satellites and will benefit from the associated development of a network of spaceports across the country, whilst supporting wider industry and employment. The Ardeer peninsula is also a significant site for redevelopment of the wider Ayrshire area. [Hunterston](#) is a strategic asset with deepwater access, where there are plans for new economic development and employment uses. Development of the site will need to take account of future vulnerability to climate change. A planned marine centre at Ardrossan will provide further opportunities.

The Edinburgh City Region supports investment in significant clusters including the Bioquarter, Mid Fife, Dunfermline, Guardbridge St. Andrews,

Galashiels, Cockenzie, Midlothian and the M8 corridor. A strategy for West Edinburgh is emerging which guides a wide range of uses to create a sustainable extension to the city, with added benefit from associated improvements to the quality of place of existing communities. Proposals focus on locating development on and around existing transport corridors and work is ongoing to improve accessibility including the Edinburgh tram extension. Further investment should take into account the impact of new development on potentially compounding existing capacity constraints and congestion, and prioritise sustainable choices.

As the highest single source of industrial emissions in Scotland, and a key part of our future resilience and manufacturing base, continued investment at Grangemouth, and the strategic sites it includes, will be required. Plans are emerging for innovative industry in the Falkirk/Grangemouth Investment Zone, building on the area's strengths in chemicals and making the most of strategic assets including the port and rail connection. There is great potential, not only to reduce emissions at the Grangemouth complex, but also to grow the cluster into a hub of low carbon manufacturing that can help unlock wider decarbonisation across the country, with its strategic location, infrastructure, assets and skills base. Opportunities include renewable energy innovation, bioenergy hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage, and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines. The skills, knowledge and experience that is currently situated there for the petro-chemicals sector is a prime resource for the transition to net zero. This can form a focal point in a wider masterplan for Forth Valley that brings together opportunities for energy with the circular economy to support wider investment in green economic opportunities.

Coastal sites formerly used for baseload power generation – specifically Longannet and Cockenzie – benefit from existing assets and infrastructure that can be repurposed to form the basis of new proposals. At Cockenzie, work is ongoing to develop an opportunity for a Climate Evolution Zone to generate employment and

provide essential infrastructure for net zero, linked with the potential to expand the new sustainable settlement at Blindwells, within the Greater Blindwells Development Area. There is scope to build on the strategic location and rail connectivity of Longannet to benefit local communities around this part of the Forth. There are further opportunities for a range of economic activities and investment in ports associated with a green economy at Montrose, Dundee, Rosyth, Burntisland, and Methil.

The Levenmouth rail link will reconnect Leven to the mainline rail network with new stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge by 2024 subject to consenting processes. This will enhance the communities it serves and contribute positively to the lives of people who live there by unlocking access to social, cultural, employment and educational opportunity.

The Tay Cities Region has a strong regional proposal for developing clusters of investment in research and innovation supporting a range of sectors in both urban and rural areas including life sciences, energy, digital, and food production. Perth is managing housing development in strategic development areas and transport infrastructure investment and the creation of a bus and rail interchange to support modal shift and establish a new gateway to the city. Work is underway to deliver local heat and energy networks, Perth West Regional Innovation Park and to make Perth the 'Biodiversity Capital of Scotland'. Angus Council is progressing its Mercury Programme to support clean growth, low carbon transport and housing and agri tech which will contribute to future food security and reduce emissions. Key sites include Montrose Port, and the Angus Rural Mobility Hub in Brechin.

Stirling is bringing forward new opportunities for innovation and investment, building on the city's strong heritage and supported by the area's educational institutions. Within Forth Valley, a National Tartan Centre, the Canal corridor, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Ochil Hills and Whisky Trail create a unique heritage offering which will support local employment and strengthen the

area's sense of place. Tourism is a key theme in the emerging regional economic strategy for the Forth Valley and both the Falkirk Growth Deal and Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal.

Ports

Key ports in this area can play a central role in supporting the expansion of renewable energy, in particular offshore wind energy. It will also be important to make use of the infrastructure to reduce road haulage and secure a more sustainable freight sector which directly links to international markets. There are opportunities for enhanced cruise facilities for the Forth, as well as the Clyde where Greenock Ocean Terminal, supported by the Glasgow City Region Deal, can build on its role as a key gateway. There may be opportunities to make use of harbour facilities to support the marine leisure industry.

Development of ports on the Firth of Forth will also need to take account of the potential for a substantial increase in freight and passenger traffic between Scotland and continental Europe, linked to the Scottish Government's objective that Scotland should accede to the EU as an independent Member State at the earliest possible opportunity.

South

This area broadly includes Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, South and East Ayrshires, South Lanarkshire in the west, with links to the Lothians towards the east.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.

This area's forests and woodland are a nationally significant asset and its extensive peatland will need to support carbon storage and sequestration. The Borderlands Natural Capital Programme will develop trials and sector strategies to restore biodiversity, build resilience and make the most of the area's natural assets to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will build on the successes of a range of nature restoration projects in the area, such as the Carrifran Wildwoods project.

The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is a crucial environmental asset which can contribute to the area's future sustainability, liveability and productivity. The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Pilot is providing significant opportunity to work with landowners, landed interests and others to look at the multi-benefits from land use and to maximise natural capital opportunities.

The South of Scotland is an important centre for renewable energy generation. Proposals for consolidating and extending existing wind farms and associated grid improvements and supply chain opportunities will require a carefully planned approach. The Solway Firth has significant potential for renewable energy generation in the future, but development will require careful planning given the sensitivity of the environment and its international importance for nature conservation.

The area's low carbon future will depend on supporting modal shift and reducing car use, given current dependence on the car and need to improve access to services, education and employment. Low emissions vehicles will only go some of the way towards addressing future challenges. Enhancing public transport and improving connectivity between communities in the east and west will help to support thriving and distinct communities.

Public transport, including the bus network, will play an important role in decarbonisation and developing innovative solutions and linkages to the rail system. Active travel should be supported with wheeling, walking and cycling within and between towns and other communities linked to strategic routes for residents and visitors. This is important not only for local sustainability but also as a strategic attraction to take advantage of major outdoor recreation opportunities.

There is also a need to secure better digital links to unlock the potential of rural living and home or hub working. The Borderlands Digital Infrastructure Programme will play a key role in supporting connectivity and responding to future technology and innovation.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.

Quality of life for people living in the area will depend on the network of settlements in the future and existing communities should form the basis of a tailored response to the local living concept. Town centres can be strengthened as they recover from the pandemic. New measures to build resilience to climate change will be required including flood risk management in key settlements.

Housing provision will play a key role in supporting the area's aspirations for economic development as well as in maintaining

and growing a working age population. Decarbonisation of existing homes will be required, as well as a strategic approach to rolling out electric vehicle charging. Communities themselves will have a critical role to play in shaping their future development.

The area is already investing in regenerating and future proofing its towns and wider communities. The [Stranraer Gateway](#) Project is an opportunity to consolidate and bring new impetus to regenerate this strategically located settlement. Plans include expansion of the marina, supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, and low carbon heating can be incorporated as part of the transformation of the wider town. Nearby Cairnryan is a crucial gateway to Scotland, with a need to make best use of existing connections.

Regeneration innovation extends across the area. The HALO Kilmarnock project focuses on the reuse of vacant industrial land to create a low carbon community urban village, acting as an exemplar for innovative transformation of future places. The Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor project supports the economic generation of Kilmarnock and the wider region, whilst the CoRE (Community Renewable Energy) project in Cumnock seeks to explore, develop and provide solutions to energy supply and storage challenges in urban and non-urban areas, and to help in the development of a new, more flexible energy grid to complement existing power systems.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The future sustainability of the area will depend on the creation of high quality and green jobs for local people. The local economy will need to diversify from its focus on land based industries (agriculture and forestry), to sustain a wider range of businesses and jobs. An emphasis on

community wealth building will help to reduce dependence on public sector employment and a relatively low wage economy associated with rural and primary sectors.

The current approach to investment focuses on strategic growth corridors linking economic hubs with transport routes. Whilst the strategic road network is an asset and contributes to the area's connections north and south, a long-term strategy will require innovation and fresh thinking to ensure that future growth reflects our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing inequality.

The future growth of the east of the area aims to consolidate existing settlements, capitalise on the strong sense of place of its towns and ensure accessibility by locating new development close to the Borders Rail Line. The Borderlands Place Programme, Borderlands Natural Capital Project, future Regional Land Use Partnerships and other strategic initiatives can support an integrated approach to protecting and restoring the area's natural assets, enhancing the built environment and achieving a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy across the area.

Employment opportunities can support population growth, help to retain more young people and transition the area away from its current dependence on low wage sectors. New ways of working, including remote working could attract more people to live here, supporting the economy and sustaining local services and facilities. This will also benefit from continued support for local skills development and centres of further and higher education including the Galashiels campus of Heriot Watt University and Glasgow University at the Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

Significant investment sites include the former nuclear power station at Chapelcross which benefits from existing grid connections and is an opportunity to repurpose the land by establishing a green energy park that contributes to national ambitions and innovation. Low carbon accessibility will be a key challenge, as the site is remote from Annan and not served by public

transport. Providing access to wider markets, the port at Cairnryan could create further strategic growth opportunities. The expansion of Tweedbank and an inclusive approach to economic development in the Central Borders and Tweeddale are also strategic opportunities.

The area has aspirations to become a prime outdoor recreation and green tourism destination. Key projects include the South West Coastal Path, and projects supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal; the Mountain Biking Innovation Centre at Innerleithen, updating the cycling experience and facilities at some of the 7stanes sites, and Destination Tweed which will deliver a multi-user path and cycle route from Moffat to Berwick upon Tweed. More could be made of the area's border location and attractions to ensure visitors make better use of local services and support the economy and communities.

The west of the area has a close relationship, and strategic connection to, Northern Ireland and Ireland via Cairnryan, as well as across the English border to Carlisle and onwards to European markets. The connection to Northern Ireland and Ireland is already a focus for freight movements as a result of EU Exit.

In the east, the Scottish Borders has a role to play as part of the Edinburgh City Region, with the Borders Railway opening up new sites for sustainable development towards the north, and the south sustaining rural industries. Work is ongoing to assess the feasibility of extending the Borders Railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle.

Annex D – Six Qualities of Successful Places

1. Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health

Designing for:

- **lifelong wellbeing** through ensuring spaces, routes and buildings feel safe and welcoming e.g. through passive surveillance and use of physical safety measures.
- **healthy and active lifestyles**, through the creation of walkable neighbourhoods, food growing opportunities and access to nature and greenspace
- **accessibility and inclusion** for everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and culture
- **social connectivity** and creating a sense of belonging and identity within the community
- **environmentally positive places** with improved air quality, reactivating derelict and brownfield land, removing known hazards and good use of green and blue infrastructure

2. Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces

Designing for:

- **positive social interactions** including quality of public realm, civic spaces, streets and ensuring a lively and inclusive experience
- **protection** from the elements to create attractive and welcoming surroundings, including provision for shade and shelter, mitigating against noise, air, light pollution and undesirable features, as well as ensuring climate resilience, including flood prevention and mitigation against rising sea levels
- **connecting with nature** including natural landscape, existing landforms and features, biodiversity and eco-systems, integrating blue and green infrastructure and visual connection
- **variety and quality** of play and recreation spaces for people of all ages and abilities
- **enjoyment**, enabling people to feel at ease, spend more time outdoors and take inspiration from their surroundings

3. Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

Designing for:

- **active travel** by encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling together with reliable, accessible, public transport and shared transport hubs that allow for simple modal shifts
- **connectivity** including strategic cycle routes, local cycle routes, footpaths, pavements, active travel networks, desire lines, destinations, permeability, accessibility and catering for different needs and abilities
- **convenient connections** including local and regional interconnection, infrastructure, sustainable travel, interchange between public transport and active travel and supporting easy modal shifts in transport
- **pedestrian experience** including safe crossing, pedestrian priority, reduced vehicular speed and noise, inclusive design and surfaces, assistive technology, reduced street clutter, catering for suitable vehicular parking and management of loading/unloading and deliveries and refuse collections

4. Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted into designs to reinforce identity

Designing for:

- **scale** including density, building heights, massing, orientation, building lines and legibility
- **built form** including mix of typologies, types, uses, sizes and tenures
- **sense of place** including design influences, architectural styles, choice of materials and finishes, detailing, landscape design, active frontages and cultural context

5. Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience and integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions

Designing for:

- **transition to net-zero** including energy/carbon efficient solutions, retrofitting, reuse and repurposing and sharing of existing infrastructure and resources
- **climate resilience and nature recovery** including incorporating blue and green infrastructure, integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions
- **active local economy** including opportunities for local jobs and training, work spaces, enabling working from home, supporting community enterprise and third sector
- **community and local living** including access to local services and facilities, education, community growing and healthy food options, play and recreation and digital connectivity

6. Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can meet the changing needs and accommodate different uses over time

Designing for:

- **quality and function**, ensuring fitness for purpose, design for high quality and durability
- **longevity and resilience** including recognising the role of user centred design to cater for changing needs over time and to respond to social, economic and environmental priorities
- **long-term maintenance** including effective engagement, clarity of rights and responsibilities, community ownership/stewardship, continuous upkeep and improvements

Place Standard Tool and the delivery of successful places

The Place Standard contains 14 themes that support the Six Qualities of Successful Places, providing a consistent framework to consider and to assess the quality of new and existing places. The Place Standard tool Design Version is specifically created to support the consideration of development planning and design within the framework of the 14 Place Standard themes and to deliver on the Six Qualities of Successful Places.

Annex E – Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement

This Annex sets out the Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. This is to meet the requirement of Section 3A(3)(d) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in each Local Development Plan's Local Housing Land Requirement.


| Local and National Park Authority | MATHLR |
|---|--------|
| Aberdeen City | 7,000 |
| Aberdeenshire | 7,550 |
| Angus | 2,550 |
| Argyll & Bute | 2,150 |
| Cairngorms National Park | 850 |
| City of Edinburgh | 36,750 |
| Clackmannanshire | 1,500 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 4,550 |
| Dundee City | 4,300 |
| East Ayrshire | 4,050 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2,500 |
| East Lothian | 6,500 |
| East Renfrewshire | 2,800 |
| Eilean Siar | 192 |
| Falkirk | 5,250 |
| Fife (Central and South) | 5,550 |
| Fife (North) | 1,750 |
| All Fife* | 7,300 |
| Glasgow City | 21,350 |
| Highland | 9,500 |
| Inverclyde | 1,500 |
| Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park | 300 |
| Midlothian | 8,850 |
| Moray | 3,450 |
| North Ayrshire | 2,950 |
| North Lanarkshire | 7,350 |
| Orkney | 1,600 |
| Perth & Kinross | 8,500 |
| Renfrewshire | 4,900 |
| Scottish Borders | 4,800 |
| Shetland | 850 |
| South Ayrshire | 2,000 |
| South Lanarkshire | 7,850 |
| Stirling | 3,500 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 2,100 |
| West Lothian | 9,850 |

* The total consists of Fife North and Fife Central and South. This reflects that Fife was formerly part of two Strategic Development Plan areas and contributed to separate Housing Need and Demand Assessments.

Annex F – Glossary of definitions

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| 20 minute neighbourhood | A flexible approach to assessing our places against the concept of local living. A method of achieving connected and often compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home preferably by sustainable and active travel methods. The principle can be adjusted to include varying geographical scales from cities and urban environments, to rural and island communities. Housing would be planned together with local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops and health and social care to significantly reduce the need to use unsustainable methods of travel, to prioritise quality of life, help tackle inequalities, increase levels of health and wellbeing and respond to the climate emergency. |
| 4G | 4G is the fourth generation of mobile phone technology, following 2G and 3G. 2G technology was suitable for making calls and sending text messages, while 3G makes it possible to access the internet more effectively through devices such as a mobile, tablet or laptop. It's ideal for services that demand more capacity, like video streaming, mapping and social networking sites. |
| 5G | <p>5G is much faster than previous generations of wireless technology. 5G also offers greater capacity, allowing thousands of devices in a small area to be connected at the same time.</p> <p>The reduction in latency (the time between instructing a wireless device to perform an action and that action being completed) means 5G is also more responsive. Together these features make 5G highly relevant for industrial applications.</p> <p>The connectivity and capacity offered by 5G is opening up the potential for new, innovative services while mobile spectrum can be used in more effective ways.</p> |
| Affordable home/affordable housing | Good quality homes that are affordable to people on low incomes. This can include social rented, mid-market rented, shared-ownership, shared-equity, housing sold at discount (including plots for self-build), self-build plots and low cost housing without subsidy. |
| Agent of change principle | Where an application is made for development which is likely to be affected by noise from existing development such as, but not limited to, music venues, manufacturing or industrial sites, large retail outlets, etc., the applicant is required to demonstrate both that they have assessed the potential impact on occupants of the proposed development and that the proposed design incorporates appropriate measures to mitigate this impact. |
| Ancient woodland | Land that has maintained continuous woodland habitat since at least 1750. |
| Appropriate assessment | Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, requires an authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for certain plans or projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), to make an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives. |

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| Biodiversity | The variability in living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992). |
| Blue economy | The Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystem. |
| Blue infrastructure | Water environment features within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services. Blue features include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving, sustainable urban drainage systems and raingardens. |
| Brownfield | Land which has previously been developed. The term may cover vacant or derelict land, land occupied by redundant or unused buildings and developed land within the settlement boundary where further intensification of use is considered acceptable. |
| Buildings at risk register | The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) for Scotland (buildingsatrisk.org.uk) has been in operation since 1990 and highlights properties of architectural or historic merit that are considered to be at risk. Buildings at risk are not necessarily in poor condition, they may simply be standing empty with no clear future use or be threatened with demolition. |
| Business and industry | Business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses and smaller scale business uses such as home-working, live-work units and micro-businesses. |
| Carbon capture utilisation and storage | Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) encompasses the methods and technologies used to capture the carbon dioxide generated by large-scale energy intensive processes, such as power generation and industrial processes, and transport that captured carbon dioxide for safe and permanent storage deep underground in a geological formation. In some applications, the captured carbon dioxide can be recycled and used to manufacture useful products, thus giving it economic value. |
| Carbon-rich soils | Organo-mineral and peat soils are known as carbon-rich soils. A peat soil is defined in Scotland as when soil has an organic layer at the surface which is more than 50cm deep. Organo-mineral soil or peaty soil is soil which has an organic layer at the surface less than 50cm thick and overlies mineral layers (e.g. sand, silt and clay particles). There is also a relatively rare group of soils in Scotland known as humose soils. These have organic rich layers with between 15 and 35% organic matter. These are mineral soils but also considered to be carbon rich. |
| Carbon sequestration | The long-term removal, capture, or sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO ₂) pollution and to mitigate or reverse climate change. |
| Carbon sink | A carbon sink is a natural or artificial reservoir that accumulates and stores CO ₂ for an indefinite period. |

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| Circular economy | <p>A circular economy is one that is designed to reduce the demand for raw material in products; to encourage reuse, repair and manufacture by designing products and materials to last as long as possible in line with the waste hierarchy.</p>  <p>The diagram is a funnel-shaped hierarchy with five levels, each in a blue rounded rectangle. From top to bottom: 1. Prevention (If you can't prevent, then ...); 2. Prepare for reuse (If you can't prepare for reuse, then ...); 3. Recycle (If you can't recycle, then ...); 4. Recover other value (e.g. energy) (If you can't recover value, then ...); 5. Disposal (Landfill if no alternative available). Below the funnel is the text 'Waste Hierarchy'.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | Climate change adaptation is about responding to the changes that we have seen in our climate over the last few decades, and preparing for the challenges that we will face as our climate continues to change. |
| Climate change mitigation | Climate change mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gasses, which have a direct impact on global average temperatures, and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide by enhancing carbon sinks (for example, increasing the area of forest). |
| Commercial centre | Centres which have a more specific focus on retailing and/or leisure uses, such as shopping centres, commercial leisure developments, mixed retail and leisure developments, retail parks and factory outlet centres. |
| Community | A body of people. A community can be based on location (for example people who live or work in or use an area) common identity (for example a shared ethnicity, language, age) or common interest (for example the business community, amenity, sports, social or heritage groups). |
| Community facilities | Buildings or services used by the community, including community halls, recreation centres and libraries. |
| Community hub | A community hub is a multi-purpose centre, such as a community centre, medical centre or school, that provides a range of high quality and cost effective services to the local community. |
| Community wealth building | A people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. |
| Conservation area | Conservation areas are areas which have special architectural or historic interest that are considered worthy of protection. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by the planning authority. To be designated as a conservation area it must meet the criteria of 'special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance', as set out in Section 61 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Scotland) Act 1997. |

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| Cultural significance | Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. |
| Cumulative impact | Impact in combination with other development. That includes existing developments as appropriate, those which have permission, and valid applications which have not been determined. The weight attached to undetermined applications should reflect their position in the application process. |
| Cumulative impacts (in the context of the strategic transport network) | The effect on the operational performance of transport networks of a number of developments in combination, recognising that the effects of a group of sites, or development over an area may need different mitigation when considered together than when considered individually. |
| Custom-build housing | Where a person tasks a house builder to tailor a home to their preferences before it is built. |
| Decarbonisation | Reducing the amount of gaseous carbon compounds released by buildings, activities or operations. |
| Deliverable housing land pipeline | The expected sequencing of the Local Housing Land Requirement over the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years), set out in the local development plan delivery programme. |
| Deliverable land | Land that is free from constraints or there is a commitment to overcome constraints, and development is able to be delivered in the period identified for the site within the Deliverable Housing Land Pipeline. |
| Derelict land | Previously developed land which is un-remediated and/or which has a constraint caused by its previous use which hampers its redevelopment or naturalisation. |
| Design flood | Magnitude of the flood adopted for the design of a site, usually defined in relation to the severity of the flood in terms of its return period. |
| Ecosystem services | The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. |
| Egress (safe, flood free pedestrian access and egress) | A route for the movement of people (not vehicles) of all abilities (on foot or with mobility assistance) between the development and a place of safety outwith the design flood level. |
| Enabling development | Enabling development is development that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, but is essential, to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss. |

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| Essential infrastructure | Essential infrastructure includes digital communications infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies for electricity generation and distribution and transmission electricity grid networks and primary sub stations; water and waste water infrastructure; and transport proposals and travel networks identified in the local development plan. |
| Evidence report | A supporting document to the local development plan. An evidence report summarises the evidence base for those proposals and policies set out in the development plan and demonstrates that appropriate consultation has been undertaken and regard given to the views of the community. |
| Facilities for managing secondary materials | <p>Facilities where materials can be collected and sorted into the various component parts or consolidated into bulk quantities for re-use either in their original or an alternative function and for recovery.</p> <p>‘Recovery’ means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.</p> <p>‘material recovery’ means any recovery operation, other than energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or other means to generate energy. It includes, inter alia, preparing for re-use, recycling and backfilling; ‘preparing for re-use’ means checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.</p> |
| Flood | The temporary covering by water from any source of land not normally covered by water, but not including the overflow of a sewage system. |
| Flooding from all sources | <p>Includes:</p> <p>Watercourse /Fluvial Flooding – caused by excessive rainfall or snow melt within a limited period, which overwhelms the capacity of the watercourse or river channel, particularly when the ground is already saturated. It can also arise as a result of the blockage of a channel and/or associated structures such as small bridges and culverts;</p> <p>Pluvial Flooding – occurs when rainwater ponds or flows over the ground (overland flow) before it enters a natural or man-made drainage systems (e.g. a river or sewer/drain). It can also occur when drainage systems are at full capacity. It is often combined with sewer flooding and groundwater flooding;</p> <p>Sewer Flooding – occurs when the sewerage infrastructure has to deal with loads beyond its design capacity. This occurs most often as a result of high intensity rainfall events;</p> <p>Groundwater Flooding – occurs when the water table rises above ground level. In Scotland this is most commonly associated with the movement of water through sands and gravels, often connected to the rise and fall of river levels; and</p> <p>Coastal Flooding – occurs as a result of high tide, storm surge and wave activity raising the level of the sea above adjoining land.</p> |


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| Flood risk | The combination of the probability of a flood and the potential adverse consequences associated with a flood, for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. |
| Flood risk area or at risk of flooding | <p>For planning purposes, at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area means land or built form with an annual probability of being flooded of greater than 0.5% which must include an appropriate allowance for future climate change.</p> <p>This risk of flooding is indicated on SEPA's future flood maps or may need to be assessed in a flood risk assessment. An appropriate allowance for climate change should be taken from the latest available guidance and evidence available for application in Scotland. The calculated risk of flooding can take account of any existing, formal flood protection schemes in determining the risk to the site.</p> <p>Where the risk of flooding is less than this threshold, areas will not be considered 'at risk of flooding' for planning purposes, but this does not mean there is no risk at all, just that the risk is sufficiently low to be acceptable for the purpose of planning. This includes areas where the risk of flooding is reduced below this threshold due to a formal flood protection scheme.</p> |
| Forestry and woodland strategy | A strategy prepared by a planning authority either singly or in collaboration with other planning authorities, which sets out policies and proposals for the development of forestry and woodlands in their area, according to [section A159] of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. |
| Freeboard | Freeboard is the difference between the design flood level and either the finished floor levels, solum level, or deck level of a specific development. It is a safety margin designed to allow for the uncertainties involved in flood estimation and physical factors that cannot be assessed and vary between sites e.g., post construction settlement and wave action. In many cases an adequate freeboard allowance is 600mm above the design flood level ² (in some situations a more detailed assessment of appropriate freeboard will need to be carried out). |
| Gardens and designed landscapes | The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes recognises sites where garden grounds and landscapes have been intentionally laid out for artistic effect which are of national importance. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Designed landscapes are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority. |
| Green infrastructure | Features or spaces within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services. |
| Green networks | Connected areas of green infrastructure and open space, that together form an integrated and multi-functional network. |
| Green recovery | An economic recovery that helps us work toward net zero emissions in a way that is fair and that maximises the opportunities to deliver a thriving, sustainable economy. |

² In line with CIRIA Guidance C624 Development and Flood Risk – Guidance for the Construction Industry 2004.

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| Green space | Space, other than agricultural land, which serves a recreational or an amenity function for the public, or provides aesthetic value to the public such as areas of— (a) grass, (b) trees, (c) other vegetation, (d) water. |
| Historic battlefields | The Inventory of Historic Battlefields recognises sites where a nationally important battle took place, soldiers fought and died, and where significant military activities happened. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Battlefields are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority. |
| Historic environment | The historic environment is ‘the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand’. |
| Historic environment asset | An asset (or ‘historic asset’ or ‘heritage asset’) is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance. |
| Historic marine protected areas | Historic Marine Protected Areas are areas designated in Scottish territorial waters (0-12 miles) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for the purpose of preserving marine assets of national importance. These can be wrecks of boats or aircraft or more scattered remains, such as groups of artefacts on the seabed from a submerged prehistoric landscape. Their designation is carried out by Marine Scotland based on advice from Historic Environment Scotland. |
| Huts | A simple building used intermittently as recreational accommodation (i.e. not a principal residence); having an internal floor area of no more than 30 square meters ; constructed from low impact materials; generally not connected to mains water, electricity or sewerage; and built in such a way that it is removable with little or no trace at the end of its life. Huts may be built singly or in groups. |

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| Infrastructure first | <p>Putting infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking. For the purpose of applying the Infrastructure First policy, the following meaning of infrastructure will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communications – including digital and telecommunications networks and connections; • existing and planned transport infrastructure and services; • water management – supply, drainage systems and sewerage (including flood risk management); • energy supplies/energy generation – including electricity and heat networks, distribution and transmission electricity grid networks, and gas supplies; • health and social care services – including both services provided in the community directly by Health Boards and services provided on their behalf by contractors such as GPs, dentists and pharmacists; • education – including early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education services; • green and blue infrastructure; and • spaces for play and recreation. |
| Infrastructure investment hierarchy | <p>Scottish Government-wide common hierarchy to aid planning and decision-making, which prioritises enhancing and maintaining our assets over new build. See Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 for further details. To support the Infrastructure Investment Plan and its Infrastructure Investment Hierarchy, also see ‘A guide to Property Asset Strategy in the Scottish Public Sector’</p> |
| Just transition | <p>Ending our contribution to climate change in a way that is fair and leaves no one behind</p> |
| Landbank (construction aggregates) | <p>A landbank is calculated by a Planning Authority and is a means of gauging whether there is sufficient consented construction aggregates (sand/gravel and hard rock) within their relevant market area, to avoid possible disruption and/or delays to supply. The calculation is primarily based on annual extraction figures, sales trends and the known reserves within existing consented sites.</p> |
| Lifeline links | <p>A lifeline ferry service required in order for a community to be viable.</p> |
| Listed building | <p>A listed building is a built structure of ‘special architectural or historic interest’. The term ‘building’ can be defined as ‘anything made by people’ such as houses, schools, factories, boundary walls, bridges and sculptures. Listing covers the whole of a building or structure including its exterior, interior and any ancillary structures within its curtilage (provided these were constructed before 1 July 1948). Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Listed Buildings are managed primarily through the Listed Building Consent process by the appropriate planning authority.</p> |

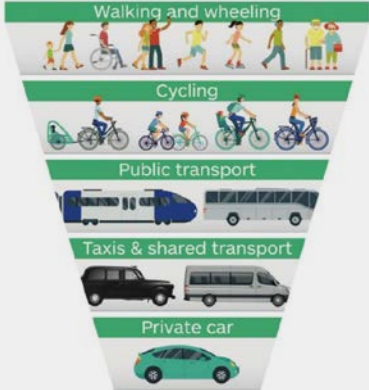
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| Local authority supported affordable housing plan | Plans or strategies for housing approved by a local authority e.g. Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan or future versions of such documents. |
| Local housing land requirement | The amount of land required for housing, as identified by the local development plan. The Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) is expected to exceed the 10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) set out in the National Planning Framework. |
| Local housing strategy | Local Housing Strategies were introduced as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to widen the strategic and enabling role for local authorities in relation to housing in their area. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out the outcomes the Council and its partners want to achieve, and the actions they will take, to address housing need and demand in their area |
| Local outcomes improvement plan | A local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) is produced by a community planning partnership (CPP), and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. The LOIP covers the whole of the council area that the CPP is responsible for. |
| Locality plan | A locality plan is produced by a CPP, and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. A locality plan covers a smaller area within a whole CPP area, or may also be produced for groups who share common interests or features, for example, young people leaving care or vulnerable adults. |
| Locations of concern | A location of concern has been defined as a specific, usually public, site that is used as a location for suicide and which provides either means or opportunity for suicide. |
| Masterplan | A strategic scheme within which a location is proposed to be regenerated or changed in order to meet a perceived challenge or strategic need. |
| Masterplan consent area | A masterplan consent area scheme can grant authorisation for the type of development set out in the scheme, within the geographic location (area) to which the scheme relates. In setting out the type of development that the scheme authorises, this can be either expressly specified or described as type of development that is specified in the scheme. |
| Minimum all-tenure housing land requirement | There is a statutory requirement for the National Planning Framework to contain targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing. To meet this, the National Planning Framework includes a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period, as set out in Annex E. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in the local development plans Local Housing Land Requirement. |

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| Mitigation hierarchy | <p>The mitigation hierarchy indicates the order in which the impacts of development should be considered and addressed. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid – by removing the impact at the outset Minimise – by reducing the impact Restore – by repairing damaged habitats Offset – by compensating for the residual impact that remains, with preference to on-site over off-site measures.  <p>The diagram shows a pyramid divided into four horizontal sections. From bottom to top, the sections are labeled: Avoid, Minimise, Restore, and Offset. To the left of the pyramid is a vertical arrow pointing upwards, labeled 'Decreasing Preference'. Below the pyramid is the text 'Mitigation Hierarchy'.</p> |
| National transport strategy 2 | <p>The National Transport Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out the strategic framework within which future decisions on investment will be made, including the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.</p> |
| Nature-based solutions | <p>Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits.</p> |
| Nature network | <p>A Nature Network is a joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and in water. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change, providing plants and animals with places to live, feed and breed. Effectively functioning nature networks will connect existing nature rich areas through habitat corridors, habitat 'stepping stones', or habitat restoration areas.</p> <p>Scotland's Nature Networks will enable opportunities for achieving ecological connectivity that meet local priorities for biodiversity and nature; whilst building and strengthening an evolving regional and national connectivity. Opportunities for implementation may be identified through, e.g. LDPs and/or Local Biodiversity Action Plans and/or other existing or new mechanisms such as those developed under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, to achieve connectivity within and across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.</p> |
| Negative emissions technologies | <p>Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs) are an emerging field of technologies that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and utilising carbon capture and storage sequester them permanently.</p> <p>NETs can include forms of Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage (DACCS), Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) or other more experimental means such as enhanced weathering or biochar.</p> <p>NETs can be considered one form of Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs), which also includes natural sequestration methods such as afforestation. It can also be used interchangeably with Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies (CDR).</p> |

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| Net zero | Scotland has set a target to become ‘ Net Zero ‘ by 2045. This means the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out will add up to zero. |
| Open space | Space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space or civic areas such as squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function |
| Open space strategy | An open space strategy is to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority’s policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks. It must contain; an audit of existing open space provision, an assessment of current and future requirements, and any other matter which the planning authority consider appropriate. |
| Outdoor sports facilities | Uses where sportscotland is a statutory consultee under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, which establishes ‘outdoor sports facilities’ as land used as: (a) an outdoor playing field extending to not less than 0.2ha used for any sport played on a pitch; (b) an outdoor athletics track; (c) a golf course; (d) an outdoor tennis court, other than those within a private dwelling, hotel or other tourist accommodation; and (e) an outdoor bowling green. |
| Peatland | Defined by the presence of peat soil or peaty soil types. This means that “peat-forming” vegetation is growing and actively forming peat or it has been grown and formed peat at some point in the past. |
| Placemaking | Placemaking is the process of creating good quality places that promotes people’s health, happiness and wellbeing. It concerns the environment in which we live; the people that inhabit these spaces; and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings. Placemaking is a collaborative approach involving the design and development of places over time, with people and communities central to the process. |
| Place principle | All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places. |
| Play sufficiency assessment | A play sufficiency assessment is the assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their area, carried out by a planning authority under the duty as set out in Section 7(5) Part 16D(1) of Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The assessment forms part of the evidence report for the preparation of the Local Development Plan. |
| Prime agricultural land & land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use | <p>Prime agricultural land is that identified as being Class 1, 2 or 3.1 in the land capability classification for agriculture developed by Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (now the James Hutton Institute).</p> <p>However, for land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use (i.e. for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage), this value should be recognised in decision-making.</p> |

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| Priority peatland habitat | Peatland habitats can be divided into four broad classes (blanket bog, upland raised bog, lowland raised bog, and fen), depending on the types of plants that formed the peat. Priority peatland habitats are sub-sets of these broad habitats which have been recognised under the Scottish Biodiversity Framework as being important to protect for their conservation and biodiversity value. |
| Protected characteristics | The Equality Act defines the following as protected characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age • disability • gender reassignment • marriage and civil partnership • pregnancy and maternity • race • religion or belief • sex • sexual orientation |
| Public benefits | Public benefits as defined by the current Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. |
| Ramsar sites | Wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. |
| Remedial notice (forestry) | <p>A Remedial Notice is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers if it appears to them that a person has failed or is failing to comply with a condition on felling permission, a felling direction (including any condition imposed on it), a restocking direction (including any condition imposed on it), or a registered notice to comply.</p> <p>A Remedial Notice requires the person to take such steps or stop such activity as may be specified in the notice on order to comply with or otherwise give effect to the condition, direction or (as the case may be) registered notice to comply, and, to take steps or stop the activity within the period specified in the notice.</p> |
| Restocking direction | A Restocking Direction is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers, in response to an unauthorised felling or a failure to comply with a continuing condition on a felling permission. A restocking direction requires an owner of the land on which the felled tree was located or the land to which the continuing condition relates, to stock the land in question. |
| Recycling facilities | Facilities for the purpose of recycling. Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations. It does not include nuclear reprocessing. |
| Self-build housing | Where a person builds their own house or appoints their own builder. |
| Self-provided housing | Includes self-build housing, custom-build housing and collective build housing. |

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| Setting | <p>Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.</p> <p>‘Setting’ is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.</p> |
| Scheduled monument | <p>Scheduled monuments are archaeological sites or monuments of national importance that are legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland who maintains the schedule. Works to Scheduled Monuments are regulated by Historic Environment Scotland through their Scheduled Monument Consent process.</p> |
| Short term let | <p>The use of a dwellinghouse (a residential house or flat) for rental by persons other than the owner for short periods and for financial or other remuneration.</p> <p>Typically includes properties advertised as being available for holiday let, although can apply to other situations.</p> |
| Strategic transport network | <p>Includes the trunk road and rail networks. Its primary purpose is to provide the safe and efficient movement of strategic long distance traffic between major centres, although in rural areas it also performs important local functions.</p> |
| Sustainable development | <p>Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (The Brundtland Definition. Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).</p> |
| Sustainable investment hierarchy | <p>The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Investment Hierarchy will be used to inform future investment decisions and ensure transport options that focus on reducing inequalities and the need to travel unsustainably are prioritised. We also need to focus on maintaining and safely operating existing assets, taking due consideration of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Investment promoting a range of measures, including innovative solutions, to make better use of existing capacity will then be considered, ensuring that existing transport networks and systems are fully optimised. Only following these steps should investment involving targeted infrastructure improvements be considered.</p> |
| Sustainable tourism | <p>Sustainable tourism is defined by the United Nation World Tourism Organisation as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.”</p> |

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| Sustainable travel | Sustainable travel includes travel by the top three modes in the sustainable travel hierarchy. It is recognised that in some locations, particularly in rural areas, where the top three modes have been judged as unfeasible for day to day travel, low emissions vehicles and shared transport options will play an important role. | <p>Prioritising Sustainable Transport</p>  |
| Sustainable travel hierarchy | The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Travel Hierarchy should be used in decision making by promoting walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. The efficient and sustainable freight transport for the movement of goods, particularly the shift from road to rail should also be promoted. | |
| Town centre | Centres which display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a diverse mix of uses, including shopping; - a high level of accessibility; - qualities of character and identity which create a sense of place and further the well-being of communities; - wider economic and social activity during the day and in the evening; and - integration with residential areas. | |
| Town centre first | The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of decision making. It seeks to deliver the best local outcomes, align policies and target available resources to prioritise town centre sites, encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity. | |
| Town centre vision | Towns and town centres are for the wellbeing of people, the planet and the economy. Towns are for everyone and everyone has a role to play in making their own town and town centre successful. | |
| Transport appraisal | A Transport Appraisal should inform the spatial strategy by appraising the impact of the potential spatial strategy options on the transport network, in line with Transport Scotland's Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance. It should determine the potential impacts of development on the transport network and mitigation to address adverse impacts, how they will be funded and who should deliver these. This should inform the Proposed Plan. | |

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| Transport assessment | A Transport Assessment report should aim to provide supporting evidence to accompany the planning application to demonstrate that the development is sited in a location where current and likely future travel behaviour will produce a desired and predicted transport output. The Transport Assessment should provide information in a suitable form to enable the local authority and, if necessary, Transport Scotland to assess and determine the planning application, seek any changes to the proposal and devise necessary planning conditions or negotiate planning or other legal agreements. |
| Travel plan | A Travel Plan (TP) is a document that sets out a package of positive and complementary measures for the overall delivery of more sustainable travel patterns for a specific development. Their ability and success in influencing travel patterns is dependent upon the commitment of the developer or occupier of a development and the enforcement of travel plan monitoring by the local authority. Travel plans should be implemented to encourage a shift in transport mode for those travelling to and from a development. |
| Unused or under-used land | An area of land that is stalled awaiting development, or a pocket of land within neighbourhood that is not developed or cannot be developed for other meaningful use or does not have particular identified long-term use. |
| Vacant land | Previously developed land, without physical constraint, which the Planning Authority has indicated is currently available for redevelopment. |
| Veteran tree | A veteran tree can be classified as such due to age (including relative age for its species) or for its biological, aesthetic, or cultural interest. Veteran trees are usually mature and provide additional habitat from natural damage, environmental conditions or management (e.g. coppice, decay hollows, fungal fruiting bodies, cavities). |
| Water compatible uses | <p>Comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flood control infrastructure - environmental monitoring stations - water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sand and gravel workings - docks, marinas and wharves - navigation facilities - Ministry of Defence (MOD) defence installations - ship building, repairing, and dismantling - dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location - water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation) - lifeguard and coastguard stations - amenity open space - nature conservation and biodiversity - outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms - essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific operational warning and evacuation plan. |

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| Wellbeing economy | Building an economy that is inclusive and that promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience, where businesses can thrive and innovate, and that supports all of our communities across Scotland to access opportunities that deliver local growth and wellbeing. |
| Wheeling | Travelling by wheelchair. |
| Woodland | Land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20%, or having the potential to achieve this, including integral open space, and including felled areas that are awaiting restocking (replanting). The minimum area is 0.1 ha and there is no minimum height. |
| World heritage sites | World Heritage Sites are internationally important cultural and/or natural heritage sites which have been inscribed for their “Outstanding Universal Value”. Though no additional statutory controls result from world heritage designation, the impact of proposed development upon the outstanding universal value, including its authenticity and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its setting, is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Their assessment and designation is carried out by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) based on advice from State Parties and the relevant devolved Government. |

Annex G – Acronyms

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| BARR | Buildings at Risk Register |
| BECCS | Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage |
| CCS | Carbon Capture and Storage |
| CCUS | Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage |
| CDR | Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies |
| CO ₂ | Carbon Dioxide |
| CoRE | Community Renewable Energy |
| CPP | Community Planning Partnership |
| CWB | Community Wealth Building |
| DACCS | Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EU | European Union |
| GGRs | Greenhouse Gas Removals |
| HNZ | Heat Network Zones |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Appraisal |
| HS2 | High Speed 2 |
| IGTZ | Industrial Green Transition Zones |
| IIP | Infrastructure Investment Plan |
| kv | Kilovolts |
| LDPs | Local Development Plans |
| LHEES | Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy |
| LHLR | Local Housing Land Requirement |
| LOIP | Local Outcomes Improvement Plan |
| LPPs | Local Place Plans |
| MATHLR | Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement |
| MOD | Ministry of Defence |
| NETs | Negative Emissions Technologies |
| NPF | National Planning Framework |
| NPF4 | National Planning Framework 4 |
| ORIC | Orkney Research and Innovation Campus |
| ORION | Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks |
| PNCP | Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership |
| RSS | Regional Spatial Strategies |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency |
| TP | Travel Plan |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |



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7. REPRESENTATIONS IN RELATION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Comments for Planning Application 23/0009/IC

Application Summary

Application Number: 23/0009/IC

Address: 17 Grey Place Greenock PA15 1YF

Proposal: Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3)

Case Officer: David Sinclair

Customer Details

Name: Miss JACQUELINE WOODS

Address: 96 LYLE ROAD GREENOCK GREENOCK

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am presently a landlord of one of the properties at 17 Grey Place, Greenock. The property which is tenanted is above the commercial space which was formerly HSH furniture store. I am submitting my formal objection to this commercial space being transformed into a Turkish Restaurant, which is below my property. I am aware that this will also be over 2 levels. Objections I am submitting; the house insurance will increase dramatically due to the change of commercial use into a restaurant. There will be lesser chance of anyone obtaining a mortgage above the restaurant, due to increased fire risks, fire hazards. The Turkish restaurant will not be sympathetic with the surrounding areas, also causing increased noise and noise pollution. The smell and odours from the kitchens will be detrimental to residents wishing to open windows and spend time in the rear garden, there will be increased footfall, thus increasing the noise and traffic. Smoking area to the rear causing pollution/noise.

Comments for Planning Application 23/0009/IC

Application Summary

Application Number: 23/0009/IC

Address: 17 Grey Place Greenock PA15 1YF

Proposal: Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3)

Case Officer: David Sinclair

Customer Details

Name: Mrs Karen Rodgers

Address: 17 Grey Place Greenock

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I object to the above change of use application, my reasons being 1. Fire risk, 2. increase of property insurance, 3. devaluing of property, 4. loss of privacy to garden area, 5. Food waste storage odour, 6. rubbish storage areas, 7. Lack of parking, 7. Noise.

Comments for Planning Application 23/0009/IC

Application Summary

Application Number: 23/0009/IC

Address: 17 Grey Place Greenock PA15 1YF

Proposal: Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3)

Case Officer: David Sinclair

Customer Details

Name: Mr HARRY GRIERSON

Address: 1/2 17 Grey Place FLAT 1/2 GREENOCK

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I am raising this objection due to the various factors involved in this application, I own the flat which looks to be directly above the proposed kitchen area, this is a massive concern, I am a firefighter based in Greenock and this is a massive concern, the smells, the noise, the pests which the food would bring, and also my insurance would skyrocket, not happy with this at all and would like this to be refused, we already have enough eating places locally and do not need another one, especially directly below my flat. regards Harry Grierson

Comments for Planning Application 23/0009/IC

Application Summary

Application Number: 23/0009/IC

Address: 17 Grey Place Greenock PA15 1YF

Proposal: Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3)

Case Officer: David Sinclair

Customer Details

Name: Mrs Morag McEleny

Address: 22 Shore Road SKELMORLIE Skelmorlie

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: We own flat no 1/1, 17 Grey Place, Greenock and would like to object to the proposed changes to the retail unit below. We are concerned about the smells, from the kitchen, the noise from the patrons visiting as well as the staff congregating outside at the rear of the property. No doubt our insurance will be affected by the change of use. There already is a lot of restaurants & take away outlets in this area is there really any need for any more.

**8. DECISION NOTICE DATED 6 NOVEMBER 2023
ISSUED BY HEAD OF REGENERATION &
PLANNING**

DECISION NOTICE

Refusal of Planning Permission

Issued under Delegated Powers

Regeneration and Planning
Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock PA15 1LY

Planning Ref: 23/0009/IC

Online Ref: 100612355-001

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Mr M. Orhan
Demkup Ltd
33 Harwood Street
GLASGOW
G32 6HY

Nicholson McShane Architects
Douglas Nicholson
Custom House
1-01 Custom House Place
GREENOCK
PA15 1EQ

With reference to your application dated 18th January 2023 for planning permission under the above-mentioned Acts and Regulations for the following development:

Change of use of former class 1 retail premises to restaurant (class 3) including installation of extraction flue on rear elevation of building at

17 Grey Place, Greenock.

Category of Application: Local Application Development

The INVERCLYDE COUNCIL in exercise of their powers under the abovementioned Act and Regulation hereby refuse planning permission for the said development.

The reasons for the Council's decision are:

1. The proposed use conflicts with Policy 1 in both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as, due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, the proposal fails to meet the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' by avoiding conflict with adjacent uses in terms of odours.
2. The proposed development conflicts with Policy 14 of NPF4, as due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, it is considered to be detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area, as required under criterion c).
3. The proposed development fails to accord with Policy 27 of NPF4, as due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, it would result in a detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity, contrary to criteria c) and g).

The reason why the Council made this decision is explained in the attached Report of Handling.

Dated this 6th day of November 2023

Mr Stuart W. Jamieson
Director Environment and Regeneration

- 1 If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the Planning Authority to refuse permission for or approval required by condition in respect of the proposed development, or to grant permission or approval subject to conditions, he may seek a review of the decision within three months beginning with the date of this notice. The request for review shall be addressed to The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock, PA15 1LY.
- 2 If permission to develop land is refused or granted subject to conditions, and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted, he may serve on the planning authority a purchase notice requiring the purchase of his interest in the land in accordance with Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Refused Plans: Can be viewed Online at <http://planning.inverclyde.gov.uk/Online/>

| Drawing No: | Version: | Dated: |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| 22054_LP | Rev A | 30.01.2023 |
| 22054_D_01 | | 16.11.2022 |
| 22054_D_02 | Rev A | 06.07.2023 |
| 22054_D_03 | | 16.11.2022 |
| 22054_D_04 | Rev A | 06.07.2023 |
| 22054_D_05 | Rev A | 06.07.2023 |

**9. NOTICE OF REVIEW FORM DATED 5 FEBRUARY
2024 TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT OF APPEAL**



Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY Tel: 01475 717171 Fax: 01475 712 468 Email: devcont.planning@inverclyde.gov.uk

Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid.

Thank you for completing this application form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100659856-001

The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning Authority will allocate an Application Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the planning Authority about this application.

Applicant or Agent Details

Are you an applicant or an agent? * (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting on behalf of the applicant in connection with this application)

☐ Applicant ☒ Agent

Agent Details

Please enter Agent details

Company/Organisation: Ferguson Planning

Ref. Number:

You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *

First Name: *

Lisa

Building Name:

Last Name: *

Miller

Building Number:

38

Telephone Number: *

01313858744

Address 1
(Street): *

Thistle Street

Extension Number:

Address 2:

1st Floor

Mobile Number:

Town/City: *

Edinburgh

Fax Number:

Country: *

United Kingdom

Postcode: *

EH2 1EN

Email Address: *

lisa@fergusonplanning.co.uk

Is the applicant an individual or an organisation/corporate entity? *

☒ Individual ☐ Organisation/Corporate entity

Applicant Details

Please enter Applicant details

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Title: | Mr | You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: * | |
| Other Title: | | Building Name: | Demkup Ltd |
| First Name: * | M | Building Number: | |
| Last Name: * | Orhan | Address 1 (Street): * | 33 Hardwood Street |
| Company/Organisation | | Address 2: | |
| Telephone Number: * | | Town/City: * | Glasgow |
| Extension Number: | | Country: * | Scotland |
| Mobile Number: | | Postcode: * | G32 6HY |
| Fax Number: | | | |
| Email Address: * | lisa@fergusonplanning.co.uk | | |

Site Address Details

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Planning Authority: | Inverclyde Council |
| Full postal address of the site (including postcode where available): | |
| Address 1: | SHOP WEDDINGS |
| Address 2: | 17 GREY PLACE |
| Address 3: | |
| Address 4: | |
| Address 5: | |
| Town/City/Settlement: | GREENOCK |
| Post Code: | PA15 1YF |

Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

| | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| Northing | 676753 | Easting | 227512 |
|----------|--------|---------|--------|

Description of Proposal

Please provide a description of your proposal to which your review relates. The description should be the same as given in the application form, or as amended with the agreement of the planning authority: *
(Max 500 characters)

Change of use of former Class 1 retail premises to restaurant (Class 3)

Type of Application

What type of application did you submit to the planning authority? *

- ☒ Application for planning permission (including householder application but excluding application to work minerals).
- ☐ Application for planning permission in principle.
- ☐ Further application.
- ☐ Application for approval of matters specified in conditions.

What does your review relate to? *

- ☒ Refusal Notice.
- ☐ Grant of permission with Conditions imposed.
- ☐ No decision reached within the prescribed period (two months after validation date or any agreed extension) – deemed refusal.

Statement of reasons for seeking review

You must state in full, why you are seeking a review of the planning authority's decision (or failure to make a decision). Your statement must set out all matters you consider require to be taken into account in determining your review. If necessary this can be provided as a separate document in the 'Supporting Documents' section: * (Max 500 characters)

Note: you are unlikely to have a further opportunity to add to your statement of appeal at a later date, so it is essential that you produce all of the information you want the decision-maker to take into account.

You should not however raise any new matter which was not before the planning authority at the time it decided your application (or at the time expiry of the period of determination), unless you can demonstrate that the new matter could not have been raised before that time or that it not being raised before that time is a consequence of exceptional circumstances.

Please refer to submitted Appeal Statement

Have you raised any matters which were not before the appointed officer at the time the Determination on your application was made? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, you should explain in the box below, why you are raising the new matter, why it was not raised with the appointed officer before your application was determined and why you consider it should be considered in your review: * (Max 500 characters)

Please provide a list of all supporting documents, materials and evidence which you wish to submit with your notice of review and intend to rely on in support of your review. You can attach these documents electronically later in the process: * (Max 500 characters)

Appeal Statement Odour Assessment Decision Notice Report of Handling Consultation Responses Planning Drawings

Application Details

Please provide the application reference no. given to you by your planning authority for your previous application.

23/0009/IC

What date was the application submitted to the planning authority? *

17/01/2023

What date was the decision issued by the planning authority? *

06/11/2023

Review Procedure

The Local Review Body will decide on the procedure to be used to determine your review and may at any time during the review process require that further information or representations be made to enable them to determine the review. Further information may be required by one or a combination of procedures, such as: written submissions; the holding of one or more hearing sessions and/or inspecting the land which is the subject of the review case.

Can this review continue to a conclusion, in your opinion, based on a review of the relevant information provided by yourself and other parties only, without any further procedures? For example, written submission, hearing session, site inspection. *

☒ Yes ☐ No

In the event that the Local Review Body appointed to consider your application decides to inspect the site, in your opinion:

Can the site be clearly seen from a road or public land? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is it possible for the site to be accessed safely and without barriers to entry? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Checklist – Application for Notice of Review

Please complete the following checklist to make sure you have provided all the necessary information in support of your appeal. Failure to submit all this information may result in your appeal being deemed invalid.

Have you provided the name and address of the applicant? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you provided the date and reference number of the application which is the subject of this review? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you are the agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, have you provided details of your name and address and indicated whether any notice or correspondence required in connection with the review should be sent to you or the applicant? *

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Have you provided a statement setting out your reasons for requiring a review and by what procedure (or combination of procedures) you wish the review to be conducted? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: You must state, in full, why you are seeking a review on your application. Your statement must set out all matters you consider require to be taken into account in determining your review. You may not have a further opportunity to add to your statement of review at a later date. It is therefore essential that you submit with your notice of review, all necessary information and evidence that you rely on and wish the Local Review Body to consider as part of your review.

Please attach a copy of all documents, material and evidence which you intend to rely on (e.g. plans and Drawings) which are now the subject of this review *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: Where the review relates to a further application e.g. renewal of planning permission or modification, variation or removal of a planning condition or where it relates to an application for approval of matters specified in conditions, it is advisable to provide the application reference number, approved plans and decision notice (if any) from the earlier consent.

Declare – Notice of Review

I/We the applicant/agent certify that this is an application for review on the grounds stated.

Declaration Name: Ms Lisa Miller

Declaration Date: 05/02/2024

F E R G U S O N P L A N N I N G

APPEAL STATEMENT:
CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL PREMISES
TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT 17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK

MR M ORHAN

FEBRUARY 2024

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CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL
PREMISES TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Statement is submitted on behalf of Mr M Orhan (the Appellant/Applicant) against the decision by Inverclyde Council to refuse planning permission on 6th November 2023 (23/0009/IC) for the proposed development at 17 Grey Place, Greenock:

Change of use of former Class 1 retail premises to restaurant (Class 3)

The Appellant would like to draw members of the Local Review Body attention to the following information that forms the grounds of this appeal:

- 1. A professional Odour Assessment was required in order to fully consider potential impacts from the proposals. However, this key information was not requested by the Planning Authority prior to determination. An Odour Assessment has therefore been submitted as part of this appeal that demonstrates the proposals would not result in any adverse odour impacts.**
- 2. Odour can be satisfactorily mitigated with the right equipment.**
- 3. Topography (canyon effect) is not a contributing factor to adverse odour dispersal.**
- 4. Positive impact of a new restaurant on the viability, vitality and local economy of Greenock Town Centre that has strong local support.**
- 5. Criteria g) of NPF4 Policy 27 has been erroneously cited in reason for refusal no.3 and should be disregarded.**

The proposed development would contribute positively to the vitality and viability of Greenock Town Centre by offering a unique style of cuisine in this location, increase overall footfall and provide c.25 new jobs all of which would benefit the local economy whilst meeting the wider strategic aims of Inverclyde Council. Members should note that there is significant local support and demand for the proposals as evidenced in a petition on Change.org signed by over 1300 individuals and businesses alike.

Having considered the detail contained within this appeal statement and associated documentary evidence, members of the Local Review Body are respectfully requested to allow the Notice of Review and grant planning permission.

CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL
PREMISES TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement supports a Notice of Review of the delegated decision of Inverclyde Council to refuse to grant Planning Permission (23/00009/IC) for the Change of use of former Class 1 retail premises to restaurant (Class 3) including installation of extraction flue on rear elevation of building at 17 Grey Place, Greenock. (**Fig.1**).
- 1.2 Located in the town centre of Greenock, the application site comprises a commercial unit located on the ground floor of a three-storey building with residential flats on the upper floors on the south-west side of Grey Place. Most recently used as a furniture shop, the unit is currently vacant. Access to the unit can be taken from the main entrance on Grey Street and also along a shared close on its western gable elevation that leads to the rear of the building and stairs to the upper floors of the building. Internally the unit has a mezzanine level and a single storey extension to the rear.
- 1.3 The unit is located on Grey Street, a busy road in an established area of mixed use that includes a variety of retail shops, barbers, beauty salons, offices, restaurants, and hot food take-aways. Grey Place and adjacent West Blackhall Street and Partick Street are characterised by this type of mixed use that are predominantly located on the ground floor of tenement style buildings with flatted residential properties located in the upper floors. (**Fig. 2**)
- 1.4 The subject planning application seeks permission to operate a new Turkish restaurant on the premises with an indicative dining capacity covering approximately 84m² on the ground floor and 96m² on the mezzanine level. Externally, works would include the reinstatement of glazing on the principal elevation of the building the installation of a high-level extraction flue on the rear elevation.
- 1.5 The flue would be located on the roof of the rear single storey extension and ascend vertically on the rear elevation of the main building, terminating approximately 2.1m above the roof eaves. Following a discussion with the Planning Officer, the applicant submitted a Ventilation Statement to the Planning Authority in support of the application and due to concerns raised by the Public Protection Officer regarding the potential impact on the amenity of residential properties to the rear of the premises on Houston Street.
- 1.6 Despite being located in a preferred area for this type of use as set out in the Local Development Plan and the principle of the application being supported by the Planning Authority, as well as the clear positive economic benefits for the town centre and strong local support, the application was subsequently refused due to an objection by the Public Protection Officer on the grounds of odour nuisance on the amenity of the surrounding area and neighbouring residential amenity.
- 1.7 This objection was made without any request by the Planning Authority for the applicant to provide a basic odour assessment; it is therefore the Applicant's contention that the recommendation to refuse has been made without all the necessary information required to make an informed assessment and decision on the proposals.
- 1.8 The remainder of this statement will set out the case for why members should allow the appeal as it is considered to be in accordance with National Planning Framework 4 and the adopted Local Development Plan (2016) and also any other relevant material considerations.

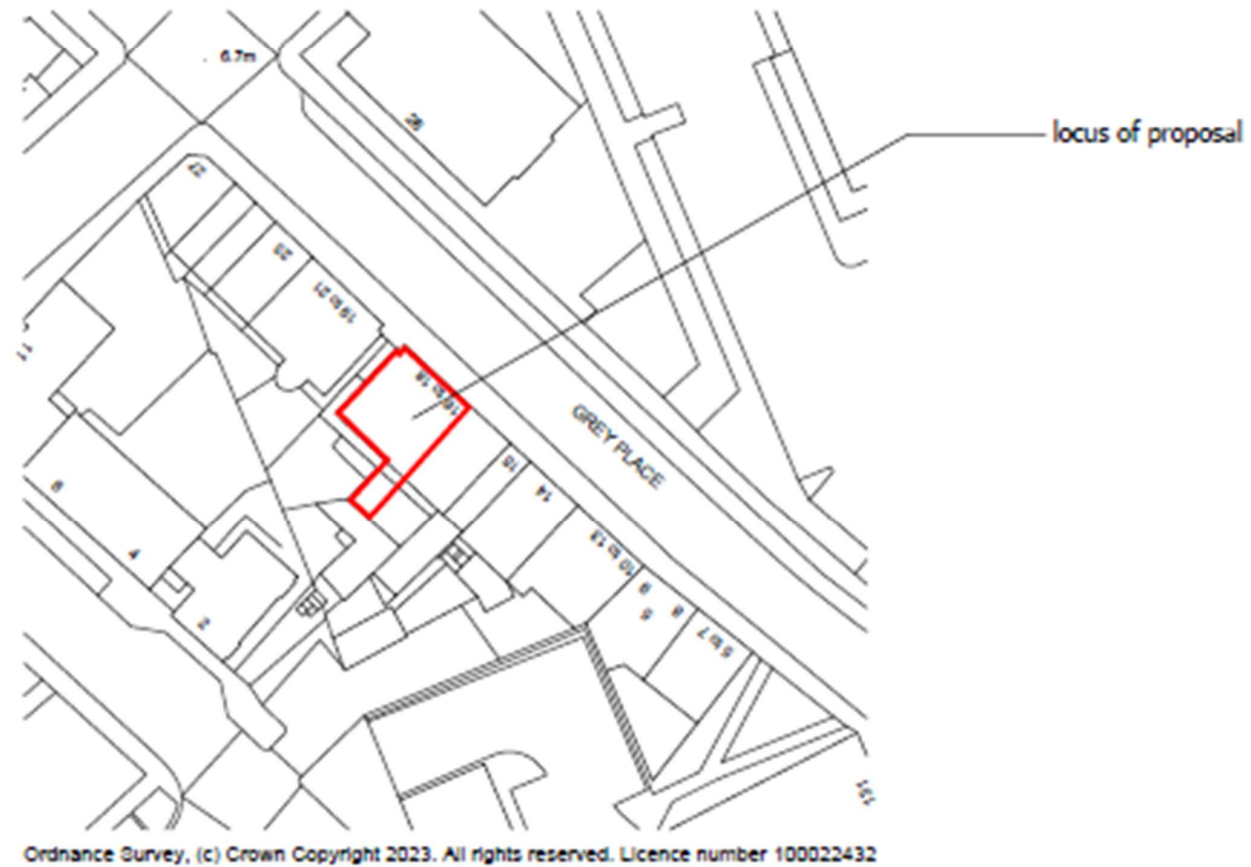


Figure 1: Location Plan (NMA Architects)

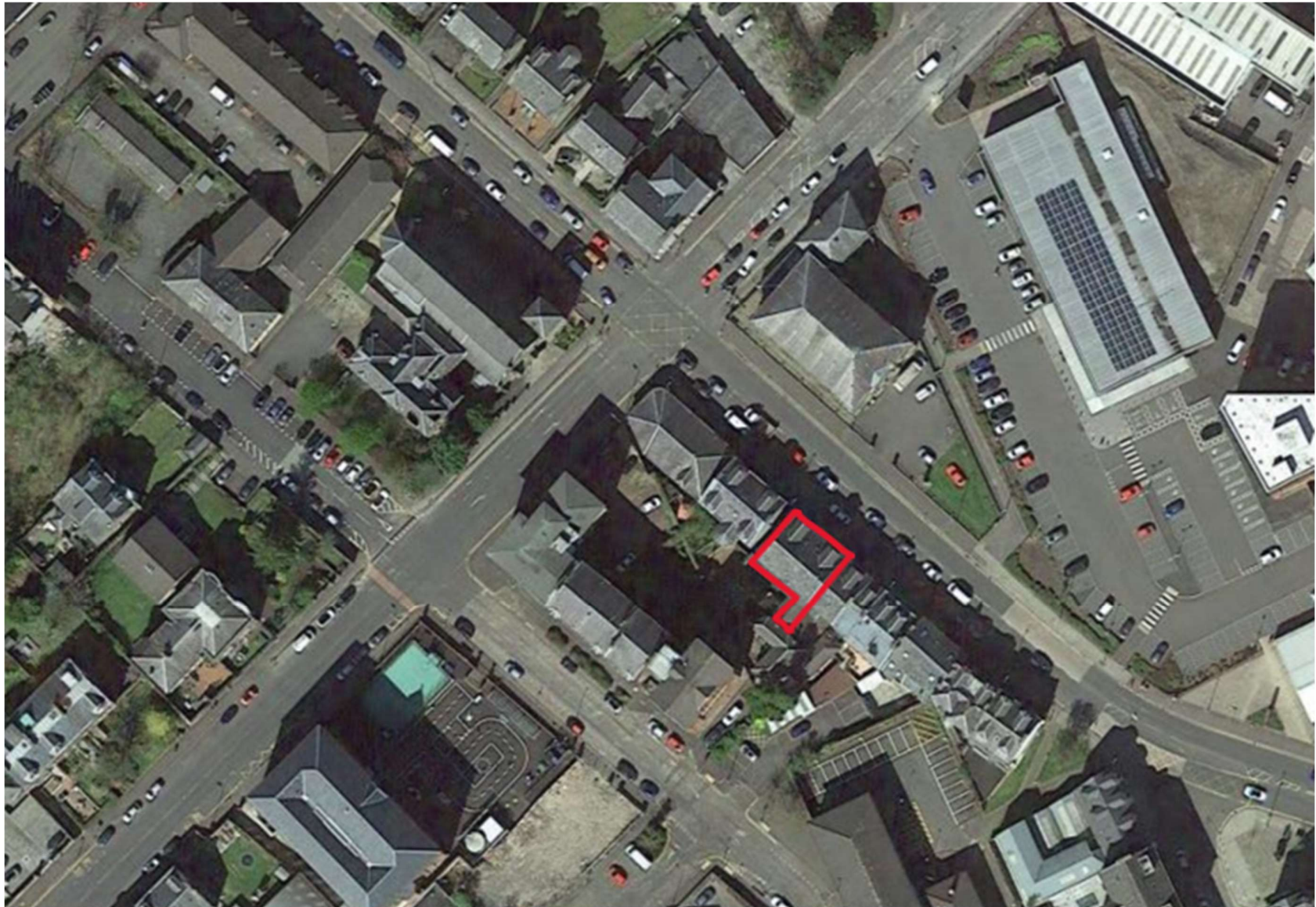


Figure 2: Aerial Image (Google)

CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL
PREMISES TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK

REASONS FOR REFUSAL AND
PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

REASONS FOR REFUSAL AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 Planning Application 23/0009/IC was refused on 6th November 2023. The Decision Notice cited the reasons for refusal, as set out below:

- 1. The proposed use conflicts with Policy 1 in both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as, due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, the proposal fails to meet the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' by avoiding conflict with adjacent uses in terms of odours.**
- 2. The proposed development conflicts with Policy 14 of NPF4, as due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, it is considered to be detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area, as required under criterion c).**
- 3. The proposed development fails to accord with Policy 27 of NPF4, as due to the likelihood of statutory odour nuisance being caused to residents by cooking operations at the premises, it would result in a detrimental impact on neighbouring residential amenity, contrary to criteria c) and g).**

The remainder of this section provides a brief overview of the relevant planning policy that the proposed development was assessed against and subsequently refused on.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 (2023)

- 2.2 NPF4 was adopted in February 2023 and is part of the statutory development plan in the Scottish Borders for the purpose of sections 25 and 37 of the Act. The document provides an overarching national planning policy framework and outlines the Scottish Government's approach to achieving a net zero, sustainable Scotland by 2045.
- 2.3 NPF4 recognises the important role that town centres have in the delivery of "Productive Places", especially the challenging conditions created following Brexit and the pandemic; it states that it "*recognises the critical importance of planning with.....a new vision for town centres, and reaffirms our commitment to the Town Centre First Principle. It recognises the critical importance of planning in diversifying the offer within our city and town centres, to help them thrive, improve their resilience and anticipate continuing societal, environmental and economic change*". This is particularly relevant for the proposed development given its location and use class belonging to the hospitality sector.
- 2.4 Policy 14: Design, quality and place Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale and where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places: healthy, pleasant, connected, distinctive, sustainable, and adaptable. Under criteria C), those proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

2.5 Policy 27: City, town, local and commercial centres aims to encourage, promote and facilitate development in city and town centres, recognising they are a national asset. This will be achieved by applying the Town Centre First approach to help centres adapt positively to long-term economic, environmental and societal changes, and by encouraging town centre living.

- a) Developments that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported
- c) Development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas
- d) Development proposals for city or town centre living will take into account the residential amenity of the proposal. This must be clearly demonstrated where the proposed development is in the same built structure as:
 - i. a hot food premises, live music venue, amusement arcade/centre, casino or licensed premises (with the exception of hotels, restaurants, cafés or off licences).

INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (ADOPTED 2019)

2.6 Policy 1: Creating Successful Places Development proposals should have regard to the six qualities of place: healthy, pleasant, connected, distinctive, sustainable, and adaptable. Where relevant, proposals will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes and Supplementary Guidance.

INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PROPOSED 2021)

2.7 Policy 1: Creating Successful Places Development proposals should have regard to the six qualities of place: healthy, pleasant, connected, distinctive, sustainable, and adaptable; and demonstrated in a design-led approach. Where relevant, proposals will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

2.8 It is pertinent to note that the Report of Handling assessed the planning application on several other planning policies from the statutory development plan, and found that the proposed development to be in accordance with the following:

- NPF4 Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature Crises
- NPF4 Policy 9: Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
- Adopted LDP Policy 11 - Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network
- Adopted LDP Policy 22 - Network of Centres Strategy
- Proposed LDP Policy 12 - Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network
- Proposed LDP Policy 23 - Network of Centres Strategy

This demonstrates that the proposed development is already in accordance with the majority of the relevant planning policies and that **there are no other constraints** to the proposed development over and above those contained in the reasons for refusal.

CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL
PREMISES TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK
GROUNDS OF APPEAL

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

- 3.1 The decision of the Planning Authority to refuse planning permission for the proposed development is challenged on the basis of the grounds of appeal set out below. Based on the assessment of the application by the Planning Authority in the report of handling, the Applicant believes that there are five relevant grounds of appeal to consider as detailed below:
- 6. A professional Odour Assessment was required in order to fully consider potential impacts from the proposals. However, this key information was not requested by the Planning Authority prior to determination. An Odour Assessment has therefore been submitted as part of this appeal that demonstrates the proposals would not result in any adverse odour impacts.**
 - 7. Odour can be satisfactorily mitigated with the right equipment.**
 - 8. Topography (canyon effect) is not a contributing factor to adverse odour dispersal.**
 - 9. Positive impact of a new restaurant on the viability, vitality and local economy of Greenock Town Centre that has strong local support.**
 - 10. Criteria g) of NPF4 Policy 27 has been erroneously cited in reason for refusal no.3 and should be disregarded.**

Each ground for appeal will be discussed in further detail below to demonstrate that the proposed development is acceptable, as it complies with the relevant planning policies, and should therefore be approved on appeal by the Local Review Body.

Ground 1 - The requirement for an Odour Assessment.

- 3.2 Given the concerns regarding odour from the Public Protection Officer, further information from the Applicant should have been requested by the Planning Authority in the form of an Odour Assessment. Missing this level of detail, the proposals have subsequently been assessed and determined without the necessary level of information required to make an informed decision.
- 3.3 Members should note that the Applicant has continually co-operated with the Planning Authority throughout the determination of the application for further requests for information and suggested changes to the proposals. This proactive approach has continued and, an Odour Assessment has now been undertaken on behalf of the Applicant by environmental consultancy The Airshed who specialise in odour, air quality and noise issues.
- 3.4 The assessment is now submitted as part of this appeal for consideration and its findings demonstrate that the proposals would not result in any adverse odour impacts. The proposed development can now be fully considered by the Local Review Body with the knowledge that all relevant technical information is available in order to make an informed assessment and decision.

Ground 2 - Odour can be satisfactorily mitigated with the right equipment.

- 3.5 Undertaken to best practice EMAQ guidance, the Odour Assessment used conservative modelling assumptions (very high risk) to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on nearby residential properties. The assessment found that odours from the proposed development can be satisfactorily

mitigated with the right equipment installed resulting in no adverse odour impacts - the following measures are recommended:

1. A flue terminating at least 1m above the roof ridge of the building.
2. A high level of odour mitigation in the form of fine filtration or electrostatic precipitation (ESP).
3. A secondary form of odour control equivalent to a carbon filter with a residence time of 0.4 - 0.8 seconds may also be required, depending on the type of cuisine.
4. Alternative methods which provide abatement equivalent to a residence time of 0.4 - 0.8 seconds carbon filtration may be considered (as per EMAQ guidelines)

3.6 Subject to these measures being satisfactorily implemented, odour from the proposed development is therefore unlikely to have any significant adverse impacts on local residential amenity or other highly sensitive receptors. These measures can be addressed through a competent planning condition on the grant of planning permission.

Ground 3 - Topography (canyon effect) is not a contributing factor to adverse odour dispersal

3.1 The Planning Authority raised the concern that topography may adversely affect odour dispersion and cause adverse impacts at the 5/6 storey dwellings on Houston Street. These dwellings are at least 20m from the proposed local exhaust ventilation (LEV) terminal and thus less likely to be exposed to odours.

3.2 In determining the risk from the odour, the Public Protection Officer refers to the potential 'canyon effect'. Street 'canyons' are known to be a potential issue in air quality assessment mainly when considering emissions from roads which are surrounded on both sides by tall, continuous buildings on both that can lead to the

formation of vortices and recirculation of air flow that can trap pollutants and restrict dispersion. Clearly, the location of the proposed emission is not within such a 'canyon'.

3.3 However, the proposed LEV terminal is overlooked by the six storey dwellings to the south-west on Houston Street and this has been taken into account in the risk assessment in the Odour Assessment. The emissions from the LEV will be relatively hot compared to ambient temperatures and will be designed to have an efflux velocity of 15m/s. Accordingly, the plume from the LEV will have significant thermal and mechanical buoyancy which will increase the effective height of release. The combined effect of optimal location, good plume buoyancy and a very high level of odour abatement designed in accordance with EMAQ and CIBSE DW/172 should therefore protect residential amenity to a satisfactory standard.

Ground 4 - Positive impact of proposed development on Greenock Town Centre.

3.4 Inverclyde Council recognises the challenges faced by a reducing population, changing shopping habits and a town centre in decline. The Levelling Up bid success, for example, is based on a vision of a reinvigorated town centre with Grey Place positioned at the western extremity and forming the edge of a new "cultural quarter" incorporating the Glebe building. Inverclyde Council has also sought to position the area as a food destination, investing in start-ups and drawing inward investment. Central to this strategy is the promotion of the variety and quality of offerings from local businesses.

3.5 The proposed development of a new Turkish restaurant on Grey Place would be a unique draw for visitors, as the closest comparable offering is over 30 miles away. In addition, the proposed new restaurant in Greenock town centre will have

tangible economic benefits with the creation of approximately c.25 jobs and will also contribute significantly to increasing overall footfall in the town centre bringing increased spend to other businesses in the area.

- 3.6 Members should also note that the proposals have strong local support from individuals and businesses alike with over 1300 signing a petition in support of the restaurant on change.org <https://www.change.org/p/grant-effes-restaurant-permission-to-operate-in-inverclyde>. This level of support is significant and demonstrates that the proposed development would be a welcome, positive addition to Greenock Town Centre.

- 3.7 The application site is located in an area preferred for this type of use and as it has been demonstrated that odour can be successfully addressed. The proposals would clearly meet the wider strategic aims of the Council whilst positively contributing to the long-term viability and vitality of the town centre, a view expressed by the Planning Authority in the Report of Handling and has significant strong local support. Taking this into consideration, there is no reason why the proposals should not be approved.

Ground 5 - Criteria g) of NPF4 Policy 27 has been erroneously cited in reason for refusal no.3 and should be disregarded.

- 3.8 This policy criteria specifically applies to “proposals for city or town centre living”; the proposals are for a class 3 restaurant therefore this criterion is not applicable, and the application should not have been assessed on this basis. Members of the Local Review Body are therefore asked to disregard this criterion in reason for refusal no.3.

- 3.9 Based on the above assessment of the grounds of appeal, it is considered that the proposed development meets the criteria of: LDP Policy 1 - Creating Successful Places, NF4 Policy 14 - Design, quality and place and NPF3 Policy 27 - City, town, local and commercial as, subject to the mitigation measures outlined in the accompanying Odour Assessment, it would not result in any unacceptable statutory odour nuisance that would detrimentally impact the amenity of the surrounding area and neighbouring residential amenity. Furthermore, the proposals would contribute positively to the local economy, the vitality and viability of Greenock Town Centre and meet the aims of wider Council strategic policies to deliver a regenerated town centre.

- 3.10 Members are therefore respectfully asked to approve the proposed development on the above grounds of appeal.

CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER CLASS 1 RETAIL
PREMISES TO RESTAURANT (CLASS 3) AT
17 GREY PLACE, GREENOCK

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Notice of Review, supported by this Statement, respectfully requests that the Local Review Body overturns the decision to refuse Planning Permission for application 23/0009/IC and grant permission for the Change of use of former Class 1 retail premises to restaurant (Class 3) including installation of extraction flue on rear elevation of building at 17 Grey Place, Greenock.
- 4.2 Members are reminded that the proposed development is supported in principle by the Planning Authority and the only objection is from the Public Protection Officer regarding odour which was made without asking for a professional Odour Assessment. This lack of information has resulted in an assessment and determination of the planning application being made without all the required, necessary information.
- 4.3 The Applicant is committed to continuing to work collaboratively with the Planning Authority, as evidenced by their willingness to provide further information and submit an independent Odour Assessment.
- 4.4 It has been clearly demonstrated in the submitted Odour Assessment that odour from the proposed development can be successfully and satisfactorily mitigated by the use of specific positioning of the flue and high-level odour abatement equipment in line with best practice standards in EMAQ guidance. Furthermore, this can easily be secured and implemented through a competent planning condition attached to the grant of planning permission.
- 4.5 The environmental consultant Airshed has explained and demonstrated why the assessment and labelling of the area as a "canyon" by the Public Protection Office is factually incorrect. As a result, it is contended that topography would not be a contributing factor to a statutory odour nuisance to the surrounding area or residential amenity in this instance.
- 4.6 With demonstrable strong local support, the potential positive impacts on the local economy, viability and vitality on Greenock Town Centre as the result of the proposed new Turkish restaurant in this location are clear. Indeed, the Planning Authority recognises this and how it would meet the wider strategic aims of Inverclyde Council with respect to reinvigoration of the town centre. With the correct odour mitigation put in place, there is therefore no reason why the proposed development should not be approved.
- 4.7 Based on the evidence and arguments outlined in this statement that addresses and counters the reasons for refusal by the Planning Authority, we submit to the Local Review Body that the proposed development is therefore compliant with the relevant planning policy of the statutory development plan.
- 4.8 On this basis, Members of the Local Review Body are therefore respectfully requested to allow the appeal and grant planning permission for the proposed development.**

APPENDIX - CORE DOCUMENTS

The following drawings, documents, and plans have been submitted to support the Notice of Review:

- CD1 - Appeal Statement
- CD2 - Odour Assessment
- 23/0009/IC:
 - CD3 - Application Form
 - CD4 - Planning Drawings
 - CD5 - Consultation Responses
 - CD6 - Report of Handling
 - CD7 - Decision Notice

FERGUSON PLANNING

GALASHIELS

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T: 01896 668 744
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**10. FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED
FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF REVIEW**

From: [HARRY GRIERSON](#)
To: [Colin MacDonald](#)
Subject: under review
Date: 19 February 2024 12:28:53

Dear Mr Macdonald

I am writing to you with regards to the current review ongoing for the change of use request for the commercial property below my flat at 17 grey place.


As per my initial entry, I still have a number of concerns regarding the property being used as a restaurant. Firstly i need to ask if any of the numerous previous concerns have been resolved and to what extent.


i do have more concerns concerning the fact that the kitchen is directly below my flat , the noise , the odours , the disturbance to myself and to the other flats ,


I was away working at the time , but my partner made me aware of an issue which occurred in the early hours of the 17th of december , my partner was awakened by a strange odour which was catching her throat and woke her from sleep , when she investigated she noticed a number of pumps (fire engines) positioned outside 17 grey place , our flat was also filled with a fine smoke which was catching her throat , the intruder alarm had been activated and filled the premises with the smoke , this had permeated up through the flats above and every flat in the building was checked to ensure no damage or anyone was in need of attention , this does need to be discussed , i am a retained firefighter locally at greenock station and have raised my concerns regarding this restaurant positioned beneath our flats .


I am also concerned about our back green area which belong to the flats at 17 grey place , i have been given legal advice and we have been made aware that the lower back green area is also for use by the flats , we have made mr Orhan aware of this at a very early stage and advised him not to build anything outside before consulting the owners of the flats first , of which i am one , but he continued to build and reconfigure the back green area for their own use , i will add a number of pictures for reference , these will include any structures which were built and the damage done to what was once a peaceful area , the noise and the odours will be unbearable .


regards Harry Grierson 9owner of flat 1/2 , 17 grey plave)


 [20240215_115528.jpg](#)


 [20240215_115532.jpg](#)

 [20240215_115611.jpg](#)

 [20240215_115624.jpg](#)

 [20240215_115636.jpg](#)

 [20240215_115654.jpg](#)

 [20240215_115703.jpg](#)



[20240215_115726.jpg](#)



[20240215_115734.jpg](#)



















From: [Jacqueline Woods](#)
To: [Colin MacDonald](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Review of a decision to refuse planning permission ... Ref No. 23/0009/IC
Date: 19 February 2024 20:21:51

Hello Colin,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 7th Feb 2024 regarding the Planning permission for a change of use of retail facility at 17 Grey Place Greenock. I have reviewed the Appeal Statement submitted by, "Ferguson Planning" on behalf of Mr Orhan which was available on the Council Planning Portal. I find their report lacking depth and does not address many of the original objections raised by the immediate home owners. I find it implausible that a "Professional" Oder Assessment could identify and nullify the pungent smells that would emanate to the immediate flats from such a large restaurant ... Of course there is going to be a smell and I don't believe the proposals will stop that.

The other issues not addressed include:

- # The significant amount of food waste which will no doubt be stored in the close and an obvious attraction to vermin.
- # The total lack of regard for the original planning drawings and the subsequent construction of new building at the rear garden.
- # I have been informed by my insurance provider that due to the increased risk of fire from a restaurant, my insurance premium will increase drastically or may be refused altogether. This will also affect the resale value of the property.
- # The increase of late night footfall and noise must be a concern ... no doubt the restaurant will be offering a carry out and delivery service .. the coming and going of people and cars will dramatically increase.

I applauded the Planning departments original decision to refuse the application as it showed real and significant consideration to those live in the immediate vicinity. I strongly urge the Planning community to remain strong when reviewing this application and again refuse it. Please listen to us, it's our homes and quality of life that's at stake ..

Kind Regards,

Jackie Woods

11. SUBMISSION BY FERGUSON PLANNING IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS

From: [Lisa Miller](#)
To: [Colin MacDonald](#)
Cc: [Mehmet Karaduman](#)
Subject: 17 Grey Place, Greenock - Response to representations
Date: 05 March 2024 17:52:45
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Colin,

Please see below for our client's response to the representations submitted by Harry Grierson and Jacqueline Woods:

As set out in the Appeal Statement and table 3 of the Odour Assessment, any odour emitted as a result of the proposed development can be appropriately and successfully mitigated through the implementation of the following measures:

1. The use of a vertical duct with an efflux velocity of at least 15m/s, to be positioned at least 1m above the roof ridgeline
2. Filtration where appropriate (coarse, fine, electro-static and carbon)
3. Daily cleaning of filters
4. Regular maintenance/cleaning of the duct

These are standard, accepted and effective measures used for odour control for premises that serve hot food; the exact details of which would be secured through an appropriate planning condition prior to the commencement of the development, to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority and Environmental Health. It is noted that other similarly located restaurant premises in the town centre of Greenock have successfully operated with the same type of odour control therefore there is no logical reason or evidence to assume that it will not work here, given the measures are in use in countless other hot food premises across the country; the proposed development site is therefore not exceptional in this regard.

The photographs are of the previous position of the duct which would be removed. The submitted planning drawings clearly show the new proposed location, which is in a completely different area and in takes cognisance of the measures recommended above regarding its siting – this is what members should be considering as it is material to the application and appeal.

The matter of waste storage can again be addressed and controlled through a standard prior to commencement planning condition which the applicant is happy to provide details on to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority and Environmental Health. The application site is not unique in terms of having restaurant premises on the ground floor with waste storage to the rear in a town centre location. At present, a temporary timber cover has been placed over the area preferred for waste storage following discussion between the applicant and the landlord; however, this can be completely removed by the Applicant if required. Any concerns by neighbours over access rights to the back court need to be taken up directly with the landlord as it is not a material planning consideration and is instead a civil matter outwith the legal jurisdiction of the planning process.

The proposed restaurant would increase footfall to its town centre location, which is positive and should be viewed as such by members given that it would contribute to the vitality, vibrancy and economic viability of Greenock town centre in a time when most town centres are struggling. Any residential property in a town centre location will

undoubtedly be subject to background noise by virtue of its location and this is unavoidable. However, the proposals are for a restaurant not a nightclub therefore a degree of proportionality needs to be applied in this instance.

In terms of fire safety, this would be covered under building regulations and the building warrant process - not through the planning process. While fire safety is undoubtedly important, it is not a material planning consideration and should therefore be disregarded in the consideration of this appeal.

I would be obliged if you could add this response to the appeal case file and circulate to members for their information.

Best wishes

Lisa

Lisa Miller
Senior Planner



T. 0131 385 8743 (Direct)

T. 0131 385 8801 (Office)

E. lisa@fergusonplanning.co.uk

W. www.fergusonplanning.co.uk

t. @fergplan

I do not work on a Wednesday and finish at 13:30 on a Friday.



This message may contain confidential information. If you think this message has been addressed to you in error please delete it. You are not entitled to copy or forward it to any third party other than the sender. We would ask any such occurrences to be notified to tim@fergusonplanning.co.uk Unless stated nothing in this message shall be taken to be an offer or acceptance of any contract. We are not responsible for any effect that this message or its attachments may have on your IT system. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Ferguson Planning.

**11. SUGGESTED CONDITIONS AND ADVISORY NOTE
SHOULD PLANNING PERMISSION BE GRANTED
ON REVIEW**

23/0009/IC - Review - Suggested Conditions

Should planning permission be granted on review the following conditions and advisory note are suggested.

Conditions

1. The development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission.
2. Prior to the restaurant hereby approved being brought into active use, the exact details and specification of the ventilation, filtration and extraction systems to serve the restaurant, including the proposed odour mitigation measures, shall be submitted for the approval in writing by the Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt the details and specification to be submitted shall include:
 - a) the exhaust point of the extraction system shall terminate at the height shown in drawing number 22054_D_04, Revision A;
 - b) ensuring that the exhaust air is expelled from the exit point at sufficient temperature/velocity to ensure it is taken away from nearby residential properties;
 - c) the maintenance/management scheme for the ventilation and filtration system; and
 - d) the mechanical and electrical installations being arranged to ensure that the ventilation system operates during periods when the premises are open for the preparation and/or cooking of food.

The ventilation, filtration and extraction systems shall then be implemented as approved with the systems retained and maintained/managed for as long as the premises remain as a restaurant.

Reasons

1. To comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).
2. To protect local residents from nuisance resulting from cooking odours.

Advisory Note

We would also recommend the following advisory notes be placed on any consent, if granted upon review:

1. Air conditioning units/heating units/refrigeration units/extract flues etc. if attached to the property must be suitably insulated or isolated to minimise the effects of vibration in neighbouring properties.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY

3 APRIL 2024

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

MR IAIN HEPBURN

**PROPOSED EXTENSION COMPRISING ONE-AND-A-HALF STOREY REAR
EXTENSION WITH NORTH FACING DORMER WINDOW AND SINGLE STOREY
SIDE EXTENSION ON NORTH SIDE TOPPED WITH ROOF TERRACE
22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE, GOUROCK (23/0184/IC)**

Contents

- 1. Planning Application dated 24 August 2023 together with Plans and Elevations**
- 2. Appointed Officer's Report of Handling dated 29 January 2024**
- 3. Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2019 Policy Extract**

To view the Inverclyde Local Development Plan see:

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/development-planning/ldp>

- 4. Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2019 Map Extract**
- 5. Inverclyde Local Development Plan 2019 Supplementary Guidance on Planning Application Advice Notes Policy Extract**
- 6. National Planning Framework 4**
- 7. Decision Notice dated 29 January 2024 issued by Head of Regeneration & Planning**
- 8. Notice of Review Form dated 10 February 2024 together with Statement of Appeal**
- 9. Suggested Conditions and Advisory Notes should Planning Permission be granted on Review**

Note: Inverclyde Proposed Local Development Plan 2021 has been attached to the rear of the agenda papers as supplementary content.

- 1. PLANNING APPLICATION DATED 24 AUGUST 2023
TOGETHER WITH PLANS AND ELEVATIONS**



Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY Tel: 01475 717171 Fax: 01475 712 468 Email: devcont.planning@inverclyde.gov.uk

Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid.

Thank you for completing this application form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100639016-001

The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning Authority will allocate an Application Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the planning Authority about this application.

Description of Proposal

Please describe accurately the work proposed: * (Max 500 characters)

Proposed internal alterations & formation of wrap around extension inclusive of Dormer Window & Roof Terrace

Has the work already been started and/ or completed? *

☒ No ☐ Yes - Started ☐ Yes – Completed

Applicant or Agent Details

Are you an applicant or an agent? * (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting on behalf of the applicant in connection with this application)

☒ Applicant ☐ Agent

Applicant Details

Please enter Applicant details

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Title: | <input type="text" value="Mr"/> | You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: * |
| Other Title: | <input type="text"/> | Building Name: <input type="text"/> |
| First Name: * | <input type="text" value="Iain"/> | Building Number: <input type="text" value="22"/> |
| Last Name: * | <input type="text" value="Hepburn"/> | Address 1 (Street): * <input type="text" value="Rosemount Place"/> |
| Company/Organisation | <input type="text"/> | Address 2: <input type="text"/> |
| Telephone Number: * | <input type="text" value=""/> | Town/City: * <input type="text" value="Gourock"/> |
| Extension Number: | <input type="text"/> | Country: * <input type="text" value="Scotland"/> |
| Mobile Number: | <input type="text" value=""/> | Postcode: * <input type="text" value="PA19 1HQ"/> |
| Fax Number: | <input type="text"/> | |
| Email Address: * | <input type="text" value=""/> | |

Site Address Details

| | |
|---|---|
| Planning Authority: | <input type="text" value="Inverclyde Council"/> |
| Full postal address of the site (including postcode where available): | |
| Address 1: | <input type="text" value="22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE"/> |
| Address 2: | <input type="text"/> |
| Address 3: | <input type="text"/> |
| Address 4: | <input type="text"/> |
| Address 5: | <input type="text"/> |
| Town/City/Settlement: | <input type="text" value="GOUROCK"/> |
| Post Code: | <input type="text" value="PA19 1HQ"/> |

Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Northing | <input type="text" value="676581"/> | Easting | <input type="text" value="222548"/> |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|

Pre-Application Discussion

Have you discussed your proposal with the planning authority? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Trees

Are there any trees on or adjacent to the application site? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please mark on your drawings any trees, known protected trees and their canopy spread close to the proposal site and indicate if any are to be cut back or felled.

Access and Parking

Are you proposing a new or altered vehicle access to or from a public road? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe and show on your drawings the position of any existing, altered or new access points, highlighting the changes you proposed to make. You should also show existing footpaths and note if there will be any impact on these.

Planning Service Employee/Elected Member Interest

Is the applicant, or the applicant's spouse/partner, either a member of staff within the planning service or an elected member of the planning authority? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Certificates and Notices

CERTIFICATE AND NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 15 – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATION 2013

One Certificate must be completed and submitted along with the application form. This is most usually Certificate A, Form 1, Certificate B, Certificate C or Certificate E.

Are you/the applicant the sole owner of ALL the land? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is any of the land part of an agricultural holding? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Certificate Required

The following Land Ownership Certificate is required to complete this section of the proposal:

Certificate A

Land Ownership Certificate

Certificate and Notice under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Certificate A

I hereby certify that –

(1) - No person other than myself/the applicant was an owner (Any person who, in respect of any part of the land, is the owner or is the lessee under a lease thereof of which not less than 7 years remain unexpired.) of any part of the land to which the application relates at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application.

(2) - None of the land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding

Signed: Mr Iain Hepburn

On behalf of:

Date: 11/08/2023

☒ Please tick here to certify this Certificate. *

Checklist – Application for Householder Application

Please take a few moments to complete the following checklist in order to ensure that you have provided all the necessary information in support of your application. Failure to submit sufficient information with your application may result in your application being deemed invalid. The planning authority will not start processing your application until it is valid.

- a) Have you provided a written description of the development to which it relates? * ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b) Have you provided the postal address of the land to which the development relates, or if the land in question has no postal address, a description of the location of the land? * ☒ Yes ☐ No
- c) Have you provided the name and address of the applicant and, where an agent is acting on behalf of the applicant, the name and address of that agent? * ☒ Yes ☐ No
- d) Have you provided a location plan sufficient to identify the land to which it relates showing the situation of the land in relation to the locality and in particular in relation to neighbouring land? *. This should have a north point and be drawn to an identified scale. ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e) Have you provided a certificate of ownership? * ☒ Yes ☐ No
- f) Have you provided the fee payable under the Fees Regulations? * ☒ Yes ☐ No
- g) Have you provided any other plans as necessary? * ☒ Yes ☐ No

Continued on the next page

A copy of the other plans and drawings or information necessary to describe the proposals (two must be selected). *

You can attach these electronic documents later in the process.

- ☒ Existing and Proposed elevations.
- ☒ Existing and proposed floor plans.
- ☐ Cross sections.
- ☒ Site layout plan/Block plans (including access).
- ☐ Roof plan.
- ☐ Photographs and/or photomontages.

Additional Surveys – for example a tree survey or habitat survey may be needed. In some instances you may need to submit a survey about the structural condition of the existing house or outbuilding. ☐ Yes ☒ No

A Supporting Statement – you may wish to provide additional background information or justification for your Proposal. This can be helpful and you should provide this in a single statement. This can be combined with a Design Statement if required. * ☐ Yes ☒ No

You must submit a fee with your application. Your application will not be able to be validated until the appropriate fee has been Received by the planning authority.

Declare – For Householder Application

I, the applicant/agent certify that this is an application for planning permission as described in this form and the accompanying Plans/drawings and additional information.

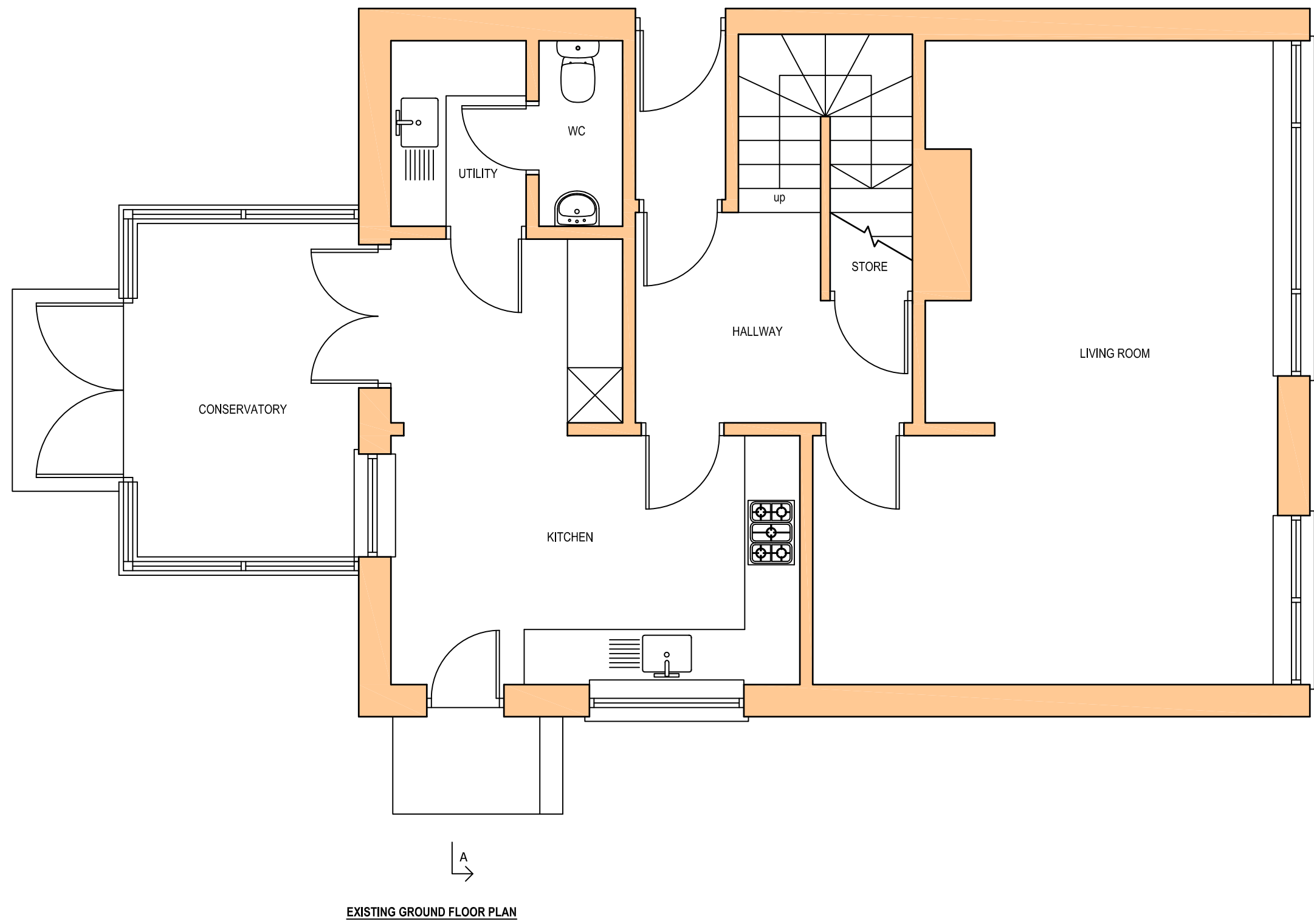
Declaration Name: Mr Iain Hepburn

Declaration Date: 24/08/2023

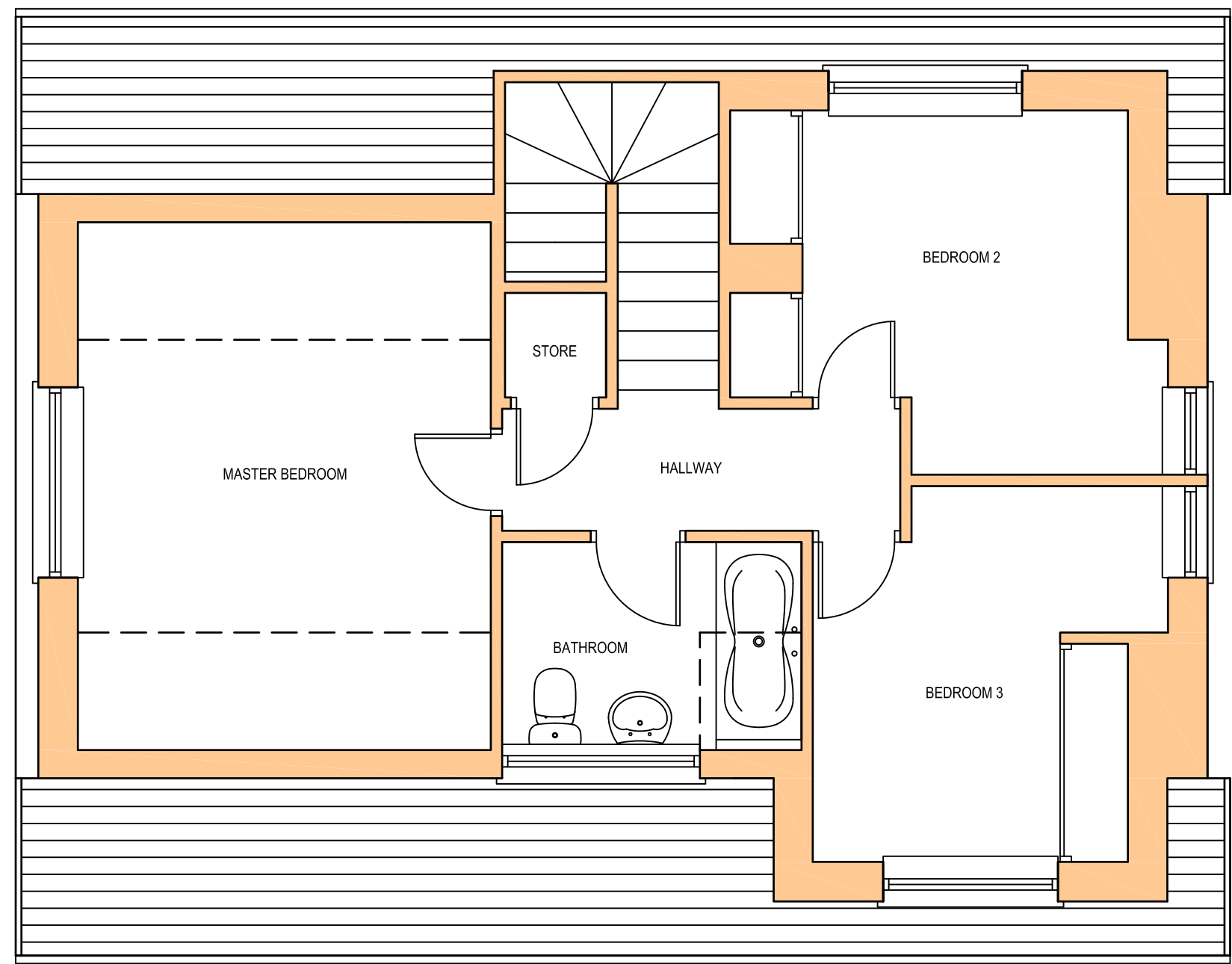
Payment Details

Online payment: ICPP00001903
Payment date: 24/08/2023 11:49:00

Created: 24/08/2023 11:49



EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN



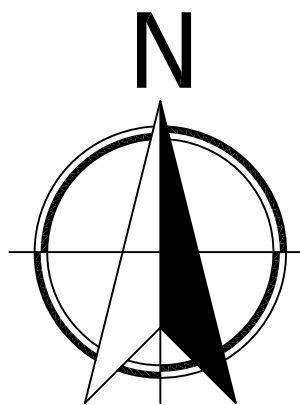
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OS REPRODUCED UNDER LICENSE NO. AR 100007288



1:1250 SCALEBAR



ALTERATIONS & FORMATION
OF REAR EXTENSION AT

22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE
GOUROCK
PA19 1HQ

FOR

MR & MRS HEPBURN

TITLE EXISTING PLANS

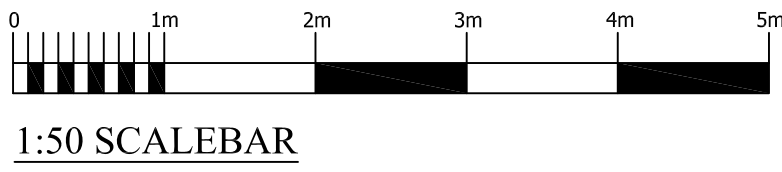
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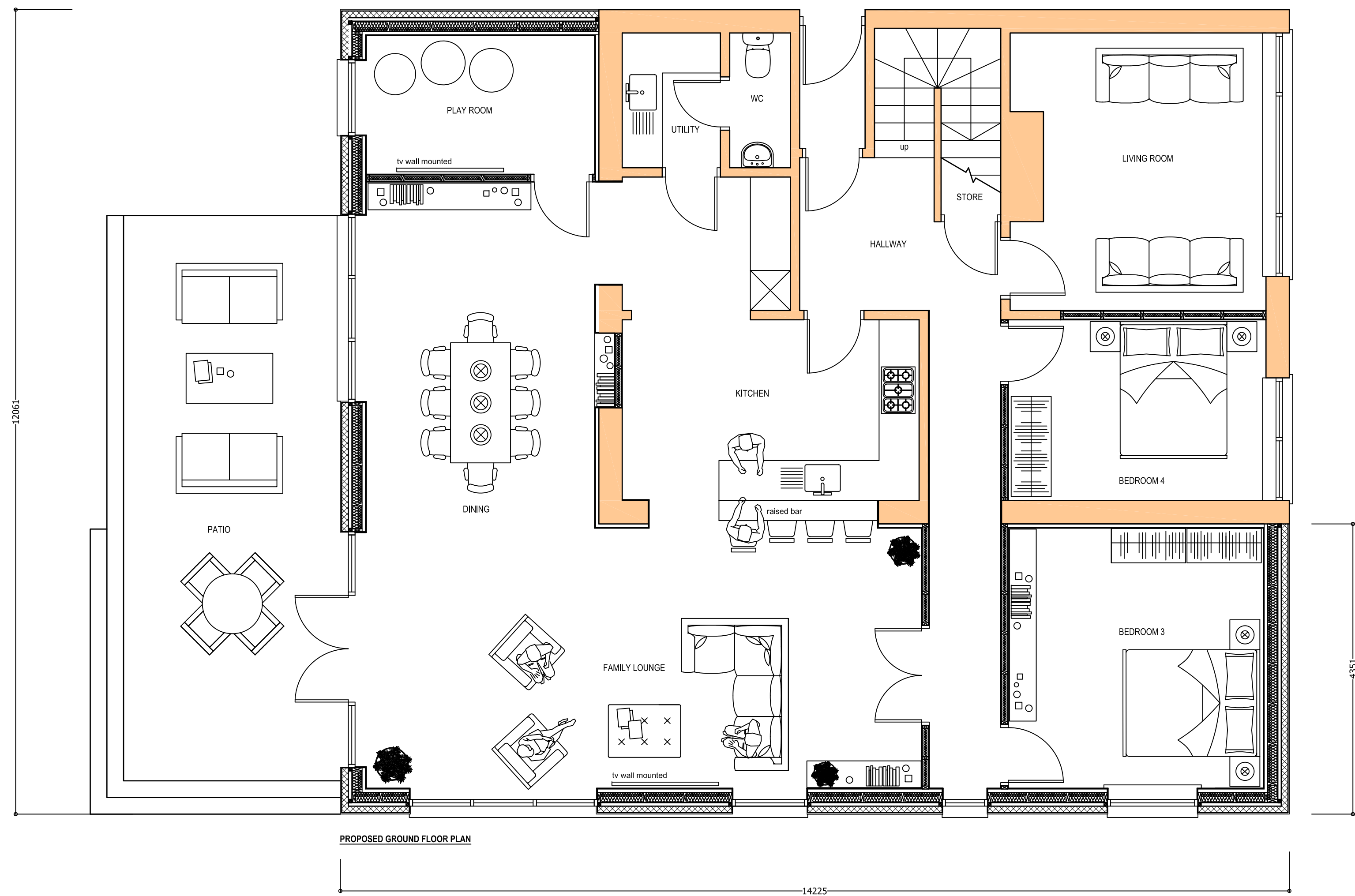
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REVISION DESCRIPTION DATE

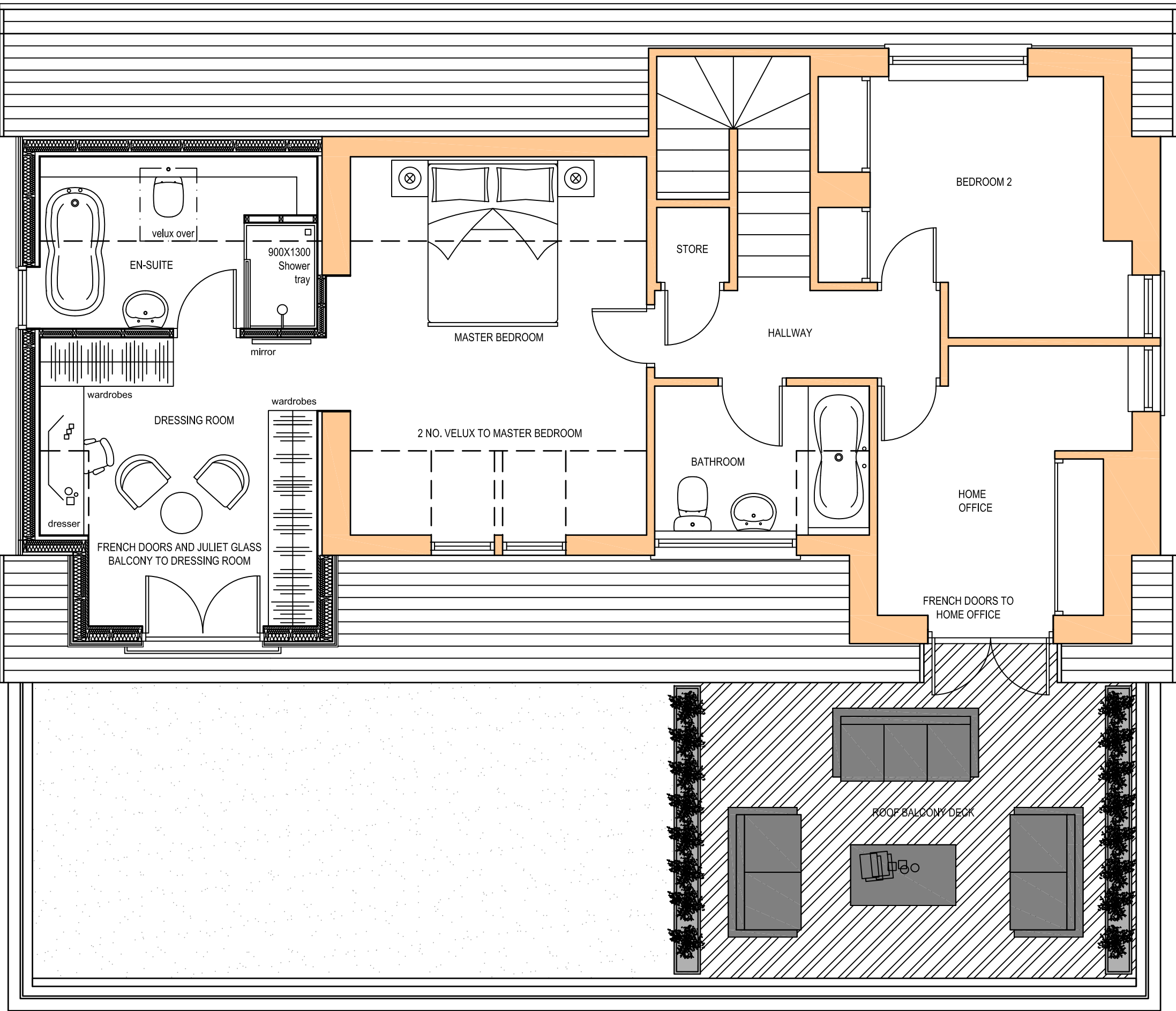
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|---|---------------|------|
| ALTERATIONS & FORMATION OF REAR EXTENSION AT | | |
| 22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE GOUROCK PA19 1HQ | | |
| FOR | | |
| MR & MRS HEPBURN | | |
| TITLE EXISTING ELEVATIONS | | |
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| REVISION | DESCRIPTION | DATE |
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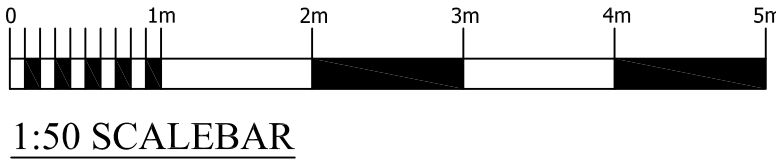


PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PROPOSED 19M SQ ROOF BALCONY DECK



ALTERATIONS & FORMATION
OF REAR EXTENSION AT

22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE
GOUROCK
PA19 1HQ

FOR

MR & MRS HEPBURN

TITLE PROPOSED PLANS

DRAWING NO. 2023-BW-003/IH

SCALE 1:50
@ A1

DATE 02-08-23

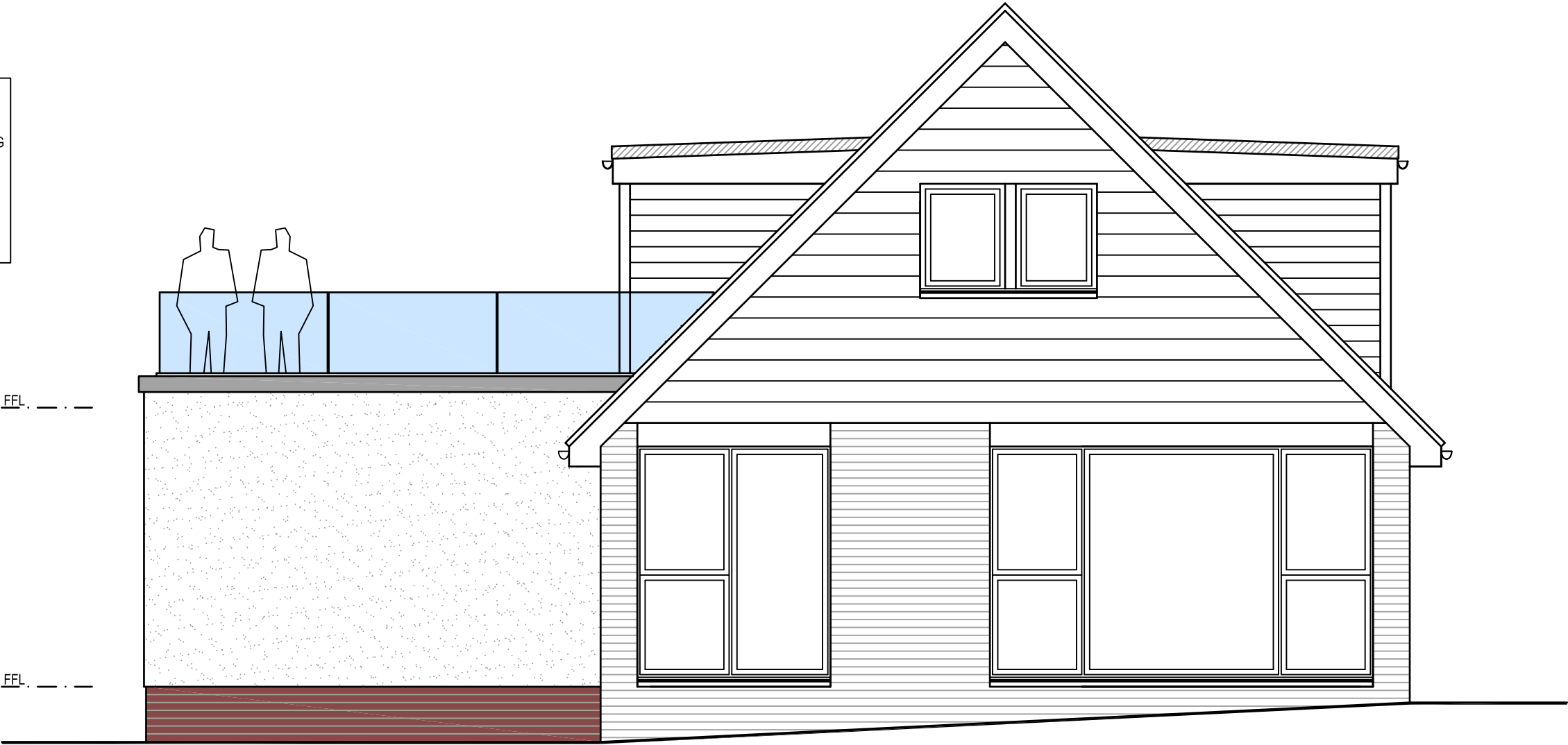
| REVISION | DESCRIPTION | DATE |
|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| A | Revised to Planning Comments | 20.11.23 |



PROPOSED NORTH FACING REAR ELEVATION

MATERIAL FINISHES

BRICK :- "WESTBRICK RED PURPLE MULTI" FROM IBSTOCK
RENDER :- DRYDASH RENDER IN OFF WHITE TO MATCH EXISTING
CLADDING :- SILVER GREY COMPOSITE CLADDING BY CEDRAL
ROOF:- INTERLOCKING TILES IN GREY TO MATCH EXISTING
FASCIAS / BARGEBOARDS :- WHITE UPVC TO MATCH
WINDOWS & DOORS :- WHITE UPVC / ALUMINUM COMPOSITE
CILLS / COPING :- CONCRETE CHAMFERED SLIPS IN GREY
BALUSTRADE :- FRAMELESS GLASS SYSTEM



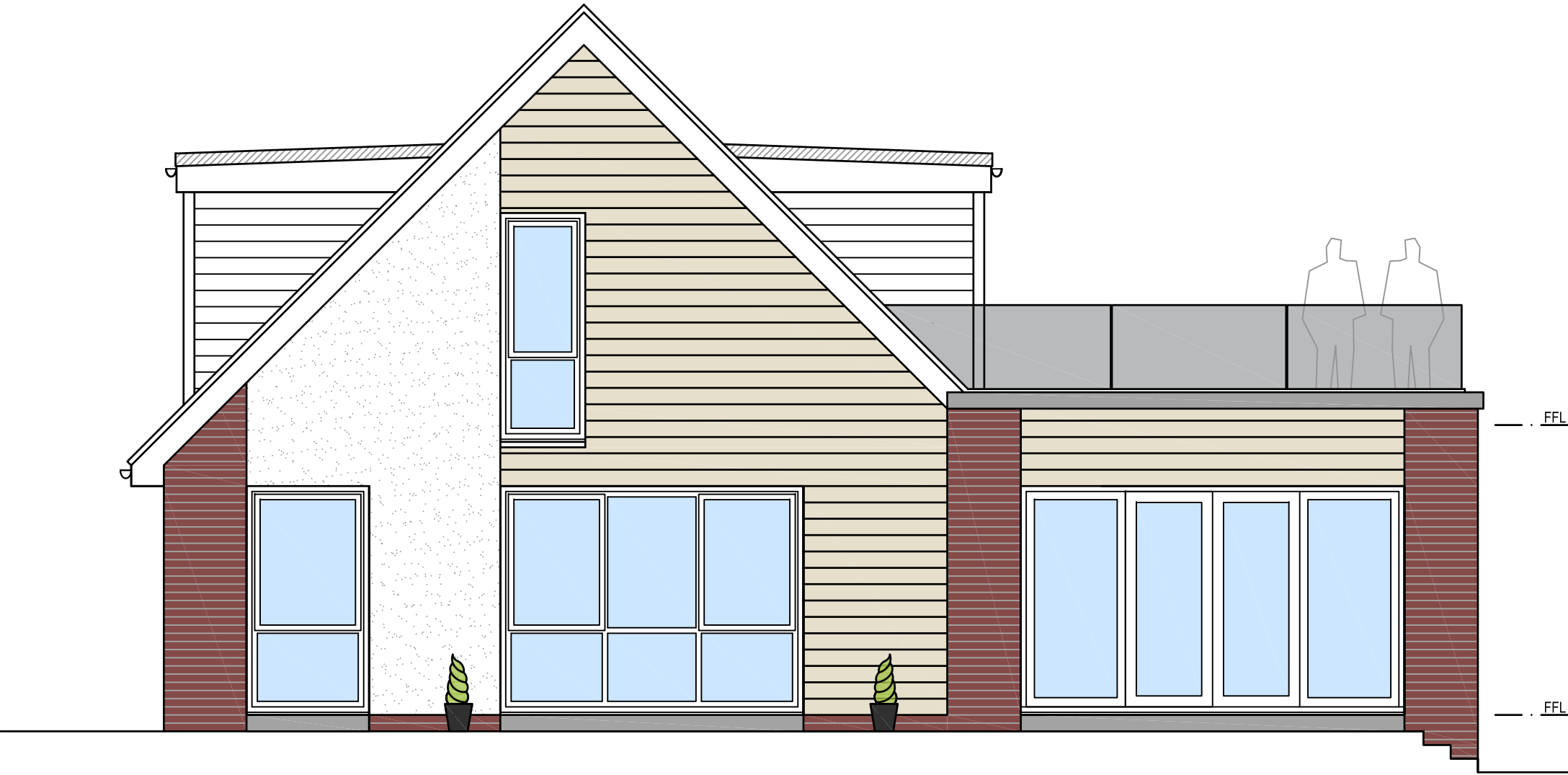
PROPOSED WEST FACING GABLE ELEVATION



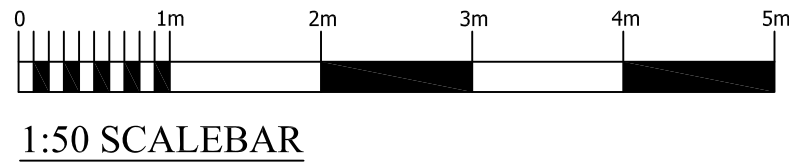
PROPOSED SOUTH FACING ENTRANCE ELEVATION

MATERIAL FINISHES

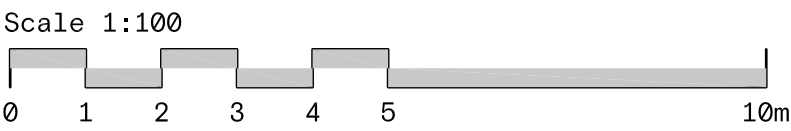
BRICK :- "WESTBRICK RED PURPLE MULTI" FROM IBSTOCK
RENDER :- DRYDASH RENDER IN OFF WHITE TO MATCH EXISTING
CLADDING :- SILVER GREY COMPOSITE CLADDING BY CEDRAL
ROOF:- INTERLOCKING TILES IN GREY TO MATCH EXISTING
FASCIAS / BARGEBOARDS :- WHITE UPVC TO MATCH
WINDOWS & DOORS :- WHITE UPVC / ALUMINUM COMPOSITE
CILLS / COPING :- CONCRETE CHAMFERED SLIPS IN GREY
BALUSTRADE :- FRAMELESS GLASS SYSTEM



PROPOSED EAST FACING GABLE ELEVATION



| | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------|
| ALTERATIONS & FORMATION OF REAR EXTENSION AT | | |
| 22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE GOUROCK PA19 1HQ | | |
| FOR | | |
| MR & MRS HEPBURN | | |
| TITLE PROPOSED ELEVATIONS | | |
| DRAWING NO. 2023-BW-004/IH | | |
| SCALE 1:50 @ A1 | DATE 02-08-23 | |
| REVISION | DESCRIPTION | DATE |
| A | Revised to Planning Comments | 20.11.23 |



| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| ALTERATIONS & FORMATION OF REAR EXTENSION AT | | |
| 22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE GOUROCK PA19 1HQ | | |
| FOR | | |
| MR & MRS HEPBURN | | |
| TITLE BLOCK PLANS | | |
| DRAWING NO. 2023-BW-005/IH | | |
| SCALE 1:200 @ A1 | | DATE 02-08-23 |
| REVISION | DESCRIPTION | DATE |
| A | Revised to Planning Comments | 20.11.23 |
| B | Revised to Planning Comments | 20.12.23 |
| C | Revised to Planning Comments | 13.11.24 |

2. APPOINTED OFFICER'S REPORT OF HANDLING DATED 29 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF HANDLING

Report By: David Sinclair

Report No: 23/0184/IC

**Local Application
Development**

**Contact
Officer:** 01475 712436

Date: 29th January 2024

Subject: Proposed extension comprising one-and-a-half storey rear extension with north facing dormer window and single storey side extension on north side topped with roof terrace at

22 Rosemount Place, Gourock

SITE DESCRIPTION

The application site comprises a one-and-a-half storey detached dwellinghouse located at the east side of Rosemount Place, Gourock. The dwellinghouse sits at the east end of a turning head which contains a road that runs off the north side of the turning head and turns east along the north side of the site. The building has a grey tiled pitched roof with two flat roofed dormers on the north elevation and one on the south elevation; red brick base course and front elevation at ground floor level; brick corners framing white render walls to sides and rear; dark brown timber clad walls at first floor level to the front and rear; and white uPVC windows, doors, fasciae and rainwater goods. The dormers on the north elevation comprise a small dormer in the centre of the roof plane and a larger dormer towards the west end of the roof plane, finished with grey tile dormer faces, white uPVC windows and dark brown/grey window surrounds, fasciae and rainwater goods. The building contains a glazed conservatory to the rear finished in white uPVC set on a red brick base course.

The site sits on a north facing slope, with average gradients of around 1 in 12. A detached garage is located on the south side of the dwellinghouse, finished with a flat grey membrane roof; red brick frontage with white garage door and white render to the sides and rear. A driveway topped with a mixture of paving and gravel is located between the driveway and side entrance. The remainder of the site is mostly grassed. Boundary treatments include a 2-metre high hedge which runs from the north side of the driveway entrance around the north and west sides of the site along Rosemount Place, timber fencing along the south side boundary and a post and wire fence along the rear boundary.

The site adjoins a row of two-storey terraced dwellings to the north which front onto Carnoustie Avenue, a detached one-and-a-half storey dwellinghouse to the east set within a wooded area; and a mixture of one-and-a-half and two storey detached dwellings to the south and west which front onto Rosemount Place.

PROPOSAL

Planning permission is sought for the construction of an 'L' shaped side and rear extension comprising a one-and-a-half storey element to the rear of the existing building and a single storey element to the side of both the existing building and the rear extension and for the formation of a roof terrace on top of the side extension at the west end of the extension. The rear conservatory is to be demolished to accommodate the extension.

The extension is to extend from the existing rear elevation by approximately 3.85m and continue along the existing south facing wall and both pitched roof planes. It is proposed to construct a north facing dormer on the roof of the extension, this is proposed to measure 3.3m in width, with a flat roof level in height with the two existing dormers on this elevation. This dormer is proposed to contain French doors and a frameless glass Juliette balcony. The rear elevation is proposed to contain a set of double sliding doors and a single window at ground level, with a single window at first floor level. A single rooflight is proposed on the south facing roof plane. This extension is proposed to be finished with grey roof tiles on the pitched roof to match the existing dwellinghouse, red/purple brick wall on the south elevation and a mixture of red/purple brick, white render and silver-grey composite cladding on the rear elevation.

The side extension is proposed to project out from the north side elevation by approximately 4.35m and will measure approximately 14.2m in length, sitting in line with the existing principal elevation to the front and the proposed rear elevation to the rear. The roof will measure approximately 3.5m in height. It is proposed to install four window openings on the side elevation of varying sizes, the rearmost three of which are to extend to floor level. From front to rear these will measure approximately 1.3m, 0.65m, 1.1m and 2.75m in width. The rear elevation is to contain a window opening which will match the design and scale of the largest window on the side elevation. The single storey extension is proposed to be finished with white render to the front, silver-grey composite cladding with red/purple brick basecourse and trims to the rear, white uPVC windows, composite aluminium doors, and white uPVC fasciae.

The roof terrace is proposed to be positioned at the front of the side extension, measuring approximately 5m in length by 3.65m in width and will be accessible from French doors which are to be installed on the proposed dormer and the existing front dormer. It is proposed to install a glazed balustrade around the roof terrace.

To accommodate the extension, it is proposed to form two additional off-street parking spaces on the south side of the garage along the southern boundary. The parking area is proposed to measure 10m in length by 3m in width and will be accessed from the existing off-street parking in front of the garage.

Additional works to install a patio on the rear of the extension behind the original dwellinghouse and to convert the existing north facing dormer window into French doors are indicated to be undertaken on the drawings submitted, however, these works are considered to be permitted development in planning terms and do not require further consideration as part of this application.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 (NPF4)

NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13th February 2023. NPF4 forms part of the statutory development plan, along with the Inverclyde Local Development Plan and its supplementary guidance. NPF4 supersedes National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014). NPF3 and SPP no longer represent Scottish Ministers' planning policy. The Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and associated supplementary guidance cease to have effect from 13th February 2023 and as such no longer form part of the development plan.

NPF4 contains 33 policies and the following are considered relevant to this application.

Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

Policy 14

a) Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.

b) Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.

Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency.

Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the six qualities of successful places are set out in Annex D.

c) Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

Policy 16

g) Householder development proposals will be supported where they:

- i. do not have a detrimental impact on the character or environmental quality of the home and the surrounding area in terms of size, design and materials; and
- ii. do not have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking.

ADOPTED 2019 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Policy 1 – Creating Successful Places

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 3. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.

Policy 11 – Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards. Developers are required to provide or contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

Planning Application Advice Notes (PAAN) 4 on "House Extensions", **(PAAN) 5** on "Outdoor Seating Areas" and **(PAAN) 6** on "Dormer Windows" apply.

PROPOSED 2021 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Policy 1 – Creating Successful Places

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing and assessing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 2 and demonstrated in a design-led approach. Where relevant,

applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes and Design Guidance for New Residential Development Supplementary Guidance. When assessing proposals for the development opportunities identified by this Plan, regard will also be had to the mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report.

Policy 12 – Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards, including cycle parking standards. Developers are required to provide or financially contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

Policy 20 – Residential Areas

Proposals for development within residential areas will be assessed with regard to their impact on the amenity, character and appearance of the area. Where relevant, assessment will include reference to the Council's Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.

Draft Planning Application Advice Notes (PAAN) 4 on "House Extensions", **(PAAN) 5** on "Outdoor Seating Areas" and **(PAAN) 6** on "Dormer Windows" apply.

CONSULTATIONS

Head of Service – Roads and Transportation – Advises as follows:

- Parking should be provided in accordance with the National Roads Development Guidelines. The existing dwelling has 3 bedrooms which requires 2 parking spaces. The proposed dwelling with extension has 4 bedrooms which requires 3 parking spaces. Applicant to show they can meet this requirement.
- For the garage to be counted as a parking space, it must be a minimum of 3.0m by 7.0m.
- The minimum dimensions of the driveway should be 3.0m wide by 5.0m long per parking space. There should also be a minimum of 0.9m path past these parking spaces where the driveway forms part of the pedestrian access to the property.
- Driveway to be fully paved and the gradient shall not exceed 10%.
- All surface water should be managed within the site to prevent flooding to surrounding properties and the public road network.
- If the additional parking is provided at a different location to the existing driveway the applicant shall demonstrate that a visibility splay of 2.0m x 20.0m x 1.05m can be achieved.

Scottish Water – No objection to this planning application however the applicant should be aware that this does not confirm that the proposed development can currently be serviced. Advises that: there is live infrastructure in the proximity of the development area; the applicant must identify any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets and contact their Asset Impact Team via our Customer Portal for an appraisal of the proposals; any conflict with assets identified will be subject to restrictions on proximity of construction; and written permission must be obtained before any works are started within the area of their apparatus. Also advises that Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into the combined sewer system.

PUBLICITY

The nature of the proposal did not require advertisement.

SITE NOTICES

The nature of the proposal did not require a site notice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No representations were received.

ASSESSMENT

The material considerations in determination of the application are the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan (LDP); the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan (LDP); Planning Application Advice Notes (PAAN) 4 on “House Extensions”, (PAAN) 5 on “Outdoor Seating Areas” and (PAAN) 6 on “Dormer Windows”; Draft Planning Application Advice Notes (PAAN) 4 on “House Extensions”, (PAAN) 5 on “Outdoor Seating Areas” and (PAAN) 6 on “Dormer Windows”; and the consultation response.

Both LDPs locate the application site within an established residential area where Policies 1, 14 and 16 of NPF4, Policy 1 of the adopted LDP and Policies 1 and 20 of the proposed LDP apply. As the proposal is for works to enlarge an existing dwelling, which will impact on parking requirements within the site, Policy 11 of the adopted LDP and Policy 12 of the proposed LDP also require consideration. Policy 1 of NPF4 requires consideration of the global climate and nature crises to be given to all development. Policy 16 of NPF4 supports householder development which does not have a detrimental impact on the character of the home and surrounding area in terms of size, design and materials and does not have a detrimental impact on neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking.

Policy 14 of NPF4 and Policy 1 of both LDPs refer to qualities of successful places. The qualities of being Pleasant and Distinctive in Policy 14 and the qualities of being ‘Distinctive’ and ‘Safe and Pleasant’ in Policy 1 of both LDPs are relevant to this application. In the adopted LDP, the relevant factor to be considered ‘Distinctive’ is whether the proposal reflects local architecture and urban form. In the proposed LDP, the relevant factors are whether the proposal respects landscape setting and character, and urban form; and reflects local vernacular/architecture and materials. To be considered ‘Safe and Pleasant’, the proposal should avoid conflict with adjacent uses and minimise the impact on traffic and parking on the street scene. Policy 1 of both LDPs also require consideration to be given to relevant supplementary guidance, of which the adopted and draft PAANs 4, 5 and 6 are relevant to this proposal. Policy 20 of the proposed LDP requires the proposal to be assessed with regard to the impact on the amenity, character and appearance of the area, referring to the relevant supplementary guidance.

The proposal is for an extension to an existing dwellinghouse which can be considered to encourage the long-term future use of the dwellinghouse, therefore it is not considered to raise any concerns with regard to the aims of Policy 1 of NPF4.

The proposal is for a side and rear extension and a roof terrace and dormer window on the north side elevation of the dwellinghouse, all of which will be visible from the public realm on Rosemount Place, which runs along the west and north sides of the site, terminating at the rear of the site. The side extension will be positioned behind the existing 2m high boundary hedge which wraps around the front and side boundaries of the site, with the upper sections of the extension being visible above the hedge. In considering the impacts on the urban form of the area, the one-and-a-half storey rear extension extends the external wall and pitched roof design of the dwellinghouse to the rear and can be considered to reflect the character of the dwellinghouse. The side extension is to be positioned in line with both front and rear elevations and would result in a large, flat roofed structure which extends above the existing eaves line and contrasts with the original pitched roof house design. The extension is larger than any other extensions in the immediate vicinity and the prominent position of the extension results in it projecting forwards of the existing dwellinghouse relative to Rosemount Place, which runs along the north side of the site. The extension will reduce the setback distance of the building from the street from between 6.9 and 7.8m, which is similar to set back distances of other properties in the area to between 2.55 and 3.7m, resulting in the development being closer to the road. This will result in a dominant feature which would disrupt the established urban form and pattern of

development along this street. As such, the proposal does not reflect the urban form of the area and is therefore considered to be contrary to Policy 1 of both LDPs in this regard.

In considering the impacts of the proposal on the character and appearance of the dwellinghouse and on neighbouring amenity (Policy 20 of the proposed LDP), I shall assess these for the extension against the guidance given in both PAAN 4s on “House Extensions” and both PAAN 6s on “Dormer Windows” and for the roof terrace against both PAAN 5s on “Outdoor Seating Areas”.

Both the adopted and draft PAAN 4s state that for rear extensions, two-storey extensions will be considered on individual merit. They should not extend beyond 3.5 metres from the rear wall of the original house or result in a loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house. An extension should not result in more than 50% of the rear garden area being developed or extend to within 5.5 metres of the rear garden boundary. Extending beyond the rear elevation by 3.85 metres, the two-storey extension does exceed the 3.5 metre recommended distance, however, the position of the extension does not result in a loss of light to any rooms in neighbouring houses. The proposal will increase the area of developed ground from approximately 6.3% of the rear garden to approximately 25.4%, within the 50% limit and will be between 10.4 and 17.2 metres from the rear boundary, exceeding the 5.5 metre recommended distance. It can therefore be considered that despite extending beyond the recommended distance in both PAAN 4s, the extension will not have a detrimental impact on neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking and raises no conflicts with Policy 16 of NPF4.

Both the adopted and draft PAAN 4s state that for side extensions, windows on side elevations should be avoided where they offer a direct view of neighbouring private/rear gardens. In all instances windows should comply with the window intervisibility guidance. In terms of design, windows which are visible from public areas shall match the scale, proportions and materials of those on the existing house. The roof over side extensions should match the existing house roof and side extensions should be set back at least 1 metre from the site boundary. Extensions should be finished in materials that complement those of the existing house and off street parking requirements are to be met.

The proposed single storey extension contains four side facing windows, which will face onto Rosemount Place in an elevated position relative to the existing hedge, affording a limited view over the hedge. Although the windows will likely be afforded a greater angle of view of the neighbouring rear gardens to the north on Carnoustie Avenue than the existing side windows due to being in closer proximity to the boundary, the angle of view will not be substantially greater than that currently afforded to persons travelling along Rosemount Place, therefore they do not raise any concerns in terms of overlooking. In terms of window intervisibility guidance, the proposed windows are to be just over 24 metres from the nearest windows on the rear of 13, 15 and 17 Carnoustie Avenue, exceeding the 18 metre minimum distance recommended for windows which directly face each other. The windows in the extension will not result in conflict with neighbouring uses in terms of overlooking.

The windows proposed on the side elevation of the extension are of a similar height to the ground floor windows on the existing house and will contain a single horizontal glazing bar at a similar height to ones currently in use on the principal elevation. Furthermore, the proposed window design towards the rear of the side extension reflects the design of the windows shown on the rear elevation of the one-and-a-half storey extension. The choice of finishing materials also reflects the existing windows on the principal elevation. Based on the above, the design of the proposed windows is considered acceptable.

In considering the off-street parking requirements, the site currently contains an existing driveway on the south side of the principal elevation which is accessed from Rosemount Place which can be used for off-street parking. The Head of Service – Roads and Transportation advises that the proposal will require an increase in off-street parking to three off-street parking spaces. Following further discussions with the applicant, they have indicated that they would be seeking to form two additional parking spaces to the sizes specified by the Head of Service – Roads and Transportation on the south side of the existing garage and driveway which would use the existing driveway access and provide the required off-street parking without impacting

on the existing pedestrian access. The provision of the parking spaces on site can be addressed by a condition should planning permission be granted. It stands that the proposal can meet the off-street parking requirements of the Council's. The proposal can be considered to minimise the impact on traffic and parking on the street scene, meet this factor of being 'Safe and Pleasant' in Policy 1 of both LDPs and stands to accord with Policy 11 of the adopted LDP and Policy 12 of the proposed LDP.

With regard to the other matters raised in the consultation response from the Head of Service – Roads and Transportation, I concur with the advice given over the gradient of parking spaces and surfacing materials and consider these matters can be addressed by a condition should planning permission be granted. I concur with the advice given to manage surface water within the site and consider this matter can also be addressed by a planning condition.

Regarding design and materials, the building contains a strongly defined gable to the front with a brick frontage at ground floor level and timber cladding at first floor level. The house also makes use of brick trims throughout, which frame the windows on the principal elevation and the render on the sides and rear, creating a balanced composition. The extension disrupts this design by having the side of the extension on the principal elevation project above eaves level, and the use of a fully rendered frontage which projects above the dividing line between brick and timber cladding on the principal elevation conflicts with the materials in use on the existing house. It also presents a continuous render wall around the north-west corner, which does not reflect the brick trim design which is currently in place on the existing house and proposed on the rear elevations of the extension. It is noted that no windows are proposed on the principal elevation of the side extension, which strengthens the contrast in finishing materials between the proposal and the existing principal elevation. The principal elevation does not currently feature any render finishes and although this choice of materials is in use on other elevations, the design fails to reflect the existing frontage and results in an unexpected design, to the detriment of the character and appearance of the building. The proposal therefore cannot be considered to reflect the character of the existing building. Taking the above into consideration, the proposal fails to reflect local architecture and materials and as such fails to meet the quality of being 'Distinctive' in Policy 14 of NPF4 and Policy 1 of both LDPs.

In considering the proposed dormer window, both the adopted and draft PAAN 6s advise that dormers should preferably be located at the rear of the house, should be subordinate to the existing roof in terms of shape and size and be set back from the wall head, be below the ridge line of the roof and be set back from the gable ends. In terms of materials, exposed fascia boarding should be used sparingly and should be painted to match the colour of the dormer faces rather than the window frames. External cladding should be similar to the original roof and the window openings of the dormer should, where practical, follow the style, proportion and alignment of door and window openings in the existing house.

The proposed dormer window is to be located on the north side of the rear extension, on the same elevation as an existing dormer which is located towards the front of the house. The position of the dormer can be considered to have an acceptable impact on the character and appearance of the dwellinghouse. In terms of scale, the dormer accords with the guidance in both PAAN 6s in terms of being set back from the wall head and gable ends and below the ridge line of the roof. The dormer is designed to replicate the other dormers on the building in terms of the extent of fascia boarding and although the drawings indicate that fasciae are to be in white uPVC, which does not match the grey fasciae on the existing dormers, this matter can be addressed by a condition, if planning permission is approved, to ensure the fascia boarding matches the colour of the existing dormers and dormer faces which are to be given a grey finish. The drawings indicate cladding to be used on the extensions is to be silver-grey composite cladding, however it is unclear whether this material will also be used on the dormer faces. This detail can also be addressed by a condition to ensure the materials used on the dormer match the existing dormers. The dormer is proposed to contain French doors, which differ from the current design on the existing dormer, however, it is noted that the existing dormer window is to be replaced with French doors, which would result in a cohesive finish between the two dormers on the north facing roof plane and can be considered acceptable. Based on the above assessment, I am satisfied that the proposed dormer can be designed in a

manner which accords with the guidance in both PAAN 6s and consider the proposal to accord with this guidance note.

In considering the proposed roof terrace, the impacts primarily relate to the appearance of the this aspect of the proposal, possible activity/noise and any implications for privacy. Firstly, in assessing the appearance, both the adopted and draft PAAN 5s state that the design and position shall be appropriate to the architectural design of the house. The roof terrace is to be formed on top of the proposed extension and will sit in front of the existing dormer window towards the front of the dwellinghouse, being visible from the street. It is noted that there are a number of other dwellings along Rosemount Place which contain balconies/terraces at first floor level on the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse, including at 18 and 20 Rosemount Place. The proposed roof terrace is to be positioned on top of the extension and the use of a glazed balustrade will lessen the visual prominence of the roof terrace from the streetscape. The design will see the balustrade wrap around the existing dormer in an asymmetrical manner, extending back to meet the pitched roof in a similar manner to the extension.

In considering possible activity and noise, both PAAN 5s state that roof terraces should be restricted in size to allow for limited seating and the enjoyment of wider views. They should not be of a size that will afford residents the opportunity of undertaking a wide range of activities over extensive periods of day and evening to the extent that regular and/or continuous activity may impinge upon the enjoyment of neighbouring gardens. The roof terrace covers an area of approximately 19 square metres and is to be located towards the north-west corner of the site, being separated from neighbouring gardens to the north and west by Rosemount Place, which wraps around the north and west sides of the site and from neighbouring gardens to the south by the dwellinghouse. The roof terrace can be considered an acceptable size to afford seating and not of a scale which would encourage large gatherings or afford the opportunity of undertaking a wide range of activities over extensive periods. As such, I am satisfied that the proposed roof terrace does not raise any concerns in terms of noise and disturbance to neighbouring properties.

As the proposed roof terrace is to be sited on the extension roof overlooking of properties to the north will occur and this has the potential to impact on neighbouring privacy. Both PAAN 5s require screening to be provided where positioned within 9 metres of the garden boundary and where there is a view of the neighbouring rear/private garden areas. The east side of the roof terrace is positioned between 22.5 and 25m from the garden boundary and the west side of the roof terrace is positioned a minimum of 11.3m from the nearest garden ground to the west, therefore they are considered to be set back a sufficient distance to not require privacy screening. The north side boundary is to be positioned between 7.7 and 8.1m of the rear boundaries of the terraced houses to the north which front onto Carnoustie Avenue. In assessing the impacts on privacy, it is noted that the neighbouring rear gardens all contain rear facing garages that front onto Rosemount Place, with fencing located in line with the north elevations of the garages and the rear garden areas of the houses being located beyond, positioning the garden areas which are screened from the road by fencing at around 16.5m from the edge of the roof terrace. Furthermore, the topography of the area and position of the garages results in the garden areas beyond the garages being screened from view from the roof terrace. The areas between the garages and Rosemount Place which are within 9m of the site are not separated from Rosemount Place by any boundary treatments. As the roof terrace is not considered to significantly increase or intensify overlooking, it can be considered acceptable in this instance for no screening to be provided.

The proposal does not raise any concerns over conflict with neighbouring uses in terms of noise; smell; vibration; dust; air quality; flooding; invasion of privacy; or overshadowing, and therefore meets the quality of being 'Safe and Pleasant' in Policy 1 of both LDPs. It can also be considered to have an acceptable impact on local amenity, according with Policy 20 of the proposed LDP in this regard.

Regarding the points raised in the consultation response from Scottish Water, these matters are to be addressed between the applicant and Scottish Water. Advisory notes on these matters can be added should planning permission be granted.

When drawing all matters together there is a requirement to ensure the development reflects the character of the dwellinghouse as well as the urban form of the area. The existing dwellinghouse is positioned on a plot which Rosemount Place wraps around and the dwellinghouse is currently set back from Rosemount Place at a similar distance to other houses on Rosemount Place. The proposed extension would bring the dwellinghouse considerably closer to the road than the other properties on Rosemount Place, resulting in a dominant feature which does not reflect the form and established pattern of development. It therefore cannot be considered to meet the qualities of being Pleasant or Distinctive in Policy 14 of NPF4 or the quality of being 'Distinctive' in Policy 1 of both LDPs. Furthermore, I consider the proposal fails to reflect the established character and appearance of the surrounding area and therefore fails to comply with Policy 20 of the proposed LDP. The size, design and prominent position of the extension results in the proposal having a detrimental impact on the character of the house and the surrounding area, contrary to Policy 16 of NPF4.

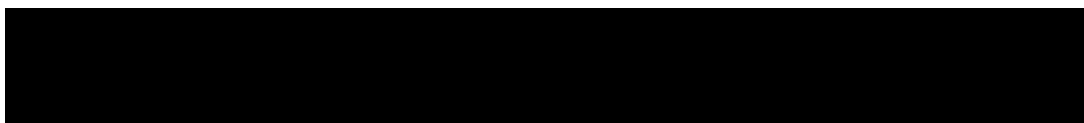
In conclusion, Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) requires that planning applications be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Although some aspects of the proposal are acceptable when assessed against some development plan policies and guidance, the proposal will be substantial in scale relative to the original dwellinghouse and will substantially alter the character and pattern of development of the area. As such, it cannot be supported against Policies 14 and 16 of NPF4, Policy 1 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policies 1 and 20 of the proposed Local Development Plan. Having fully assessed the proposal, I do not consider that there are any material planning considerations to indicate that a position contrary to this should be taken.

RECOMMENDATION

That the application be refused for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development, particularly the single storey flat roofed extension with roof terrace located along the north side of the dwellinghouse, will have a detrimental impact on the character of the dwellinghouse, specifically in terms of size, design and materials, contrary to Policy 16 of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).
2. The proposed development fails to have regard to the six qualities of successful places as required by Policy 14 of the National Planning Framework 4 and Policy 1 of both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as due to the size of the extension and close proximity of the extension and roof terrace to Rosemount Place, it fails to reflect the urban form of the area, as required under the quality of being "Distinctive".
3. The scale, design and use of materials proposed would result in an unexpected and uncharacteristic finish on the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse which would negatively impact on the character and appearance of the dwellinghouse and surrounding area, contrary to Policy 20 of the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

Signed:



David Sinclair
Case Officer

Stuart W Jamieson
Director
Environment and Regeneration

3. INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 POLICY EXTRACT

3.0 CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Introduction

3.1 Inverclyde has many fantastic and unique places. Examples include the Free French Memorial and Lyle Hill, which offer panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde; Quarriers Village, built in the 19th century as an orphans' village and filled with individually designed homes of that period; the A-listed Edwardian Wemyss Bay railway station; and the grid-pattern Greenock West End conservation area, which is contained to the north by the popular Greenock Esplanade. These, and other places, have stood the test of time and remain places where people want to live and visit.

3.2 The Council is keen to have more successful places in Inverclyde, and all new development will be expected to contribute to creating successful places. This is particularly important in relation to the Plan's Priority Projects and Priority Places, which reflect major Council investments and the larger scale regeneration opportunities in Inverclyde.

Creating Successful Places

3.3 The Council is keen that all development contributes to making Inverclyde a better place to live, work, study, visit and invest. To differing degrees, all scales and types of development have the potential to make an impact on the surrounding environment and community. It is important to the Council that this impact is a positive one. To this end, the Council will have regard to the six qualities of a successful place when considering all development proposals.

Distinctive

Adaptable

Resource Efficient

Easy to Move Around

Safe and Pleasant

Welcoming

3.4 **Figure 3** illustrates the factors that contribute to the six qualities of a successful place. Not all will be relevant to every development proposal and planning application, but where they are, the Council will expect development proposals to have taken account of them, and it will have regard to them in the assessment of planning applications.



Quarriers Village

POLICY 1 – CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 3. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.



Wemyss Bay Railway Station

FIGURE 3: Factors Contributing to Successful Places



Managing the Impact of Development on the Transport Network

5.7 Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. In order to identify any potential capacity issues on the strategic road network (i.e. A8 & A78), the Council consulted Transport Scotland on the development opportunities identified in the Plan. The Council subsequently completed a high level impact appraisal of several large scale development proposals along the A78 in consultation with Transport Scotland, which concluded there will not be a significant cumulative impact on the trunk road network as a result of the Plan's proposals. Mitigation measures may still be required, including for the rail network, as a result of individual developments coming forward and these can be determined through the Transport Assessment process.

5.8 To ensure that the road network continues to operate efficiently, the Council has standards in place for road development and parking, which new development is expected to comply with. This may require additional improvements to the transport network outwith the actual development site. Where this is the case, developers will be required to meet these costs.

POLICY 11 – MANAGING IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE TRANSPORT NETWORK

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards. Developers are required to provide or contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

Air Quality

5.9 As at 2018, Inverclyde does not have any Air Quality Management Areas or an air pollution reduction strategy. It does have busy transport corridors that can occasionally be congested where air quality is monitored. Some developments can directly affect air quality or change travel patterns in such a way that air quality is affected. In these instances the Council will expect an Air Quality Assessment to be undertaken and mitigation measures to be implemented.

POLICY 12 – AIR QUALITY

Development that could have a detrimental impact on air quality, or would introduce a sensitive receptor to an area with poor air quality, will be required to be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment, which identifies the likely impacts and sets out how these will be mitigated to an acceptable level.

Communications Infrastructure

5.10 Inverclyde has good digital connectivity, with 4G mobile and superfast broadband coverage available across the majority of the area. This is of benefit to the economy and social networks and contributes towards it being an attractive place to live and invest.

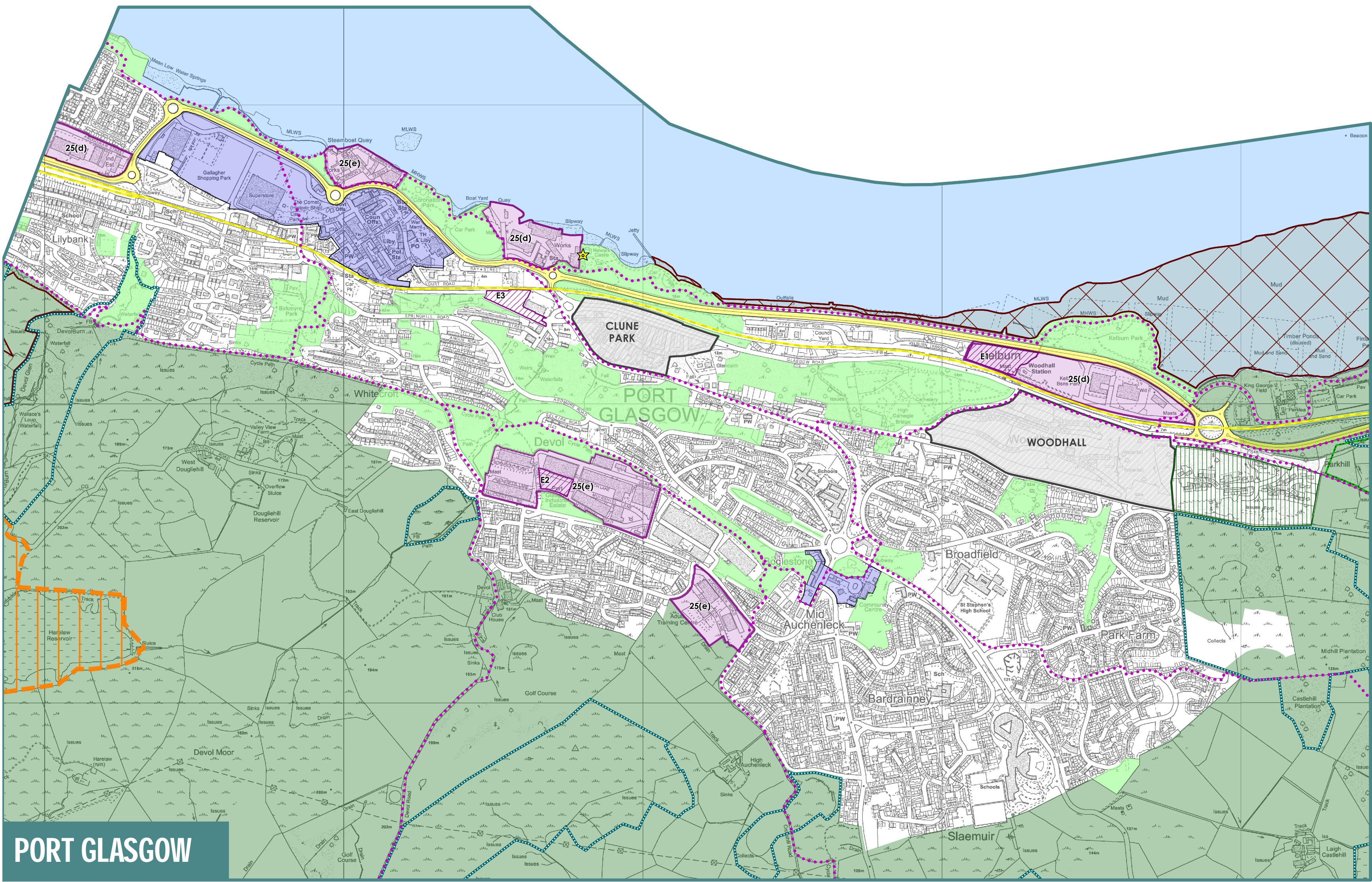
POLICY 13 – COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council will support new digital communication infrastructure where it is sited to avoid adverse impact on: the streetscape; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; our natural and open spaces; and historic buildings and places.

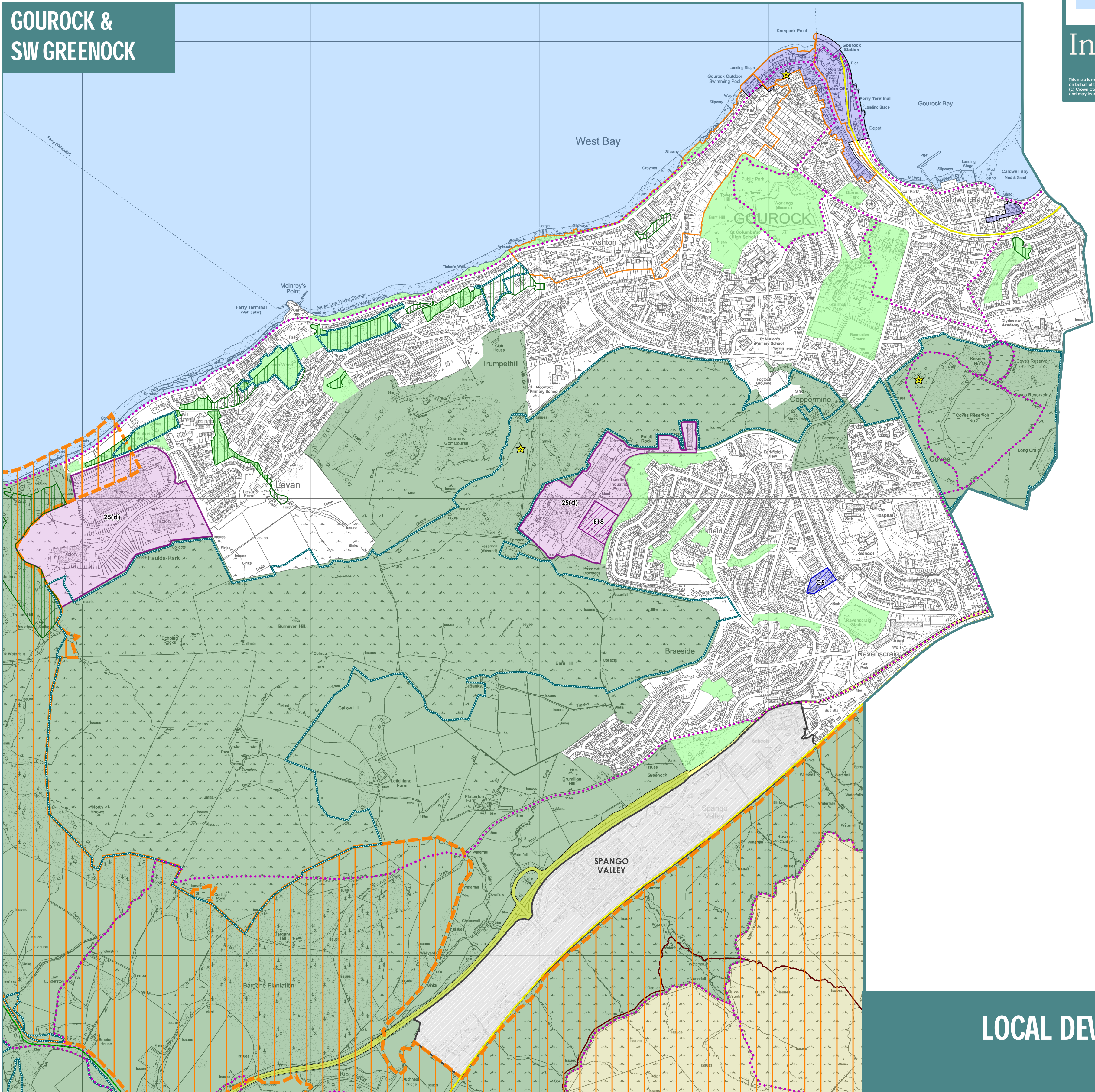


Western Ferry, Gourock

4. INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 MAP EXTRACT



GOUROCK & SW GREENOCK



KEY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Priority Place **POLICY 3**

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

Trunk Road **POLICY 11**
Railway **POLICY 11**

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Green Belt **POLICIES 14 & 19**
Countryside **POLICIES 14 & 19**

OUR TOWN AND LOCAL CENTRES

Town Centre / Local Centre **POLICY 22**
Network of Centres Opportunity **POLICY 22**

OUR JOBS AND BUSINESSES

Business & Industrial Area **POLICY 25**
Business & Industrial Development Opportunity **POLICY 26**

OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND PLACES

Conservation Area **POLICY 28**
Scheduled Monument **POLICY 31**
Gardens & Designed Landscapes **POLICY 32**

OUR NATURAL AND OPEN SPACES

Special Protection Area / Ramsar Site **POLICY 33**
Site of Special Scientific Interest **POLICY 33**
Local Nature Conservation Site **POLICY 33**
Tree Preservation Order **POLICY 34**
Open Space **POLICY 35**
Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park **POLICY 37**
Core Path **POLICY 38**
River Clyde / Firth of Clyde

Inverclyde council SCALE 1:10,000

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2019

**5. INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019
SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON PLANNING
APPLICATION ADVICE NOTES POLICY EXTRACT**

Planning Application Advice Note No. 4

HOUSE EXTENSIONS

Not all house extensions require planning permission. For works that do require planning permission, this advice note offers guidance on how a house can be extended by achieving a reasonable balance between the interests of those wishing to extend and the interests of their neighbours.

The following advice sets out standards that the Council expect proposals to comply with. Consideration will also be given to contemporary and/or innovative proposals which are considered to have a positive impact on the amenity, character and appearance of the property and its surroundings.

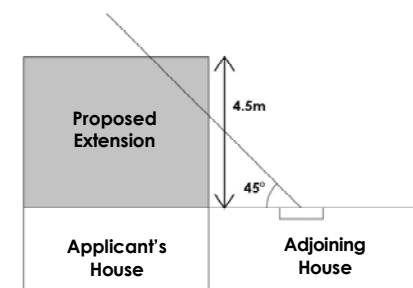
Rear extensions

- Single storey extensions should be designed so as not to cross a 45 degree line from the mid point of the nearest ground floor window of the adjoining house, or extend to a maximum of 4.5 metres from the rear wall of the original house.
- Two storey extensions will be considered on individual merit. They should not extend beyond 3.5 metres from the rear wall of the original house or result in unacceptable loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house. The Council will use the Building Research Establishment publication "Site Layout Planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice" in making this assessment.
- Where the other half of a semi-detached house has already been extended and that extension exceeds 3.5 metres (two storeys) or 4.5 metres

(single storey) from the rear wall of the original house, then the house may be similarly extended to equal size.

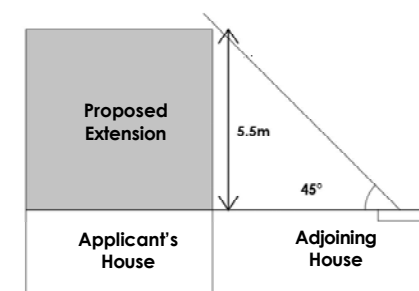
- An extension should not result in more than 50% of the rear garden area being developed. In all cases an extension should not encroach within 5.5 metres of the rear garden boundary.
- Ground level window positions should comply with the window intervisibility guidance. Windows on side elevations should be avoided where they offer a direct view of neighbouring rear/private gardens, but bathroom windows fitted with obscure glazing will be acceptable. As an alternative, boundary screening of appropriate height may be considered where the design and impact on neighbouring residential amenity is deemed acceptable. Where screening is required, it must either not exceed 2.5 metres above ground level or itself result in an unacceptable loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house. The Council will use the Building Research Establishment publication "Site Layout Planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice" in making this assessment.
- Windows of habitable rooms above ground level should comply with the window intervisibility guidance. Windows on side elevations will only be permitted if the distance to the nearest boundary exceeds 9.0 metres, or if there is no direct view of neighbouring rear/private gardens or if it is a bathroom window fitted with obscure glazing.
- The extension should be finished in materials to compliment those of the existing house.
- The off street parking requirements of the Council's Roads Development Guide shall be met.

ACCEPTABLE



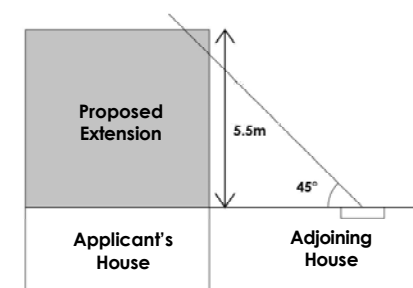
Extension encroaching 45 degree line

ACCEPTABLE



Extension more than 4.5 metres but not

NOT ACCEPTABLE



Extension encroaching 45 degree line

Side extensions

- Windows on side elevations should be avoided where they offer a direct view of neighbouring rear/private gardens, but bathroom windows fitted with obscure glazing will be acceptable. As an alternative, boundary screening of appropriate height may be considered where the design and impact on neighbouring residential amenity is deemed acceptable. Where screening is required, it must either not exceed 2.5 metres or itself result in an unacceptable loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house. The Council will use the Building Research Establishment publication "Site Layout Planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice" in making this assessment.
- Ground level window positions should comply with the window intervisibility guidance. Windows of habitable rooms above ground level should comply with the window intervisibility guidance. Windows on side elevations will only be permitted if the distance to the nearest boundary exceeds 9.0 metres, or if there is no direct view of neighbouring rear/private gardens or if it is a bathroom window fitted with obscure glazing.
- Windows which are visible from public areas shall match the scale, proportions and materials of those on the existing house.
- The roof over extensions should match the existing house roof. Extensions should be set back at least 1.0 metre from the site boundary.
- The off street parking requirements of the Council's Roads Development Guide shall be met.

Conservatories and sun rooms

- Conservatories and sun rooms should be designed so as not to cross a 45 degree line from the mid point of the nearest ground floor window of the adjoining house, or extend to a maximum of 4.5 metres from the rear wall of the existing house, whichever is the greater.
- Where the other half of a semi-detached house has already been extended and that extension exceeds 3.5 metres (two storeys) or 4.5 metres (single storey) from the rear wall of the original house then the conservatory or sun room may extend to equal size.
- A conservatory or sun room should not result in more than 50% of the rear garden area being developed. In all cases a conservatory or sun room should not encroach within 5.5 metres of the rear garden boundary.
- Ground level window positions should comply with the window intervisibility guidance. Windows on side elevations should be avoided where they offer a direct view of neighbouring rear/private gardens. As an alternative, boundary screening of appropriate height may be considered where the design and impact on neighbouring residential amenity is deemed acceptable. Where screening is required, it must not exceed 2.5 metres above ground level or it may itself result in an unacceptable loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house. The Council will use the Building Research Establishment publication "Site Layout Planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice" in making this assessment.

Front porches

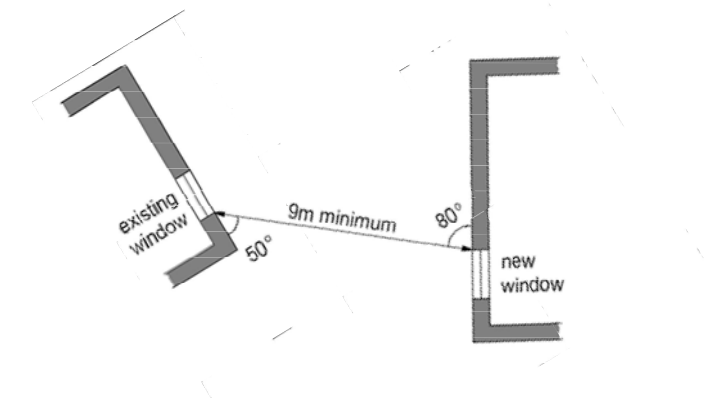
- Where applicable, porches should be pitch roofed to match the existing roof.
- Base courses should be finished in materials to match the existing house.

Window intervisibility

The table below details acceptable levels of window to window intervisibility. The distances are taken from the shortest point between the windows.

Minimum Window to Window Distances (metres)

| | Angle at window of house/extension etc. to be erected not more than: | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| | 90° | 80° | 70° | 60° | 50° | 40° | 30° | 20° | 10° | 0° |
| 90° | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 80° | 18 | 18 | 18 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - |
| 70° | 18 | 18 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - |
| 60° | 18 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - |
| 50° | 13 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| 40° | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30° | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20° | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10° | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 0° | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |



Planning Application Advice Note No. 5

OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS

The topography of Inverclyde provides many houses with spectacular views over the Firth of Clyde. Inland there are often opportunities to view open countryside. There is no objection in principle to balconies or decking being erected or extended, but they must take account of privacy and the impact it may have on neighbours' enjoyment of their gardens.

Outdoor seating areas are becoming increasingly popular, but must take account of privacy and the impact these may have on neighbours' enjoyment of their gardens.

This Advice Note provides a guide to the issues that are considered in determining applications for planning permission.

Balconies & Roof Terraces

- These should be restricted in size to allow for limited seating and the enjoyment of wider views. Unless obscured from view from neighbouring housing. These should not be of a size that will afford residents the opportunity of undertaking a wide range of activities over extensive periods of day and evening to the extent that regular and/or continuous activity may impinge upon the enjoyment of neighbouring gardens.
- Where positioned within 9 metres of the garden boundary and where there is a view of the neighbouring private/rear garden area, the erection of screening shall generally be required. Screening may not be required in cases where

there is no increase in the intervisibility between, and the overlooking of, neighbours. Where screening is required and it is in excess of 2.5 metres high within 2 metres of a boundary or will itself result in an unacceptable loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house, then the proposed balcony or roof terrace will not be supported. The Council will use the Building Research Establishment publication "Site Layout Planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice" in making this assessment.

- The design and position shall be appropriate to the architectural design of the house.



Garden Decking & Raised Platforms

- The position should respect the rights of neighbours to enjoy their gardens without being the subject of intrusive overlooking. If raised more than 0.5 metres above the original ground levels, it should not be of a size that will afford residents the opportunity of undertaking a wide range of activities over extensive periods of day and evening to the extent that regular and/or continuous activity may impinge upon the enjoyment of neighbouring gardens.
- Where positioned within 9 metres of the garden boundary and where it will result in an increased view of the neighbouring private/rear

garden area, the erection of screening, either at the decking/platform edge or the garden boundary shall generally be required. Where screening is required and it is in excess of 2.5 metres high above ground level within 2 metres of a boundary or will itself result in an unacceptable loss of light to a room in a neighbouring house, then the proposed decking/platform will not be supported. The Council will use the Building Research Establishment publication "Site Layout Planning for daylight and sunlight: A guide to good practice" in making this assessment.

- The design and position of the decking/platform shall be appropriate to the architectural design of the house.



Planning Application Advice Note No. 6

DORMER WINDOWS

It is appreciated that many households require additional accommodation and that, in many cases, the most cost effective way is to use attic space. Dormer windows can help to maximise the floorspace.

This Advice Note provides a guide to the issues that are considered in determining applications for planning permission.



Design Principles

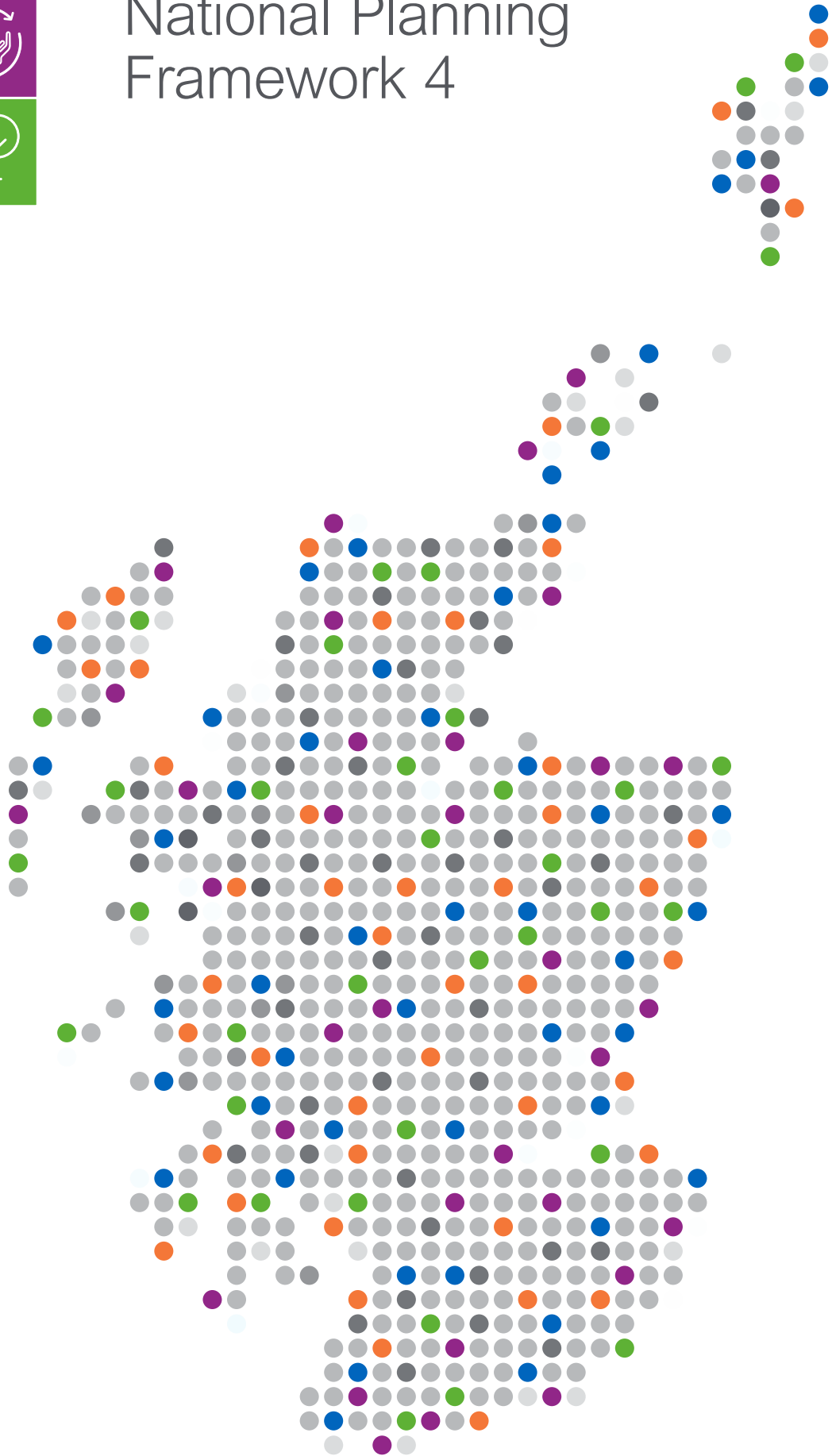
- Dormers should, preferably, be located at the rear of the house where they will be less conspicuous.

- A dormer should be subordinate to the existing roof in terms of its shape and size and should be set back from the wall head, be below the ridge line of the roof and be set back from the gable ends.
- Exposed fascia boarding on dormers should be used sparingly and should be painted to match the colour of the dormer faces rather than the window frames.
- Where practical the external cladding of the dormer should be similar to that of the original roof.
- Dormers on the hipped gable of a roof should be avoided.
- The window openings of the dormer should, where practical, follow the style, proportion and alignment of door and window openings in the existing house.
- On a building of traditional design, a pitched or sloping roof over each dormer should reflect the architectural style of the building.

6. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4



National Planning Framework 4



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Ministerial Foreword



Tom Arthur MSP

Minister for Public Finance,
Planning and Community Wealth

I am delighted to publish Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework. I am proud that, for the first time, we have brought together our long-term spatial strategy with a comprehensive set of national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan.

The world is changing, and so are Scotland's places. This strategy sets out how we will work together in the coming years to improve people's lives by making sustainable, liveable and productive places. This will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as our national outcomes.

Planning carries great responsibility – decisions about development will impact on generations to come. Putting the twin global climate and nature crises at the heart of our vision for a future Scotland will ensure the decisions we make today will be in the long-term interest of our country.

As we recover from the pandemic we are working towards achieving net zero in a way which also tackles longstanding challenges and inequalities. We live in challenging times, but better places will be an important part of our response to our strategic priorities of net zero, child poverty and a wellbeing economy. Planning will also play a critical role in delivering the National Strategy for Economic Transformation and in community wealth building.

Planning is already a fully devolved function of the Scottish Government. Our global reputation

for excellence and expertise in this field demonstrates what can be achieved when the choices are in our own hands. We can build on this. By securing a new future for Scotland as an independent country, additional powers will be available to support public and private sector investment in development and infrastructure across our country.

Changes to our places will not always be easy. People care about their neighbourhoods and rightly and reasonably expect that new development should improve their lives, rather than undermining what they value most. To help deliver on this strategy I am committed to involving a wider range of people in planning. A fairer and more inclusive planning system will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to shape their future so that our places work for all of us. I also recognise that planning authorities across Scotland will need support and guidance to put our proposals and policies into practice, and will continue to work with the profession and local government to ensure our system can realise its full potential.

The process for preparing this strategy has shown what can be achieved when we work together. I greatly appreciate the ideas that people and organisations have contributed. I am also very grateful to the Scottish Parliament for the time and energy they have put into their scrutiny of the draft document. National Planning Framework 4 has benefited considerably from their thoughtful and constructive input.

Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045

The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. We will need to respond to a growing nature crisis, and to work together to enable development that addresses the social and economic legacy of the coronavirus pandemic, the cost crisis and longstanding inequality.

Scotland's rich heritage, culture and outstanding environment are national assets which support our economy, identity, health and wellbeing. Many communities benefit from great places with excellent quality of life and quality, affordable homes. Many people can easily access high quality local greenspaces and neighbourhood facilities, safe and welcoming streets and spaces and buildings that reflect diverse cultures and aspirations. Increasingly, communities have been finding new ways to live sustainably, including by taking control of their property or land.

However, people living in Scotland have very different life chances, at least partly a result of the places where they live.

Past industrial restructuring has had significant impacts in some places and communities. Disadvantage, child poverty and poor health

outcomes are concentrated in parts of Scotland where life expectancy is significantly lower than in more advantaged areas. Access to the natural environment varies, and pollution and derelict land is concentrated in some places. Population change will bring further challenges in the future, particularly in rural parts of Scotland. Many people have limited access to opportunities because of the way our places have been designed in the past, and our city and town centres have experienced accelerating change in recent years.

We have already taken significant steps towards decarbonising energy and land use, but choices need to be made about how we can make sustainable use of our natural assets in a way which benefits communities.

Planning is a powerful tool for delivering change on the ground in a way which brings together competing interests so that decisions reflect the long-term public interest. Past, present and future challenges mean that we will need to make the right choices about where development should be located. We also need to be clear about the types of infrastructure we will need to build, and the assets that should be protected to ensure they continue to benefit future generations.

Spatial principles

We will plan our future places in line with six overarching spatial principles:

- **Just transition.** We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- **Conserving and recycling assets.** We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.
- **Local living.** We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
- **Compact urban growth.** We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- **Rebalanced development.** We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- **Rural revitalisation.** We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

These principles will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national outcomes.

Applying these principles in practice

We want our future places to work for everyone. Rather than compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social and economic objectives, this is an integrated strategy to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development.

By applying these spatial principles, our national spatial strategy will support the planning and delivery of:

- **sustainable places**, where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity;
- **liveable places**, where we can all live better, healthier lives; and
- **productive places**, where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Eighteen **national developments** support this strategy, including single large scale projects and networks of several smaller scale proposals that are collectively nationally significant. National developments will be a focus for delivery, as well as exemplars of the Place Principle, placemaking and a Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach to economic development. Regional spatial strategies and Local Development Plans (LDPs) should identify and support national developments which are relevant to their areas.

The strategy will be taken forward in different ways across Scotland, reflecting the diverse character, assets and challenges of our places. To guide this, we have identified **regional spatial priorities** for five broad regions of Scotland which will inform the preparation of regional spatial strategies (RSS) and LDPs by planning authorities.

Table 1 – National Planning Framework 4 Summary

| | Spatial principles | National Developments | Policies | Key policy links | Cross cutting policies |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sustainable places <i>SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> Environment, communities, economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just transition • Conserving and recycling assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Innovation Development on the islands. • Pumped Hydro Storage • Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure • Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities • Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions • Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling the climate and nature crises • Climate mitigation and adaptation • Biodiversity • Natural places • Soils • Forestry, woodland and trees • Historic assets and places • Green belts • Brownfield land, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings • Coastal development • Energy • Zero waste • Sustainable transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use – getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 – 2026 • Making things last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland • Scotland's Energy Strategy • Scotland's Environment Strategy • Scotland's Forestry Strategy • Scottish Biodiversity Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Plan • Climate Change Adaptation Programme |
| Liveable places <i>SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> Communities, culture, human rights, children and young people, health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liveable places • Compact urban growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Scotland Green Network • National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network • Edinburgh Waterfront • Dundee Waterfront • Stranraer Gateway • A Digital Fibre Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, quality and place • Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods • Quality homes • Rural homes • Infrastructure first • Heat and cooling • Blue and green infrastructure • Play, recreation and sport • Flood risk and water management • Health and Safety • Digital infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Connected Scotland • A Healthier Future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan • Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 • Creating Places • Culture Strategy • Heat in Buildings Strategy • Housing to 2040 • Learning Estate Strategy/Learning Estate Investment Programme • Public Health Priorities for Scotland • Remote, Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan (pub. Spring 2023) • Scotland's Population Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Transition Plans • National Transport Strategy • Infrastructure Investment Plan • Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 • National Islands Plan • National Marine Plan • Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan |
| Productive places <i>SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> Fair work and business, economy, poverty, communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebalancing development • Rural revitalisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clyde Mission • Aberdeen Harbour • Industrial Green Transition Zones • Hunterston Strategic Asset • Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment • High Speed Rail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community wealth building • Business and industry • City, town, local and commercial centres • Retail • Rural development • Tourism • Culture and creativity • Aquaculture • Minerals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Economic Transformation • Retail Strategy for Scotland • Report of the City Centre Recovery Taskforce • Scottish land rights and responsibilities statement • Town Centre Action Plan 2 | |



Sustainable places

Our climate is changing, with increasing rainfall, extreme weather events and higher temperatures that will intensify in the coming years. This will increase flood risk, water scarcity, environmental change, coastal erosion, impact on forestry and agriculture, and generate risks to health, food security and safety. Impacts will not be equal and communities who already face disadvantage will be particularly affected.

Scotland's high quality environment, and the natural capital it supports, underpin our approach to tackling climate change and the economy and is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. It provides the essentials we all need to survive, including clean air, water and food.

However, the health of the planet's ecosystems is declining faster than at any point in human history and our natural environment is facing significant challenges, including ongoing loss of biodiversity. Since the 1990s alone, wildlife populations in Scotland have declined, on average, by around a quarter. This threatens the capacity of the natural environment to provide the services we all rely on, and reduces our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Scotland's Climate Change Plan, backed by legislation, has set our approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and we must make significant progress towards this by 2030 including by reducing car kilometres travelled by 20% by reducing the need to travel and promoting more sustainable transport.

Just Transition sector plans, designed and delivered with those impacted, will play an important role in delivering the change we need to see. We must also adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already locked in, by delivering Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Scotland's Climate Assembly set out recommendations for how Scotland should change to tackle the climate emergency and gives us a key insight into the measures the Scottish Public expect for a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045.

Scotland's Energy Strategy will set a new agenda for the energy sector in anticipation of continuing innovation and investment. The interplay between land and sea will be critical, given the scale of offshore renewable energy resources. Our Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy are clear that we must work with our existing infrastructure assets first, before investing in additional assets.

Scotland's Environment Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's vision for tackling the twin climate and nature crises. Building on this, a new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will set targets for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring and regenerating biodiversity by 2045. Scotland's Land Use Strategy aims to make efficient use of our land by managing competing activities in a sustainable way.

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will be net zero, nature-positive places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.

Meeting our climate ambition will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place.

Every decision on our future development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place. We will encourage low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency, development that is accessible by sustainable travel, and expansion of renewable energy generation. It is also crucial that we build resilience to the future impacts of climate change including water resources and assets and development on our coasts. Our places will also need to evolve to help us cope with changing temperatures.

Our commitment to a **just transition**, means that our journey to a net zero society and nature recovery must involve, and be fair to, everyone. We will grow a circular economy and make best use of embodied carbon by **conserving and recycling assets**, including by encouraging sustainable design and the wise use of resources.

To respond to the global biodiversity crisis, nature recovery must be at the heart of future places. We will secure positive effects for biodiversity, create and strengthen nature networks and invest in nature-based solutions to benefit natural capital and contribute to net zero. We will use our land wisely including through a renewed focus on reusing vacant and derelict land to help limit the new land that we build on. We will protect and enhance our historic environment, and safeguard our shared heritage for future generations. We will also work together to ensure that development onshore aligns with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of sustainable places:

- **Energy Innovation Development on the Islands** provides infrastructure for low carbon fuels for communities and commerce, as well as for export. This will contribute to improved energy security, unlock opportunities for employment and business, and help to put Scotland at the forefront of low carbon fuel innovation.
- **Pumped Hydro Storage** extends hydro-electricity capacity to support the transition away from fossil fuels, whilst also providing employment opportunities in rural areas.
- **Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure** supports electricity generation and associated grid infrastructure throughout Scotland, providing employment and opportunities for community benefit, helping to reduce emissions and improve security of supply.
- **Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities** facilitates delivery of zero waste objectives by reducing the need for new materials, resource use and emissions.
- **Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions** is an exemplar of a nature based, infrastructure first approach to catchment wide surface water flood risk management to help our two largest cities adapt to the future impacts of climate change.
- **Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks** facilitates a shift towards sustainable transport in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen and their wider regions, helping to reduce transport related emissions and supporting accessibility for all.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 2](#) will ensure that emissions from new development are minimised as far as possible.

A healthy natural environment is key to reducing emissions. [Policies 3](#) and [4](#) protect biodiversity and natural assets, which in turn play a crucial role in carbon reduction. [Policy 5](#) provides significant protection for peatland and carbon rich soils and [Policy 6](#) aims to protect and expand forests, woodland and trees. Blue and green infrastructure is supported by [Policy 20](#). [Policy 10](#) encourages the use of natural solutions to coastal protection. [Policy 7](#) protects the embodied carbon in the historic built environment, and [Policy 9](#) makes better use of previously used land and buildings, helping to lock in carbon.

By supporting the transition of key emissions generating activities, [Policy 11](#) supports renewable energy development, [Policy 19](#) helps to decarbonise heat, alongside [Policy 18](#) and its encouragement of an infrastructure first approach. [Policy 12](#) encourages sustainable waste management, and [Policy 13](#) will facilitate a transition towards more sustainable, lower emissions travel including active travel and public transport.

Several policies support more local living and limit the use of additional land for development. This includes [Policy 8](#) which manages development in the greenbelt, [Policy 15](#) which promotes local living, including where feasible 20 minute neighbourhoods, and [Policy 16](#) which focuses on delivering new homes that are designed to a high standard and located in sustainable places. Minimising and reducing emissions is also integral to the six qualities of successful places, as set out in [Policy 14](#). [Policies 17](#) and [29](#) support rural development which is compatible with climate change targets. [Policy 24](#) facilitates the roll out of digital infrastructure, helping to reduce the need to travel. [Policy 27](#) promotes a town centre first approach to development and [Policy 28](#) restricts additional out of town retail development.

Policies relating to productive places are consistent with our ambition for green growth in the futures. More specifically, [Policy 33](#) is clear that fossil fuel exploration, development and production (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, and that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to secure positive effects for biodiversity.

The nature crisis, together with the global climate emergency, underpinned the spatial strategy as a whole. The action areas include proposals which protect and enhance the natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the nature crisis to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 4](#) protects and enhances natural heritage, and this is further supported by [Policy 5](#) on soils and [Policy 6](#) on forests, woodland and trees. [Policy 20](#) also promotes the expansion and connectivity of blue and green infrastructure, whilst [Policy 10](#) recognises the particular sensitivities of coastal areas.

Protection of the natural features of brownfield land is also highlighted in [Policy 9](#), and protection of the green belt in [Policy 8](#) will ensure that biodiversity in these locations is conserved and accessible to communities, bringing nature into the design and layout of our cities, towns, streets and spaces in [Policy 14](#).

Most significantly, [Policy 3](#) plays a critical role in ensuring that development will secure positive effects for biodiversity. It rebalances the planning system in favour of conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and promotes investment in nature-based solutions, benefiting people and nature. The policy ensures that LDPs protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and promote nature recovery and nature restoration. Proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including by restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks. Adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design, taking into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss. Development proposals for national, major or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks, so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity.



Liveable places

The global pandemic has left a social legacy that requires urgent, as well as long-term action. Many people need better places to support their lifelong health and wellbeing and build their future resilience. In recent years communities have found ways to work together to find local solutions to shared challenges. However, the cost crisis is again underlining the need for our future buildings and places to do more to support our long-term resilience.

There remain significant differences between the healthy life expectancy of people living in the most and least deprived parts of Scotland. More people need to be involved in planning their future places so that the built environment is safe and welcoming to everyone, including women, disabled people, children and young people and black and ethnic minority groups.

Scotland's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan sets out actions required to continue to reduce the number of children living in poverty. It recognises the importance of place and continued investment in regeneration, targeted to areas where the need is greatest.

Access to affordable, quality homes in better places, as supported by Housing to 2040, will make an important contribution to addressing the impact of the cost crisis, particularly on younger people who will also benefit from reduced transport costs. The planning system has an important role to play in supporting the delivery of homes which meet our future needs.

Consistent with this, Scotland's Population Strategy reflects the need for planning to identify the amount of land required for future homes and to enable more balanced demographic change including sustainable rural development.

Health policies, including Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan reflect the importance of places which provide opportunities for exercise and access to healthy food. Our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness also recognises the importance of providing quality, accessible and welcoming places for everyone through placemaking and regeneration.

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will have homes and neighbourhoods that are healthier, affordable and vibrant places to live.

We have an opportunity to significantly improve our places, address longstanding inequality and eliminate discrimination, helping to transform our country for the better. Cleaner, safer and greener places and improved open spaces will build resilience and provide wider benefits for people, health and biodiversity, in a balanced way.

We will plan our future places in a way that improves **local living**, so that we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, safe and provides opportunities for learning. Quality homes will be better served by local facilities and services by applying the principles of local living to development proposals. The concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods will help to support this, particularly in more urban areas. In rural areas the approach to local living will be shaped by local context.

Planning must also enable the delivery of good quality, affordable homes by allocating enough land in the right locations to meet current and future needs and aspirations.

Recognising the need for liveable places to be consistent with our ambition for net zero and nature recovery, we will promote **compact urban growth**. Higher density development which will help to sustain public transport and support local living. Virtual connectivity and continued investment in active travel links will also be important.

We want to make better use of our spaces to support physical activity, relaxation and play, to bring people together and to celebrate our culture, diversity and heritage. Buildings and other physical assets can also support activities based on intangible cultural assets such as Gaelic language.

We will improve green infrastructure to bring nature into our towns and cities, connecting people with nature, building resilience and helping our biodiversity to recover and flourish. We will ensure we work towards a stronger infection-resilient society through adaptations to our buildings and the spaces around them.

Our strategy is to value, enhance, conserve and celebrate our places and to build better communities for future generations. A stronger commitment to placemaking, through a design-led approach and a focus on quality, will ensure every new development improves the experience of our places.

Underpinning this, everyone must have an opportunity to help shape their local neighbourhoods. We will continue to work to broaden involvement in the planning system as a whole.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of liveable places:

- **Central Scotland Green Network** restores nature at scale and acts as an exemplar of green infrastructure in placemaking that provides benefits for communities and supports a wellbeing economy. This will provide multiple benefits for health, biodiversity, and will help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Action should continue to focus on areas where community wellbeing and resilience would benefit most.
- **National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network** strengthens and extends a national active travel network to reduce emissions from transport, focusing on areas where improvements to accessibility are most needed.
- **Edinburgh Waterfront** creates a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, contributing to the sustainable future development of Scotland's capital city.
- **Dundee Waterfront** delivers a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place demonstrating resilient waterfront regeneration which anticipates and responds to climate impacts.
- **Stranraer Gateway** acts as a hub for surrounding communities. Regeneration will help create a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, optimising the area as a national and international gateway.
- A **Digital Fibre Network** enhances the connectivity of communities and help to facilitate more sustainable ways of living including in rural and island communities.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING SYSTEM

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

We expect everyone involved in planning to take steps to ensure that a wide range of people are involved in shaping their future places. Planning authorities are required to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998. As per the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality duty is applicable and Equality Impact Assessments, Fairer Scotland Duty Assessments and where applicable Island Communities Impact Assessments are required for LDPs. The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child also means that young people must be encouraged to play an active role in planning.

Throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals.

Our places can only work for everyone if the views of all users are properly understood, but experience shows that some people can find it more challenging to engage with planning.

There are opportunities to involve a wider range of people in the planning system. It is essential, and a statutory requirement, that people with protected characteristics, including disability, race, age, sex and sexual orientation, and including people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, are given particular support to express their views on plans and decisions, with consultations designed to meet the communication needs of people.

The spatial strategy as a whole is clear that our future development must support a just transition, and it highlights opportunities for development and regeneration that are designed to tackle social, economic and health inequalities. [Policy 14](#), focusing on the six qualities of successful places recognises that diversity is an integral part of placemaking. Children and young people will have an important contribution to make, given the long-term impacts of planning for future generations. Women, as well as disabled people and their representatives, can ensure that barriers and challenges of the design of our living and working environments are tackled effectively. We have also provided clear support for development that will help to ensure human rights are maintained, for example: [Policy 16](#) on quality homes which addresses the need for accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople yards, as well as homes for older people and disabled people; and [Policy 21](#) which supports and facilitates spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport in our natural and built environments for children and people for all ages.

Our impact assessment has demonstrated that there is potential for significant benefits from more sustainable, liveable and productive places which will be delivered by these and other policies. We recognise that delivery will also depend on fair and inclusive engagement with people, and we will therefore continue to promote best practice and innovation, including in guidance on effective community engagement.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

HOMES THAT MEET OUR DIVERSE NEEDS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs of older people and disabled people.

The spatial strategy has taken into account future population and household projections, and highlights areas where there will be particular challenges arising from an ageing population. Spatial principles, including local living and just transition, will also help to ensure that the needs of all people are reflected in our future places.

Policy 16 supports the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes that meet the needs of people throughout their lives. In particular, it supports proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision. This could include: accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes; homes that meet the needs of older people; a range of size of homes; and other specialist groups.

The majority of older people want to remain in their home as they age, preferring mainstream housing, and so accessible and adaptable homes can allow people to continue to live independently. The close alignment of planning and housing delivery at the local level, through LDPs and Local Housing Strategies, will help to deliver the right type and mix of homes in the right locations. In addition Housing to 2040 sets out a commitment to Scottish Accessible Home Standard in 2025/26.

Development that provides homes to meet the needs of older people and disabled people will be further promoted by LDPs. Evidence reports will explain the action taken to support and promote the construction and/ or adaptation of homes to meet their needs. Spatial strategies will take into account housing needs and the availability of land for new homes, including for older people and disabled people through the Accessible Home Standard, wheelchair housing targets and the consideration of accessibility in design of the wider development and local amenity. The planning authority must also keep their plan under review, and monitor any changes in this.

Placemaking and choices about the location of development will also help to meet the needs of older people and disabled people. **Policy 14** supports development that is consistent with the six qualities of successful places, including health and wellbeing, and safe and pleasant places for people to meet. **Policy 15** supports development that is consistent with the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, helping to ensure our homes and wider neighbourhoods meet all of our needs. As part of this, it recognises that affordable housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity are an integral part of more liveable places. **Policy 13** is also clear that the views of disabled people must be sought when seeking to reduce reliance on the car including by managing car parking provision.



Productive places

The economic performance of different parts of Scotland varies considerably, with challenges and opportunities for different places and sectors. At present, some communities are particularly affected by high rates of poverty, one in five people of working age is economically inactive, and there is significant scope to improve our productivity and the scale and rate of business development.

The unprecedented challenge of the pandemic has created difficult conditions for some sectors including hospitality, tourism, and culture. The cost crisis and our exit from the European Union have combined with this to exacerbate labour shortages particularly in our more remote, rural and island communities. World-wide supply chain issues have generated severe challenges, including for the construction sector.

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation aims to make Scotland a successful place with opportunities for everyone, in every region of Scotland, to share in our economic prosperity. It tackles the challenges of structural inequality, the transition to net zero, and achieving a green recovery from the pandemic. It also supports entrepreneurship and aims to play to the strengths and assets of each part of Scotland to build community wealth.

Building community wealth should be founded on an assessment of local assets in partnership with communities. It also involves better co-ordinated state investment at national, regional and local levels to strengthen of Scotland's indigenous business base and create sustainable fair work opportunities. Opportunities will flow from more land and assets being placed in the hands of communities or under their guiding influence.

Our city centres are socially and culturally important, supporting our productivity and stimulating innovation and investment. The pandemic has generated severe impacts and longer term challenges for these places. The City Centre Recovery Taskforce has developed a shared vision for their future with support from the City Centre Recovery Fund for recovery and repurposing. Through playing their part in the delivery of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Scotland's cities have a nationally significant opportunity to contribute to Scotland's economic recovery and to achieve a wellbeing economy.

The Town Centre Action Plan Review and our subsequent response recognises the critical importance of planning with and for communities sets a new vision for town centres, and reaffirms our commitment to the Town Centre First Principle. It recognises the critical importance of planning in diversifying the offer within our city and town centres, to help them thrive, improve their resilience and anticipate continuing societal, environmental and economic change. The Place Based Investment Programme supports our commitment to town centre action, places, local living and community wealth building.

National spatial strategy

Our future places will attract new investment, build business confidence, stimulate GDP, export growth and entrepreneurship, and facilitate future ways of working.

Planning will play a key role in creating a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy, with thriving and innovative businesses, quality jobs and fair work for everyone.

We will actively encourage investment where it is needed most by **rebalancing development**. This will play to the economic strengths and opportunities of each part of Scotland. Significant investment opportunities include strategic sites which were previously a focus for industrial activity but which have experienced decline. These locations will play a significant role in our transition to net zero as they are served by strategic infrastructure, well located on or close to developed coasts, and could provide added benefits for communities that are in greatest need. They also include areas that have been overlooked historically, but which are now strategically located for extensive renewable energy generation.

Planning can enable diversification of city, town and commercial centres, to better manage their role and respond to ongoing changes to the way we shop and access services. The way we work is changing, and we will need to be flexible to facilitate future business and employment that benefits communities and improves places. Digital connectivity will play a crucial role in supporting sustainable work in the future.

The way we plan our places can contribute to our short term recovery, as well as longer term restructuring to tackle long standing inequalities. Our strategy is to build a wellbeing economy that benefits everyone, and every place, in Scotland. We want the planning system to create a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all.

Scotland's national and international connectivity for people and freight will remain important, for the economic, social and cultural benefits it delivers and for supporting wider Government ambitions on trade, tourism, and business development. Airports, ports and rail links will provide vital connections within Scotland and beyond which will be crucial to building on a sustainable recovery whilst helping to decarbonise transport through low and zero emissions technologies. Looking ahead, there will also be opportunities to build on inclusive growth within communities and support economic transformation through Green Freeports in Scotland.

Rural revitalisation, achieved by distributing development, investment and infrastructure strategically and by actively enabling rural development in particular, will play an important role in this. Key sectors including energy and food and drink focus on natural resources and provide significant employment in rural parts of Scotland. These sectors also depend on supporting services and access to markets and there is significant potential for associated investment to develop a sustainable supply chain. Digital connectivity will also be critical to their continued success.

Urban areas are a focus for investment in the built environment and many of our industries and businesses are located in and around our cities. These areas will also be more attractive to future investors and their employees if they are greener and healthier places to live.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of productive places:

- **Clyde Mission** brings together substantial public and private investment to remediate and regenerate brownfield land along the River Clyde for economic, social and environmental uses.
- **Aberdeen Harbour** facilitates completion of the South Harbour and access to it as well as a more mixed use waterfront for Aberdeen on areas of the harbour that will not in future be required for port uses. This will contribute to international and national connectivity, freight and the renewable energy sector.
- **Industrial Green Transition Zones** support transformation of key sites including by putting in place the infrastructure needed to commercialise carbon capture and storage and decarbonise industry. Innovation will provide green jobs, reduce emissions and help Scotland lead the way on new technologies.
- **Hunterston Strategic Asset** supports re-use the port and wider site, engaging in new technologies and creating opportunities from nuclear decommissioning to make best use of existing infrastructure and provide local benefits.
- **Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment** involves the reuse of a key site to provide a range of economic opportunities for local communities. Energy produced will help to reduce heating and transport emissions within the wider region.
- **High Speed Rail** ensures connectivity with the United Kingdom (UK) and beyond, reduce long distance transport emissions and optimise the benefits more widely.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

RURAL REVITALISATION

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to retain and increase the population of rural areas of Scotland.

The spatial strategy reflects a wide range of proposals for development in rural areas, supported by national developments that recognise the potential and need to expand key sectors including renewable energy, sustainable transport and green infrastructure.

[Policy 17](#) promotes the development of rural homes, to ensure the needs of communities are met in a sustainable way. Similarly, [Policy 29](#) encourages development that will contribute to rural economies and communities. Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural businesses are supported while ensuring planning policies take into consideration local characteristics. Both policies support development in previously inhabited areas in a way that is guided by LDPs. Greater constraint will be applied in areas of pressure whilst in rural areas with fragile communities, a more enabling approach has been taken to support communities to be sustainable and thrive. LDPs are required to set out an appropriate approach to development in areas of pressure and decline informed by an understanding of population change and settlement characteristics and how these have changed over time as well as an understanding of the local circumstances including housing and travel.

Many policies will also play an important role in supporting rural communities and population growth. Some focus on supporting sustainable development in key sectors for rural areas such as [Policy 30](#) on tourism, which aims to ensure community, environmental and business considerations are fully taken into account. [Policy 32](#) encourages sustainable aquaculture, whilst [Policy 10](#) supports development in coastal areas that takes into account future vulnerability to climate change. [Policy 11](#) supports opportunities for renewable energy development whilst [Policy 24](#) will support the delivery of digital infrastructure to support investment and population growth in rural areas.

Care has been taken to ensure policies reflect the specific needs and constraints of rural areas. [Policy 13](#) ensures that in assessing the transport impacts of development, the area's needs and characteristics are taken into account. [Policy 15](#) aims to promote local living in broad terms, including through 20 minute neighbourhoods where practical, recognising varying settlement patterns and the particular characteristics and challenges of different areas in applying these principles in practice. [Policy 28](#) also recognises the importance of retail facilities for rural communities and economies.

Alongside this, recognising that environmental quality is a key asset for rural areas, Policies [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) ensure that natural assets are protected and enhanced.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to improve health and wellbeing. The spatial strategy as a whole recognises that there are significant health inequalities in Scotland that future development can help to address. The spatial principles aim to ensure that future development is directed to sustainable locations, recognising that the role of planning in supporting development in places which would benefit most from regeneration and investment.

The natural environment is fundamental to our health and wellbeing from the benefits we get from being in nature to the design and delivery of blue and green infrastructure. Policies [1](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) manage the effects of development on biodiversity and on natural places. [Policy 20](#) supports development that will provide good quality, accessible greenspaces and nature networks and [Policy 21](#) supports development that will provide opportunities for sport and play. Active travel is encouraged by [Policy 13](#) with walking and cycling providing wider health benefits.

[Policy 23](#) helps to protect health and wellbeing, including by ensuring that air and noise pollution are taken into account, and by planning and managing development to take hazards into account. [Policy 22](#) ensures that future flood risk is not exacerbated by development, and facilitates the delivery of sustainable flood risk management solutions. [Policy 10](#) manages development to reflect future vulnerability of coastal areas. [Policy 9](#) encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land, helping to reduce the impact of vacant and derelict sites on communities.

Housing plays a critical role in supporting our health and wellbeing. [Policy 16](#) enables the delivery of well planned, good quality, affordable, safe and warm homes. Alongside this, [Policy 13](#) supports development that provides, or is accessible by active travel and [Policy 15](#) ensures people have access to facilities from their homes, including healthcare facilities. Development is also required to take into account the capacity and any additional needs for community services and facilities, as part of the infrastructure first approach set out in [Policy 18](#).

[Policy 14](#) applies the six qualities of successful places to development proposals, including health and wellbeing. As part of this it prioritises key aspects including women's safety and suicide risk and aims to ensure development does not undermine the amenity of our existing homes and places. Climate related mental and physical health effects will be addressed by the strategy as a whole and in particular by Policies [1](#) and [2](#) by ensuring future development minimises emissions and is built to reflect the future risks of climate change. Health and wellbeing will also be supported by development that helps us to transition to net zero, as reflected in [Policy 11](#) on renewable energy, [Policy 12](#) on zero waste, and [Policy 19](#) on heat and cooling. Wider policies relating to economic development will have a further positive effect on overall health and wellbeing by supporting employment and investment in our places in a fair and sustainable way.

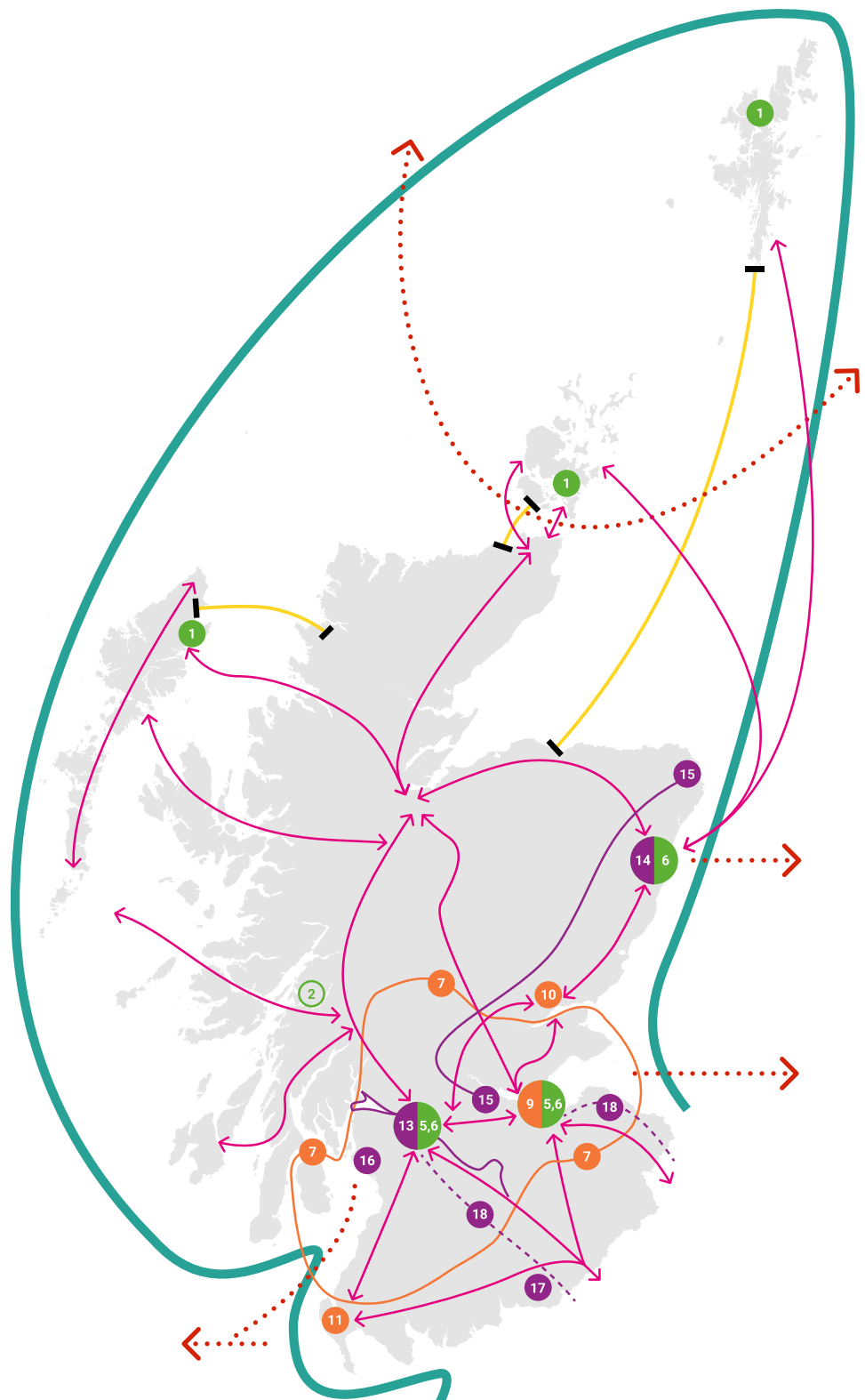
National Spatial Strategy

Legend

- ⋯→ Strategic maritime routes
- ↔ Strategic connection
- Blue economy
- Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

- 1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 13 Clyde Mission
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

National Developments

Legend

Sustainable Places

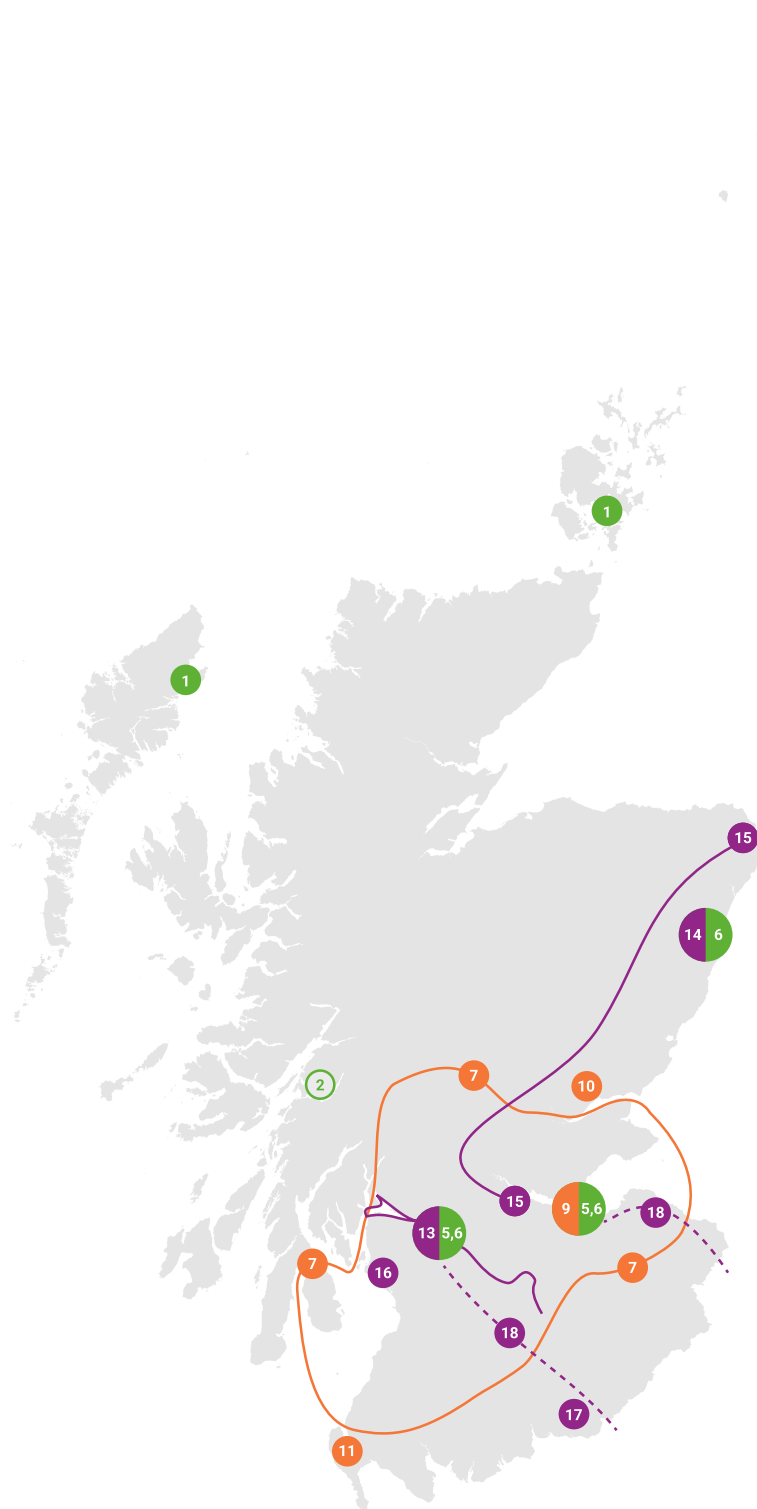
- 1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
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- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
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- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow

Liveable Places

- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide

Productive Places

- 13 Clyde Mission
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

Regional Spatial Priorities

North and West Coast and Islands

This part of Scotland will be at the forefront of our efforts to reach net zero emissions by 2045. It is a diverse area, from Shetland and Orkney in the north, to the Outer and Inner Hebrides and the coastal areas of Highland and Argyll and Bute. As one of the most renewable energy rich localities in Europe with significant natural resources, there is a real opportunity for this area to support our shared national outcomes.

Key centres where lifeline links provide access to the islands include Lerwick, Kirkwall, Stromness, Stornoway, Wick and Thurso, Ullapool, Mallaig and Oban, whilst Tarbert, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown are important hubs to the south of the area. These centres provide important services to their wider hinterlands. Local projects are ongoing, including the regeneration of Stromness, the Stornoway Deep Water Port development, the linked Islands Growth Deal Outer Hebrides Energy Hub project in Stornoway, and the Islands Growth Deal Knab Redevelopment project in Shetland.

The area has an exceptional environment with coastal and island landscapes that are an important part of our national identity. It is rich in biodiversity, sustaining many internationally significant ecological sites, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geoparks in the North West Highlands and Shetland, and Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and species including some of the best remaining temperate rainforest sites in Europe. It has a rich history, language and distinctive cultural heritage including the St Kilda and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These key assets require careful management to ensure they continue to benefit communities.

There will be significant climate challenges for this part of Scotland. Island and coastal ecosystems, and the communities they support, are naturally more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events. Of particular concern are the impacts on vulnerable low-lying coastal zones and

infrastructure, with potentially wide-ranging effects from biodiversity loss to coastal erosion, flooding and landslips. If we do not take action to plan and build resilience, communities could suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.

A climate and nature conscious approach to development of this area can help to tackle wider challenges. The Carbon Neutral Islands project will support six islands (Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell) to become carbon neutral by 2040. This will act as a catalyst for further climate action across all Scottish islands to make more attractive, resilient and sustainable communities in the long-term.

The relatively high levels of community land ownership, particularly in the Outer Hebrides, and strong ties with the land and sea reflect this area's strong sense of place and local resilience. Scotland's National Islands Plan aims to grow the population and economy, improve transport and housing, and ensure island communities are served by the facilities, jobs, education and services they need to flourish. Environmental wellbeing, clean and affordable energy, strong communities, culture and identity are also priorities.

Around 94 of Scotland's 900 islands are permanently inhabited. The size and composition of each population has changed over the years and continues to do so. Whilst most recent estimates indicate population growth across the majority of local authority areas with islands, population change within each area is more complex, with areas of growth and depopulation varying between islands and coastal communities, and across different strata of the population. An ageing population in some parts of the area will mean that we need to do more to reverse past patterns of population decline and sustain local facilities and services that support rural and dispersed communities.

Public service provision, transport, energy consumption, fuel poverty, child poverty and housing, including its affordability, will continue to be significant challenges. Employment varies across the area, and can tend to rely on the public sector, tourism and lower wage sectors,

limiting the scope and choice of skilled jobs in some locations. It can be difficult to attract and retain a local workforce to support some jobs, underlining the importance of building skills and promoting fair work principles to support future investment. Language skills are also important in many areas where Gaelic is used by the community.

Challenges from the end of free movement and changing markets, and the agriculture and fishing industries, will need support to ensure long-term sustainability, but there are also substantial economic opportunities presented by developments in sectors such as renewable energy generation.

Priorities

Alongside Scotland's marine planning authorities, we will work with the area's exceptional assets and natural resources to build a more resilient future for island and coastal communities. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

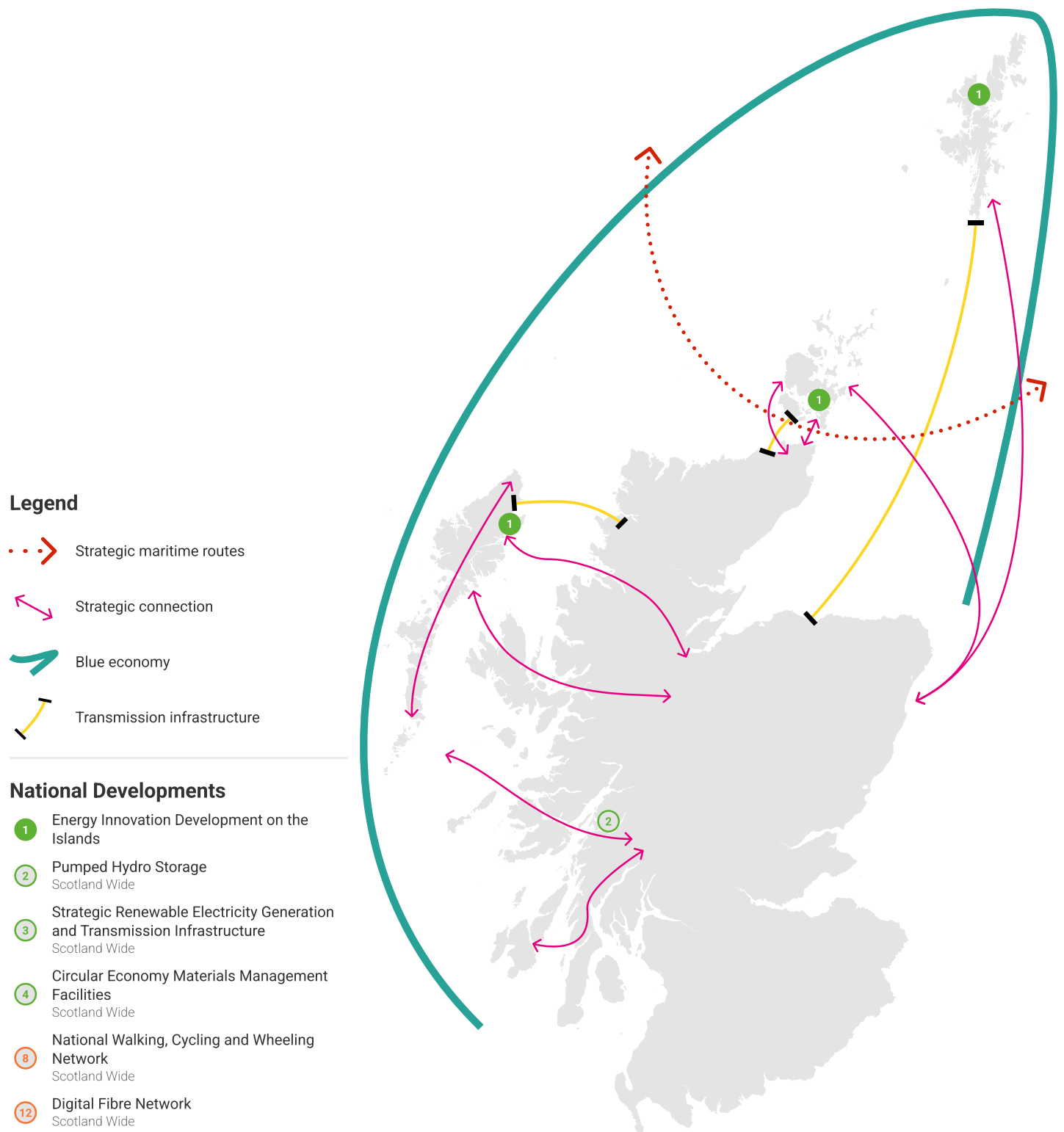
- Maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.
- Seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

The following national developments will support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Energy Innovation Development on the Islands](#)
- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

North and West Coast and Islands



Indicative

North

The Highlands of Scotland, Moray, mainland Argyll, northern parts of rural Stirling and Perthshire are world renowned for their stunning landscapes, rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Settlement patterns vary, from dispersed or low density crofting townships, to key centres such as Inverness, Ullapool, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey, Aviemore, Elgin, Pitlochry and Aberfeldy. Cairngorms National Park is a national asset with internationally significant habitats and landscapes and there is currently a proposal to make the Flow Country a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The northern part of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park also extends into this area.

Emissions here are partly offset by the climate sequestration from land use and forestry so that the area acts as a net carbon sink overall. There are few sources of significant industrial emissions. Climate change risks include changing levels of rainfall, increased storm events, temperature rise, flood risk, rising sea levels and associated erosion. Tailored measures will be required to assist communities in adapting to climate change and transitioning to net zero.

This rural heartland is much more than a place of beauty and isolation. Many thriving communities live here, and they depend on local jobs and learning to support their quality of life. Some communities have experienced outmigration, particularly the loss of younger people, especially outwith Inverness. Further population decline is a future risk, particularly for the west and north. People often depend on the car and more limited access to services creates disadvantage, despite the quality of life and good health that many living here enjoy. An ageing population will put pressures on some services.

Parts of the area have recently experienced an accelerated increase in house prices. The pandemic has reinforced long standing issues of affordability and a more mobile remote workforce has been attracted to the area, adding increased pressure. Without intervention, access to affordable homes, jobs and services that enable local people, including young people, to stay in their communities could become more challenging. Fuel and transport poverty is a particular challenge towards the north and west and there are significant areas which do not currently benefit from good quality digital connectivity.

The area's environmental quality, culture, language, landscape and wildlife sustain key economic sectors including tourism, food and drink, distilling and clean energy. Extensive areas of woodland and peatland act as a carbon sink, contributing significantly to our national sustainability. The area has a strong economy with growing income and low unemployment overall, but there remain pockets of deprivation both in urban areas and in more remote areas where there is a need for alternatives to low skilled and low paid jobs.

Priorities

This part of Scotland can continue to make a strong contribution towards meeting our ambition for a net zero and nature positive country by demonstrating how natural assets can be managed and used to secure a more sustainable future. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.
- Support local economic development by making sustainable use of the areas' world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.


The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)


Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

North






Legend

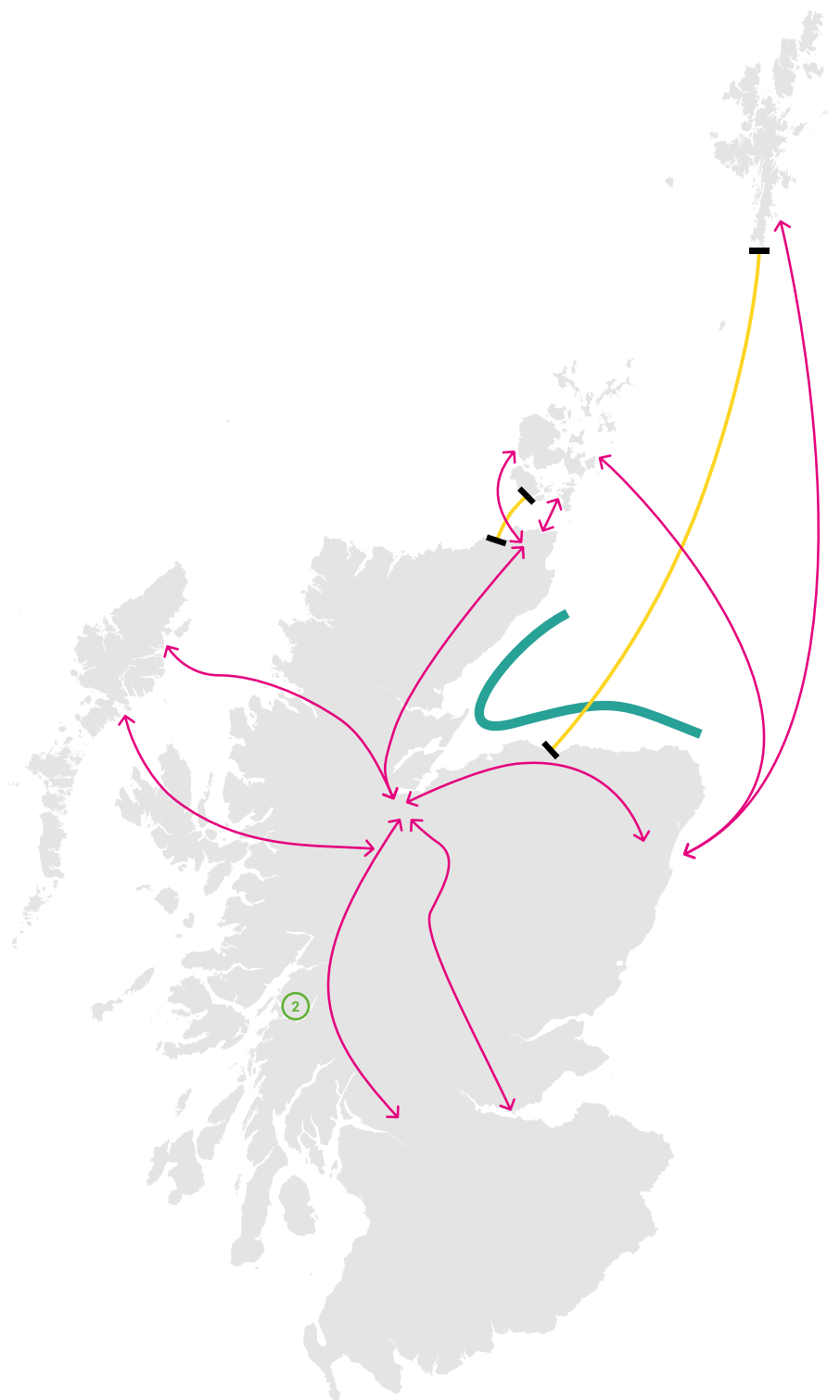
 Strategic connection

 Blue economy

 Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

-  **Pumped Hydro Storage**
Scotland Wide
-  **Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure**
Scotland Wide
-  **Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities**
Scotland Wide
-  **National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network**
Scotland Wide
-  **Digital Fibre Network**
Scotland Wide



Indicative

North East

The north east is a centre for the skills and expertise we will need to meet our climate change commitments. This area will evolve, through a just transition, to move industry and business away from the oil and gas sector towards a cleaner, greener future. Rich in natural assets, this area, along with the wider Moray and Cromarty Firths, has built on its oil and gas experience to pioneer new technologies. This makes it a uniquely investable proposition that could benefit Scotland as a whole. We can build on the area's experience to find innovative solutions to climate change.

Emissions generated from this area arise mainly from transport, industrial and commercial activity and domestic properties, with land use and forestry providing carbon sequestration. Car ownership is particularly high in Aberdeenshire. Significant parts of the coast will be vulnerable to future climate impacts.

This area is amongst the most prosperous parts of Scotland, but has experienced significant economic challenges in recent years and has pockets of deprivation. The area comprises a mix of rural and urban communities, with the city of Aberdeen and a surrounding network of towns including Huntly, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Ellon, Inverurie and Stonehaven, and significant rural areas including countryside around Aberdeen city. Whilst parts of the area have experienced population decline, several settlements around Aberdeen have grown. Links from Aberdeenshire to communities in Moray, Angus and Tayside are also important.

Affordability and choice of homes is acute across the area, especially within Aberdeen. The growing proportion of retirees in Aberdeenshire presents a further challenge to housing and service delivery. There are lower levels of educational attainment and limited access to services for communities along the Aberdeenshire and Moray coast. Many of these places will benefit from further regeneration that builds on their identity and natural assets.

The excellent quality of the built environment, natural assets and cultural heritage already contribute to health and wellbeing in the area

and can form the basis of a transition to net zero. Some of our highest quality productive agricultural land is concentrated here, together with other land-based industries, and the economy benefits from a strong fishing industry, alongside its globally significant energy sector. The dominance of these sectors, together with wider changes including from the pandemic, European Union (EU) Exit and global markets, means that economic diversification and repurposing of buildings and infrastructure will be key priorities.

Priorities

This part of Scotland will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.
- Focus on continued regeneration through the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.
- Support continued economic diversification and innovation.





The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Aberdeen Harbour](#)
- [Industrial Green Transition Zones](#)









Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

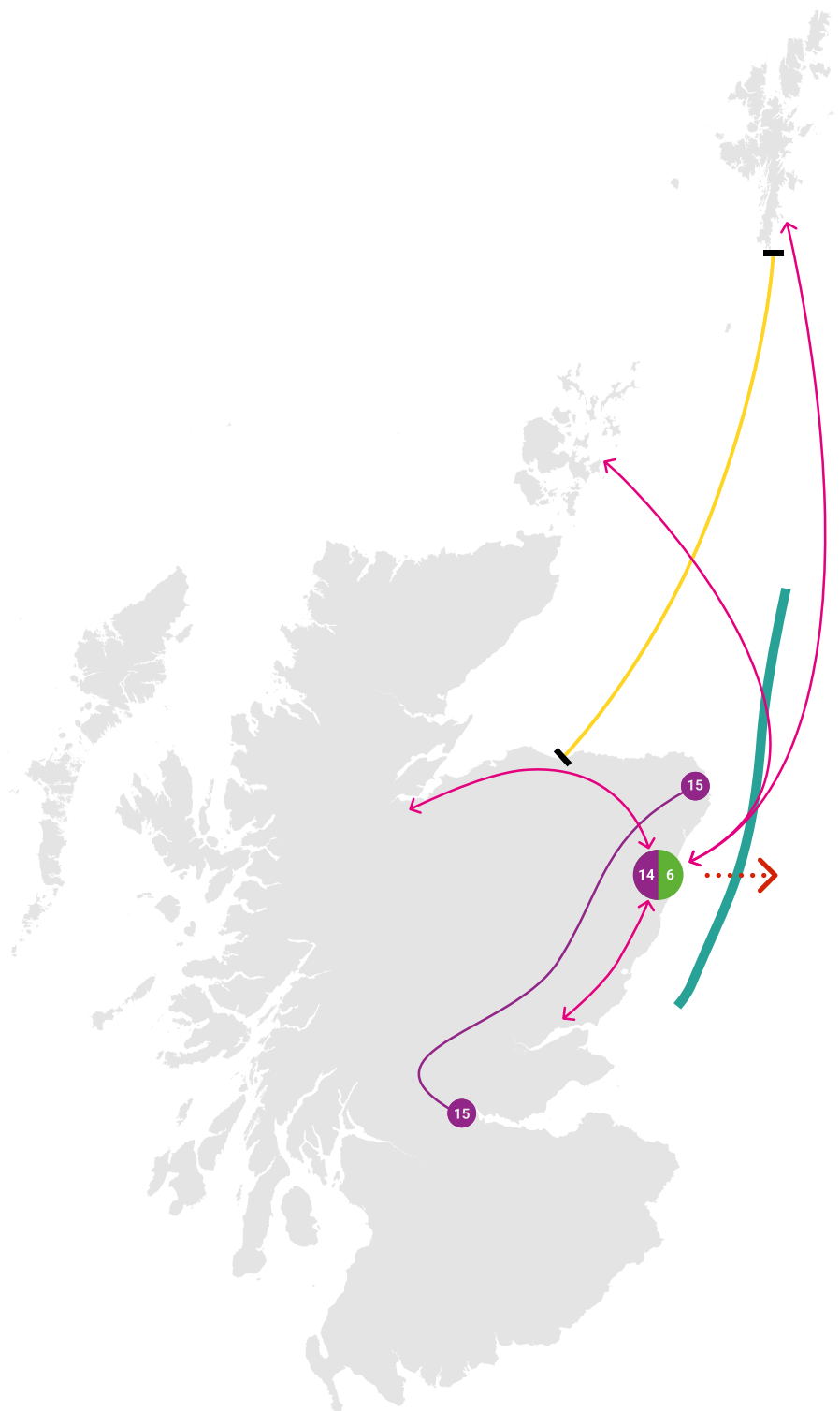
North East

Legend

-  Strategic maritime routes
-  Strategic connection
-  Blue economy
-  Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

-  **2** Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
-  **3** Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
-  **4** Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
-  **6** Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
-  **8** National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
-  **12** Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
-  **14** Aberdeen Harbour
-  **15** Industrial Green Transition Zones



Indicative

Central

We will only meet our climate change commitments if we make significant changes to the densely populated central belt of Scotland. Our urban communities will play a critical role in reducing the emissions generated by the way we live our lives.

This area includes the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dundee and Perth city regions as well as networks of towns and smaller settlements, and more rural surroundings.

Many of our largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions are located in this area, including Grangemouth where industrial activity is concentrated, providing high value manufacturing and employment, and playing a key role in our resilience. Other key sources include industrial, manufacturing and waste management sites and facilities. Overall emissions from domestic properties and transport are high as a result of the area's population density and the scale of daily movement within and between city regions. The growing risk of flooding could have significant impacts in the future, as many key settlements and economic assets are located on the Clyde, Forth and Tay estuaries.

We need to work together to decarbonise buildings and transport and tackle congestion, make more efficient use of existing land and buildings, generate renewable energy and establish supporting electricity and heat networks and create more inclusive, greener and sustainable places that will stand the test of time. By weaving blue and green infrastructure across our urban fabric we can ensure that nature and the outdoors are accessible to everyone, supporting lifelong health and wellbeing and creating places that are more resilient to flooding.

There are significant social and economic differences across the area – at a broad scale there are relatively high concentrations of poor health, child poverty, economic disadvantage and population decline in parts of the Glasgow city region contrasting with strong demand

and expected population growth in parts of the Edinburgh city region. The broad pattern is repeated for children living in poverty, who are more likely to live in the Glasgow city region. Across the area as a whole, however, there are localised areas of high and low deprivation.

As a nation we have a particular obligation to do more to tackle the concentration of poor health outcomes in west central Scotland. Action is needed to reduce inequality and improve health and wellbeing so that everyone is able to thrive. Better places can do more to support lifelong health and wellbeing by providing warm homes that are connected to services. Access to quality greenspace and nature-based solutions can help to mitigate health inequalities and improve physical and mental health, by providing opportunities for play, socialising, relaxation and physical activity. Developing our communities to promote local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can help reduce inequalities in health. The frequency of urban car use can be reduced by improving local liveability and improved access to facilities, helping to reduce emissions and air pollution. Access to health and social care facilities will need to be built into our future places and can benefit from continuing investment in digital infrastructure and innovation.

Household projections show there will be a continuing demand for more homes across the most urban parts of Scotland. There has been a strong market, high levels of housebuilding and pressure on infrastructure in some 'hot spots' including the Edinburgh city region, Stirling and Falkirk, and Perth. In contrast, despite good connections and infrastructure capacity, it can be more challenging to encourage the market to deliver new homes particularly in parts of the west where unemployment is also higher.

There are also inequalities across each of the city regions, with local concentrations of economic deprivation and many former coalfield communities. Overall, economic performance is higher in Edinburgh and Glasgow and lower in surrounding areas including Inverclyde, Ayrshire, along parts of the Clyde Coast and Lanarkshire.

The diverse business base reflects nationally important sectors including financial services, business administration, life sciences, distribution and transport, retail and commercial, and manufacturing and production. City centres are experiencing significant challenges, caused or accelerated by the pandemic, but each retain a strong character and distinctive identity, offering opportunities for new business, homes, and services. Similar issues apply to the towns across this area.

A wellbeing economy goes beyond strategic investment sites to link more closely with the wellbeing of communities and their local environments. It will be critical to recognise the importance of anchor institutions who can support local investment in our places and natural and historic assets, provide education, employment and other services, and act as community hubs. Significant investment in our health and social care, justice and learning estates will continue to provide important sources of employment and income for smaller scale local businesses.

Around the area's settlements there are many high quality environments, from World Heritage Sites, historic burghs and conservation areas to protected biodiversity sites of international importance, ancient woodlands and areas of high landscape quality, including the coastline, country and national parks, and canals. This brings opportunities for outdoor recreation within a short distance of the majority of Scotland's population.

The coast is an integral part of the area's identity, combining natural and cultural heritage and acting as a focus for investment and regeneration. We have made progress in restoring and reusing areas that were historically a focus for heavy industry and mining, leaving a legacy of disused sites and areas blighted by dereliction. Key sites for further investment include urban waterfronts and former industrial sites where existing infrastructure can be reused to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

Priorities

A coherent strategy that focuses on climate change and responds to the challenges of the pandemic will drive forward change to tackle inequalities and build a new, greener, future for this part of the country. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Provide net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.
- Pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.
- Target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions](#)
- [Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks](#)
- [Central Scotland Green Network](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Edinburgh Waterfront](#)
- [Dundee Waterfront](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Clyde Mission](#)
- [Industrial Green Transition Zones](#)
- [Hunterston Strategic Asset](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

Central

Legend

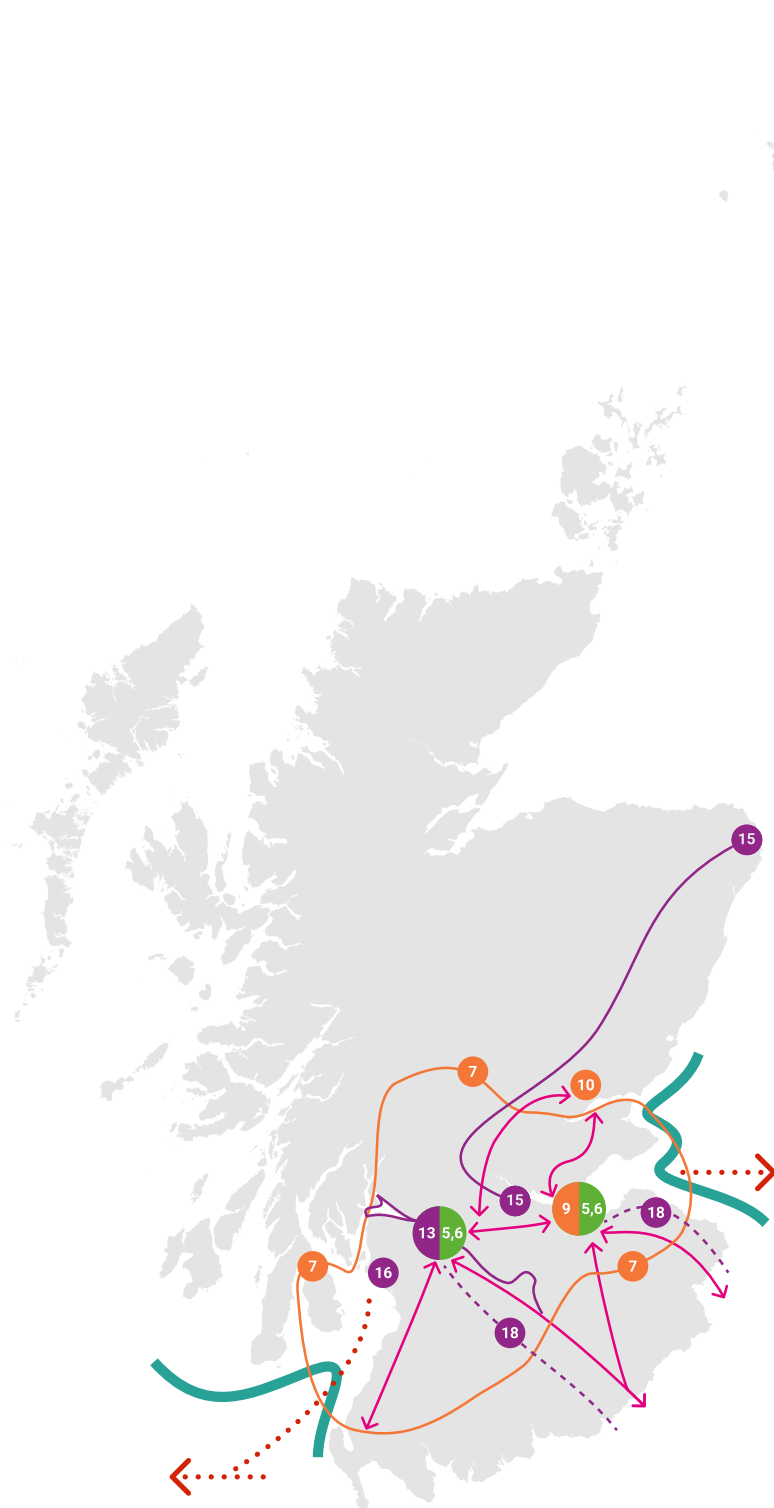
...> Strategic maritime routes

↔ Strategic connection

➤ Blue economy

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
Mapping is indicative
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 13 Clyde Mission
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

South

The South of Scotland is strategically important with a strong sense of identity centred on networks of towns and villages, supported by distinctive landscapes and coasts. This is a place with a rich cultural heritage and exceptional environmental assets and natural resources, such as the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park. This area is ambitious for positive change in the coming years, and the immediate work to recover from the pandemic will form the basis of a longer term plan to respond to the challenges of climate change and support nature restoration and recovery.

Settlements across this area provide services to the surrounding rural communities. Towns are well placed to be models of sustainable living, with many undergoing regeneration. Larger settlements include Dumfries, Stranraer, Galashiels, Hawick, with a network of towns and villages throughout Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders. The area extends northwards to include Ayrshire towns such as Ayr, Girvan, Dalmellington and Cumnock in the west, as well as towards the southern rural parts of East Lothian in the east and parts of South Lanarkshire including Biggar and Moffat. Beyond the towns there are many small settlements and rural homes, farms and smallholdings.

Cross border relationships are important in this area, together with strategic transport connections to England, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Emissions in this area are moderate, with transport and industry emissions being partly offset by land use. The area has significant areas of woodland and peatland which act as a carbon sink and form the basis for future investment opportunities. The few sites that are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions include industrial and commercial activities, including some food and drink processing facilities. Coastal erosion and flood risk is expected to be a significant challenge in the future, particularly where there is a risk of impacts on key transport corridors or settlements.

Working with communities to find new ways of rural living that are consistent with climate change will be a challenge for this part of Scotland, given the relatively high levels of dependence on the car, limited public transport, housing affordability challenges and the dispersed population.

Despite having high levels of wellbeing and quality of life, population decline is projected to continue in some regions to the west of the area, with fewer younger people and more retired people living in the area in the future. Economic diversification will help to address dependence on low wage and public sector employment.

Priorities

Our strategy aims to ensure that this part of Scotland fulfils its potential. There is significant potential for the area to develop and increase recognition of it as a place to live, work and visit. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.
- Increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.
- Support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Stranraer Gateway](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Clyde Mission](#)
- [Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

South

Legend

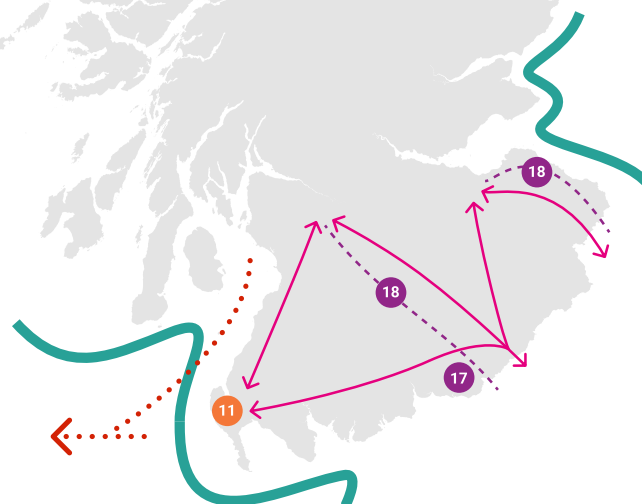
...> Strategic maritime routes

↔ Strategic connection

➤ Blue economy

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation
and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management
Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
Network
Scotland Wide
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

Part 2 – National Planning Policy



Sustainable Places

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

Policy Outcomes:

- Zero carbon, nature positive places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.

Policy Outcomes:

- Emissions from development are minimised; and
- Our places are more resilient to climate change impacts.

Local Development Plans:

The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles should form the basis of the spatial strategy, helping to guide development to, and create, sustainable locations. The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.

Policy 2

- Development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.
- Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.
- Development proposals to retrofit measures to existing developments that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate change will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.

Biodiversity

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

Policy Outcomes:

- Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.

Policy 3

- a) Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions, where possible.
- b) Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. This will include future management. To inform this, best practice assessment methods should be used. Proposals within these categories will demonstrate how they have met all of the following criteria:
 - i. the proposal is based on an understanding of the existing characteristics of the site and its local, regional and national ecological context prior to development, including the presence of any irreplaceable habitats;
 - ii. wherever feasible, nature-based solutions have been integrated and made best use of;
 - iii. an assessment of potential negative effects which should be fully mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy prior to identifying enhancements;
 - iv. significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation. This should include nature networks, linking to and strengthening habitat connectivity within and beyond the development, secured within a reasonable timescale and with reasonable certainty. Management arrangements for their long-term retention and monitoring should be included, wherever appropriate; and
 - v. local community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks have been considered.
- c) Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with national and local guidance. Measures should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.
- d) Any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design. This will take into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss, safeguard the ecosystem services that the natural environment provides, and build resilience by enhancing nature networks and maximising the potential for restoration.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

Natural places

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions.

Policy Outcomes:

- Natural places are protected and restored.
- Natural assets are managed in a sustainable way that maintains and grows their essential benefits and services.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.

Policy 4

- a) Development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported.
- b) Development proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on an existing or proposed European site (Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Areas) and are not directly connected with or necessary to their conservation management are required to be subject to an “appropriate assessment” of the implications for the conservation objectives.

- c) Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:

- i. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
- ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

All Ramsar sites are also European sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are extended protection under the relevant statutory regimes.

- d) Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:
 - i. Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or
 - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.
- e) The precautionary principle will be applied in accordance with relevant legislation and Scottish Government guidance.
- f) Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on species protected by legislation will only be supported where the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on a site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish its presence. The level of protection required by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of development, and potential impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of any application.

g) Development proposals in areas identified as wild land in the Nature Scot Wild Land Areas map will only be supported where the proposal:

- i. will support meeting renewable energy targets; or,
- ii. is for small scale development directly linked to a rural business or croft, or is required to support a fragile community in a rural area.

All such proposals must be accompanied by a wild land impact assessment which sets out how design, siting, or other mitigation measures have been and will be used to minimise significant impacts on the qualities of the wild land, as well as any management and monitoring arrangements where appropriate. Buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

Soils

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development.

Policy Outcomes:

- Valued soils are protected and restored.
- Soils, including carbon-rich soils, are sequestering and storing carbon.
- Soils are healthy and provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and our economy.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.

Policy 5

- a) Development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed:
 - i. In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land; and
 - ii. In a manner that protects soil from damage including from compaction and erosion, and that minimises soil sealing.
 - b) Development proposals on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use, as identified by the LDP, will only be supported where it is for:
 - i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft or for essential workers for the rural business to be able to live onsite;
 - iii. The development of production and processing facilities associated with the land produce where no other local site is suitable;
 - iv. The generation of energy from renewable sources or the extraction of minerals and there is secure provision for restoration; and
- In all of the above exceptions, the layout and design of the proposal minimises the amount of protected land that is required.
- c) Development proposals on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitat will only be supported for:
 - i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. The generation of energy from renewable sources that optimises the contribution of the area to greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets;
 - iii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft;
 - iv. Supporting a fragile community in a rural or island area; or
 - v. Restoration of peatland habitats.
 - d) Where development on peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat is proposed, a detailed site specific assessment will be required to identify:
 - i. the baseline depth, habitat condition, quality and stability of carbon rich soils;
 - ii. the likely effects of the development on peatland, including on soil disturbance; and
 - iii. the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.

This assessment should inform careful project design and ensure, in accordance with relevant guidance and the mitigation hierarchy, that adverse impacts are first avoided and then minimised through best practice. A peat management plan will be required to demonstrate that this approach has been followed, alongside other appropriate plans required for restoring and/ or enhancing the site into a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

- e) Development proposals for new commercial peat extraction, including extensions to existing sites, will only be supported where:
- i. the extracted peat is supporting the Scottish whisky industry;
 - ii. there is no reasonable substitute;
 - iii. the area of extraction is the minimum necessary and the proposal retains an in-situ residual depth of peat of at least 1 metre across the whole site, including drainage features;
 - iv. the time period for extraction is the minimum necessary; and
 - v. there is an agreed comprehensive site restoration plan which will progressively restore, over a reasonable timescale, the area of extraction to a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Energy](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Rural development](#)

Forestry, woodland and trees

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and expand forests, woodland and trees.

Policy Outcomes:

- Existing woodlands and trees are protected, and cover is expanded.
- Woodland and trees on development sites are sustainably managed.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks. The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This will be supported and informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

Policy 6

- Development proposals that enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover will be supported.
- Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in:
 - Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition;
 - Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy;
 - Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy;
 - Conflict with Restocking Direction, Remedial Notice or Registered Notice to Comply issued by Scottish Forestry.

- Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered.
- Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Tourism](#)

Historic assets and places

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.

Policy Outcomes:

- The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.
- Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses.
- Recognise the social, environmental and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.

Policy 7

- a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change.

Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records.

- b) Development proposals for the demolition of listed buildings will not be supported unless it has been demonstrated that there are exceptional circumstances and that all reasonable efforts have been made to retain, reuse and/or adapt the listed building. Considerations include whether the:
- building is no longer of special interest;
 - building is incapable of physical repair and re-use as verified through a detailed structural condition survey report;
 - repair of the building is not economically viable and there has been adequate marketing for existing and/or new uses at a price reflecting its location and condition for a reasonable period to attract interest from potential restoring purchasers; or
 - demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community.
- c) Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest.
- d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced. Relevant considerations include the:
- architectural and historic character of the area;
 - existing density, built form and layout; and
 - context and siting, quality of design and suitable materials.
- e) Development proposals in conservation areas will ensure that existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and its setting, including structures, boundary walls, railings, trees and hedges, are retained.

- f) Demolition of buildings in a conservation area which make a positive contribution to its character will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that:
 - i. reasonable efforts have been made to retain, repair and reuse the building;
 - ii. the building is of little townscape value;
 - iii. the structural condition of the building prevents its retention at a reasonable cost; or
 - iv. the form or location of the building makes its reuse extremely difficult.
- g) Where demolition within a conservation area is to be followed by redevelopment, consent to demolish will only be supported when an acceptable design, layout and materials are being used for the replacement development.
- h) Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:
 - i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided;
 - ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or
 - iii. exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.
- i) Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes will be supported where they protect, preserve or enhance their cultural significance, character and integrity and where proposals will not significantly impact on important views to, from and within the site, or its setting.
- j) Development proposals affecting nationally important Historic Battlefields will only be supported where they protect and, where appropriate, enhance their cultural significance, key landscape characteristics, physical remains and special qualities.
- k) Development proposals at the coast edge or that extend offshore will only be supported where proposals do not significantly hinder the preservation objectives of Historic Marine Protected Areas.
- l) Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.
- m) Development proposals which sensitively repair, enhance and bring historic buildings, as identified as being at risk locally or on the national Buildings at Risk Register, back into beneficial use will be supported.
- n) Enabling development for historic environment assets or places that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, will only be supported when it has been demonstrated that the enabling development proposed is:
 - i. essential to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss; and
 - ii. the minimum necessary to secure the restoration, adaptation and long-term future of the historic environment asset or place.

The beneficial outcomes for the historic environment asset or place should be secured early in the phasing of the development, and will be ensured through the use of conditions and/or legal agreements.
- o) Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations.

When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Green belts

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate compact urban growth and use the land around our towns and cities sustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, urban density is increased and unsustainable growth is prevented.
- The character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced.
- Nature networks are supported and land is managed to help tackle climate change.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should consider using green belts, to support their spatial strategy as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.

Green belts will not be necessary for most settlements but may be zoned around settlements where there is a significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside.

Green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of LDPs. Boundary changes may be made to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.

Policy 8

a) Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will only be supported if:

i) they are for:

- development associated with agriculture, woodland creation, forestry and existing woodland (including community woodlands);
- residential accommodation required and designed for a key worker in a primary industry within the immediate vicinity of their place of employment where the presence of a worker is essential to the operation of the enterprise, or retired workers where there is no suitable alternative accommodation available;
- horticulture, including market gardening and directly connected retailing, as well as community growing;
- outdoor recreation, play and sport or leisure and tourism uses; and developments that provide opportunities for access to the open countryside (including routes for active travel and core paths);
- flood risk management (such as development of blue and green infrastructure within a “drainage catchment” to manage/mitigate flood risk and/or drainage issues);
- essential infrastructure or new cemetery provision;
- minerals operations and renewable energy developments;
- intensification of established uses, including extensions to an existing building where that is ancillary to the main use;
- the reuse, rehabilitation and conversion of historic environment assets; or
- one-for-one replacements of existing permanent homes.

and

ii) the following requirements are met:

- reasons are provided as to why a green belt location is essential and why it cannot be located on an alternative site outwith the green belt;
- the purpose of the green belt at that location is not undermined;
- the proposal is compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character;
- the proposal has been designed to ensure it is of an appropriate scale, massing and external appearance, and uses materials that minimise visual impact on the green belt as far as possible; and
- there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality of the green belt.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

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[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Retail](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Minerals](#)

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for greenfield development.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, maximising the use of existing assets and minimising additional land take.
- The contribution of brownfield land to nature recovery is recognised and opportunities for use as productive greenspace are realised where appropriate.
- Derelict buildings and spaces are regenerated to improve wellbeing and transform our places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.

Policy 9

- Development proposals that will result in the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and buildings, whether permanent or temporary, will be supported. In determining whether the reuse is sustainable, the biodiversity value of brownfield land which has naturalised should be taken into account.
- Proposals on greenfield sites will not be supported unless the site has been allocated for development or the proposal is explicitly supported by policies in the LDP.

- Where land is known or suspected to be unstable or contaminated, development proposals will demonstrate that the land is, or can be made, safe and suitable for the proposed new use.
- Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings will be supported, taking into account their suitability for conversion to other uses. Given the need to conserve embodied energy, demolition will be regarded as the least preferred option.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Coastal development

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Policy Outcomes:

- Coastal areas develop sustainably and adapt to climate change.

Local Development Plans:

LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. This should recognise that rising sea levels and more extreme weather events resulting from climate change will potentially have a significant impact on coastal and islands areas, and take a precautionary approach to flood risk including by inundation. Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets. LDP spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

Policy 10

- a) Development proposals in developed coastal areas will only be supported where the proposal:
 - i. does not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
 - ii. is anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change.
- b) Development proposals in undeveloped coastal areas will only be supported where they:
 - i. are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or to contribute to the economy or wellbeing of communities whose livelihood depend on marine or coastal activities, or is for essential infrastructure, where there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. do not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
 - iii. are anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change; or
 - iv. are designed to have a very short lifespan.
- c) Development proposals for coastal defence measures will be supported if:
 - i. they are consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
 - ii. nature-based solutions are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
 - iii. any in-perpetuity hard defense measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- d) Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

Energy

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).

Policy Outcomes:

- Expansion of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should seek to realise their area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development.

Policy 11

- a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:
 - i. wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms;
 - ii. enabling works, such as grid transmission and distribution infrastructure;
 - iii. energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped storage hydro;
 - iv. small scale renewable energy generation technology;
 - v. solar arrays;
 - vi. proposals associated with negative emissions technologies and carbon capture; and
 - vii. proposals including co-location of these technologies.
- b) Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported.
- c) Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.
- d) Development proposals that impact on international or national designations will be assessed in relation to Policy 4.
- e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:
 - i. impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;
 - ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;
 - iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;
 - iv. impacts on aviation and defence interests including seismological recording;
 - v. impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;
 - vi. impacts on road traffic and on adjacent trunk roads, including during construction;
 - vii. impacts on historic environment;
 - viii. effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;
 - ix. biodiversity including impacts on birds;
 - x. impacts on trees, woods and forests;
 - xi. proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;
 - xii. the quality of site restoration plans including the measures in place to safeguard or guarantee availability of finances to effectively implement those plans; and
 - xiii. cumulative impacts.

In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development. It is for developers to agree connections to the grid with the relevant network operator. In the case of proposals for grid infrastructure, consideration should be given to underground connections where possible.

- f) Consents for development proposals may be time-limited. Areas identified for wind farms are, however, expected to be suitable for use in perpetuity.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

Zero waste

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.

Policy Outcomes:

- The reduction and reuse of materials in construction is prioritised.
- Infrastructure for zero waste and to develop Scotland's circular economy is delivered in appropriate locations.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

Policy 12

- a) Development proposals will seek to reduce, reuse, or recycle materials in line with the waste hierarchy.
- b) Development proposals will be supported where they:
 - i. reuse existing buildings and infrastructure;
 - ii. minimise demolition and salvage materials for reuse;
 - iii. minimise waste, reduce pressure on virgin resources and enable building materials, components and products to be disassembled, and reused at the end of their useful life;
 - iv. use materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions, such as recycled and natural construction materials;
 - v. use materials that are suitable for reuse with minimal reprocessing.
- c) Development proposals that are likely to generate waste when operational, including residential, commercial, and industrial properties, will set out how much waste the proposal is expected to generate and how it will be managed including:
 - i. provision to maximise waste reduction and waste separation at source, and
 - ii. measures to minimise the cross-contamination of materials, through appropriate segregation and storage of waste; convenient access for the collection of waste; and recycling and localised waste management facilities.
- d) Development proposals for waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and energy from waste facilities) will be only supported where:
 - i. there are no unacceptable impacts (including cumulative) on the residential amenity of nearby dwellings, local communities; the transport network; and natural and historic environment assets;
 - ii. environmental (including cumulative) impacts relating to noise, dust, smells, pest control and pollution of land, air and water are acceptable;
 - iii. any greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the processing and transportation of waste to and from the facility are minimised;
 - iv. an adequate buffer zone between sites and sensitive uses such as homes is provided taking account of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
 - v. a restoration and aftercare scheme (including appropriate financial mechanisms) is provided and agreed to ensure the site is restored;
 - vi. consideration has been given to co-location with end users of outputs.
- e) Development proposals for new or extended landfill sites will only be supported if:
 - i. there is demonstrable need for additional landfill capacity taking into account Scottish Government objectives on waste management; and
 - ii. waste heat and/or electricity generation is included. Where this is considered impractical, evidence and justification will require to be provided.

- f) Proposals for the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste water treatment plant will be supported.
- g) Development proposals for energy-from-waste facilities will not be supported except under limited circumstances where a national or local need has been sufficiently demonstrated (e.g. in terms of capacity need or carbon benefits) as part of a strategic approach to residual waste management and where the proposal:
 - i. is consistent with climate change mitigation targets and in line with circular economy principles;
 - ii. can demonstrate that a functional heat network can be created and provided within the site for appropriate infrastructure to allow a heat network to be developed and potential local consumers have been identified;
 - iii. is supported by a heat and power plan, which demonstrates how energy recovered from the development would be used to provide electricity and heat and where consideration is given to methods to reduce carbon emissions of the facility (for example through carbon capture and storage)
 - iv. complies with relevant guidelines published by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and
 - v. has supplied an acceptable decarbonisation strategy aligned with Scottish Government decarbonisation goals.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Compact urban growth

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Minerals](#)

Sustainable transport

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport for everyday travel and reduce the need to travel unsustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Investment in transport infrastructure supports connectivity and reflects place-based approaches and local living.
- More, better, safer and more inclusive active and sustainable travel opportunities.
- Developments are in locations which support sustainable travel.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services.

LDPs should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. This could include low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing-in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development; local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; car ownership levels; the accessibility of proposals and allocations by sustainable modes; and the accessibility for users of all abilities.

LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance. Plans should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable

mitigation proposed to inform the plan's infrastructure first approach. Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network, early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.

Policy 13

- a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:
 - i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.
 - ii. which support a mode shift of freight from road to more sustainable modes, including last-mile delivery.
 - iii. that build in resilience to the effects of climate change and where appropriate incorporate blue and green infrastructure and nature rich habitats (such as natural planting or water systems).
- b) Development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the transport requirements generated have been considered in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies and where appropriate they:
 - i. Provide direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before occupation;
 - ii. Will be accessible by public transport, ideally supporting the use of existing services;
 - iii. Integrate transport modes;
 - iv. Provide low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points in safe and convenient locations, in alignment with building standards;
 - v. Supply safe, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and which is more conveniently located than car parking;
 - vi. Are designed to incorporate safety measures including safe crossings for walking and wheeling and reducing the number and speed of vehicles;

- vii. Have taken into account, at the earliest stage of design, the transport needs of diverse groups including users with protected characteristics to ensure the safety, ease and needs of all users; and
 - viii. Adequately mitigate any impact on local public access routes.
- c) Where a development proposal will generate a significant increase in the number of person trips, a transport assessment will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance.
- d) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses will not be supported in locations which would increase reliance on the private car, taking into account the specific characteristics of the area.
- e) Development proposals which are ambitious in terms of low/no car parking will be supported, particularly in urban locations that are well-served by sustainable transport modes and where they do not create barriers to access by disabled people.
- f) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses, or smaller-scale developments where it is important to monitor travel patterns resulting from the development, will only be supported if they are accompanied by a Travel Plan with supporting planning conditions/obligations. Travel plans should set out clear arrangements for delivering against targets, as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- g) Development proposals that have the potential to affect the operation and safety of the Strategic Transport Network will be fully assessed to determine their impact. Where it has been demonstrated that existing infrastructure does not have the capacity to accommodate a development without adverse impacts on safety or unacceptable impacts on operational performance, the cost of the mitigation measures required to ensure the continued safe and effective operation of the network should be met by the developer.

While new junctions on trunk roads are not normally acceptable, the case for a new junction will be considered by Transport Scotland where significant economic or regeneration benefits can be demonstrated. New junctions will only be considered if they are designed in accordance with relevant guidance and where there will be no adverse impact on road safety or operational performance.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
- [Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
- [Design, quality and place](#)
- [Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
- [Infrastructure first](#)
- [Quality homes](#)
- [Rural homes](#)
- [Blue and green infrastructure](#)
- [Business and industry](#)
- [City, town, local and commercial centres](#)
- [Retail](#)
- [Rural development](#)
- [Tourism](#)



Liveable Places

Design, quality and place

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate well designed development that makes successful places by taking a design-led approach and applying the Place Principle.

Policy Outcomes:

- Quality places, spaces and environments.
- Places that consistently deliver healthy, pleasant, distinctive, connected, sustainable and adaptable qualities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be place-based and created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the [six qualities of successful places](#). LDPs should provide clear expectations for design, quality and place taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should also identify where more detailed design guidance is expected, for example, by way of design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes.

Planning authorities should use the Place Standard tool in the preparation of LDPs and design guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders. They should also where relevant promote its use in early design discussions on planning applications.

Policy 14

- Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.
- Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.

Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the [six qualities of successful places](#) are set out in Annex D.

- Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[All other policies.](#)

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

Policy Outcomes:

- Places are planned to improve local living in a way that reflects local circumstances.
- A network of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods which support health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- New and existing communities are planned together with homes and the key local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces, health and social care, digital and sustainable transport links.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the varying settlement patterns and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.

Policy 15

- a) Development proposals will contribute to local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods. To establish this, consideration will be given to existing settlement pattern, and the level and quality of interconnectivity of the proposed development

with the surrounding area, including local access to:

- sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
- employment;
- shopping;
- health and social care facilities;
- childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
- playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities;
- publicly accessible toilets;
- affordable and accessible housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

Quality homes

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes, in the right locations, providing choice across tenures that meet the diverse housing needs of people and communities across Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Good quality homes are at the heart of great places and contribute to strengthening the health and wellbeing of communities.
- Provision of land in the right locations to accommodate future need and demand for new homes, supported by the appropriate infrastructure.
- More energy efficient, net zero emissions homes, supporting a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy and community wealth building, tackling both fuel and child poverty.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement for the area they cover. This is to meet the duty for a housing target and to represent how much land is required. To promote an ambitious and plan-led approach, the Local Housing Land Requirement is expected to exceed the 10 year [Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement \(MATHLR\) set out in Annex E](#).

Deliverable land should be allocated to meet the 10 year Local Housing Land Requirement in locations that create quality places for people to live. Areas that may be suitable for new homes beyond 10 years are also to be identified. The location of where new homes are allocated should be consistent with local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods and an infrastructure first approach. In rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored approaches to housing which

reflect locally specific market circumstances and delivery approaches. Diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas, as well as allocating land to ensure provision of accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where need is identified.

The LDP delivery programme is expected to establish a deliverable housing land pipeline for the Local Housing Land Requirement. The purpose of the pipeline is to provide a transparent view of the phasing of housing allocations so that interventions, including infrastructure, that enable delivery can be planned: it is not to stage permissions. Representing when land will be brought forward, phasing is expected across the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years). Where sites earlier in the deliverable housing land pipeline are not delivering as programmed, and alternative delivery mechanisms identified in the delivery programme are not practical, measures should be considered to enable earlier delivery of long-term deliverable sites (7-10 years) or areas identified for new homes beyond 10 years. De-allocations should be considered where sites are no longer deliverable. The annual Housing Land Audit will monitor the delivery of housing land to inform the pipeline and the actions to be taken in the delivery programme.

Policy 16

- a) Development proposals for new homes on land allocated for housing in LDPs will be supported.
- b) Development proposals that include 50 or more homes, and smaller developments if required by local policy or guidance, should be accompanied by a Statement of Community Benefit. The statement will explain the contribution of the proposed development to:
 - i. meeting local housing requirements, including affordable homes;
 - ii. providing or enhancing local infrastructure, facilities and services; and
 - iii. improving the residential amenity of the surrounding area.

- c) Development proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision, will be supported. This could include:
- i. self-provided homes;
 - ii. accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes;
 - iii. build to rent;
 - iv. affordable homes;
 - v. a range of size of homes such as those for larger families;
 - vi. homes for older people, including supported accommodation, care homes and sheltered housing;
 - vii. homes for people undertaking further and higher education; and
 - viii. homes for other specialist groups such as service personnel.
- d) Development proposals for public or private, permanent or temporary, Gypsy/Travellers sites and family yards and Travelling Showpeople yards, including on land not specifically allocated for this use in the LDP, should be supported where a need is identified and the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies, including human rights and equality.
- e) Development proposals for new homes will be supported where they make provision for affordable homes to meet an identified need. Proposals for market homes will only be supported where the contribution to the provision of affordable homes on a site will be at least 25% of the total number of homes, unless the LDP sets out locations or circumstances where:
- i. a higher contribution is justified by evidence of need, or
 - ii. a lower contribution is justified, for example, by evidence of impact on viability, where proposals are small in scale, or to incentivise particular types of homes that are needed to diversify the supply, such as self-build or wheelchair accessible homes.
- The contribution is to be provided in accordance with local policy or guidance.
- f) Development proposals for new homes on land not allocated for housing in the LDP will only be supported in limited circumstances where:
- i. the proposal is supported by an agreed timescale for build-out; and
 - ii. the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies including local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods;
 - iii. and either:
 - delivery of sites is happening earlier than identified in the deliverable housing land pipeline. This will be determined by reference to two consecutive years of the Housing Land Audit evidencing substantial delivery earlier than pipeline timescales and that general trend being sustained; or
 - the proposal is consistent with policy on rural homes; or
 - the proposal is for smaller scale opportunities within an existing settlement boundary; or
 - the proposal is for the delivery of less than 50 affordable homes as part of a local authority supported affordable housing plan.
- g) Householder development proposals will be supported where they:
- i. do not have a detrimental impact on the character or environmental quality of the home and the surrounding area in terms of size, design and materials; and
 - ii. do not have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking.
- h) Householder development proposals that provide adaptations in response to risks from a changing climate, or relating to people with health conditions that lead to particular accommodation needs will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

Rural homes

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable rural homes in the right locations.

Policy Outcomes:

- Improved choice of homes across tenures so that identified local needs of people and communities in rural and island areas are met.
- Homes are provided that support sustainable rural communities and are linked with service provision.
- The distinctive character, sense of place and natural and cultural assets of rural areas are safeguarded and enhanced.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be informed by an understanding of population change over time, locally specific needs and market circumstances in rural and island areas.

LDPs should set out tailored approaches to rural housing and where relevant include proposals for future population growth – including provision for small-scale housing such as crofts and woodland crofts and the appropriate resettlement of previously inhabited areas. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Plans should reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches. Previously inhabited areas that are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

Policy 17

- a) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will be supported where the development is suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area and the development:
 - i. is on a site allocated for housing within the LDP;
 - ii. reuses brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
 - iii. reuses a redundant or unused building;
 - iv. is an appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
 - v. is demonstrated to be necessary to support the sustainable management of a viable rural business or croft, and there is an essential need for a worker (including those taking majority control of a farm business) to live permanently at or near their place of work;
 - vi. is for a single home for the retirement succession of a viable farm holding;
 - vii. is for the subdivision of an existing residential dwelling; the scale of which is in keeping with the character and infrastructure provision in the area; or
 - viii. reinstates a former dwelling house or is a one-for-one replacement of an existing permanent house.
- b) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account identified local housing needs (including affordable housing), economic considerations and the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals for new homes in remote rural areas will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. supports and sustains existing fragile communities;
 - ii. supports identified local housing outcomes; and

- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals for new homes that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
- i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
 - ii. is designed to a high standard;
 - iii. responds to its rural location; and
 - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

Infrastructure first

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate an infrastructure first approach to land use planning, which puts infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking.

Policy Outcomes:

- Infrastructure considerations are integral to development planning and decision making and potential impacts on infrastructure and infrastructure needs are understood early in the development planning process as part of an evidenced based approach.
- Existing infrastructure assets are used sustainably, prioritising low-carbon solutions.
- Infrastructure requirements, and their planned delivery to meet the needs of communities, are clear.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should:

- be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure;
- set out the infrastructure requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered; and
- indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in-kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required.

Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.

Policy 18

- a) Development proposals which provide (or contribute to) infrastructure in line with that identified as necessary in LDPs and their delivery programmes will be supported.
- b) The impacts of development proposals on infrastructure should be mitigated. Development proposals will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that provision is made to address the impacts on infrastructure. Where planning conditions, planning obligations, or other legal agreements are to be used, the relevant tests will apply.

Where planning obligations are entered into, they should meet the following tests:

- be necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms
- serve a planning purpose
- relate to the impacts of the proposed development
- fairly and reasonably relate in scale and kind to the proposed development
- be reasonable in all other respects

Planning conditions should only be imposed where they meet all of the following tests. They should be:

- necessary
- relevant to planning
- relevant to the development to be permitted
- enforceable
- precise
- reasonable in all other respects

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Heat and cooling

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that supports decarbonised solutions to heat and cooling demand and ensure adaptation to more extreme temperatures.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is connected to expanded heat networks which use and store heat from low or zero emission sources.
- Buildings and places are adapted to more extreme temperatures.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should take into account the area's Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).

Policy 19

- Development proposals within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone identified in a LDP will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to connect to the existing heat network.
- Proposals for retrofitting a connection to a heat network will be supported.
- Where a heat network is planned but not yet in place, development proposals will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to allow for cost-effective connection at a later date.
- National and major developments that will generate waste or surplus heat and which are located in areas of heat demand, will be supported providing wider considerations, including residential amenity, are not adversely impacted. A Heat and Power Plan should demonstrate how energy recovered from the development will be used to produce electricity and heat.

- Development proposals for energy infrastructure will be supported where they:
 - repurpose former fossil fuel infrastructure for the production or handling of low carbon energy;
 - are within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone; and
 - can be cost-effectively linked to an existing or planned heat network.
- Development proposals for buildings that will be occupied by people will be supported where they are designed to promote sustainable temperature management, for example by prioritising natural or passive solutions such as siting, orientation, and materials.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

Blue and green infrastructure

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks.

Policy Outcomes:

- Blue and green infrastructure are an integral part of early design and development processes; are designed to deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management.
- Communities benefit from accessible, high quality blue, green and civic spaces.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure. The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand existing provision including new blue and/or green infrastructure. This may include retrofitting. Priorities for connectivity to other blue and/or green infrastructure assets, including to address cross-boundary needs and opportunities, should also be identified.

LDPs should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure. Where this is temporary, this should not prevent future development potential from being realised.

LDPs should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks.

Policy 20

- a) Development proposals that result in fragmentation or net loss of existing blue and green infrastructure will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not result in or exacerbate a deficit in blue or green infrastructure provision, and the overall integrity of the network will be maintained. The planning authority's Open Space Strategy should inform this.
- b) Development proposals for or incorporating new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will be supported. Where appropriate, this will be an integral element of the design that responds to local circumstances.

Design will take account of existing provision, new requirements and network connections (identified in relevant strategies such as the Open Space Strategies) to ensure the proposed blue and/or green infrastructure is of an appropriate type(s), quantity, quality and accessibility and is designed to be multi-functional and well integrated into the overall proposals.

- c) Development proposals in regional and country parks will only be supported where they are compatible with the uses, natural habitats, and character of the park.
- d) Development proposals for temporary open space or green space on unused or under-used land will be supported.
- e) Development proposals that include new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Play, recreation and sport

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport.

Policy Outcomes:

- Natural and built environments are improved, with more equitable access to opportunities for play and recreation.
- Physical and mental health are improved through provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation, play and sport facilities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.

Policy 21

- a) Development proposals which result in the loss of outdoor sports facilities will only be supported where the proposal:
 - i. is ancillary to the principal use of the site as an outdoor sports facility; or
 - ii. involves only a minor part of the facility and would not affect its use; or
 - iii. meets a requirement to replace the facility which would be lost, either by a new facility or by upgrading an existing facility to provide a better quality facility. The location will be convenient for users and the overall playing capacity of the area will be maintained; or
 - iv. can demonstrate that there is a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand in the area, and that the site would be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision.
- This should be informed by the local authority's Open Space Strategy and/or Play Sufficiency Assessment and in consultation with sportscotland where appropriate.
- b) Development proposals that result in the quantitative and/or qualitative loss of children's outdoor play provision, will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand or the existing play provision will be replaced by a newly created, or improved existing asset, that is better quality or more appropriate.
- This should be informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment.
- c) Development proposals for temporary or informal play space on unused or underused land will be supported.
 - d) Development proposals likely to be occupied or used by children and young people will be supported where they incorporate well-designed, good quality provision for play, recreation, and relaxation that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and existing provision in the area.
 - e) Development proposals that include new streets and public realm should be inclusive and enable children and young people to play and move around safely and independently, maximising opportunities for informal and incidental play in the neighbourhood.
 - f) New, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and as appropriate:
 - i. provide stimulating environments;
 - ii. provide a range of play experiences including opportunities to connect with nature;
 - iii. be inclusive;
 - iv. be suitable for different ages of children and young people;
 - v. be easily and safely accessible by children and young people independently, including those with a disability;

- vi. incorporate trees and/or other forms of greenery;
 - vii. form an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;
 - viii. be well overlooked for passive surveillance;
 - ix. be linked directly to other open spaces and play areas.
- g) Development proposals that include new or enhanced play or sport facilities will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

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[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

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[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Flood risk and water management

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.

Policy Outcomes:

- Places are resilient to current and future flood risk.
- Water resources are used efficiently and sustainably.
- Wider use of natural flood risk management benefits people and nature.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation measures; and identifying opportunities to implement improvements to the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure.

Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.

Policy 22

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
- essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
 - water compatible uses;
 - redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
 - redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that long-term safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice.

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;
- there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes;
- the development remains safe and operational during floods;
- flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and
- future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, for development proposals meeting criteria part iv), where flood risk is managed at the site rather than avoided these will also require:

- the first occupied/utilised floor, and the underside of the development if relevant, to be above the flood risk level and have an additional allowance for freeboard; and
- that the proposal does not create an island of development and that safe access/egress can be achieved.

- b) Small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings will only be supported where they will not significantly increase flood risk.
- c) Development proposals will:
 - i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.
 - ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue-green infrastructure. All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer;
 - iii. seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.
- d) Development proposals will be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains. If connection is not feasible, the applicant will need to demonstrate that water for drinking water purposes will be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.
- e) Development proposals which create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management, including blue and green infrastructure, will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Business and industry](#)

Health and safety

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect people and places from environmental harm, mitigate risks arising from safety hazards and encourage, promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing.

Policy Outcomes:

- Health is improved and health inequalities are reduced.
- Safe places protect human health and the environment.
- A planned approach supports health infrastructure delivery.

Local Development Plans:

LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.

LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide.

Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.

Policy 23

- a) Development proposals that will have positive effects on health will be supported. This could include, for example, proposals that incorporate opportunities for exercise, community food growing or allotments.

- b) Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on health will not be supported. A Health Impact Assessment may be required.
- c) Development proposals for health and social care facilities and infrastructure will be supported.
- d) Development proposals that are likely to have significant adverse effects on air quality will not be supported. Development proposals will consider opportunities to improve air quality and reduce exposure to poor air quality. An air quality assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or the air quality in the location suggest significant effects are likely.
- e) Development proposals that are likely to raise unacceptable noise issues will not be supported. The agent of change principle applies to noise sensitive development. A Noise Impact Assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or its location suggests that significant effects are likely.
- f) Development proposals will be designed to take into account suicide risk.
- g) Development proposals within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major accident hazard pipeline (because of the presence of toxic, highly reactive, explosive or inflammable substances) will consider the associated risks and potential impacts of the proposal and the major accident hazard site/pipeline of being located in proximity to one another.
- h) Applications for hazardous substances consent will consider the likely potential impacts on surrounding populations and the environment.
- i) Any advice from Health and Safety Executive, the Office of Nuclear Regulation or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that planning permission or hazardous substances consent should be refused, or conditions to be attached to a grant of consent, should not be overridden by the decision maker without the most careful consideration.
- j) Similar considerations apply in respect of development proposals either for or near licensed explosive sites (including military explosive storage sites).

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

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[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

[Minerals](#)

Digital infrastructure

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the roll-out of digital infrastructure across Scotland to unlock the potential of all our places and the economy.

Policy Outcomes:

- Appropriate, universal and future proofed digital infrastructure across the country.
- Local living is supported and the need to travel is reduced.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.

Policy 24

- Development proposals that incorporate appropriate, universal, and future-proofed digital infrastructure will be supported.
- Development proposals that deliver new digital services or provide technological improvements, particularly in areas with no or low connectivity capacity, will be supported.
- Development proposals that are aligned with and support the delivery of local or national programmes for the roll-out of digital infrastructure will be supported.
- Development proposals that deliver new connectivity will be supported where there are benefits of this connectivity for communities and the local economy.
- Development proposals for digital infrastructure will only be supported where:
 - the visual and amenity impacts of the proposed development have been minimised through careful siting, design, height, materials and, landscaping, taking into account cumulative impacts and relevant technical constraints;

- it has been demonstrated that, before erecting a new ground based mast, the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure, replacing an existing mast and/or site sharing has been explored; and
- there is no physical obstruction to aerodrome operations, technical sites, or existing transmitter/receiver facilities.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)



Productive Places

Community wealth building

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels.

Policy Outcomes:

- local economic development that focuses on community and place benefits as a central and primary consideration – to support local employment and supply chains.
- support community ownership and management of buildings and land.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be aligned with any strategy for community wealth building for the area. Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.

Policy 25

- Development proposals which contribute to local or regional community wealth building strategies and are consistent with local economic priorities will be supported. This could include for example improving community resilience and reducing inequalities; increasing spending within communities; ensuring the use of local supply chains and services; local job creation; supporting community led proposals, including creation of new local firms and enabling community led ownership of buildings and assets.
- Development proposals linked to community ownership and management of land will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
- [Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
- [Business and industry](#)

Business and industry

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate business and industry uses and to enable alternative ways of working such as home working, live-work units and micro-businesses.

Policy Outcomes:

- Recovery within the business and industry sector is sustainable and inclusive.
- Investment in the business and industrial sector contributes to community wealth building.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should allocate sufficient land for business and industry, taking into account business and industry land audits, in particular ensuring that there is a suitable range of sites that meet current market demand, location, size and quality in terms of accessibility and services. This allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader objectives of delivering a low carbon and net zero economic recovery, and a fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Policy 26

- Development proposals for business and industry uses on sites allocated for those uses in the LDP will be supported.
- Development proposals for home working, live-work units and micro-businesses will be supported where it is demonstrated that the scale and nature of the proposed business and building will be compatible with the surrounding area and there will be no unacceptable impacts on amenity or neighbouring uses.
- Development proposals for business and industry uses will be supported where they are compatible with the primary business function of the area. Other employment uses will be supported where they will not prejudice the primary function of the area and are compatible with the business/industrial character of the area.

- Development proposals for business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses outwith areas identified for those uses in the LDP will only be supported where:
 - It is demonstrated that there are no suitable alternatives allocated in the LDP or identified in the employment land audit; and
 - The nature and scale of the activity will be compatible with the surrounding area.
- Development proposals for business and industry will take into account:
 - Impact on surrounding residential amenity; sensitive uses and the natural and historic environment;
 - The need for appropriate site restoration at the end of a period of commercial use.
- Major developments for manufacturing or industry will be accompanied by a decarbonisation strategy to demonstrate how greenhouse gas emissions from the process are appropriately abated. The strategy may include carbon capture and storage.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

City, town, local and commercial centres

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development in our city and town centres, recognising they are a national asset. This will be achieved by applying the Town Centre First approach to help centres adapt positively to long-term economic, environmental and societal changes, and by encouraging town centre living.

Policy Outcomes:

- Centres are vibrant, healthy, creative, enterprising, accessible and resilient places for people to live, learn, work, enjoy and visit.
- Development is directed to the most sustainable locations that are accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes and provide communities with easy access to the goods, services and recreational opportunities they need.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support sustainable futures for city, town and local centres, in particular opportunities to enhance city and town centres. They should, where relevant, also support proposals for improving the sustainability of existing commercial centres where appropriate.

LDPs should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision.

LDPs should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non-retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities. They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.

LDPs should provide a proportion of their Local Housing Land Requirements in city and town centres and be proactive in identifying opportunities to support residential development.

Policy 27

- a) Development proposals that enhance and improve the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres, including proposals that increase the mix of uses, will be supported.
- b) Development proposals will be consistent with the town centre first approach. Proposals for uses which will generate significant footfall, including commercial, leisure, offices, community, sport and cultural facilities, public buildings such as libraries, education and healthcare facilities, and public spaces:
 - i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
 - ii. will not be supported outwith those centres unless a town centre first assessment demonstrates that:
 - all centre and edge of centre options have been sequentially assessed and discounted as unsuitable or unavailable;
 - the scale of development cannot reasonably be altered or reduced in scale to allow it to be accommodated in a centre; and
 - the impacts on existing centres have been thoroughly assessed and there will be no significant adverse effect on the vitality and viability of the centres.

Town Centre First Assessment

For development proposals which are out of city/town centre and which will generate significant footfall a Town Centre First Assessment will be provided. Applicants should agree the data required with the planning authority before undertaking the assessment, and should present information on areas of dispute in a succinct and comparable form.

The town centre first assessment should:

- identify the potential relationship of the proposed development with the network of centres identified in the LDP;
- demonstrate the potential economic impact of the development and any possible displacement effects, including the net impact on jobs; and
- consider supply chains and whether local suppliers and workers will be a viable option; and
- the environmental impact of transporting goods and of staff and visitors travelling to the location.

The town centre first assessment should be applied flexibly and realistically for community, education, health and social care and sport and leisure facilities so that they are easily accessible to the communities they are intended to serve.

- c) Development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. These uses include:
- i. Hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans;
 - ii. Betting offices; and
 - iii. High interest money lending premises.

- d) Drive-through developments will only be supported where they are specifically supported in the LDP.

Town centre living

- e) Development proposals for residential development within city/town centres will be supported, including:
- i. New build residential development.
 - ii. The re-use of a vacant building within city/town centres where it can be demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and the proposed change of use adds to viability and vitality of the area.
 - iii. The conversion, or reuse of vacant upper floors of properties within city/town centres for residential.
- f) Development proposals for residential use at ground floor level within city/town centres will only be supported where the proposal will:
- i. retain an attractive and appropriate frontage;
 - ii. not adversely affect the vitality and viability of a shopping area or the wider centre; and
 - iii. not result in an undesirable concentration of uses, or 'dead frontages'.
- g) Development proposals for city or town centre living will take into account the residential amenity of the proposal. This must be clearly demonstrated where the proposed development is in the same built structure as:
- i. a hot food premises, live music venue, amusement arcade/centre, casino or licensed premises (with the exception of hotels, restaurants, cafés or off licences); and/or
 - ii. there is a common or shared access with licenced premises or other use likely to be detrimental to residential amenity.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[Retail](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Retail

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate retail investment to the most sustainable locations that are most accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes.

Policy Outcomes:

- Retail development and the location of shops support vibrant city, town and local centres.
- Communities can access the shops and goods they need by a range of sustainable transport modes including on foot, by bike, and by public transport, as part of local living.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision, this may be:

- where a retail study identifies deficiencies in retail provision in terms of quality and quantity in an area; or
- when allocating sites for housing or the creation of new communities, in terms of the need for neighbourhood shopping, and supporting local living.

LDPs should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported.

Policy 28

- a) Development proposals for retail (including expansions and changes of use) will be consistent with the town centre first principle. This means that new retail proposals:
- i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
 - ii. will be supported in edge-of-centre areas or in commercial centres if they are allocated as sites suitable for new retail development in the LDP.
 - iii. will not be supported in out of centre locations (other than those meeting policy 28(c) or 28(d)).

- b) Development proposals for retail that are consistent with the sequential approach (set out in a) and click-and-collect locker pick up points, will be supported where the proposed development:
 - i. is of an appropriate scale for the location;
 - ii. will have an acceptable impact on the character and amenity of the area; and
 - iii. is located to best channel footfall and activity, to benefit the place as a whole.
- c) Proposals for new small scale neighbourhood retail development will be supported where the proposed development:
 - i. contributes to local living, including where relevant 20 minute neighbourhoods and/or
 - ii. can be demonstrated to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- d) In island and rural areas, development proposals for shops ancillary to other uses such as farm shops, craft shops and shops linked to petrol/service/charging stations will be supported where:
 - i. it will serve local needs, support local living and local jobs;
 - ii. the potential impact on nearby town and commercial centres or village/local shops is acceptable;
 - iii. it will provide a service throughout the year; and
 - iv. the likely impacts of traffic generation and access and parking arrangements are acceptable.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Rural development

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area and the service function of small towns, natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.

Policy Outcomes:

- Rural places are vibrant and sustainable and rural communities and businesses are supported.
- A balanced and sustainable rural population.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify the characteristics of rural areas within the plan area, including the existing pattern of development, pressures, environmental assets, community priorities and economic needs of each area. The spatial strategy should set out an appropriate approach to development in rural areas which reflects the identified characteristics. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Spatial strategies should support the sustainability and prosperity of rural communities and economies. Previously inhabited areas which are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

Policy 29

- a) Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities and local rural economy will be supported, including:
 - i. farms, crofts, woodland crofts or other land use businesses, where use of good quality land for development is minimised and business viability is not adversely affected;
 - ii. diversification of existing businesses;
 - iii. production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example sawmills, or local food production;
- b) Development proposals in rural areas should be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area. They should also consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals in remote rural areas, where new development can often help to sustain fragile communities, will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. will support local employment;
 - ii. supports and sustains existing communities, for example through provision of digital infrastructure; and
 - iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, siting, design and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
 - ii. is designed to a high standard;
 - iii. responds to their rural location; and
 - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

- iv. essential community services;
- v. essential infrastructure;
- vi. reuse of a redundant or unused building;
- vii. appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
- viii. reuse of brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
- ix. small scale developments that support new ways of working such as remote working, homeworking and community hubs; or
- x. improvement or restoration of the natural environment.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

[Minerals](#)

Tourism

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate sustainable tourism development which benefits local people, is consistent with our net zero and nature commitments, and inspires people to visit Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Communities and places enjoy economic, social and cultural benefits from tourism, supporting resilience and stimulating job creation.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.

The spatial strategy should also identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.

Policy 30

- a) Development proposals for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation, including caravan and camping sites, in locations identified in the LDP, will be supported.
- b) Proposals for tourism related development will take into account:
 - i. The contribution made to the local economy;
 - ii. Compatibility with the surrounding area in terms of the nature and scale of the activity and impacts of increased visitors;

- iii. Impacts on communities, for example by hindering the provision of homes and services for local people;
 - iv. Opportunities for sustainable travel and appropriate management of parking and traffic generation and scope for sustaining public transport services particularly in rural areas;
 - v. Accessibility for disabled people;
 - vi. Measures taken to minimise carbon emissions;
 - vii. Opportunities to provide access to the natural environment.
- c) Development proposals that involve the change of use of a tourism-related facility will only be supported where it is demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and that there is no requirement for alternative tourism-related facilities in the area.
 - d) Proposals for huts will be supported where the nature and scale of the development is compatible with the surrounding area and the proposal complies with relevant good practice guidance.
 - e) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings for short term holiday letting will not be supported where the proposal will result in:
 - i. An unacceptable impact on local amenity or the character of a neighbourhood or area; or
 - ii. The loss of residential accommodation where such loss is not outweighed by demonstrable local economic benefits.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Culture and creativity

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development which reflects our diverse culture and creativity, and to support our culture and creative industries.

Policy Outcomes:

- Locally distinctive places reflect the diversity of communities and support regeneration and town centre vibrancy.
- Cultural and creative industries are expanded, providing jobs and investment.
- Communities have access to cultural and creative activities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.

Policy 31

- Development proposals that involve a significant change to existing, or the creation of new, public open spaces will make provision for public art. Public art proposals which reflect diversity, culture and creativity will be supported.
- Development proposals for creative workspaces or other cultural uses that involve the temporary use of vacant spaces or property will be supported.
- Development proposals that would result in the loss of an arts or cultural venue will only be supported where:
 - there is no longer a sustainable demand for the venue and after marketing the site at a reasonable rate for at least 12 months, through relevant local and national agents and online platforms, there has been no viable interest from potential operators; or
 - the venue, as evidenced by consultation, no longer meets the needs of users and cannot be adapted; or

- alternative provision of equal or greater standard is made available at a suitable location within the local area; and
 - the loss of the venue does not result in loss or damage to assets or objects of significant cultural value.
- Development proposals within the vicinity of existing arts venues will fully reflect the agent of change principle and will only be supported where they can demonstrate that measures can be put in place to ensure that existing noise and disturbance impacts on the proposed development would be acceptable and that existing venues and facilities can continue without additional restrictions being placed on them as a result of the proposed new development.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
[Historic assets and places](#)
[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
[Zero waste](#)
[Sustainable transport](#)
[Design, quality and place](#)
[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
[Blue and green infrastructure](#)
[Play, recreation and sport](#)
[Health and safety](#)
[Digital infrastructure](#)
[Community wealth building](#)
[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)
[Rural development](#)
[Tourism](#)

Aquaculture

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate aquaculture development and minimise any adverse effects on the environment, including cumulative impacts.

Planning should support an aquaculture industry that is sustainable, diverse, competitive, economically viable and which contributes to food security, whilst operating with social licence, within environmental limits and which ensures there is a thriving marine ecosystem for future generations.

Policy Outcomes:

- New aquaculture development is in locations that reflect industry needs and considers environmental impacts.
- Producers will contribute to communities and local economies.
- Prosperous finfish, shellfish and seaweed sectors.
- Migratory fish species are safeguarded.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should guide new aquaculture development in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.

Policy 32

- To safeguard migratory fish species, further salmon and trout open pen fish farm developments on the north and east coasts of mainland Scotland will not be supported.
- Development proposals for aquaculture will be supported where they comply with the LDP, the National Marine Plan and, where relevant, the appropriate Regional Marine Plan.
- Development proposals for fish farms will demonstrate that operational impacts (including from noise, acoustic deterrent devices (where applicable) light, access,

navigation, containment, deposition, waste emissions and sea lice, impacts on wild salmonids, aquaculture litter (and odour and impacts on other marine users)) are acceptable and comply with the relevant regulatory framework.

- Development proposals for fish farm developments will only be supported where the following impacts have been assessed and mitigated:
 - landscape and visual impact of the proposal including the siting and design of cages, lines and associated facilities taking into account the character of the location;
 - the impact of any land based facilities, ensuring that the siting and design are appropriate for the location;
 - impacts on natural heritage, designated sites and priority marine features; and
 - impacts on historic marine protected areas.
- Applications for open water farmed finfish or shellfish development are excluded from the requirements of policy 3b) and 3c) and will instead apply all relevant provisions from National and Regional Marine Plans.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
- [Historic assets and places](#)
- [Natural places](#)
- [Biodiversity](#)
- [Coastal development](#)
- [Design, quality and place](#)
- [Health and safety](#)
- [Community wealth building](#)
- [Business and industry](#)
- [Rural development](#)

Minerals

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To support the sustainable management of resources and minimise the impacts of the extraction of minerals on communities and the environment.

Policy Outcomes:

- Sufficient resources are available to meet industry demands, making an essential contribution to the Scottish economy.
- Important raw materials for manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and other industries are available.
- Important workable mineral resources are protected from sterilisation by other developments.
- Communities and the environment are protected from the impacts of mineral extraction.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.

Policy 33

- a) Development proposals that seek to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances. Any such exceptions will be required to demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with national policy on energy and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- b) The Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. This means development connected to the onshore exploration, appraisal or production of coal bed methane or shale oil or shale gas, using unconventional oil and gas extraction techniques, including hydraulic fracturing and dewatering for coal bed methane.
- c) Development proposals that would sterilise mineral deposits of economic value will only be supported where:
 - i. there is an overriding need for the development and prior extraction of the mineral cannot reasonably be undertaken; or
 - ii. extraction of the mineral is impracticable or unlikely to be environmentally acceptable.
- d) Development proposals for the sustainable extraction of minerals will only be supported where they:
 - i. will not result in significant adverse impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural environment, sensitive habitats and the historic environment, as well as landscape and visual impacts;
 - ii. provide an adequate buffer zone between sites and settlements taking account of the specific circumstances of individual proposals, including size, duration, location, method of working, topography, and the characteristics of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
 - iii. can demonstrate that there are no significant adverse impacts (including cumulative impact) on any nearby homes, local communities and known sensitive receptors and designations;
 - iv. demonstrate acceptable levels (including cumulative impact) of noise, dust, vibration and potential pollution of land, air and water;
 - v. minimise transport impacts through the number and length of lorry trips and by using rail or water transport wherever practical;
 - vi. have appropriate mitigation plans in place for any adverse impacts;
 - vii. include schemes for a high standard of restoration and aftercare and commitment that such work is undertaken at the earliest opportunity. As a further

safeguard a range of financial guarantee options are available, and the most effective solution should be considered and agreed on a site-by-site basis. Solutions should provide assurance and clarity over the amount and period of the guarantee and in particular, where it is a bond, the risks covered (including operator failure) and the triggers for calling in a bond, including payment terms.

- e) Development proposals for borrow pits will only be supported where:
- i. the proposal is tied to a specific project and is time-limited;
 - ii. the proposal complies with the above mineral extraction criteria taking into account the temporary nature of the development; and
 - iii. appropriate restoration proposals are enforceable.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Health and safety](#)

Part 3 – Annexes

Annex A – How to use this document

Purpose of Planning

The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest.

The decisions we make today will have implications for future generations. Scotland in 2045 will be different. We must embrace and deliver radical change so we can tackle and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity

loss, improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities, build a wellbeing economy and create great places.

Role of the National Planning Framework

Scotland 2045: our Fourth National Planning Framework, commonly known as NPF4, is required by law to set out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land. It plays a key role in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

National Performance Framework

Our Purpose, Values and National Outcomes



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



NPF4 includes a long-term spatial strategy to 2045. This reflects the spatial aspects of a range of Scottish Government policies, including the Infrastructure Investment Plan.

The Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) identified that NPF4 would include housing land requirements framed within a spatial strategy that aligns with the investment programme and principles, and highlighted that national planning policies would include an infrastructure first approach.

The NPF4 strategy, policies and national developments are aligned to the strategic themes of the IIP: enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability; driving inclusive economic growth; and building resilient and sustainable places. The policies and instruction for LDPs activate the IIP priorities within the themes to the degree that those priorities involve physical development, opportunities for people and improvements for place. Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirements are set out at [Annex E](#). The investment hierarchy influences the approach to NPF4 overall and features specifically in instructions for LDPs in Policy 18 'Infrastructure First'.

NPF4 replaces National Planning Framework 3 (2014) and Scottish Planning Policy (2014). NPF4 should be read as a whole. It represents a package of planning policies to guide us to the place we want Scotland to be in 2045.

NPF4 is required by law to contribute to 6 outcomes:

- Meeting the **housing needs** of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people,
- Improving the **health and wellbeing** of people living in Scotland,
- Increasing the **population of rural areas** of Scotland,
- Improving **equality** and eliminating discrimination,
- Meeting any targets relating to the **reduction of emissions** of greenhouse gases, and
- Securing positive effects for **biodiversity**.

Statements setting out further detail on the contribution of NPF4 to each outcome are set out in Part 1.

Plan-led Approach

A plan-led approach is central to supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and broader sustainable development goals. It is a legislative requirement that planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The statutory development plan for any given area of Scotland consists of the National Planning Framework and the relevant LDP(s). The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 prescribes four different plans, at different scales:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| National Planning Framework (NPF) | <p>The National Planning Framework sets out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land.</p> <p>The NPF must have regard to any adopted regional spatial strategy.</p> <p>NPF4 is part of the statutory development plan.</p> |
| Regional spatial strategies (RSS) | <p>The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty requiring the preparation of regional spatial strategies.</p> <p>A planning authority, or authorities acting jointly will prepare these long-term spatial strategies for the strategic development of an area.</p> <p>RSS are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing future versions of the NPF and LDPs.</p> |
| Local development plans (LDPs) | <p>Planning authorities must prepare one or more LDPs for their area.</p> <p>The LDP sets out a spatial strategy for the development of that area. It must take into account the National Planning Framework and any registered local place plan in the area it covers. It must have regard to the authority's adopted regional spatial strategy. The LDP must also have regard to any local outcomes improvement plan for the area it covers.</p> <p>LDPs are part of the statutory development plan.</p> |
| Local place plans (LPPs) | <p>Local place plans are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. They must have regard to the NPF, any LDP which covers the same area, and also any locality plan which covers the same area.</p> <p>LPPs are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing LDPs.</p> |

Spatial Strategy

[Part 1](#) sets out our spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045, identifying:

- [6 spatial principles](#) which will influence all our plans and decisions:
 - Just transition
 - Conserving and recycling assets
 - Local living
 - Compact urban growth
 - Rebalanced development
 - Rural revitalisation
- 3 themes, linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Scottish Government National Performance Framework:
 - Sustainable places where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity
 - Liveable places where we can all live better, healthier lives
 - Productive places where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy

LDPs should take account of these principles and outcomes, and they should also be reflected within regional spatial strategies and local place plans.

National Developments

Eighteen national developments have been identified. These are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver the spatial strategy. They are intentionally high level and focus on key elements, as the projects are at different stages.

National development status does not grant planning permission for the development and all relevant consents are required.

Their designation means that the principle of the development does not need to be agreed in later consenting processes, providing more certainty for communities, business and investors.

Their designation is not intended to describe in detail how the projects should be designed, matters to consider, or impact assessments and mitigation to be applied. In addition to the statement of need at [Annex B](#), decision makers for applications for consent for national developments should take into account all relevant policies.

LDPs should take forward proposals for national developments where relevant and facilitate their delivery. This could be through supporting land allocations, policy intervention and LDP delivery programmes.

Regional Spatial Priorities

Regional spatial priorities set out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. The detail of these priorities should be further considered and consulted upon through the local development planning process, and where appropriate through regional spatial strategies and regional transport strategies.

The maps are indicative, and certain authorities may have a role to play in more than one regional area. The broad areas identified in NPF4 are intended to act as a flexible framework to guide the preparation of future Regional Spatial Strategies. It is open to planning authorities to decide for themselves, including by working in partnership with others, the most appropriate scale and extent of areas to be covered by Regional Spatial Strategies.

Statutory guidance will guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies.

National Planning Policy

[Part 2](#) sets out our policy framework by topic under the three themes.

Planning is complex and requires careful balancing of issues. The **policy intent** is provided to aid plan makers and decision makers to understand the intent of each policy and to help deliver policy aspirations.

The **policy outcomes** set out what we want to achieve and will help to influence future monitoring of the planning system.

The **Local Development Plan** section clarifies the expected role of LDPs for each topic. The focus for LDPs should be on land allocation through the spatial strategy and interpreting this national policy in a local context. There is no need for LDPs to replicate policies within NPF4, but authorities can add further detail including locally specific policies should they consider to be a need to do so, based on the area's individual characteristics.

The **policy** sections are for use in the determination of planning applications. The policies should be read as a whole. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to policies on a case by case basis. Where a policy states that development will be supported, it is in principle, and it is for the decision maker to take into account all other relevant policies.

The **policy impact** section shows which spatial principles the policy will help to deliver.

The **key policy connections** help to show the key connections between policies, but are not intended to be comprehensive.

Annex B – National Developments Statements of Need

National developments are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver our spatial strategy.

Eighteen national developments will support the delivery of our spatial strategy. These national developments range from single large scale projects or collections and networks of several smaller scale proposals. They are also intended to act as exemplars of the Place Principle and placemaking approaches.

The statements of need set out in this annex are a requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and describe the development to be considered as a national development for consent handling purposes.

An assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets¹ (with the meaning given in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) has been undertaken. The assessment is based on the detail provided at the time of the assessment, and the conclusion may alter depending on the nature and detail of the projects taken forward.

The potential for national developments to affect European designated sites, depending on the precise design, location and construction of individual projects, has been identified by the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of NPF4. Any such development would need to be considered carefully at project level and all relevant statutory tests met.

¹ Research project: Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NPF4 Proposed National Developments Assessment Findings (LUC 2021) available online at <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>

1. Energy Innovation Development on the Islands

This national development supports proposed developments in the Outer Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney island groups, for renewable energy generation, renewable hydrogen production, infrastructure and shipping, and associated opportunities in the supply chain for fabrication, research and development.

Any strategy for deployment of these technologies must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero.

This is aligned with low carbon energy projects within the Islands Growth Deal that have been developed with local partners such as the Islands Centre for Net Zero and encompasses other projects that can facilitate net zero aims.

The use of low and zero emission fuels will play a crucial role in decarbonising island and mainland energy use, shipping, strengthening energy security overall and creating a low carbon energy economy for the islands and islanders. The developments will add value where they link into national and international energy expertise, learning and research and development networks.

Location

Outer Hebrides, Shetland, Orkney and surrounding waters.

Need

These classes of development support the potential of the three island authorities to exemplify a transition to a net zero society. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy by helping to sustain communities in rural and island areas by stimulating employment and innovation.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Energy Innovation Development on the Islands' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

Outer Hebrides – Supporting the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132 kilovolts (kv) and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Improved oil storage infrastructure for Stornoway, with appropriate emissions abatement; and
- e) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Arnish.

Shetland Islands – Supporting the Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks (ORION) Clean Energy Project

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of renewable and low carbon aspects of the ORION project:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of/ or exceeding 132kv;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport, storage, and utilisation infrastructure at Sullom Voe;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Sullom Voe, Scatsta, Lerwick, and Dales Voe (Lerwick);
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Sullom Voe to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions; and
- f) New infrastructure, and/or upgraded buildings and facilities to support the transportation and storage of captured carbon.

Orkney Islands – Supporting Scapa Flow Future Fuels Hub and Orkney Harbours

The classes below apply to development that is for the delivery of the Future Fuels Hub, new quay in Scapa Flow, and the Orkney Logistics Base at Hatston, which support services for the renewable and marine energy and shipping sectors:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;

- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132kv and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at, Scapa Flow, and Hatston (Kirkwall); and
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Scapa Flow to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

2. Pumped Hydro Storage

This national development will play a significant role in balancing and optimising electricity generation and maintaining the operability of the electricity system as part of our transition to net zero. This is necessary as we continue to move towards a decarbonised system with much more renewable generation, the output from which is defined by weather conditions.

This national development supports additional capacity at existing sites as well as at new sites. Cruachan in Argyll is a nationally important example of a pumped storage facility with significant potential for enhanced capacity that could create significant jobs in a rural location.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This national development supports pumped hydro storage capacity within the electricity network through significant new or expanded sites. This supports the transition to a net zero economy through the ability of pumped hydro storage schemes to optimise electricity generated from renewables by storing and releasing it when it is required.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Pumped Hydro Storage' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water holding reservoir and dam;
- b) New and/or upgraded electricity generating plant structures or buildings;
- c) New and/or upgraded pump plant structures or buildings;
- d) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water inlet and outlet pipework;
- e) New and/or upgraded substations and/or transformers; and
- f) New and/or replacement transmission cables.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure

This national development supports renewable electricity generation, repowering, and expansion of the electricity grid.

A large and rapid increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets. Certain types of renewable electricity generation will also be required, which will include energy storage technology and capacity, to provide the vital services, including flexible response, that a zero carbon network will require. Generation is for domestic consumption as well as for export to the UK and beyond, with new capacity helping to decarbonise heat, transport and industrial energy demand. This has the potential to support jobs and business investment, with wider economic benefits.

The electricity transmission grid will need substantial reinforcement including the addition of new infrastructure to connect and transmit the output from new on and offshore capacity to consumers in Scotland, the rest of the UK and beyond. Delivery of this national development will be informed by market, policy and regulatory developments and decisions.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

Additional electricity generation from renewables and electricity transmission capacity of scale is fundamental to achieving a net zero economy and supports improved network resilience in rural and island areas. Island transmission connections in particular can facilitate capturing the significant renewable energy potential in those areas as well as delivering significant social and economic benefits.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) On and off shore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) New and/or replacement upgraded on and offshore high voltage electricity transmission lines, cables and interconnectors of 132kv or more; and
- c) New and/or upgraded Infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables and interconnectors including converter stations, switching stations and substations.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local Living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

4. Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities

This national development supports the development of facilities required to achieve a circular economy. This sector will provide a range of business, skills and employment opportunities as part of a just transition to a net zero economy.

The range and scale of facilities required to manage secondary materials and their circulation back into the economy is not yet clear. However, sites and facilities will be needed to retain the resource value of materials so that we can maximise the use of materials in the economy and minimise the use of virgin materials in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly significant for the construction and demolition industries and decommissioning industry.

Careful assessment of specific proposals will be required to ensure they provide sustainable low carbon solutions, include appropriate controls, manage any emissions and mitigate localised impacts including on neighbouring communities and the wider environment.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This national development helps maximise Scotland's potential to retain the energy and emissions values within materials already in the economy.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) Facilities for managing secondary materials; and
- b) Recycling facilities.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local Living
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

5. Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions

This national development aims to build on the benefits of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, to continue investment and extend the approach to the Edinburgh city region.

Our biggest cities and their regions will require improved infrastructure to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. A strategic, catchment scale approach to adaptation through surface water and drainage infrastructure investment will reduce impacts and risks for our urban population and is an example of an infrastructure first approach. Catchment scale nature-based solutions which may include blue and green infrastructure should be prioritised. Grey infrastructure should be optimised and only used when necessary to augment blue-green infrastructure solutions. Delivery of multiple climate, wellbeing and economic benefits should form the basis of the approach. Whilst this national development focuses on Edinburgh and Glasgow other cities and towns may benefit from similar approaches.

Location

Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions and their wider water catchment areas.

Need

A large proportion of our population lives in our largest cities. The management of surface water drainage at scale across these city regions will help us to adapt to extreme weather events that will become more frequent as a result of climate change. A nature-based approach to surface water management has the potential to deliver multiple health, wellbeing, economic and climate adaptation and emissions reduction benefits and it may free up sewer capacity.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions' in the location described, within the Class of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) Spaces, infrastructure, works, structures, buildings, pipelines, and nature-based approaches, for surface water management and drainage systems.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

6. Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks

This national development supports low carbon mass/rapid transit projects for Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

To reduce transport emissions at scale, we will require low carbon transport solutions for these three major cities that can support transformational reduction in private car use.

Development of the Glasgow 'Metro' and Edinburgh Mass Transit in these cities and their associated regions plus the Aberdeen Rapid Transit system are recommendations from the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2.

This will support placemaking and deliver improved transport equity across the most densely populated parts of Scotland, improving access to employment and supporting sustainable investment in the longer term. It can function as part of a broader transport network that includes active travel, and this places importance on multi-modal hubs or transport interchange points.

The type of interventions will be determined through the on-going development of business cases and studies but could include the provision of new systems or extensions to existing sustainable and public transport networks.

Location

Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions.

Need

This national development will help reduce transport related emissions overall, improve air quality, reduce the demand for private vehicle use, support the roll out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and improve transport equity.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development. This relates to development supported by the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 consisting of new or upgraded:

- a) Track or road infrastructure;
- b) Fuelling or power infrastructure;
- c) Passenger facilities; and
- d) Depots servicing the networks.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Just transition

7. Central Scotland Green Network

This national development is one of Europe's largest and most ambitious green infrastructure projects. It will play a key role in tackling the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss including by building and strengthening nature networks. A greener approach to development will improve placemaking, can contribute to the roll-out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and will benefit biodiversity connectivity. This has particular relevance in the more urban parts of Scotland where there is pressure for development as well as significant areas requiring regeneration to address past decline and disadvantage. Regeneration, repurposing and reuse of brownfield land should be a priority.

Priorities include enhancement to provide multi-functional green and blue infrastructure that provides greatest environmental, lifelong physical and mental health, social wellbeing and economic benefits. It focuses on those areas where greening and development can be mutually supportive, helping to improve equity of access to quality green and blue space, and supporting communities where improving wellbeing and resilience is most needed, including to help people adapt to future climate risks.

Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation may include woodland expansion and peatland restoration as a priority. The connectivity of biodiversity rich areas may be enhanced through nature networks, including corridors and stepping stones to provide enhanced natural capital and improved ecosystem services.

Location

Central Scotland local authorities within a boundary identified by the Green Action Trust.

Need

This national development is needed to improve quality of place and create new opportunities for investment. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy which highlights the importance of accelerating urban greening in this most densely populated part of Scotland.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Central Scotland Green Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- Development to create and/or enhance multi-functional green infrastructure including for: emissions sequestration; adaptation to climate change; and biodiversity enhancement;
- Reuse of vacant and derelict land and buildings for greening and nature-based solutions;
- New and/or upgraded sustainable surface water management and drainage systems and the creation of blue space;
- Use of land for allotments or community food growing; and
- Routes for active travel and/or recreation.

Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

8. National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network

This national development facilitates the shift from vehicles to walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and is highly beneficial for health and wellbeing.

The upgrading and provision of additional active travel infrastructure will be fundamental to the development of a sustainable travel network providing access to settlements, key services and amenities, employment and multi-modal hubs. Infrastructure investment should be prioritised for locations where it will achieve our National Transport Strategy 2 priorities and outcomes, to reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver a wellbeing economy and to improve health and wellbeing. This will help to deliver great places to live and work, including through connecting neighbourhoods, villages and towns, active freeways and long distance routes.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

Reducing the need to travel unsustainably is the highest priority in the sustainable transport investment hierarchy. This national development will significantly support modal shift and deliver multiple outcomes including our commitment to a 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030, associated emissions reduction, health and air quality improvement. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by creating a more sustainable distribution of access across Scotland as a whole.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) New/and or upgraded routes suitable for a range of users for walking, cycling and wheeling that help create a national network that facilitates short and longer distance journeys and linkages to multi-modal hubs.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Just transition

9. Edinburgh Waterfront

This national development supports the regeneration of strategic sites along the Forth Waterfront in Edinburgh.

The waterfront is a strategic asset that contributes to the city's character and sense of place and includes significant opportunities for a wide range of future developments.

Development will include high quality mixed use proposals that optimise the use of the strategic asset for residential, community, commercial and industrial purposes, including support for off-shore energy relating to port uses. Further cruise activity should take into account the need to manage impacts on transport infrastructure.

This will help maintain and grow Edinburgh's position as a capital city and commercial centre with a high quality and accessible living environment. Development locations and design will need to address future resilience to the risks from climate change, impact on health inequalities, and the potential to incorporate green and blue infrastructure.

Location

Leith to Granton.

Need

Waterfronts in our largest urban areas are frequently under-utilised and contain significant areas of brownfield land as well as existing infrastructure assets. Their location may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and likely risks will require careful management. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy, which recognises the importance of our urban coastline in supporting our sense of place, economy and wellbeing.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Edinburgh Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- e) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes; and
- f) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, and marine sector services.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

10. Dundee Waterfront

This national development supports the redevelopment of the Dundee Waterfront Zones including: the Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Nature Park, and the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Continued delivery of the waterfront transformation is crucial to securing the role of the city as a location for investment in the net zero economy. Supporting population growth alongside economic opportunities, and skills and career development, is important in continuing to demonstrate the sustainability of urban living in Scotland and a just transition to the net zero economy.

Further projects associated with this include: the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc which will become an innovation hub for net zero emission mobility; the Eden Project; and an improvement of facilities at Dundee Port. This national development includes reusing land on and around the Dundee Waterfront to support the lifelong health and wellbeing of communities, deliver innovation and attract investment. As the development progresses it will be important to support sustainable and active transport options and to build in adaptation to future climate risks.

Location

Dundee Waterfront zones: Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Riverside Nature Park; Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Need

This national development supports the continued revitalisation of Dundee Waterfront, expanded to include Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc in support of the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy and its continued use for economic purposes. Waterfront locations may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and so development requires to be carefully designed to manage likely risks.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Dundee Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business, storage, distribution, research, educational, and/or tourism use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes;
- e) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, freight handling and marine sector services; and
- f) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

11. Stranraer Gateway

This national development supports the regeneration of Stranraer.

Stranraer is a gateway town. It is located close to Cairnryan, a key port connecting Scotland to Northern Ireland, Ireland and beyond to wider markets.

High quality place-based regeneration will help address socio-economic inequalities in Stranraer and to support the wider population of south west Scotland by acting as a hub and providing a platform for future investment. This will be supported by any strategic transport interventions including road and rail that emerge from the second Strategic Transport Projects Review which embeds the National Transport Strategy's sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.

Location

Stranraer and associated transport routes.

Need

Loch Ryan and Stranraer act as a gateway to Scotland. Reusing the assets in this location will support the wellbeing, economy and community in line with the regional growth deal. It will help to deliver our spatial strategy by driving forward regeneration of a key hub.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Stranraer Gateway' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Development contributing to Stranraer Waterfront regeneration;
- b) Marina expansion;
- c) Redevelopment of Stranraer harbour east pier;
- d) Sustainable, road, rail and freight infrastructure for access to Stranraer and/or Cairnryan;
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for the transportation and use of low carbon fuels; and
- f) Reuse of vacant and derelict buildings and brownfield land, including regeneration of Blackparks industrial estate.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

12. Digital Fibre Network

This national development supports the continued roll-out of world-class broadband across Scotland.

Our strategy requires enhanced digital connectivity to provide high speed broadband or equivalent mobile services, prioritising those areas with weaker networks as part of the Reaching 100% (R100) programme and Project Gigabit, including urban, island specific and rural enhancements. This is a significant utility including 4G and 5G mobile infrastructure facilitating home based working, renewable energy development, rural repopulation and access to services. The data transmission network can also support the availability and use of 'big data.' Digital capability is a feature of a number of City Region and Growth Deals.

Opportunities should be taken to deliver the infrastructure as part of other infrastructure upgrades or installation works such as energy transmission, transportation, and travel networks where appropriate.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This is a fundamentally important utility, required to support development, community wellbeing, equal access to goods and services, and emissions reduction from reduced demand for travel. This will help to deliver our spatial strategy by complementing a new emphasis of living locally, and by helping to sustain and grow rural and island communities.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Digital Fibre Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Installation of new and/or upgraded broadband cabling on land and sub-sea for fixed line and mobile networks; and
- b) Green data centres.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall negligible impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

13. Clyde Mission

This national development is a national, place-based Mission to make the Clyde an engine of economic success for Glasgow, the city region and Scotland.

The Clyde Mission is focused on the River Clyde and the riverside from South Lanarkshire in the east to Inverclyde and Argyll and Bute in the west and focusing on an area up to around 500 metres from the river edge. This footprint includes the parts of the Clyde Gateway, River Clyde Waterfront, North Clyde River Bank and River Clyde Corridor frameworks, and Glasgow Riverside Innovation District.

Across this area significant land assets are under-utilised, and longstanding inequality, in relation to poor environment and health outcomes require to be tackled as a national priority. An ambitious redevelopment programme is being taken forward under [Five Missions](#). It is a collective, cross-sector effort and partnership working will help bring forward assets and sites that are ready for redevelopment to sustain a range of uses. This will repurpose and reinvigorate brownfield and supporting local living as well as adapting the area to the impacts of climate change, where nature-based solutions would be particularly supported.

Location

The river and land immediately next to it (up to around 500 metres from the river) along its length.

Need

These classes of development revitalise a major waterfront asset which is currently under-utilised. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by attracting investment and reuse of brownfield land in west central Scotland where there is a particular need to improve quality of place, generate employment and support disadvantaged communities. It will also support adaptation to climate risks.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Clyde Mission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Mixed use, which may include residential, redevelopment of brownfield land;
- b) New, reused and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for residential, commercial, business and industrial uses on brownfield land;
- c) Upgrade of existing port and harbour assets for servicing marine functions including freight and cruise uses and associated landside commercial and/or industrial land for supporting services;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel and recreation routes and infrastructure; and
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for climate adaptation, including nature-based, green and blue solutions.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net negative impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

14. Aberdeen Harbour

This national development supports the continued relocation and repurposing of Aberdeen Harbour. The harbour is a strategically important asset supporting the economy of the north east of Scotland.

The south harbour can act as a cluster of port accessible offshore renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services. The facilities are also important for international connections.

At the south harbour the focus should be on regenerating existing industrial land and reorganising land use around the harbour in line with the spatial strategy of the LDP. By focusing future port activity here, parts of the existing harbour in the city centre will become available for mixed use development, opening up development land to help reinvigorate Aberdeen city centre.

This can help provide significant economic opportunities, in line with the objectives of the Aberdeen City Region Deal. Environmental benefits, for example to enhance access and improve the quality of green space and active travel options should be designed-in to help offset any potential impacts on the amenity of local communities with relevant projects addressing environmental sensitivities through careful planning, assessment and implementation.

The extent to which this should include additional business and industrial development outwith the existing north and south harbours is a matter to be determined in the relevant LDP, and is outwith the scope of this national development.

Location

Port of Aberdeen North and South Harbours.

This national development supports the optimisation of Aberdeen Harbour to support net zero and stimulate economic investment. It is also a significant opportunity to support better placemaking including city centre transformation, and regeneration of existing land by optimising the use of new and existing assets. This will

deliver our spatial strategy by helping the north east of Scotland to achieve a just transition from a high carbon economy whilst improving quality of place.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Aberdeen Harbour' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- Mixed use development reusing land at the existing (north) Aberdeen Harbour;
- Upgraded port facilities at Aberdeen Harbour and completion of South Harbour;
- New and/or upgraded green infrastructure;
- Buildings and facilities for commercial, manufacturing and industrial uses;
- Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- Transport infrastructure, including for sustainable and active travel, for the South Harbour as supported by the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

15. Industrial Green Transition Zones

To secure a just transition to a net zero economy, the decarbonisation of nationally important industrial sites in a way that ensures continued jobs, investment and prosperity for these areas and the communities that depend on them is essential. Industrial Green Transition Zones (IGTZ) will support the generation of significant economic opportunities while minimising carbon emissions. Technologies that will help Scotland transition to net zero will be supported at these locations, with a particular focus on low carbon and zero emissions technologies including renewables and the generation, storage and distribution of low carbon hydrogen.

The deployment of hydrogen and CCUS at these locations must demonstrate decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero. Hydrogen and CCUS are emerging industries, both government and industry in Scotland wish to accelerate and maximise the deployment of green hydrogen. For projects that utilise carbon capture and storage, we want to ensure the highest possible carbon capture rates in the deployment of these technologies. While there are examples internationally where CCUS projects have been associated with offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery, we understand there to be no plans for offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery as part of the Scottish Cluster. However, if any IGTZ is found to be incompatible with Scotland's transition to net zero, Scottish Government policy, along with designations of and classes of development, will change accordingly.

Industrial Green Transition Zones are:

- **The Scottish Cluster** encompasses a carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects network and is a key strategic vehicle for industrial decarbonisation, energy generation, and the transportation and storage of captured carbon. The designation relates to projects that form a Scottish Cluster in the first instance specifically Peterhead, St Fergus and Grangemouth. Further industrial transition sites are expected to emerge in the longer

term and benefit from the experience gained within the Scottish Cluster but do not form part of this national development. This national development will support the generation of significant economic opportunities for low carbon industry as well as minimising carbon emissions at scale, and will play a vital part in maintaining the security and operability of Scotland's electricity supply and network. The creation of hydrogen and deployment of negative emissions technologies, utilising CCUS, at commercial scale will establish the opportunities to decarbonise industry, transport and heat, as well as other sectors, and pave the way for the transportation and storage infrastructure to support the growing hydrogen economy in Scotland.

- **Grangemouth investment zone** currently hosts strategic and critical infrastructure, high value employment and manufacturing of materials that are currently vital for every-day life. This role will continue in the long-term but must seek to decarbonise given the significant contribution of the industrial activities to Scotland's emissions. It is a key location in the Scottish Cluster for carbon capture and storage, and hydrogen deployment. The Grangemouth Investment Zone will be a focus for transitioning the petro-chemicals industry and associated activities into a leading exemplar of industrial decarbonisation, significantly helped through the coordination activities of the Scottish Government's Grangemouth Future Industry Board. Decarbonisation could include opportunities for: renewable energy innovation; bioenergy; hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage; and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines.

Location

St Fergus, Peterhead, and Grangemouth.

Need

This national development is required to meet our targets for emissions reduction. It also supports a just transition by creating new jobs in emerging technologies and significant economic opportunities for lower carbon industry. It will help to decarbonise other sectors, sites and regions, paving the way for increasing demand

to be complemented by the production of further hydrogen in the future. This will also help to deliver our spatial strategy by supporting investment in the North East and the Central Belt where there has been a relatively high level of output from fossil fuel industries.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Industrial Green Transition Zones' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development.

- a) Carbon capture with high capture rates and negative emission technologies, transportation and storage of captured carbon forming part of or helping to create an expandable national network;
- b) Pipeline for transportation and storage of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- c) Onshore infrastructure including compression equipment, supporting pipeline transportation and shipping transportation of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- d) Offshore storage of captured carbon;
- e) New and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for the utilisation of captured carbon;
- f) Infrastructure for the production of hydrogen on shore or off shore where co-located with off shore wind farms within 0-12 nautical miles;
- g) Infrastructure for the storage of hydrogen on shore or off shore, including on or near-shore geological storage;
- h) Port facilities for the transport and handling of hydrogen and carbon dioxide;
- i) The application of carbon capture and storage technology to existing or replacement thermal power generation capacity;
- j) Production, storage and transportation with appropriate emissions abatement of: bioenergy; hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- k) New and/or upgraded buildings for industrial, manufacturing, business, and educational or research uses related to the industrial transition;
- l) Town centre regeneration at Grangemouth;
- m) Grangemouth flood protection scheme;
- n) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- o) New and/or upgraded utilities and/or local energy network; and
- p) New and/or upgraded facilities at the port for inter-modal freight handling at Grangemouth.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive effect on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rural revitalisation
- ✔ Just transition

16. Hunterston Strategic Asset

This national development supports the repurposing of Hunterston port as well as the adjacent former nuclear power station sites and marketable business land of the Hunterston Estate. Hunterston has long been recognised as a strategic location for the port and energy sectors given its deepwater access and existing infrastructure. Hunterston is a key site, anchoring other opportunities around the Firth of Clyde.

The location and infrastructure offers potential for electricity generation from renewables, and a variety of commercial uses including port, research and development, aquaculture, the circular economy, and environmental and economic opportunities around nuclear decommissioning expertise.

New development will need to optimise the capacity of the transport network, include active travel links and be compatible with a location adjacent to sites with nuclear power uses. Designated biodiversity sites will require protection and enhancement where possible, and sustainable flood risk management solutions will be required for the area. Aligned with the Ayrshire Growth Deal, jointly funded by the Scottish and UK Governments, investment in this location will support a wellbeing economy by opening up opportunities for employment and training for local people. A community wealth building approach has been embedded within the Deal and Regional Economic Strategy within Ayrshire, and would be expected to form a part of future development proposals to ensure the economic benefits are retained locally as far as possible, strengthening local supply chains and supporting businesses and communities across Ayrshire.

Location

Hunterston Port, nuclear power station sites and marketable employment land at Hunterston Estate.

Need

These classes of development support the redevelopment and reuse of existing strategic assets and land contributing to a net zero economy. It also supports delivery of our spatial strategy by stimulating investment in the west of Scotland, potentially contributing to the wider aim of tackling inequalities.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Hunterston Strategic Asset' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) Infrastructure to support a multi-modal deep water harbour;
- b) Land and buildings for bulk handling, storage, processing and distribution;
- c) Facilities for marine energy generation technology fabrication and decommissioning;
- d) Facilities for marine energy servicing;
- e) Land and buildings for industrial, commercial, research and development, and training uses;
- f) Infrastructure for the capture, transportation and long-term storage of greenhouse gas emissions, where transportation may be by pipe or vehicular means;
- g) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- h) Infrastructure for the generation and storage of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts; and
- i) Electricity transmission infrastructure of 132kv or more.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rural revitalisation
- ✔ Just transition

17. Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment

This national development supports the redevelopment of Chapelcross, a former nuclear power station site of significant scale regionally and nationally, and our strategy supports the reuse of the site to help deliver on net zero and provide opportunities for communities in the South of Scotland.

Final uses for the site remain to be agreed, but the site has locational advantage to act as an energy hub with opportunities including: business development with a particular focus on energy and energy supply chain; energy generation from solar; electricity storage; generation of heat; production and storage of low carbon and renewable hydrogen. This could link to ambitions for low carbon heat and vehicle fuel at Stranraer.

The proposal aims to create new job opportunities, including high value employment. A community wealth building approach will ensure that benefits are retained locally as far as possible, and this in turn will help to sustain and grow the local population. We also support opportunities to reduce the fuel costs for local communities to tackle fuel poverty. Sustainable access to the site for workers and commercial vehicles will be required.

Location

Site of the former Chapelcross power station.

Need

This national development supports the reuse of a significant area of brownfield land in a rural area with economically fragile communities. It will also support the just transition to net zero.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and office related development occurring on the Chapelcross development site;
- b) Generation of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- d) Active and sustainable travel connection to the site.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

18. High Speed Rail

This national development supports the implementation of increased infrastructure to improve rail capacity and connectivity on the main cross-border routes, the east and west coast mainlines.

Rail connectivity that can effectively compete with air and road based transport between the major towns and cities in Scotland, England and onward to Europe is an essential part of reducing transport emissions, making best use of the rail network and providing greater connectivity opportunities. There can be significant emissions savings of approximately 75% to be made when freight is transported by rail instead of road.

Enhancement would be in addition to and in conjunction with High Speed 2 (HS2) and other enhancements identified by the UK Government.

Scottish Ministers have an agreement with the UK Government to develop infrastructure enhancements 'North of HS2' and Scottish Ministers continue to press the UK Government on the imperative that all nations and regions of Britain benefit from the prosperity that HS2 will deliver both in its construction and its implementation. The Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 is appraising through recommendation 45 and will provide the strategic case for investment in the rail network in Scotland, over and above the commitments within HS2.

Location

Central and southern Scotland to the border with England.

Need

This national development aims to ensure a low emissions air-competitive journey time to cities in the UK as well as connectivity with European cities and benefits to freight. This will support Scotland's ability to attract and compete for investment.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'High Speed Rail' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded railway track and electrification solution (overhead cabling and pylons or on track);
- b) New and/or upgraded multi-modal railway stations to service high-speed lines; and
- c) Depot facilities for high speed trains and/or related to the construction and onward maintenance of the UK high-speed rail infrastructure.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

Annex C – Spatial Planning Priorities

This information is intended to guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies and LDPs to help deliver Scotland's national spatial strategy.

North and West Coast and Islands

This area broadly comprises the island communities of Shetland, Orkney, the Outer Hebrides, and parts of Highland and Argyll and Bute, and the north and west coastline of the Scottish mainland.

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans should maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

This area's natural and cultural assets will require careful planning and management so that their special qualities can continue to form a strong foundation for future development and investment. There are opportunities for local projects across this area to come together and create an enhanced nature network which benefits quality of life and contributes to biodiversity recovery and restoration as well as carbon sequestration.

Resilience and a growing green economy will depend on delivery of improved grid connections, including high voltage grid cables connecting the three island groups to the mainland. This will be complemented by the innovation in low and zero carbon fuels and the roll out of locally distributed energy systems to reduce emissions from buildings, address significant fuel poverty and secure longer term resilience.

Significant peatland restoration and woodland creation and restoration, along with blue carbon opportunities will secure wider biodiversity benefits and be a focus for investment to

offset carbon and secure existing natural carbon stores. The Lewis Peatlands and the Flow Country are internationally recognised as accounting for a significant proportion of the world's blanket bog habitat, and there are opportunities to protect and expand Scotland's temperate rainforest, including some of the best remaining rainforest sites in Europe. Access to the outdoors, as well as active travel, can benefit from continued investment in long distance walking and cycling routes with a range of projects emerging at a regional scale.

Communities in this area will need resilient transport connectivity to maintain accessibility and lifeline links, and further innovation will be required to help modernise connections and decarbonise transport systems. A net zero islands air network and decarbonisation of ferry services will help to secure the viability and service stability of island and remote coastal communities. Communities are keen to explore long-term ambitions for fixed links for example across the Sound of Harris and Sound of Barra, and potentially to connect the Outer Hebrides to mainland Scotland. An Islands Connectivity Plan will consider the role of ferries, fixed links and low carbon aviation in securing lifeline links and marine access for both leisure and freight. In addition to the investment potential of the area's ports and harbours, the strategic location of the Northern Isles as a hub for future shipping using long distance trade routes has significant potential for investment and growth over the longer term. There is also potential to consider decarbonisation of fishing fleets and the aquaculture industry in the future.

Electric vehicle ownership is already high in some parts of the area and continued expansion of charging networks will support further decarbonisation. Key routes and hubs are emerging – examples include the aspiration for an electric spinal route that extends across the Outer Hebrides. This should be viewed as one part of a wider system response to net zero that also strengthens active travel across the area.

Improved digital connectivity is a priority to sustain current businesses and create ‘smart’ communities. We are committed to investment in ultrafast broadband to ensure every property is connected and to improve mobile coverage. This will unlock opportunities for rural businesses and remote working, and make future community growth more feasible. Full benefits will be realised by actively tackling the digital divide by building skills, literacy and learning and addressing the financial barriers to internet access. Key projects include the Outer Hebrides Giga Fibre Network and the North Isles Fibre Project.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.

Future-proofing local liveability will benefit people as well as the planet. Island and coastal communities can apply the concept of local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, in a flexible way and find local solutions to low carbon living, for example by identifying service hubs in key locations with good public transport links. The aim is to build long-term resilience and self-reliance by minimising the need to travel whilst sustaining dispersed communities and rural patterns of development. Communities in this area will continue to rely to an extent on the private car, and low carbon solutions to the provision of services will need to be practical and affordable. Innovation including electric vehicle charging and digital connectivity will play an important role.

Increased coastal flooding and erosion arising from future climate change will need to be considered along with impacts on associated infrastructure such as bridges and transport networks. The majority of island populations live in coastal locations and there is a need for a pro-active and innovative approach that works with local communities to address this issue.

Regionally and locally driven plans and strategies will identify areas for future development that reflect these principles – for example planned population growth on the Western Seaboard of Argyll and in a growth corridor from Tobermory to Oban and on to Dalmally. Community hubs, where people can easily access a variety of services, will need to evolve and grow to support communities and sustain a range of functions. Ports and harbours can be a focal point for electric vehicle charging as well as employment. Sustainable and fair access to affordable healthier food will support future resilience and broader objectives including reduced child poverty and improved health outcomes. Innovative and equitable service provision, including digital solutions, will be needed to support dispersed communities in a low carbon way.

Communities will need greater choice and more flexible and affordable homes to support varying needs. This can be achieved to an extent by refurbishing the existing building stock to reduce the release of embedded carbon, as well as by delivering more affordable, energy efficient homes. The additional costs of island homebuilding and development generally, as well as in delivering net zero, is a challenge that needs to be factored into a planned approach.

There is a clear need for affordable housing provision across the region to improve choice and access to homes, to support local economies, and in some areas to help offset the impact of second home ownership and short term lets on the market. Local solutions may include key worker housing, temporary homes for workers in remote areas, and self-provided homes including self-build and custom-build. Continued innovation of holistic place-based solutions, such as the Rural and Islands Housing Fund, will be required to create homes that meet diverse community needs, including homes for an ageing population and to help young people to stay in or return to their communities. Greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places could support this, as well as helping more people access land and crofts and the reuse of abandoned sites where appropriate.

To reverse past depopulation and support existing settlements, planning can help to sustain communities in more peripheral and fragile areas in a way that is compatible with our low carbon agenda and resilient to climate change impacts. Further action should be taken where appropriate to encourage economically active people to previously inhabited areas. This will also need to reflect climate commitments and wider aspirations to create sustainable places that incorporate principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and active travel networks. Coasts will continue to evolve, and development will be needed to sustain and grow communities in a sustainable way. Collaboration and strong alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, at all levels, will also be needed.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and the opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

This area has significant opportunities for investment that capitalise on its natural assets and further strengthen the synergies between people, land and sea. This will require strong collaboration and alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, especially as further development of related blue economy activities in the terrestrial environment may increase competition for marine space and resources offshore. To significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, more onshore and offshore renewable energy generation will be needed, bringing unprecedented opportunities to strengthen local economies, build community wealth and secure long-term sustainability. The island authorities have set targets for creating green jobs and for rolling out clean and efficient energy systems to build local resilience. We expect to see continued innovation to unlock the infrastructure and business opportunities arising from a blue and green prosperity agenda.

As a result of its natural advantages, the area is growing its research excellence, and driving low-carbon is a core theme of the Islands Growth Deal. This will support the emergence of the planned joint Islands Centre for Net Zero, alongside island-specific initiatives. Orkney has been home to the European Marine Energy Centre since 2003 and the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus (ORIC) in Stromness provides a focus for Orkney's renewable and low carbon industries and research facilities. There are plans to grow the role of Orkney's ports and harbours to support net zero. The Outer Hebrides Energy Hub plans to establish the initial infrastructure necessary to support the production of low carbon hydrogen from renewable energy and conduct a 'large village' trial for Stornoway, and there may also be co-benefits to be gained for aquaculture in the area. Shetland aims to grow its net zero contribution including through a planned ultra-deep water port development, which would support servicing the energy sector, oil and gas decommissioning and large-scale offshore renewables. In addition, Oban is developing as a university town, and the European Marine Science Park is a key opportunity to build the local economy and provide education locally.

Sea ports are a focus for investment in the blue economy and further diversification of activities could generate additional employment across the area. Potential for business development ranges from long distance freight to supporting the cruise and marine leisure sectors and decommissioning opportunities. There may also be opportunity for ports in the islands to establish themselves as near-Arctic marine transport and logistics hubs, including for transshipment operations.

There is an aspiration for the servicing of ultra large container ships with associated facilities within Scapa Flow. The potential for such development to adversely affect European site(s) has been identified through the HRA of NPF4. Therefore, this would need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on

the integrity of European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests can be met.

New infrastructure and repurposing of land will help to shift industrial activity towards supporting the offshore renewables sector. Key strategic sites for industrial investment and associated port infrastructure and facilities include plans for: Dales Voe and Scapa Flow as part of the Islands Growth Deal; Cullivoe; Arnish in Stornoway; Wick; Scrabster; Gills Bay; Kishorn; Oban; Port Askaig; and Hatston, Kirkwall. Other key nodes on the ferries network, including Ullapool, Uig and Mallaig, will continue to act as important hubs to support communities, investors and visitors.

Proposed space ports, which make use of the area's relatively remote location and free airspace, could support our national ambitions to grow this sector. This includes plans for an Outer Hebrides Spaceport 1 in Scolpaig, North Uist and an emphasis on space research and skills development in Shetland as part of the Islands Growth Deal, a space port at Machrihanish and ancillary buildings at Benbecula. Planning permission has been granted for a space port at Melness in Sutherland, making use of its location away from populated areas to provide a vertical launch facility that could link with wider opportunities for manufacturing, research and development across Scotland.

Food and drink is a key sector, with aquaculture, distilleries, commercial fishing, and seaweed farming providing a crucial and growing source of employment for many local communities. This sector is of national significance, with whisky generating an estimated £5 billion to the UK economy and salmon accounting for more than 40% of total food exports. By improving the resilience of existing infrastructure we will ensure continued access to international markets. There are significant opportunities to build on experience and expertise through associated research and development. A development hub at Machrihanish to support aquaculture research in association with Stirling University could open up wider opportunities to expand

onshore aquaculture at sites across Scotland. Within Orkney, farming is still the main industry providing products for local consumption and for Scotland's food and drink sector.

Targeted investment in tourism infrastructure will ensure the coast and islands can capitalise on their rich natural assets, heritage and culture to support better quality and more stable jobs in the sector whilst providing a positive experience for visitors and residents. This sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and a short term focus on recovery can be underpinned by efforts to secure longer term sustainability. Planning can help to ensure that the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund is targeted to places where the pressure is most significant. Priorities include visitor management of the area's World Heritage Sites. Through the Islands Growth Deal, plans are in place for the Orkney World Heritage Site Gateway that will manage and disperse visitors to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the Outer Hebrides Destination Development Project will support the strategic development of tourism infrastructure, bringing together key assets including St Kilda World Heritage Site, the Iolaire Centre, the Hebridean Way, Food and Drinks trail and the Callanish standing stones. Other ongoing projects, including long distance routes such as the Kintyre Way and the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and Crinan Canal can help to expand a high quality offer of exceptional marine tourism across the area as a whole.

Regionally and locally there is a need for smaller scale investment across the area to put in place low maintenance, carefully designed facilities which better support and manage the impact of informal tourism including camping, campervans and day trips. This should reflect the scale and nature of operators including community trusts, which can have broad impact and influence. Efforts to provide access to education and build skills locally will also support this, with key projects including plans for the redevelopment of the Shetland Campus. Additionally, the lessons we have learned from the pandemic about remote working could also help to grow communities by extending the range of high quality jobs available locally.

North

This area broadly includes parts of Highland with parts of Argyll and Bute, Moray, Cairngorms National Park, as well as the north of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Stirling and Perth and Kinross, with links west and north to coastal and island communities.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

The area's natural capital will play a vital role in locking in carbon and building our resilience by providing valuable ecosystem services. This includes sustainable flood risk management, biodiversity, access and education.

Land and sea assets will play an internationally significant role in renewable energy generation and carbon sequestration. The area can act as a strategic carbon and ecological 'mitigation bank' that can make a major contribution to our national climate change commitments. A programme of investment in forestry, woodland creation, native woodlands and peatland restoration will play a key role in reducing our national emissions, providing investment opportunities, supporting ecosystems and biodiversity and benefiting current and future generations. There are also opportunities to explore the decarbonisation of the forestry sector, processing and the transport of timber, and to build community wealth through new businesses, such as a nationally important tree nursery in Moray.

Wider but closely related priorities include continuing conservation at a landscape-scale, to develop resilient nature networks, deer and moorland management, visitor management and recreation, rural housing, community empowerment and economic development. This will provide good quality local employment,

strengthen and diversify local economies and help to secure a sustainable future for local people. The area's rivers are also strategic assets that will continue to benefit from aligned land use, climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement.

The Cairngorms National Park is bringing together conservation, the visitor experience and rural development to provide benefits that extend well beyond the park boundary. Landscape-scale solutions to build resilience to climate change, to manage sustainable tourism and outdoor access, and a commitment to reversing biodiversity decline and increasing woodland expansion and peatland restoration, are all key priorities. Demand for development, including in pressured areas, will require a planned response to minimise the impact of second homes on local communities and ensure new homes are affordable and meet local needs.

This area also makes an important contribution to our climate change targets by supporting renewable energy generation. Repowering and extending existing wind farms will optimise their productivity and capitalise on the area's significant natural energy resources, and there is potential to increase offshore wind energy capacity. A carefully planned approach can reduce environmental and other impacts and retain more benefits locally. Community ownership of renewable energy projects at all scales could play a key role in improving resilience, empowering local people to take control of their own assets and helping tackle fuel poverty. **Pumped hydro storage** at Cruachan and other sites such as Coire Glas can support the energy network, as well as providing tourism and recreation opportunities, and we expect to see a growth in solar power. As technologies continue to develop, storage and other forms of generation will grow. The electricity distribution and transmission network will require upgrading to support the large increase in onshore and offshore electricity generation required to achieve net zero, as well as to meet new demand from heat and transport. There will also be a need for more community-scale energy generation to serve the needs of local communities directly and build resilience.

The transport system as a whole will need to be planned to support a shift to more sustainable transport whilst maintaining access to markets and facilities. In line with the transport sustainable investment hierarchy, development should first be focused in locations which make the best use of existing infrastructure and services before building new infrastructure or providing new services.

Improvements to the Highland Main Line through electrification and delivery of new stations including at Inverness Airport, will help to create a sustainable commuter network for Inverness and open up more rural areas to lower carbon development. Our rolling programme of efficient electrification is also a key enabler for growth in rail freight, creating improved connectivity and providing additional capacity with faster journey times, better use of track capacity and lower unit costs. A continued modal shift to rail for both passengers and freight will bring significant environmental benefits over time.

Roads will continue to be arteries upon which local communities and businesses depend. There will be a need to adapt key routes due to the impacts of climate change alongside creating a strong network of charging points, including improvements to the A96 to improve safety and to the A9 to maintain a resilient road link from Thurso and Inverness to the central belt. Remote and rural areas including islands are dependent on reliable accessibility by road including connecting to ferries and ports, facilitating reliable public transport by road, access to essential services and transporting of goods. There is an urgent need for improvements to the A83 to ensure the resilience of the economy and communities of wider Argyll, as well as resilience challenges for other key routes such as the A82.

Continued investment in the national long distance walking and cycling network provides an opportunity to assist in decarbonising tourism and recreation across the area, whilst also providing, and acting as a spine for, sustainable active travel connections for everyday travel in the vicinity of towns and villages.

Inverness and Oban airports are hubs for air connections to dispersed communities and Wick John O'Groats Airport and Broadford Airstrip on Skye are key connections. Oban Airport is also an opportunity for investment in compliance operations and future drone technology. The Highlands and Islands are aiming to become the world's first net zero aviation region by 2040 by pioneering new approaches including electric aircraft. Investment in technology and facilities will be required to achieve this. The proposed Moray Aerospace Advanced Technology and Innovation Campus (MAATIC) at Lossiemouth intends to create a skilled workforce for the Moray region through focusing on aviation sector and supply chain.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.

We will do all we can to help reverse depopulation across rural Scotland. Here, as with other more rural areas of Scotland, 20 minute neighbourhoods can be tailored to work with both larger towns and more dispersed settlement patterns.

Inverness plays a vital role as a regional centre for services, health, justice, employment, education, sport, culture and tourism and has seen significant expansion in recent years. Key sites for its growth are located primarily to the east along the Moray coast. A sustainable and adaptive growth strategy will continue to be supported by planned investment in education and health and social care services, as well as employment uses. The new railway station serving Inverness Airport will help to connect local communities with growing employment opportunities in the wider area. Inverness Castle, as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, will be redeveloped and opened up to the public, attracting national and international tourists and encouraging visits to the wider Highlands and Islands.

Fort William, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey and Aviemore are key settlements, and the area has strong relationships with adjacent, more coastal settlements such as Mallaig, Oban, Wick and Thurso. Moray also has a strong network of towns including Forres, Elgin and Nairn. In more remote communities there is a need to reverse population decline. A place-based approach (as demonstrated by Fort William 2040), including work to improve town centres and reuse redundant buildings, will support recovery in a way which responds to the strong character and identity of each of the area's towns and villages. Such an approach is evident in Growth Deal projects such as Moray's Cultural Quarter proposal.

A positive approach to rural development could support the development of a network of hubs, and future service provision will require imaginative solutions so that places can be resilient and self-supporting. Investment in strategic health, justice and education facilities is already planned. In the longer term, digital solutions, including mobile and remote health services and virtual education, as well as continued investment in improved connectivity, will play an increasingly important role.

As with other parts of Scotland, more homes will be needed to retain people and attract new residents of all ages. Many communities have taken ownership of their land and this could form the foundations for future development by unlocking further development sites. Refurbishment of existing rural buildings and halting the loss of crofts could help to sustain the area, and new homes should align with infrastructure and service provision. They should also be located and designed to minimise emissions and to complement the distinctive character of existing settlements and wider landscapes. As climate change continues to have an impact, water supplies and drainage will need to be secured and maintained. Flood risk management and changing ecosystems will need to be factored into future plans to ensure nature-based adaptation solutions complement local living. Addressing fuel poverty will require

greater energy efficiency and affordable, low carbon, distributed heat and electricity networks, with a model for increased local generation, having potential to bring benefits. Maintaining connectivity will be essential, particularly through public transport that includes rail access and other active travel networks.

We will continue to support further investment in digital connectivity but will need to go further to adapt to climate change and make use of emerging technologies. Priorities include satellite and mobile solutions to address 'not spots', and to support local living by reducing the need to travel unsustainably. To complement existing physical connections, smart solutions, local hubs, demand responsive transport, and active travel networks will help people to access services and employment and make low carbon local living a more viable option.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development by making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

Natural assets and environmental quality underpin the area's main economic sectors and must therefore be protected, restored and used sustainably. Planning will help to attract investment, grow and diversify businesses and enable local entrepreneurship, micro enterprises, self-employment and social enterprises to flourish. Remote working can be capitalised on to build economically active local communities. This will require the continued roll out of high quality digital infrastructure and maintenance and decarbonisation of transport routes to wider markets. Food miles can be reduced over time with the help of local community-led food growing networks, by supporting locally driven public procurement and, from a land use perspective, protecting higher quality agricultural land.

Ideas are emerging for the area to secure a low carbon future for tourism. Assets such as the North Coast 500 and, more recently, the Kintyre 66 in the adjacent coastal area, as well as the area's high quality environment and associated food and drink products, attract visitors. However, they also require investment in improvements to infrastructure to support local communities and visitors. This will maintain the quality of the experience and the environment, facilitate lower carbon transport, promote 'leave no footprint' and encourage longer stays. This could involve extending the availability of transport services. There are also many regionally significant opportunities to create jobs by growing support services for outdoor activities such as mountain biking, climbing, walking and angling and in support of the country's winter sport and recreation sector that is primarily focussed in this area.

Investment in research and development, business opportunities and local centres of expertise will help to retain benefits locally and broaden the range of skilled jobs. There will also be opportunities to build on and repurpose existing assets to create greener jobs, such as the former nuclear installation at Dounreay and development at Fort William associated with the Lochaber Smelter.

The area's coastline contributes to the beauty and experience of the area and is also a hub for economic activity including fishing, the cruise and marine leisure sectors, and the offshore renewable energy sector. Key ports include the Cromarty Firth (including Port of Cromarty, Nigg and Highland Deephaven), Corpach, Ardersier, Gills Bay, Inverness, Kishorn and Buckie. Through Opportunity Cromarty Firth and other projects, new facilities and infrastructure will help ports to adapt, unlocking their potential to support the transition from fossil fuels through oil and gas decommissioning, renewable energy (including the significant opportunities for marine energy arising from Scotwind) and low carbon hydrogen production and storage, and the expansion of supply chain and services. This will in turn benefit communities by providing employment and income for local businesses.

North East

This area focuses on Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with cross-boundary links to Moray, and south towards Angus and the Tay estuary.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero, whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.

Action is required to tackle industrial emissions and transition towards a greener future that benefits existing communities and attracts further investment.

Greener energy choices, including hydrogen and on and offshore renewables, have a natural home here and will be at the heart of the area's future wellbeing economy. Investment opportunities focus on the green and blue economy and energy innovation. Significant infrastructure will be required to deliver a hydrogen network for Scotland, including repurposing of existing facilities and the creation of new capacity. £62 million in the Energy Transition Fund is supporting four projects to protect existing jobs and create new jobs in the North East, and across Scotland, by opening up opportunities through energy transition and harnessing private sector funding. This funding aligns with the Aberdeen City Region Deal and continuing support for retraining and skills development. Ports and harbours throughout the area are key assets in the blue economy. As offshore renewables are an important part of Scotland's energy transition, there will be a need to align terrestrial and marine development so as to maximise the potential of this sector.

The area's growth strategy includes a commitment to building with nature by creating multi-functional blue and green networks and improving green spaces in and around settlements, connecting with the national long distance cycling and walking network

and facilitating active travel. Community-led climate action will help to provide locally-driven solutions. A new water supply and waste-water systems will play an important role in building long-term resilience.

Aberdeen is a key transport hub providing vital connections internationally, as well as lifeline services to Orkney and Shetland. Congestion will be reduced as a result of the construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and the A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement project. In the city, work is ongoing to lock in the benefits and prioritise sustainable transport, including Aberdeen Rapid Transit. More widely the Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Improvements will bring benefits to both passengers and freight.

The area can lead the way in promoting low emissions vehicles, active travel and public transport connectivity as part of its contribution to net zero. Links south to the Central Belt and west towards Inverness remain vital. Work is progressing on the £200m investment being made to improve journey times and capacity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt for passengers and freight. Continuing improvements to digital connectivity and active travel will reduce the need to travel by unsustainable modes and facilitate further remote, home or hub based working.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should focus on continued regeneration and encourage more 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.

A new focus on local living could help to address the high levels of car ownership and respond to the area's dispersed settlement pattern. Growth corridors extending from Aberdeen to Peterhead, Huntly and Laurencekirk will be a focus for future development, and strategic sites include new communities at Chapelton, Grandhome and Countesswells. There is significant potential to promote more compact growth by making better use of brownfield sites and increasing density.

There will be benefits for people of all ages arising from an increase in local living and a shift towards 20 minute neighbourhoods and the creation of connected, walkable, liveable and thriving places, in both urban and rural contexts. The aim is to encourage sustainable travel options, provide communities with local access to the wider range of facilities, services and amenities to support healthier and flourishing communities. In rural places, social and community infrastructure can be designed with different settlements working in clusters as a 'network of places', providing services and amenities that best meet the needs of local rural communities.

The area's towns contribute to its sense of place and further town centre regeneration will help communities to adapt to current challenges and future change. Service provision also needs to reflect the area's character. Several new or extended primary and secondary schools and community facilities are planned and the area will support wider rural communities by hosting a new centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care. Access to good quality open space and opportunities for local food growing, including allotments and community orchards, can benefit health and wellbeing and tackle inequalities as an integral part of placemaking.

The area benefits from a productive coastline that will be a focus for future economic activity and investment associated with offshore renewable energy and the blue economy. The coast is home to communities who will benefit from continued regeneration and a move towards 20 minute neighbourhoods that reduces the need to travel. Key regional priorities include the regeneration of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Future coastal vulnerability to erosion, sea level rise and flood risk will need to be factored into development strategies. The fishing industry will continue to contribute to the area's strong sense of place and shared heritage, communities and economy, with some ports and harbours also having opportunities in the cruise and marine leisure sectors.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support continued economic diversification and innovation.

The relocation of some activity at [Aberdeen Harbour](#) to the south harbour has been an important element in planning for the future. Further investment will help to realise its full potential as a low carbon hub and gateway, and there may be opportunities for development at the South Harbour to support the carbon capture and storage and hydrogen innovation work at St Fergus and Peterhead in Northern Aberdeenshire. This is also a significant opportunity to improve urban liveability by unlocking waterfront sites for mixed use development close to the city centre. Local people will need to be involved in deciding how potentially significant industrial and business activity can be accommodated, alongside regenerating a vibrant, redesigned city centre in the coming years.

It is essential that environmental impacts arising from relocation of the harbour and any onward reorganisation of the land uses around it are carefully managed in a way that recognises the location's natural assets and sensitivities. We expect the LDPs and consenting processes to be informed by the required impact assessments, to play a crucial role in guiding future development and addressing environmental sensitivities.

Central

This area broadly covers central Scotland from the Glasgow city region and the Ayrshires in the west to Edinburgh city region in the east, including the Tay cities, the Forth Valley and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.

Blue and green infrastructure

The greening of the built environment, including former industrial areas, is a long held ambition that we now need to expedite to significantly reduce emissions, adapt to the future impacts of climate change and tackle biodiversity loss. Investment in green infrastructure will support urban sustainability, help to restore biodiversity, contribute to our overall targets for reducing emissions and improve health and wellbeing.

There is much that we have already learned from past work, for example initiatives to naturalise former mining features, reclaiming canals as a cultural heritage and natural asset, and extensive woodland creation. Wider woodland expansion across more urban areas could make a significant contribution to improving air quality and quality of life by reducing pollution, managing water and cooling urban environments. Blue and green networks can help to deliver compact and liveable cities.

Many initiatives will come together to achieve urban greening:

- The [**Central Scotland Green Network**](#) will continue to bring together environmental enhancement projects. Initiatives such as the John Muir Pollinator Way demonstrate how nature networks can help restore and better connect biodiversity and enhance green infrastructure at a landscape scale.

- The Glasgow City Region Green Network, a long-term transformational programme of environmental action, can achieve a step change in the quality and benefits of green places across west central Scotland and bring enhanced biodiversity closer to communities. As part of this, the Clyde Climate Forest is proposing natural solutions at scale across the Glasgow city region.
- The Inner Forth Futures Partnership is tackling the effects of climate change and providing recreation benefits through projects such as peatland restoration and woodland expansion, and supporting the creation of habitat networks.
- The River Leven Project in Fife is a holistic place-based approach to development. Blue and green infrastructure will support investment and provide environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for communities.
- The Tayside strategic green and active travel network also aims to create regionally significant assets that contribute to the quality of the area.
- Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership (PNCP) encompasses a long-term, nature-based vision for Perth and Kinross that aims to create a distinct connection between the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Parks.
- There is a particular opportunity to build on the successful regeneration of our canals to provide an invaluable strategic greenspace that connects communities across the area as a whole, contributes to its strong post-industrial heritage and provides wider functions such as water management to support future resilience to climate change. The potential of a canal asset should be recognised as a shared priority.

There is a continuing need to invest in renewing and improving the capacity of flooding, water and drainage infrastructure to build the resilience of communities. A catchment-scale approach, using nature-based solutions, can also provide benefits for the health and quality of life of Scotland's urban communities, particularly where solutions seek to deliver multiple benefits, including biodiversity gain and active travel

routes. This approach can also be more cost-effective than hard engineering solutions and create lasting jobs. For example, the Glasgow city region recognises the challenges for future adaptation and is identifying sustainable solutions to sea level rise, urban overheating, and water management.

Engineered solutions to adapt our water and drainage infrastructure will be required in some circumstances, but should support more natural benefits as far as possible. There is scope to continue, and extend, the lessons from the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership to future proof infrastructure in support of the long-term growth and development of Edinburgh. The Lothian Drainage Partnership is taking this forward with projects emerging within Edinburgh and at the ClimatEvolution Zone in East Lothian.

At a local scale there is significant potential to expand raingardens and sustainable urban drainage systems to help manage surface water as part of blue and green infrastructure for our future cities and towns.

Whilst predominantly urban, this part of Scotland benefits from a rich and diverse rural area and there are many areas where town meets countryside. These green areas and natural spaces are key assets, sustaining communities that could become better places to live if we can achieve this in a way that is compatible with our wider aims for climate change, nature restoration and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The pandemic has demonstrated that many people are looking for more space at home and in their communities. It will be important to plan positively and imaginatively to make sustainable use of the countryside around our cities and towns.

These areas have important functions – productive agricultural land, providing vital ecosystem services and spaces for local food growing, outdoor access and recreation. They support carbon sequestration, including through peatland restoration, woodland creation and conserving natural habitats, and there is scope for innovation in key sectors including sustainable food production.

Planning has the potential to address the impact of climate change on communities whilst also generating renewable heat and facilitating urban cooling from our rivers. Mine water, solar and onshore support for offshore renewables, including development that makes use of existing infrastructure at strategic hubs, all provide opportunities for decarbonisation.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park has landscape-scale opportunities to restore and enhance nature and respond to climate change, including through woodland creation and peatland restoration, as well as natural flood risk management. The National Park will continue to support the quality of life and health of the urban population and its future priorities include new infrastructure provision to provide a quality visitor experience and support people to connect with nature, as well as a greener tourism sector supported by innovative low carbon transport solutions. Long distance active travel and rail routes have untapped potential to provide sustainable tourism solutions. The area's communities can adapt to support more localised living and working opportunities, with improved digital connectivity and affordable housing. More integrated planning and land management offers opportunities to support land use change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The approach also links with and relates to the action area to the north.

Urban accessibility

A focus on community wealth building, together with growing opportunities for longer term remote working, could address the high levels of transport movement by private car and challenges of congestion and air pollution across the area. Local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, will help to minimise future commuting and ensure jobs and income can be spread more evenly across the area. Accessibility and transport affordability can support more resilience which benefits communities who are less connected.

By putting in place [mass/rapid transit systems](#) for Edinburgh through plans to extend the tram network, and for Glasgow including the Clyde Metro and multi-modal connectivity, we have an

opportunity to substantially reduce levels of car-based commuting, congestion and emissions from transport at scale.

Connections to the rest of the UK will be strengthened in the longer term through [high speed rail](#) connectivity, with stations expected in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Decarbonisation of freight will require the construction of new hubs and associated facilities to support logistics. This will also support growing interest in express logistics from rail operators that would see passenger Electrical Multiple Units converted to carry small freight, targeting the UK parcel market. Ports on the Clyde, Forth and Tay coasts will also play a key role in this transition.

Digital connectivity will facilitate remote working, supporting the growth of towns and villages outwith the larger cities and potentially leading to a renaissance in more rural living. It will be crucial to address digital inequality, whether through cost, infrastructure or skills development, as virtual service provision continues to grow.

To deliver [liveable places](#), Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.

20 minute neighbourhoods

The diversity of this area, from metropolitan districts to rural and dispersed settlements, will require concerted effort to develop networks of places that meet the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and with fair access to a range of services that support sustainable living. Planning should focus on revitalising cities and towns at scale, supporting a finer grained approach to placemaking, and a more intricate mix of land uses and density. This should incorporate networks of natural spaces and blue and green infrastructure, to create health and wellbeing benefits, increase resilience to climate change and support the growth of green job opportunities.

The car-based design of some of our places, including many suburban areas and new towns, mean that a significant shift to a more people centred approach will be required. Planning can help retrofit facilities and services into areas where they are scarce, such as predominantly residential areas, to enable better integrated, mixed-use areas. City, town and neighbourhood centres can be at the heart of this if they are planned to strengthen self-sufficiency and bring services and jobs closer to homes. The recommendations of the recent town centre review can be delivered by supporting a wider range of uses and making the most of their assets.

Accessibility will be a key part of the transition and will involve investment in infrastructure and services in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies, to improve fair access and reduce carbon emissions. Active travel networks will need to expand to make walking, wheeling and cycling an attractive, convenient, safe, and sustainable choice for everyday travel. There are significant opportunities for investment in heat networks, energy storage and the circular economy to create more sustainable neighbourhoods.

Energy efficient, affordable homes

As well as building new homes to net zero standards, more will need to be done to meet the bigger challenge of upgrading the existing housing stock to reduce emissions and adapt to future climate impacts. Emissions from our homes need to be very substantially reduced – by 2030, they must fall by 68% from 2020 levels.

Improved energy efficiency will be needed, by providing zero emissions heating solutions and more sustainable water management practices for existing settlements and homes. Improving sustainable travel options and reliability will help to reduce transport based emissions associated with our homes.

There is a particular pressure for housing solutions, including provision of affordable homes that meet future needs, in the south east of Scotland. Edinburgh has committed to building affordable homes at scale, and will

need to work with the region to accommodate wider need and demand in a strategic way. Seven strategic sites, supported through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, could accommodate up to 45,000 homes and associated economic and employment benefits including: Blindwells, Calderwood, Dunfermline, Edinburgh Waterfront, Shawfair, Tweedbank and Winchburgh. The need for proposals to be supported by low carbon transport solutions, in line with the Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy investment hierarchies and infrastructure first approach, will be critical to their success. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal identifies infrastructure investment as part of this. These interventions and commitments, taken with the additional transport investment made through the Deal, will ensure the city region continues to grow and flourish. Regionally significant services, including healthcare and social care facilities and investment in the learning estate, is also planned to support future growth and sustain the wellbeing of existing, new and expanding communities.

Waterfront regeneration

The region's coasts and firths define the area's history and shape its sense of place. There is potential to unlock the strategic importance of coasts, estuary and river corridors for climate mitigation, resilience, and positive environmental change. Coastal change, driven by climate change, will need to be managed to build long-term resilience and future-proof our waterfronts, where this is feasible. Progress has been made to create long distance walking and cycling routes to open up access to waterfront spaces and reclaim them as a resource for people as well as industry. There will be a need to anticipate and mitigate risk from coastal erosion, flood risk and storm surges, with a focus on natural solutions which work with the unique biodiversity and landscape character of these important places.

These coasts are rich in cultural and natural heritage. Along the Inner Forth, various projects provide multiple benefits, including flood management, cultural landscape enhancement, habitat creation, access and

tourism. Edinburgh's waterfront regeneration is ongoing, with Granton benefiting from an ambitious masterplan, the tram extension to Leith progressing and potential development at Seafield helping to redefine the city's relationship with its coastline. This is reusing existing assets and helping Edinburgh to become a more liveable city. A masterplanned approach to regenerating the [Edinburgh Waterfront](#) can take into account opportunities for the Port of Leith to service the offshore energy sector. More broadly, port facilities should continue to be capable of servicing freight traffic within the Firth of Forth given the importance of east coast freight links.

The successful regeneration of [Dundee Waterfront](#) has demonstrated the potential to make sustainable use of our urban coasts, and ongoing proposals include the creation of a marina at Victoria Dock and further development of central waterfront sites. Dundee port has an aspiration to expand its operational area into the Firth of Tay. The HRA of NPF4 has identified that such development would have a high probability of resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of European site(s). This would therefore need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the HRA process to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests are met.

Reuse of brownfield land

A more liveable Central Belt means that we will need to do more to reuse empty buildings and brownfield land, including vacant and derelict land, particularly spaces which have not been used for decades and can be accessed by sustainable modes. This will reduce further urban sprawl and improve local environments. Around 40% of Scotland's vacant and derelict land is concentrated in the Glasgow city region and its reuse for a range of uses is a key priority. Edinburgh has committed to building a significant share of future housing development on brownfield sites and progress is being made in Dundee to repurpose disused sites, including the creation of a new innovation park on the former Michelin site.

A combination of incentives, investment and policy support for productively reusing brownfield land and buildings at risk will be required to steer development away from greenfield locations, whilst also acknowledging their biodiversity value and potential for urban greening. Public-sector led development can shape future markets and deliver development in places where change is needed the most and can deliver multiple benefits. Redevelopment should include, but not be limited to, housing development. By de-risking sites and taking an infrastructure first approach, this land can help to achieve a better distribution of new homes to meet our future needs. This will also reduce pressure in places where growth is no longer sustainable. Key projects include the Eden project on the sites of the former Dundee gasworks, and the redevelopment of Ravenscraig, a longstanding post-industrial site where new development, including improved transport connectivity, can bring new models of low carbon living at scale.

To deliver [productive places](#), Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

This area has a diverse business base and is a key engine of growth for Scotland as a whole. There are many clusters of sites and businesses which form the basis of regional propositions for investment. In line with our aspirations to build a wellbeing economy, opportunities for investment and development should be designed to maximise economic, social and environmental wellbeing, rather than focusing on growth alone. A planned approach can help to target future development in areas of significant economic disadvantage so that new and better jobs are more fairly distributed to help address national, regional and more localised inequality.

City and town centres

The pandemic has brought obvious challenges for our city centres, but has also unlocked opportunities to take forward new models of working that could better support wellbeing and improve our places in the longer term. The continued growth of remote and local working and the creation of hubs within groups of settlements could significantly reduce the need to travel, whilst also helping to grow local businesses and communities.

This raises significant questions for the future of city centres. Existing offices have the potential to be repurposed to achieve higher density mixed use neighbourhoods with a lower carbon footprint and require careful planning to ensure future communities are properly supported by appropriate services.

Glasgow city centre, an exceptional asset and a primary location and cultural destination, has been significantly impacted by unprecedented changes in working patterns, service provision and the retail sector. Whilst these changes may not be sustained in the long-term, now is the time to accelerate work to diversify the city centre and invest in maintaining and re-using existing buildings so that it can evolve to be a more carbon conscious place. Existing connections mean the centre could sustain many more homes to meet a commitment to doubling the city centre population, revitalising places and creating a 24 hour city that is safe and open to everyone. Significant investment in schools, community services and greenspace will be needed to achieve this and more creative use of the public realm and a low emission zone will help to make this a safer and healthier environment for people of all ages. Innovative solutions, such as retrofitting energy efficiency measures to social housing across the city, could be extended to help improve the built fabric of the city centre's commercial properties.

Edinburgh has similar challenges and opportunities for positive change. High interest in investment and associated demand for new homes means that planning will need to help deliver sustainable development that supports the quality of life of existing and future residents.

As a capital city with a World Heritage Site at its core, it will be crucial that future development takes into account the capacity of the city itself and its surrounding communities and makes the most of its exceptional heritage assets, places and cultural wealth. The City Centre Transformation Plan supports a move away from a car-based city centre to create a more liveable and attractive place to live, work and visit. The Forth Bridge is also an inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site, and our rich industrial and cultural heritage remains apparent across the area.

Dundee is well on the way towards reinventing itself through regeneration of the waterfront, unlocking strategic sites for new homes and new opportunities for innovation and economic development arising, such as the Michelin Scotland Innovation Park and at the port. Continued regeneration in this area, building on the city's rich culture, sense of place and appetite to innovate will also contribute to the overall aims for this part of Scotland. The V&A will continue to be a focal point for this, evolving to become a National Centre for Design within this UNESCO City of Design.

Town centres throughout this area will also play a critical role in driving a new economic future. The recent town centre review highlights opportunities to expand the range of services and facilities they offer, reuse redundant buildings and provide new homes for a wide range of people. This in turn will ensure their crucial role in defining our sense of place is protected and enhanced, future proofing a key asset for Scotland as a whole.

Strategic sites

Many business and investment sites are located along key transport corridors and new approaches may be required as investment transitions away from locations that can only be reached by car towards more accessible areas that are connected by low carbon and active travel options.

The [Clyde Mission](#) will stimulate investment in sites along the Clyde to build a wellbeing economy and achieve a step-change in the quality of the environment for communities. This

ambitious project will reuse extensive areas of vacant and derelict land in accessible locations and requires a sustainable approach to manage the future impact of climate change. Key sites extend from Greenock Ocean Terminal to Queens Quay, Tradeston, the Broomielaw and Glasgow City Centre, to Clyde Gateway – a longstanding regeneration project which has made exceptional progress in transforming communities and overcoming inequality. A national collaboration to support delivery of the project has significant potential to accelerate change, attract investment and achieve wider benefits for communities. The wider Clyde Coast, an iconic area rich in cultural heritage and natural assets, can be reimaged through collective efforts on regeneration in nearby coastal communities, such as Dunoon and Rothesay. The area's accessibility by train and water means that it is an ideal location for low carbon tourism and leisure.

Aligning with the Clyde Mission, the Ayrshire Councils are working together through their Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building programme to build economic resilience and address unemployment, poverty and inequality across their area, with town centres at the heart of communities. This includes proposals for advanced manufacturing and aerospace engineering which will make use of the existing infrastructure and investment opportunities available at Glasgow and Prestwick airports. Glasgow is already a centre of expertise for manufacturing satellites and will benefit from the associated development of a network of spaceports across the country, whilst supporting wider industry and employment. The Ardeer peninsula is also a significant site for redevelopment of the wider Ayrshire area. [Hunterston](#) is a strategic asset with deepwater access, where there are plans for new economic development and employment uses. Development of the site will need to take account of future vulnerability to climate change. A planned marine centre at Ardrossan will provide further opportunities.

The Edinburgh City Region supports investment in significant clusters including the Bioquarter, Mid Fife, Dunfermline, Guardbridge St. Andrews,

Galashiels, Cockenzie, Midlothian and the M8 corridor. A strategy for West Edinburgh is emerging which guides a wide range of uses to create a sustainable extension to the city, with added benefit from associated improvements to the quality of place of existing communities. Proposals focus on locating development on and around existing transport corridors and work is ongoing to improve accessibility including the Edinburgh tram extension. Further investment should take into account the impact of new development on potentially compounding existing capacity constraints and congestion, and prioritise sustainable choices.

As the highest single source of industrial emissions in Scotland, and a key part of our future resilience and manufacturing base, continued investment at Grangemouth, and the strategic sites it includes, will be required. Plans are emerging for innovative industry in the Falkirk/Grangemouth Investment Zone, building on the area's strengths in chemicals and making the most of strategic assets including the port and rail connection. There is great potential, not only to reduce emissions at the Grangemouth complex, but also to grow the cluster into a hub of low carbon manufacturing that can help unlock wider decarbonisation across the country, with its strategic location, infrastructure, assets and skills base. Opportunities include renewable energy innovation, bioenergy hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage, and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines. The skills, knowledge and experience that is currently situated there for the petro-chemicals sector is a prime resource for the transition to net zero. This can form a focal point in a wider masterplan for Forth Valley that brings together opportunities for energy with the circular economy to support wider investment in green economic opportunities.

Coastal sites formerly used for baseload power generation – specifically Longannet and Cockenzie – benefit from existing assets and infrastructure that can be repurposed to form the basis of new proposals. At Cockenzie, work is ongoing to develop an opportunity for a Climate Evolution Zone to generate employment and

provide essential infrastructure for net zero, linked with the potential to expand the new sustainable settlement at Blindwells, within the Greater Blindwells Development Area. There is scope to build on the strategic location and rail connectivity of Longannet to benefit local communities around this part of the Forth. There are further opportunities for a range of economic activities and investment in ports associated with a green economy at Montrose, Dundee, Rosyth, Burntisland, and Methil.

The Levenmouth rail link will reconnect Leven to the mainline rail network with new stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge by 2024 subject to consenting processes. This will enhance the communities it serves and contribute positively to the lives of people who live there by unlocking access to social, cultural, employment and educational opportunity.

The Tay Cities Region has a strong regional proposal for developing clusters of investment in research and innovation supporting a range of sectors in both urban and rural areas including life sciences, energy, digital, and food production. Perth is managing housing development in strategic development areas and transport infrastructure investment and the creation of a bus and rail interchange to support modal shift and establish a new gateway to the city. Work is underway to deliver local heat and energy networks, Perth West Regional Innovation Park and to make Perth the 'Biodiversity Capital of Scotland'. Angus Council is progressing its Mercury Programme to support clean growth, low carbon transport and housing and agri tech which will contribute to future food security and reduce emissions. Key sites include Montrose Port, and the Angus Rural Mobility Hub in Brechin.

Stirling is bringing forward new opportunities for innovation and investment, building on the city's strong heritage and supported by the area's educational institutions. Within Forth Valley, a National Tartan Centre, the Canal corridor, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Ochil Hills and Whisky Trail create a unique heritage offering which will support local employment and strengthen the

area's sense of place. Tourism is a key theme in the emerging regional economic strategy for the Forth Valley and both the Falkirk Growth Deal and Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal.

Ports

Key ports in this area can play a central role in supporting the expansion of renewable energy, in particular offshore wind energy. It will also be important to make use of the infrastructure to reduce road haulage and secure a more sustainable freight sector which directly links to international markets. There are opportunities for enhanced cruise facilities for the Forth, as well as the Clyde where Greenock Ocean Terminal, supported by the Glasgow City Region Deal, can build on its role as a key gateway. There may be opportunities to make use of harbour facilities to support the marine leisure industry.

Development of ports on the Firth of Forth will also need to take account of the potential for a substantial increase in freight and passenger traffic between Scotland and continental Europe, linked to the Scottish Government's objective that Scotland should accede to the EU as an independent Member State at the earliest possible opportunity.

South

This area broadly includes Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, South and East Ayrshires, South Lanarkshire in the west, with links to the Lothians towards the east.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.

This area's forests and woodland are a nationally significant asset and its extensive peatland will need to support carbon storage and sequestration. The Borderlands Natural Capital Programme will develop trials and sector strategies to restore biodiversity, build resilience and make the most of the area's natural assets to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will build on the successes of a range of nature restoration projects in the area, such as the Carrifran Wildwoods project.

The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is a crucial environmental asset which can contribute to the area's future sustainability, liveability and productivity. The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Pilot is providing significant opportunity to work with landowners, landed interests and others to look at the multi-benefits from land use and to maximise natural capital opportunities.

The South of Scotland is an important centre for renewable energy generation. Proposals for consolidating and extending existing wind farms and associated grid improvements and supply chain opportunities will require a carefully planned approach. The Solway Firth has significant potential for renewable energy generation in the future, but development will require careful planning given the sensitivity of the environment and its international importance for nature conservation.

The area's low carbon future will depend on supporting modal shift and reducing car use, given current dependence on the car and need to improve access to services, education and employment. Low emissions vehicles will only go some of the way towards addressing future challenges. Enhancing public transport and improving connectivity between communities in the east and west will help to support thriving and distinct communities.

Public transport, including the bus network, will play an important role in decarbonisation and developing innovative solutions and linkages to the rail system. Active travel should be supported with wheeling, walking and cycling within and between towns and other communities linked to strategic routes for residents and visitors. This is important not only for local sustainability but also as a strategic attraction to take advantage of major outdoor recreation opportunities.

There is also a need to secure better digital links to unlock the potential of rural living and home or hub working. The Borderlands Digital Infrastructure Programme will play a key role in supporting connectivity and responding to future technology and innovation.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.

Quality of life for people living in the area will depend on the network of settlements in the future and existing communities should form the basis of a tailored response to the local living concept. Town centres can be strengthened as they recover from the pandemic. New measures to build resilience to climate change will be required including flood risk management in key settlements.

Housing provision will play a key role in supporting the area's aspirations for economic development as well as in maintaining

and growing a working age population. Decarbonisation of existing homes will be required, as well as a strategic approach to rolling out electric vehicle charging. Communities themselves will have a critical role to play in shaping their future development.

The area is already investing in regenerating and future proofing its towns and wider communities. The [Stranraer Gateway](#) Project is an opportunity to consolidate and bring new impetus to regenerate this strategically located settlement. Plans include expansion of the marina, supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, and low carbon heating can be incorporated as part of the transformation of the wider town. Nearby Cairnryan is a crucial gateway to Scotland, with a need to make best use of existing connections.

Regeneration innovation extends across the area. The HALO Kilmarnock project focuses on the reuse of vacant industrial land to create a low carbon community urban village, acting as an exemplar for innovative transformation of future places. The Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor project supports the economic generation of Kilmarnock and the wider region, whilst the CoRE (Community Renewable Energy) project in Cumnock seeks to explore, develop and provide solutions to energy supply and storage challenges in urban and non-urban areas, and to help in the development of a new, more flexible energy grid to complement existing power systems.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The future sustainability of the area will depend on the creation of high quality and green jobs for local people. The local economy will need to diversify from its focus on land based industries (agriculture and forestry), to sustain a wider range of businesses and jobs. An emphasis on

community wealth building will help to reduce dependence on public sector employment and a relatively low wage economy associated with rural and primary sectors.

The current approach to investment focuses on strategic growth corridors linking economic hubs with transport routes. Whilst the strategic road network is an asset and contributes to the area's connections north and south, a long-term strategy will require innovation and fresh thinking to ensure that future growth reflects our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing inequality.

The future growth of the east of the area aims to consolidate existing settlements, capitalise on the strong sense of place of its towns and ensure accessibility by locating new development close to the Borders Rail Line. The Borderlands Place Programme, Borderlands Natural Capital Project, future Regional Land Use Partnerships and other strategic initiatives can support an integrated approach to protecting and restoring the area's natural assets, enhancing the built environment and achieving a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy across the area.

Employment opportunities can support population growth, help to retain more young people and transition the area away from its current dependence on low wage sectors. New ways of working, including remote working could attract more people to live here, supporting the economy and sustaining local services and facilities. This will also benefit from continued support for local skills development and centres of further and higher education including the Galashiels campus of Heriot Watt University and Glasgow University at the Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

Significant investment sites include the former nuclear power station at Chapelcross which benefits from existing grid connections and is an opportunity to repurpose the land by establishing a green energy park that contributes to national ambitions and innovation. Low carbon accessibility will be a key challenge, as the site is remote from Annan and not served by public

transport. Providing access to wider markets, the port at Cairnryan could create further strategic growth opportunities. The expansion of Tweedbank and an inclusive approach to economic development in the Central Borders and Tweeddale are also strategic opportunities.

The area has aspirations to become a prime outdoor recreation and green tourism destination. Key projects include the South West Coastal Path, and projects supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal; the Mountain Biking Innovation Centre at Innerleithen, updating the cycling experience and facilities at some of the 7stanes sites, and Destination Tweed which will deliver a multi-user path and cycle route from Moffat to Berwick upon Tweed. More could be made of the area's border location and attractions to ensure visitors make better use of local services and support the economy and communities.

The west of the area has a close relationship, and strategic connection to, Northern Ireland and Ireland via Cairnryan, as well as across the English border to Carlisle and onwards to European markets. The connection to Northern Ireland and Ireland is already a focus for freight movements as a result of EU Exit.

In the east, the Scottish Borders has a role to play as part of the Edinburgh City Region, with the Borders Railway opening up new sites for sustainable development towards the north, and the south sustaining rural industries. Work is ongoing to assess the feasibility of extending the Borders Railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle.

Annex D – Six Qualities of Successful Places

1. Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health

Designing for:

- **lifelong wellbeing** through ensuring spaces, routes and buildings feel safe and welcoming e.g. through passive surveillance and use of physical safety measures.
- **healthy and active lifestyles**, through the creation of walkable neighbourhoods, food growing opportunities and access to nature and greenspace
- **accessibility and inclusion** for everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and culture
- **social connectivity** and creating a sense of belonging and identity within the community
- **environmentally positive places** with improved air quality, reactivating derelict and brownfield land, removing known hazards and good use of green and blue infrastructure

2. Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces

Designing for:

- **positive social interactions** including quality of public realm, civic spaces, streets and ensuring a lively and inclusive experience
- **protection** from the elements to create attractive and welcoming surroundings, including provision for shade and shelter, mitigating against noise, air, light pollution and undesirable features, as well as ensuring climate resilience, including flood prevention and mitigation against rising sea levels
- **connecting with nature** including natural landscape, existing landforms and features, biodiversity and eco-systems, integrating blue and green infrastructure and visual connection
- **variety and quality** of play and recreation spaces for people of all ages and abilities
- **enjoyment**, enabling people to feel at ease, spend more time outdoors and take inspiration from their surroundings

3. Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

Designing for:

- **active travel** by encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling together with reliable, accessible, public transport and shared transport hubs that allow for simple modal shifts
- **connectivity** including strategic cycle routes, local cycle routes, footpaths, pavements, active travel networks, desire lines, destinations, permeability, accessibility and catering for different needs and abilities
- **convenient connections** including local and regional interconnection, infrastructure, sustainable travel, interchange between public transport and active travel and supporting easy modal shifts in transport
- **pedestrian experience** including safe crossing, pedestrian priority, reduced vehicular speed and noise, inclusive design and surfaces, assistive technology, reduced street clutter, catering for suitable vehicular parking and management of loading/unloading and deliveries and refuse collections

4. Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted into designs to reinforce identity

Designing for:

- **scale** including density, building heights, massing, orientation, building lines and legibility
- **built form** including mix of typologies, types, uses, sizes and tenures
- **sense of place** including design influences, architectural styles, choice of materials and finishes, detailing, landscape design, active frontages and cultural context

5. Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience and integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions

Designing for:

- **transition to net-zero** including energy/carbon efficient solutions, retrofitting, reuse and repurposing and sharing of existing infrastructure and resources
- **climate resilience and nature recovery** including incorporating blue and green infrastructure, integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions
- **active local economy** including opportunities for local jobs and training, work spaces, enabling working from home, supporting community enterprise and third sector
- **community and local living** including access to local services and facilities, education, community growing and healthy food options, play and recreation and digital connectivity

6. Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can meet the changing needs and accommodate different uses over time

Designing for:

- **quality and function**, ensuring fitness for purpose, design for high quality and durability
- **longevity and resilience** including recognising the role of user centred design to cater for changing needs over time and to respond to social, economic and environmental priorities
- **long-term maintenance** including effective engagement, clarity of rights and responsibilities, community ownership/stewardship, continuous upkeep and improvements

Place Standard Tool and the delivery of successful places

The Place Standard contains 14 themes that support the Six Qualities of Successful Places, providing a consistent framework to consider and to assess the quality of new and existing places. The Place Standard tool Design Version is specifically created to support the consideration of development planning and design within the framework of the 14 Place Standard themes and to deliver on the Six Qualities of Successful Places.

Annex E – Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement

This Annex sets out the Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. This is to meet the requirement of Section 3A(3)(d) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in each Local Development Plan's Local Housing Land Requirement.


| Local and National Park Authority | MATHLR |
|---|--------|
| Aberdeen City | 7,000 |
| Aberdeenshire | 7,550 |
| Angus | 2,550 |
| Argyll & Bute | 2,150 |
| Cairngorms National Park | 850 |
| City of Edinburgh | 36,750 |
| Clackmannanshire | 1,500 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 4,550 |
| Dundee City | 4,300 |
| East Ayrshire | 4,050 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2,500 |
| East Lothian | 6,500 |
| East Renfrewshire | 2,800 |
| Eilean Siar | 192 |
| Falkirk | 5,250 |
| Fife (Central and South) | 5,550 |
| Fife (North) | 1,750 |
| All Fife* | 7,300 |
| Glasgow City | 21,350 |
| Highland | 9,500 |
| Inverclyde | 1,500 |
| Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park | 300 |
| Midlothian | 8,850 |
| Moray | 3,450 |
| North Ayrshire | 2,950 |
| North Lanarkshire | 7,350 |
| Orkney | 1,600 |
| Perth & Kinross | 8,500 |
| Renfrewshire | 4,900 |
| Scottish Borders | 4,800 |
| Shetland | 850 |
| South Ayrshire | 2,000 |
| South Lanarkshire | 7,850 |
| Stirling | 3,500 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 2,100 |
| West Lothian | 9,850 |

* The total consists of Fife North and Fife Central and South. This reflects that Fife was formerly part of two Strategic Development Plan areas and contributed to separate Housing Need and Demand Assessments.

Annex F – Glossary of definitions

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| 20 minute neighbourhood | A flexible approach to assessing our places against the concept of local living. A method of achieving connected and often compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home preferably by sustainable and active travel methods. The principle can be adjusted to include varying geographical scales from cities and urban environments, to rural and island communities. Housing would be planned together with local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops and health and social care to significantly reduce the need to use unsustainable methods of travel, to prioritise quality of life, help tackle inequalities, increase levels of health and wellbeing and respond to the climate emergency. |
| 4G | 4G is the fourth generation of mobile phone technology, following 2G and 3G. 2G technology was suitable for making calls and sending text messages, while 3G makes it possible to access the internet more effectively through devices such as a mobile, tablet or laptop. It's ideal for services that demand more capacity, like video streaming, mapping and social networking sites. |
| 5G | <p>5G is much faster than previous generations of wireless technology. 5G also offers greater capacity, allowing thousands of devices in a small area to be connected at the same time.</p> <p>The reduction in latency (the time between instructing a wireless device to perform an action and that action being completed) means 5G is also more responsive. Together these features make 5G highly relevant for industrial applications.</p> <p>The connectivity and capacity offered by 5G is opening up the potential for new, innovative services while mobile spectrum can be used in more effective ways.</p> |
| Affordable home/affordable housing | Good quality homes that are affordable to people on low incomes. This can include social rented, mid-market rented, shared-ownership, shared-equity, housing sold at discount (including plots for self-build), self-build plots and low cost housing without subsidy. |
| Agent of change principle | Where an application is made for development which is likely to be affected by noise from existing development such as, but not limited to, music venues, manufacturing or industrial sites, large retail outlets, etc., the applicant is required to demonstrate both that they have assessed the potential impact on occupants of the proposed development and that the proposed design incorporates appropriate measures to mitigate this impact. |
| Ancient woodland | Land that has maintained continuous woodland habitat since at least 1750. |
| Appropriate assessment | Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, requires an authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for certain plans or projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), to make an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives. |

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| Biodiversity | The variability in living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992). |
| Blue economy | The Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystem. |
| Blue infrastructure | Water environment features within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services. Blue features include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving, sustainable urban drainage systems and raingardens. |
| Brownfield | Land which has previously been developed. The term may cover vacant or derelict land, land occupied by redundant or unused buildings and developed land within the settlement boundary where further intensification of use is considered acceptable. |
| Buildings at risk register | The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) for Scotland (buildingsatrisk.org.uk) has been in operation since 1990 and highlights properties of architectural or historic merit that are considered to be at risk. Buildings at risk are not necessarily in poor condition, they may simply be standing empty with no clear future use or be threatened with demolition. |
| Business and industry | Business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses and smaller scale business uses such as home-working, live-work units and micro-businesses. |
| Carbon capture utilisation and storage | Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) encompasses the methods and technologies used to capture the carbon dioxide generated by large-scale energy intensive processes, such as power generation and industrial processes, and transport that captured carbon dioxide for safe and permanent storage deep underground in a geological formation. In some applications, the captured carbon dioxide can be recycled and used to manufacture useful products, thus giving it economic value. |
| Carbon-rich soils | Organo-mineral and peat soils are known as carbon-rich soils. A peat soil is defined in Scotland as when soil has an organic layer at the surface which is more than 50cm deep. Organo-mineral soil or peaty soil is soil which has an organic layer at the surface less than 50cm thick and overlies mineral layers (e.g. sand, silt and clay particles). There is also a relatively rare group of soils in Scotland known as humose soils. These have organic rich layers with between 15 and 35% organic matter. These are mineral soils but also considered to be carbon rich. |
| Carbon sequestration | The long-term removal, capture, or sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO ₂) pollution and to mitigate or reverse climate change. |
| Carbon sink | A carbon sink is a natural or artificial reservoir that accumulates and stores CO ₂ for an indefinite period. |

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| Circular economy | <p>A circular economy is one that is designed to reduce the demand for raw material in products; to encourage reuse, repair and manufacture by designing products and materials to last as long as possible in line with the waste hierarchy.</p>  <p>The diagram is a funnel-shaped hierarchy with five levels. From top to bottom: 1. Prevention (If you can't prevent, then ...); 2. Prepare for reuse (If you can't prepare for reuse, then ...); 3. Recycle (If you can't recycle, then ...); 4. Recover other value (e.g. energy) (If you can't recover value, then ...); 5. Disposal (Landfill if no alternative available). The funnel narrows as it goes down. The text 'Waste Hierarchy' is at the bottom.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | Climate change adaptation is about responding to the changes that we have seen in our climate over the last few decades, and preparing for the challenges that we will face as our climate continues to change. |
| Climate change mitigation | Climate change mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gasses, which have a direct impact on global average temperatures, and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide by enhancing carbon sinks (for example, increasing the area of forest). |
| Commercial centre | Centres which have a more specific focus on retailing and/or leisure uses, such as shopping centres, commercial leisure developments, mixed retail and leisure developments, retail parks and factory outlet centres. |
| Community | A body of people. A community can be based on location (for example people who live or work in or use an area) common identity (for example a shared ethnicity, language, age) or common interest (for example the business community, amenity, sports, social or heritage groups). |
| Community facilities | Buildings or services used by the community, including community halls, recreation centres and libraries. |
| Community hub | A community hub is a multi-purpose centre, such as a community centre, medical centre or school, that provides a range of high quality and cost effective services to the local community. |
| Community wealth building | A people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. |
| Conservation area | Conservation areas are areas which have special architectural or historic interest that are considered worthy of protection. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by the planning authority. To be designated as a conservation area it must meet the criteria of 'special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance', as set out in Section 61 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Scotland) Act 1997. |

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| Cultural significance | Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. |
| Cumulative impact | Impact in combination with other development. That includes existing developments as appropriate, those which have permission, and valid applications which have not been determined. The weight attached to undetermined applications should reflect their position in the application process. |
| Cumulative impacts (in the context of the strategic transport network) | The effect on the operational performance of transport networks of a number of developments in combination, recognising that the effects of a group of sites, or development over an area may need different mitigation when considered together than when considered individually. |
| Custom-build housing | Where a person tasks a house builder to tailor a home to their preferences before it is built. |
| Decarbonisation | Reducing the amount of gaseous carbon compounds released by buildings, activities or operations. |
| Deliverable housing land pipeline | The expected sequencing of the Local Housing Land Requirement over the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years), set out in the local development plan delivery programme. |
| Deliverable land | Land that is free from constraints or there is a commitment to overcome constraints, and development is able to be delivered in the period identified for the site within the Deliverable Housing Land Pipeline. |
| Derelict land | Previously developed land which is un-remediated and/or which has a constraint caused by its previous use which hampers its redevelopment or naturalisation. |
| Design flood | Magnitude of the flood adopted for the design of a site, usually defined in relation to the severity of the flood in terms of its return period. |
| Ecosystem services | The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. |
| Egress (safe, flood free pedestrian access and egress) | A route for the movement of people (not vehicles) of all abilities (on foot or with mobility assistance) between the development and a place of safety outwith the design flood level. |
| Enabling development | Enabling development is development that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, but is essential, to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss. |

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| Essential infrastructure | Essential infrastructure includes digital communications infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies for electricity generation and distribution and transmission electricity grid networks and primary sub stations; water and waste water infrastructure; and transport proposals and travel networks identified in the local development plan. |
| Evidence report | A supporting document to the local development plan. An evidence report summarises the evidence base for those proposals and policies set out in the development plan and demonstrates that appropriate consultation has been undertaken and regard given to the views of the community. |
| Facilities for managing secondary materials | <p>Facilities where materials can be collected and sorted into the various component parts or consolidated into bulk quantities for re-use either in their original or an alternative function and for recovery.</p> <p>‘Recovery’ means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.</p> <p>‘material recovery’ means any recovery operation, other than energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or other means to generate energy. It includes, inter alia, preparing for re-use, recycling and backfilling; ‘preparing for re-use’ means checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.</p> |
| Flood | The temporary covering by water from any source of land not normally covered by water, but not including the overflow of a sewage system. |
| Flooding from all sources | <p>Includes:</p> <p>Watercourse /Fluvial Flooding – caused by excessive rainfall or snow melt within a limited period, which overwhelms the capacity of the watercourse or river channel, particularly when the ground is already saturated. It can also arise as a result of the blockage of a channel and/or associated structures such as small bridges and culverts;</p> <p>Pluvial Flooding – occurs when rainwater ponds or flows over the ground (overland flow) before it enters a natural or man-made drainage systems (e.g. a river or sewer/drain). It can also occur when drainage systems are at full capacity. It is often combined with sewer flooding and groundwater flooding;</p> <p>Sewer Flooding – occurs when the sewerage infrastructure has to deal with loads beyond its design capacity. This occurs most often as a result of high intensity rainfall events;</p> <p>Groundwater Flooding – occurs when the water table rises above ground level. In Scotland this is most commonly associated with the movement of water through sands and gravels, often connected to the rise and fall of river levels; and</p> <p>Coastal Flooding – occurs as a result of high tide, storm surge and wave activity raising the level of the sea above adjoining land.</p> |


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| Flood risk | The combination of the probability of a flood and the potential adverse consequences associated with a flood, for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. |
| Flood risk area or at risk of flooding | <p>For planning purposes, at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area means land or built form with an annual probability of being flooded of greater than 0.5% which must include an appropriate allowance for future climate change.</p> <p>This risk of flooding is indicated on SEPA's future flood maps or may need to be assessed in a flood risk assessment. An appropriate allowance for climate change should be taken from the latest available guidance and evidence available for application in Scotland. The calculated risk of flooding can take account of any existing, formal flood protection schemes in determining the risk to the site.</p> <p>Where the risk of flooding is less than this threshold, areas will not be considered 'at risk of flooding' for planning purposes, but this does not mean there is no risk at all, just that the risk is sufficiently low to be acceptable for the purpose of planning. This includes areas where the risk of flooding is reduced below this threshold due to a formal flood protection scheme.</p> |
| Forestry and woodland strategy | A strategy prepared by a planning authority either singly or in collaboration with other planning authorities, which sets out policies and proposals for the development of forestry and woodlands in their area, according to [section A159] of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. |
| Freeboard | Freeboard is the difference between the design flood level and either the finished floor levels, solum level, or deck level of a specific development. It is a safety margin designed to allow for the uncertainties involved in flood estimation and physical factors that cannot be assessed and vary between sites e.g., post construction settlement and wave action. In many cases an adequate freeboard allowance is 600mm above the design flood level ² (in some situations a more detailed assessment of appropriate freeboard will need to be carried out). |
| Gardens and designed landscapes | The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes recognises sites where garden grounds and landscapes have been intentionally laid out for artistic effect which are of national importance. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Designed landscapes are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority. |
| Green infrastructure | Features or spaces within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services. |
| Green networks | Connected areas of green infrastructure and open space, that together form an integrated and multi-functional network. |
| Green recovery | An economic recovery that helps us work toward net zero emissions in a way that is fair and that maximises the opportunities to deliver a thriving, sustainable economy. |

² In line with CIRIA Guidance C624 Development and Flood Risk – Guidance for the Construction Industry 2004.

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| Green space | Space, other than agricultural land, which serves a recreational or an amenity function for the public, or provides aesthetic value to the public such as areas of— (a) grass, (b) trees, (c) other vegetation, (d) water. |
| Historic battlefields | The Inventory of Historic Battlefields recognises sites where a nationally important battle took place, soldiers fought and died, and where significant military activities happened. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Battlefields are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority. |
| Historic environment | The historic environment is ‘the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand’. |
| Historic environment asset | An asset (or ‘historic asset’ or ‘heritage asset’) is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance. |
| Historic marine protected areas | Historic Marine Protected Areas are areas designated in Scottish territorial waters (0-12 miles) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for the purpose of preserving marine assets of national importance. These can be wrecks of boats or aircraft or more scattered remains, such as groups of artefacts on the seabed from a submerged prehistoric landscape. Their designation is carried out by Marine Scotland based on advice from Historic Environment Scotland. |
| Huts | A simple building used intermittently as recreational accommodation (i.e. not a principal residence); having an internal floor area of no more than 30 square meters ; constructed from low impact materials; generally not connected to mains water, electricity or sewerage; and built in such a way that it is removable with little or no trace at the end of its life. Huts may be built singly or in groups. |

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| Infrastructure first | <p>Putting infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking. For the purpose of applying the Infrastructure First policy, the following meaning of infrastructure will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communications – including digital and telecommunications networks and connections; • existing and planned transport infrastructure and services; • water management – supply, drainage systems and sewerage (including flood risk management); • energy supplies/energy generation – including electricity and heat networks, distribution and transmission electricity grid networks, and gas supplies; • health and social care services – including both services provided in the community directly by Health Boards and services provided on their behalf by contractors such as GPs, dentists and pharmacists; • education – including early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education services; • green and blue infrastructure; and • spaces for play and recreation. |
| Infrastructure investment hierarchy | <p>Scottish Government-wide common hierarchy to aid planning and decision-making, which prioritises enhancing and maintaining our assets over new build. See Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 for further details. To support the Infrastructure Investment Plan and its Infrastructure Investment Hierarchy, also see ‘A guide to Property Asset Strategy in the Scottish Public Sector’</p> |
| Just transition | <p>Ending our contribution to climate change in a way that is fair and leaves no one behind</p> |
| Landbank (construction aggregates) | <p>A landbank is calculated by a Planning Authority and is a means of gauging whether there is sufficient consented construction aggregates (sand/gravel and hard rock) within their relevant market area, to avoid possible disruption and/or delays to supply. The calculation is primarily based on annual extraction figures, sales trends and the known reserves within existing consented sites.</p> |
| Lifeline links | <p>A lifeline ferry service required in order for a community to be viable.</p> |
| Listed building | <p>A listed building is a built structure of ‘special architectural or historic interest’. The term ‘building’ can be defined as ‘anything made by people’ such as houses, schools, factories, boundary walls, bridges and sculptures. Listing covers the whole of a building or structure including its exterior, interior and any ancillary structures within its curtilage (provided these were constructed before 1 July 1948). Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Listed Buildings are managed primarily through the Listed Building Consent process by the appropriate planning authority.</p> |

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| Local authority supported affordable housing plan | Plans or strategies for housing approved by a local authority e.g. Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan or future versions of such documents. |
| Local housing land requirement | The amount of land required for housing, as identified by the local development plan. The Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) is expected to exceed the 10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) set out in the National Planning Framework. |
| Local housing strategy | Local Housing Strategies were introduced as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to widen the strategic and enabling role for local authorities in relation to housing in their area. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out the outcomes the Council and its partners want to achieve, and the actions they will take, to address housing need and demand in their area |
| Local outcomes improvement plan | A local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) is produced by a community planning partnership (CPP), and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. The LOIP covers the whole of the council area that the CPP is responsible for. |
| Locality plan | A locality plan is produced by a CPP, and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. A locality plan covers a smaller area within a whole CPP area, or may also be produced for groups who share common interests or features, for example, young people leaving care or vulnerable adults. |
| Locations of concern | A location of concern has been defined as a specific, usually public, site that is used as a location for suicide and which provides either means or opportunity for suicide. |
| Masterplan | A strategic scheme within which a location is proposed to be regenerated or changed in order to meet a perceived challenge or strategic need. |
| Masterplan consent area | A masterplan consent area scheme can grant authorisation for the type of development set out in the scheme, within the geographic location (area) to which the scheme relates. In setting out the type of development that the scheme authorises, this can be either expressly specified or described as type of development that is specified in the scheme. |
| Minimum all-tenure housing land requirement | There is a statutory requirement for the National Planning Framework to contain targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing. To meet this, the National Planning Framework includes a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period, as set out in Annex E. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in the local development plans Local Housing Land Requirement. |

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| Mitigation hierarchy | <p>The mitigation hierarchy indicates the order in which the impacts of development should be considered and addressed. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid – by removing the impact at the outset Minimise – by reducing the impact Restore – by repairing damaged habitats Offset – by compensating for the residual impact that remains, with preference to on-site over off-site measures.  <p>The diagram shows a pyramid divided into four horizontal sections. From bottom to top, the sections are labeled: Avoid, Minimise, Restore, and Offset. To the left of the pyramid is a vertical arrow pointing upwards, labeled 'Decreasing Preference'. Below the pyramid is the text 'Mitigation Hierarchy'.</p> |
| National transport strategy 2 | <p>The National Transport Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out the strategic framework within which future decisions on investment will be made, including the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.</p> |
| Nature-based solutions | <p>Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits.</p> |
| Nature network | <p>A Nature Network is a joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and in water. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change, providing plants and animals with places to live, feed and breed. Effectively functioning nature networks will connect existing nature rich areas through habitat corridors, habitat 'stepping stones', or habitat restoration areas.</p> <p>Scotland's Nature Networks will enable opportunities for achieving ecological connectivity that meet local priorities for biodiversity and nature; whilst building and strengthening an evolving regional and national connectivity. Opportunities for implementation may be identified through, e.g. LDPs and/or Local Biodiversity Action Plans and/or other existing or new mechanisms such as those developed under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, to achieve connectivity within and across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.</p> |
| Negative emissions technologies | <p>Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs) are an emerging field of technologies that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and utilising carbon capture and storage sequester them permanently.</p> <p>NETs can include forms of Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage (DACCS), Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) or other more experimental means such as enhanced weathering or biochar.</p> <p>NETs can be considered one form of Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs), which also includes natural sequestration methods such as afforestation. It can also be used interchangeably with Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies (CDR).</p> |

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| Net zero | Scotland has set a target to become ‘ Net Zero ‘ by 2045. This means the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out will add up to zero. |
| Open space | Space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space or civic areas such as squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function |
| Open space strategy | An open space strategy is to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority’s policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks. It must contain; an audit of existing open space provision, an assessment of current and future requirements, and any other matter which the planning authority consider appropriate. |
| Outdoor sports facilities | Uses where sportscotland is a statutory consultee under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, which establishes ‘outdoor sports facilities’ as land used as: (a) an outdoor playing field extending to not less than 0.2ha used for any sport played on a pitch; (b) an outdoor athletics track; (c) a golf course; (d) an outdoor tennis court, other than those within a private dwelling, hotel or other tourist accommodation; and (e) an outdoor bowling green. |
| Peatland | Defined by the presence of peat soil or peaty soil types. This means that “peat-forming” vegetation is growing and actively forming peat or it has been grown and formed peat at some point in the past. |
| Placemaking | Placemaking is the process of creating good quality places that promotes people’s health, happiness and wellbeing. It concerns the environment in which we live; the people that inhabit these spaces; and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings. Placemaking is a collaborative approach involving the design and development of places over time, with people and communities central to the process. |
| Place principle | All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places. |
| Play sufficiency assessment | A play sufficiency assessment is the assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their area, carried out by a planning authority under the duty as set out in Section 7(5) Part 16D(1) of Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The assessment forms part of the evidence report for the preparation of the Local Development Plan. |
| Prime agricultural land & land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use | <p>Prime agricultural land is that identified as being Class 1, 2 or 3.1 in the land capability classification for agriculture developed by Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (now the James Hutton Institute).</p> <p>However, for land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use (i.e. for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage), this value should be recognised in decision-making.</p> |

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| Priority peatland habitat | Peatland habitats can be divided into four broad classes (blanket bog, upland raised bog, lowland raised bog, and fen), depending on the types of plants that formed the peat. Priority peatland habitats are sub-sets of these broad habitats which have been recognised under the Scottish Biodiversity Framework as being important to protect for their conservation and biodiversity value. |
| Protected characteristics | The Equality Act defines the following as protected characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age • disability • gender reassignment • marriage and civil partnership • pregnancy and maternity • race • religion or belief • sex • sexual orientation |
| Public benefits | Public benefits as defined by the current Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. |
| Ramsar sites | Wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. |
| Remedial notice (forestry) | <p>A Remedial Notice is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers if it appears to them that a person has failed or is failing to comply with a condition on felling permission, a felling direction (including any condition imposed on it), a restocking direction (including any condition imposed on it), or a registered notice to comply.</p> <p>A Remedial Notice requires the person to take such steps or stop such activity as may be specified in the notice on order to comply with or otherwise give effect to the condition, direction or (as the case may be) registered notice to comply, and, to take steps or stop the activity within the period specified in the notice.</p> |
| Restocking direction | A Restocking Direction is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers, in response to an unauthorised felling or a failure to comply with a continuing condition on a felling permission. A restocking direction requires an owner of the land on which the felled tree was located or the land to which the continuing condition relates, to stock the land in question. |
| Recycling facilities | Facilities for the purpose of recycling. Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations. It does not include nuclear reprocessing. |
| Self-build housing | Where a person builds their own house or appoints their own builder. |
| Self-provided housing | Includes self-build housing, custom-build housing and collective build housing. |

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| Setting | <p>Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.</p> <p>‘Setting’ is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.</p> |
| Scheduled monument | <p>Scheduled monuments are archaeological sites or monuments of national importance that are legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland who maintains the schedule. Works to Scheduled Monuments are regulated by Historic Environment Scotland through their Scheduled Monument Consent process.</p> |
| Short term let | <p>The use of a dwellinghouse (a residential house or flat) for rental by persons other than the owner for short periods and for financial or other remuneration.</p> <p>Typically includes properties advertised as being available for holiday let, although can apply to other situations.</p> |
| Strategic transport network | <p>Includes the trunk road and rail networks. Its primary purpose is to provide the safe and efficient movement of strategic long distance traffic between major centres, although in rural areas it also performs important local functions.</p> |
| Sustainable development | <p>Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (The Brundtland Definition. Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).</p> |
| Sustainable investment hierarchy | <p>The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Investment Hierarchy will be used to inform future investment decisions and ensure transport options that focus on reducing inequalities and the need to travel unsustainably are prioritised. We also need to focus on maintaining and safely operating existing assets, taking due consideration of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Investment promoting a range of measures, including innovative solutions, to make better use of existing capacity will then be considered, ensuring that existing transport networks and systems are fully optimised. Only following these steps should investment involving targeted infrastructure improvements be considered.</p> |
| Sustainable tourism | <p>Sustainable tourism is defined by the United Nation World Tourism Organisation as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.”</p> |

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| Sustainable travel | <p>Sustainable travel includes travel by the top three modes in the sustainable travel hierarchy. It is recognised that in some locations, particularly in rural areas, where the top three modes have been judged as unfeasible for day to day travel, low emissions vehicles and shared transport options will play an important role.</p> | <p>Prioritising Sustainable Transport</p> <p>Walking and wheeling</p> <p>Cycling</p> <p>Public transport</p> <p>Taxis & shared transport</p> <p>Private car</p> |
| Sustainable travel hierarchy | <p>The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Travel Hierarchy should be used in decision making by promoting walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. The efficient and sustainable freight transport for the movement of goods, particularly the shift from road to rail should also be promoted.</p> | |
| Town centre | <p>Centres which display:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a diverse mix of uses, including shopping; - a high level of accessibility; - qualities of character and identity which create a sense of place and further the well-being of communities; - wider economic and social activity during the day and in the evening; and - integration with residential areas. | |
| Town centre first | <p>The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of decision making. It seeks to deliver the best local outcomes, align policies and target available resources to prioritise town centre sites, encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity.</p> | |
| Town centre vision | <p>Towns and town centres are for the wellbeing of people, the planet and the economy. Towns are for everyone and everyone has a role to play in making their own town and town centre successful.</p> | |
| Transport appraisal | <p>A Transport Appraisal should inform the spatial strategy by appraising the impact of the potential spatial strategy options on the transport network, in line with Transport Scotland's Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance. It should determine the potential impacts of development on the transport network and mitigation to address adverse impacts, how they will be funded and who should deliver these. This should inform the Proposed Plan.</p> | |

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| Transport assessment | A Transport Assessment report should aim to provide supporting evidence to accompany the planning application to demonstrate that the development is sited in a location where current and likely future travel behaviour will produce a desired and predicted transport output. The Transport Assessment should provide information in a suitable form to enable the local authority and, if necessary, Transport Scotland to assess and determine the planning application, seek any changes to the proposal and devise necessary planning conditions or negotiate planning or other legal agreements. |
| Travel plan | A Travel Plan (TP) is a document that sets out a package of positive and complementary measures for the overall delivery of more sustainable travel patterns for a specific development. Their ability and success in influencing travel patterns is dependent upon the commitment of the developer or occupier of a development and the enforcement of travel plan monitoring by the local authority. Travel plans should be implemented to encourage a shift in transport mode for those travelling to and from a development. |
| Unused or under-used land | An area of land that is stalled awaiting development, or a pocket of land within neighbourhood that is not developed or cannot be developed for other meaningful use or does not have particular identified long-term use. |
| Vacant land | Previously developed land, without physical constraint, which the Planning Authority has indicated is currently available for redevelopment. |
| Veteran tree | A veteran tree can be classified as such due to age (including relative age for its species) or for its biological, aesthetic, or cultural interest. Veteran trees are usually mature and provide additional habitat from natural damage, environmental conditions or management (e.g. coppice, decay hollows, fungal fruiting bodies, cavities). |
| Water compatible uses | <p>Comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flood control infrastructure - environmental monitoring stations - water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sand and gravel workings - docks, marinas and wharves - navigation facilities - Ministry of Defence (MOD) defence installations - ship building, repairing, and dismantling - dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location - water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation) - lifeguard and coastguard stations - amenity open space - nature conservation and biodiversity - outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms - essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific operational warning and evacuation plan. |

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| Wellbeing economy | Building an economy that is inclusive and that promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience, where businesses can thrive and innovate, and that supports all of our communities across Scotland to access opportunities that deliver local growth and wellbeing. |
| Wheeling | Travelling by wheelchair. |
| Woodland | Land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20%, or having the potential to achieve this, including integral open space, and including felled areas that are awaiting restocking (replanting). The minimum area is 0.1 ha and there is no minimum height. |
| World heritage sites | World Heritage Sites are internationally important cultural and/or natural heritage sites which have been inscribed for their “Outstanding Universal Value”. Though no additional statutory controls result from world heritage designation, the impact of proposed development upon the outstanding universal value, including its authenticity and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its setting, is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Their assessment and designation is carried out by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) based on advice from State Parties and the relevant devolved Government. |

Annex G – Acronyms

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| BARR | Buildings at Risk Register |
| BECCS | Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage |
| CCS | Carbon Capture and Storage |
| CCUS | Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage |
| CDR | Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies |
| CO ₂ | Carbon Dioxide |
| CoRE | Community Renewable Energy |
| CPP | Community Planning Partnership |
| CWB | Community Wealth Building |
| DACCS | Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EU | European Union |
| GGRs | Greenhouse Gas Removals |
| HNZ | Heat Network Zones |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Appraisal |
| HS2 | High Speed 2 |
| IGTZ | Industrial Green Transition Zones |
| IIP | Infrastructure Investment Plan |
| kv | Kilovolts |
| LDPs | Local Development Plans |
| LHEES | Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy |
| LHLR | Local Housing Land Requirement |
| LOIP | Local Outcomes Improvement Plan |
| LPPs | Local Place Plans |
| MATHLR | Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement |
| MOD | Ministry of Defence |
| NETs | Negative Emissions Technologies |
| NPF | National Planning Framework |
| NPF4 | National Planning Framework 4 |
| ORIC | Orkney Research and Innovation Campus |
| ORION | Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks |
| PNCP | Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership |
| RSS | Regional Spatial Strategies |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency |
| TP | Travel Plan |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |



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**7. DECISION NOTICE DATED 29 JANUARY 2024
ISSUED BY HEAD OF REGENERATION &
PLANNING**

DECISION NOTICE

Refusal of Planning Permission

Issued under Delegated Powers

Regeneration and Planning
Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock PA15 1LY

Planning Ref: 23/0184/IC

Online Ref: 100639016-001

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Mr Iain Hepburn
22 Rosemount Place
GOUROCK
PA19 1HQ

With reference to your application dated 24th August 2023 for planning permission under the above-mentioned Acts and Regulations for the following development:

Proposed extension comprising one-and-a-half storey rear extension with north facing dormer window and single storey side extension on north side topped with roof terrace at

22 Rosemount Place, Gourock.

Category of Application: Local Application Development

The INVERCLYDE COUNCIL in exercise of their powers under the abovementioned Acts and Regulations hereby refuse planning permission for the said development.

The reasons for the Council's decision are:

1. The proposed development, particularly the single storey flat roofed extension with roof terrace located along the north side of the dwellinghouse, will have a detrimental impact on the character of the dwellinghouse, specifically in terms of size, design and materials, contrary to Policy 16 of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).
2. The proposed development fails to have regard to the six qualities of successful places as required by Policy 14 of the National Planning Framework 4 and Policy 1 of both the adopted 2019 Inverclyde Local Development Plan and the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan, specifically as due to the size of the extension and close proximity of the extension and roof terrace to Rosemount Place, it fails to reflect the urban form of the area, as required under the quality of being "Distinctive".
3. The scale, design and use of materials proposed would result in an unexpected and uncharacteristic finish on the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse which would negatively impact on the character and appearance of the dwellinghouse and surrounding area, contrary to Policy 20 of the proposed 2021 Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

The reason why the Council made this decision is explained in the attached Report of Handling.

Dated this 29th day of January 2024

Mr Stuart W. Jamieson
Director Environment and Regeneration

- 1 If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the Planning Authority to refuse permission, or to grant permission subject to conditions, the applicant may seek a review of the decision by submitting a Notice of Review within three months beginning with the date of this notice. A Notice of Review shall be addressed to Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock, PA15 1LY
- 2 If permission to develop land is refused or granted subject to conditions, and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted, he may serve on the planning authority a purchase notice requiring the purchase of his interest in the land in accordance with Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Refused Plans: Can be viewed Online at <http://planning.inverclyde.gov.uk/Online/>

| Drawing No: | Version: | Dated: |
|----------------|----------|------------|
| 2023-BW-001/IH | | 02.08.2023 |
| 2023-BW-002/IH | | 02.08.2023 |
| 2023-BW-003/IH | Rev A | 20.11.2023 |
| 2023-BW-004/IH | Rev A | 20.11.2023 |
| 2023-BW-005/IH | Rev C | 13.01.2024 |

**8. NOTICE OF REVIEW FORM DATED 10 FEBRUARY
2024 TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT OF APPEAL**



The Scottish Government

Planning and Environmental Appeals Division

Planning and Environmental Appeals Division

Appeals cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted.

Thank you for completing this appeal form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100639016-006

The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning and Environmental Appeals Division will allocate an Appeal Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division about this appeal.

Appellant or Agent Details

Are you an appellant or an agent? * (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting on behalf of the applicant in connection with this appeal)

☒ Appellant ☐ Agent

Appellant Details

Please enter Appellant details

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Title: | <input type="text" value="Mr"/> | You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: * | |
| Other Title: | <input type="text"/> | Building Name: | <input type="text"/> |
| First Name: * | <input type="text" value="Iain"/> | Building Number: | <input type="text" value="22"/> |
| Last Name: * | <input type="text" value="Hepburn"/> | Address 1 (Street): * | <input type="text" value="Rosemount Place"/> |
| Company/Organisation | <input type="text"/> | Address 2: | <input type="text"/> |
| Telephone Number: * | <input type="text" value=""/> | Town/City: * | <input type="text" value="Gourock"/> |
| Extension Number: | <input type="text"/> | Country: * | <input type="text" value="Scotland"/> |
| Mobile Number: | <input type="text" value=""/> | Postcode: * | <input type="text" value="PA19 1HQ"/> |
| Fax Number: | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Email Address: * | <input type="text" value=""/> | | |

Site Address Details

Planning Authority:

Inverclyde Council

Full postal address of the site (including postcode where available):

Address 1:

22 ROSEMOUNT PLACE

Address 2:

Address 3:

Address 4:

Address 5:

Town/City/Settlement:

GOUROCK

Post Code:

PA19 1HQ

Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites

Northing

676581

Easting

222548

Description of Proposal

Please provide a description of your proposal. The description should be the same as given in the application form, or as amended (with the agreement of the planning authority): *
(Max 500 characters)

Proposed extension comprising one-and-a-half storey rear extension with north facing dormer window and single storey side extension on north side topped with roof terrace

Type of Application

What type of application did you submit to the planning authority? *

- ☒ Application for Planning Permission (including householder application – excluding application to work minerals).
- ☐ Application for Certificate of Lawfulness.
- ☐ Application for Listed Building Consent.
- ☐ Application for Conservation Area Consent.
- ☐ Application for Advertisement Consent.
- ☐ Application for Prior Approval.
- ☐ Application for Tree Works Consent.
- ☐ Application for Certificate of Appropriate Alternative Development.
- ☐ Application for Planning Permission to work minerals.

What type of planning application was submitted to the planning authority? *

- ☒ Application for Planning Permission.
- ☐ Application for Planning Permission in principle.
- ☐ A Further Application (including renewal of planning permission, modification, variation or removal of a planning condition etc).
- ☐ Approval of matters specified in conditions.

What type of decision did you receive from the planning authority and are now appealing against? *

- ☒ Refusal Notice.
- ☐ Grant of permission with Conditions imposed.
- ☐ No decision – deemed refusal (NB: This does not apply to Prior Approvals).

Statement of Appeal

You must state in full, why you are appealing against the planning authority's decision (or failure to make a decision). Your statement must set out all matters you consider required to be taken into account in determining your appeal: * (Max 500 characters)

Note: you might not have a further opportunity to add to your statement of appeal at a later date, so it is essential that you produce all of the information you want the decision-maker to take into account.

You will though be entitled to comment on (i) any additional matter which may be raised by the planning authority in its response to your appeal, or (ii) any representations the Scottish Government might receive from any other person or body.

Planning Refusal refers to 3no reasons for the Councils refusal. Reason 1-"will have a detrimental impact on the character of the dwellinghouse, specifically in terms of size, design and materials" Reason 3-"materials proposed would result in an unexpected and uncharacteristic finish on the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse which would negatively impact on the character and appearance of the dwellinghouse and surrounding area" To me reasons 1 & 3 are exactly the same?

Have you raised any matters which were not before the planning authority at the time the decision
You are appealing against was made? *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Please provide a list of all documents, materials and evidence which you have provided with your appeal and intend to rely on in support of your appeal, ensuring that all documents are clearly numbered: * (Max 500 characters)

Reasons for Appeal 2023-PL-001 IH 2023-PL-002-IH 2023-PL-003-IH Rev A 2023-PL-004 IH Rev A 2023-PL-005 IH Rev C

Are you providing a separate statement of your Grounds of Appeal? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes then please be prepared to upload this when you reach the end of the form.

Application Details

Please provide details of the application and decision.

What is the application reference number? *

23/0184/IC

What date was the application submitted to the planning authority? *

28/08/2023

What date was the decision or certificate issued by the planning authority? *

29/01/2024

Appeals Procedure

The person appointed to determine your appeal will decide upon the procedure to be used. However you should indicate what procedure you think is the most appropriate for the handling of the appeal.

Can this appeal continue to a conclusion in your opinion, based on a review of the relevant information provided by yourself and other parties without any further procedures? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

In the event that the Scottish Government Reporter appointed to consider your appeal decides to inspect the appeal site, in your opinion:

Can the site be clearly seen from a road or public land? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is it possible for the site to be accessed safely and without barriers to entry? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

If there are reasons why you think the Reporter would be unable to access and view the appeal site alone, please explain here. (Max 500 characters)

Other Appeals Submitted Details

Have you or anyone else made any other related appeals to Scottish Ministers regarding this building and/or Site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Checklist – Appeal Against Planning Authority Decision Or Failure of Planning Authority To Give Decision

Please complete the following checklist to make sure you have provided all the necessary information in support of your appeal. Failure to submit all this information may result in your appeal being deemed invalid. The Planning and Environmental Appeals Division cannot start processing your appeal until it is valid.

Are you submitting a supplementary statement with your grounds of appeal? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

If the appeal concerns approval of matters specified in conditions, or a Further Application to vary conditions – please attach a copy of the application, approved plans and decision notice from that earlier consent. *

☐ Submitted ☒ Not Applicable

Copy of Plans/Drawing *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Copy of planning authority decision notice (if no decision then this is deemed as a refusal). *

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ No decision

A copy of original application form and if applicable include certificates relating to land ownership. *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Other documents, materials and evidence which you intend to rely on. *

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Report of Handling prepared by the planning authority in respect of your application, where one exists. *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Declare – Appeals against Refusals and other decisions

I/We the applicant/agent certify that this is an appeal to Scottish Ministers on the grounds stated.

Declaration Name: Mr Iain Hepburn

Declaration Date: 10/02/2024

The online submissions portal limited my "reasons for appeal to Planning Refusal" to max 500 characters and therefore I am attaching an expansion to this (possibly something for the planning department to rectify)

Planning Refusal refers to 3no reasons for the Councils refusal.

Reason 1-"will have a detrimental impact on the character of the dwellinghouse, specifically in terms of size, design and materials"

Reason 3-"materials proposed would result in an unexpected and uncharacteristic finish on the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse which would negatively impact on the character and appearance of the dwellinghouse and surrounding area"

To me reasons 1 & 3 are exactly the same?

To the contrary we have deliberately tried to match the design and materials to the existing property as much as reasonably practical.

Our choice of textured red brick was chosen to match existing base course and feature vertical coursing, choice of off-white render to match existing render, choice of feature cladding panels to match original feature cladding panels, windows in white to match existing windows?

I am at a loss as to how the Planning Department can place comment that the materials chosen will "result in an unexpected and uncharacteristic finish" The finish has been meticulously considered to tie in with the existing building? Unlike many surrounding extensions which boast uncharacteristic features to original properties?

We feel that the existing house being at the end of Rosemount Place and cannot even be seen from adjacent Carnoustie Avenue does not place it in a prominent location and therefore would have very low impact on the surrounding area in general.

These are the reasons for our appeal and we feel that they are justified and considerable.

**9. SUGGESTED CONDITIONS AND ADVISORY NOTES
SHOULD PLANNING PERMISSION BE GRANTED
ON REVIEW**

23/0184/IC - Review - Suggested Conditions

Should planning permission be granted on review the following conditions and advisory note are suggested.

Conditions

1. The development to which this permission relates must be begun within 3 years from the date of this permission.
2. The two additional off-street parking spaces shown on drawing number 2023-BW-005/IH, Revision C shall be formed prior to the extension hereby permitted being brought into use and shall thereafter be retained within the curtilage of the site at all times.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, the additional off-street parking spaces shown on drawing number 2023-BW-005/IH, Revision C shall be fully paved and shall have gradients that are no greater than 10%.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, all surface water run-off from the development hereby permitted shall be contained and managed to a permeable or porous area within the site.

Reasons

1. To comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).
2. To ensure that adequate levels of parking are provided.
3. To prevent loose material from being carried onto the adjoining public footway and ensure the driveway can be safely used.
4. To limit surface water run-off onto Rosemount Place and ensure the development does not increase the risk of flooding to neighbouring properties.

Advisory Note

We would also recommend the following advisory notes be placed on any consent, if granted upon review:

Scottish Water

- i. Asset Impact Assessment
 - Scottish Water records indicate that there is live infrastructure in the proximity of your development area that may impact on existing Scottish Water assets.
 - The applicant must identify any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets and contact our Asset Impact Team via our Customer Portal for an appraisal of the proposals.
 - The applicant should be aware that any conflict with assets identified will be subject to restrictions on proximity of construction.
- ii. Surface Water
 - For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.

- There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical and technical challenges.
- In order to avoid costs and delays where a surface water discharge to our combined sewer systems is anticipated, the developer should contact Scottish Water at the earliest opportunity with strong evidence to support the intended drainage plan prior to making a connection request. We will assess this evidence in a robust manner and provide a decision that reflects the best option from environmental and customer perspectives.

The background of the cover is a photograph of a large, white, modern sculpture made of thick concrete beams, set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The sculpture consists of a tall vertical column with several horizontal beams intersecting it at different heights. In the foreground, there are more concrete blocks and beams, some of which are part of the same structure. The overall design is minimalist and architectural.

Inverclyde
council

**LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN**

PROPOSED PLAN
MAY 2021

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSED PLAN

The Proposed Local Development Plan represents the settled view of Inverclyde Council as to what the content of the Adopted Local Development Plan should be. However, publication of the Proposed Plan allows for those with an interest in the Plan to make representations setting out modifications they would like to be made to it. Representations of support for the Proposed Plan can also be submitted.

An official representation form is available as an electronic document (Word and PDF). The form is available online and paper copies can be provided on request. An e-form is also available online.

Representations should make clear what modification is being sought and the reasons for the suggested modification. Where possible please use a chapter, paragraph, schedule or site reference. Respondents are encouraged to limit their representation on any one issue to no more than 2,000 words plus limited supporting productions. Separate response forms should be used for each different issue a response is being made in respect of.

Representations can be submitted by:

- e-mail to ldp@inverclyde.gov.uk with the subject heading 'Proposed Local Development Plan 2021'
- completing the e-form available at <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/newldp>
- writing to
Planning Policy,
Regeneration & Planning,
Municipal Buildings,
Clyde Square,
Greenock,
PA15 1LY

The period for submitting representations runs **until 9 July 2021**.

Please contact the Planning Policy team with any queries you have in respect of the Proposed Local Development Plan:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Ash Hamilton | 01475 712463 | ashley.hamilton@inverclyde.gov.uk |
| Margaret Pickett | 01475 712493 | margaret.pickett@inverclyde.gov.uk |
| Alan Williamson | 01475 712491 | alan.williamson@inverclyde.gov.uk |

FOREWORD

Welcome to the Inverclyde Local Development Plan.

The aim of the Plan is to deliver an Inverclyde that is an attractive and inclusive place to live, work, study, visit, and invest. It does this through encouraging investment and new development, which is sustainably designed and located and contributes to the creation of successful places.

The Council and its community planning partners in the Inverclyde Alliance have established, through the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan, four priorities for making Inverclyde a successful place. These are: population; the local economy; inequalities; and environment, culture and heritage.

To address population and the local economy, the Outcomes Improvement Plan recognises employment and housing opportunities as crucial. The Local Development Plan responds by identifying land for over 5,700 new houses and over 30 hectares of land for new industrial and business development. Population stability, and growth in the longer term, will also be driven by enhancing the image of Inverclyde and the Plan includes proposals for our larger regeneration sites, which we refer to as Priority Places; policies to support our town and local centres; and sets a requirement for all new development to contribute towards creating successful places.

In response to the environment, culture and heritage priority, the Plan continues to protect our historic buildings and places, and our network of natural and open spaces and habitats. These include the Inner Clyde and Renfrewshire Heights Special Protection Areas, 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 57 Local Nature Conservation Sites, 8 Conservation Areas, 247 Listed Buildings, 31 Scheduled Monuments and 3 Gardens and Designed Landscapes. In addition to designated sites, there is a range of non-designated historic assets and areas of historic and natural value, including non-listed buildings of historic/architectural interest and the green and blue network. Collectively, these natural and historic assets demonstrate the natural and cultural richness and diversity of Inverclyde.

Through addressing the above priorities, the Local Development Plan will also contribute to addressing inequalities.

The Plan also seeks to ensure that Inverclyde is a more sustainable place and contributes towards the national net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target. It supports low carbon infrastructure and directs development to sustainable locations which reduce the need for car travel. It also seeks to build climate resilience into our environment to enable communities and wildlife to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

COVID-19

The Plan has been prepared at a time when Inverclyde is still being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had an impact on the social, health and economic life of the area, both through the impact of the virus itself and the interventions to deal with it, such as lockdowns, a shift to home working and a greater focus on local living.

Whilst this Plan will play a supporting role in Inverclyde's recovery from the pandemic, it has been prepared at a time when the long-term implications are unclear, and when flexibility to react to changes may be required. Clydeplan, the Strategic Development Planning Authority for the Glasgow City Region, has considered the implications of COVID-19 for the Glasgow City Region and spatial planning. These include:

- A greater focus on town centre regeneration, and innovative approaches to it, as the pandemic has accelerated existing trends such as reduced footfall and increasing vacancies and internet sales.
- Changing market demand for commercial property as more people work from home. This may have knock on effects for the vitality of current business locations and the provision of commercial land in the future.
- Increased demand for quality private garden space, home working space and rural living. This may have implications for the location, layout and design of residential development.
- Increased demand for services, leisure opportunities, open spaces and active travel routes within local areas.
- Changing transport and digital infrastructure demands due to changes in work and recreational patterns. This may impact current and future provision.
- A recognition that engaging with nature provides significant mental health and wellbeing benefits and that our green/open spaces, buildings and the urban environment generally should aim to deliver more in the way of opportunities for nature to thrive.

The Plan sets out a strategy and policy framework that seeks to support these potential implications, whilst still providing certainty for businesses and communities.

Thank you for your interest in the future development of Inverclyde and we look forward to working with you to make Inverclyde a successful place.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Inverclyde Local Development Plan sets out the Council's strategy, policies and proposals for the use of land and buildings within Inverclyde and, together with the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan, is the document the Council uses to shape development proposals and determine planning applications.

1.2 The overall aim of this Plan is to contribute towards Inverclyde being an attractive and inclusive place to live, work, study, visit and invest, now and in the future, particularly through encouraging investment and new development, which is sustainably designed and located, and contributes to the creation of successful places. This is underpinned by a Sustainable Development Strategy and a Spatial Development Strategy, the components of which are set out in **Figure 1**.

FIGURE 1: Inverclyde Local Development Plan Aims and Strategies



Structure of the Local Development Plan

1.3 The Local Development Plan comprises two main parts:

- **Written Statement** – this document sets out, in narrative form, the strategy and policies of the Plan and the reasoning behind the policies. Following the introduction, it is split into the two main strategy areas – Sustainable Development Strategy and Spatial Development Strategy – with each of these sub-divided into topic specific sections. Proposals for specific sites are listed in a series of schedules found throughout the Plan, with supporting information provided in tables and figures.
- **Proposals Maps** – this is an Ordnance Survey based map that illustrates the areas which the policies and proposals of the Plan apply to.

Accompanying and supporting documents

1.4 Supplementary Guidance – this will be prepared for the following topics and will provide further information or detail in respect of the Plan's policies:

- Affordable Housing in the Inverclyde Villages
- Design Guidance for Residential Development
- Developer Contributions
- Enabling Development
- Energy
- Trees
- Delivering Green Infrastructure Through New Development
- Planning Application Advice Notes
- Priority Places

1.5 As this Plan was prepared prior to the development planning provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 coming into effect, Supplementary Guidance forms part of the Development Plan. Non-statutory Planning Guidance may also be published by the Council, as required. Planning Guidance will not form part of the Development Plan, but will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

1.6 Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report – this assesses the environmental effects of the Plan's policies and proposals and, where necessary, identifies measures to mitigate any significant adverse effects and enhance positive effects, which will then inform site-specific development requirements at the planning application stage.

1.7 Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record – this assesses whether a Plan may have an impact on a European site, which is a collective term for nature conservation sites recognised at a European level. Inverclyde has two such areas - the Renfrewshire Heights Special Protection Area and the Inner Clyde Special Protection Area.

1.8 Equalities Impact and Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment – this assesses the impact of the Plan in terms of the Council's equality and Fairer Scotland duties.

1.9 Action Programme – this sets out the actions required to successfully deliver the Plan's strategy and proposals, identifying actions, the organisations responsible for delivering them, and the timescale for delivery. It is updated every two years.

1.10 Housing Land Technical Report 2021 – this sets out the housing land requirement that is to be provided for by the Plan with regard to the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan.



View from Coronation Park, Port Glasgow

INVERCLYDE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2.1 The Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan sets out the four priorities of Inverclyde's community planning partners - The Inverclyde Alliance. These are:

Priority 1: Population

Inverclyde's population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socio - economic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer term population growth.

Priority 2: The Local Economy

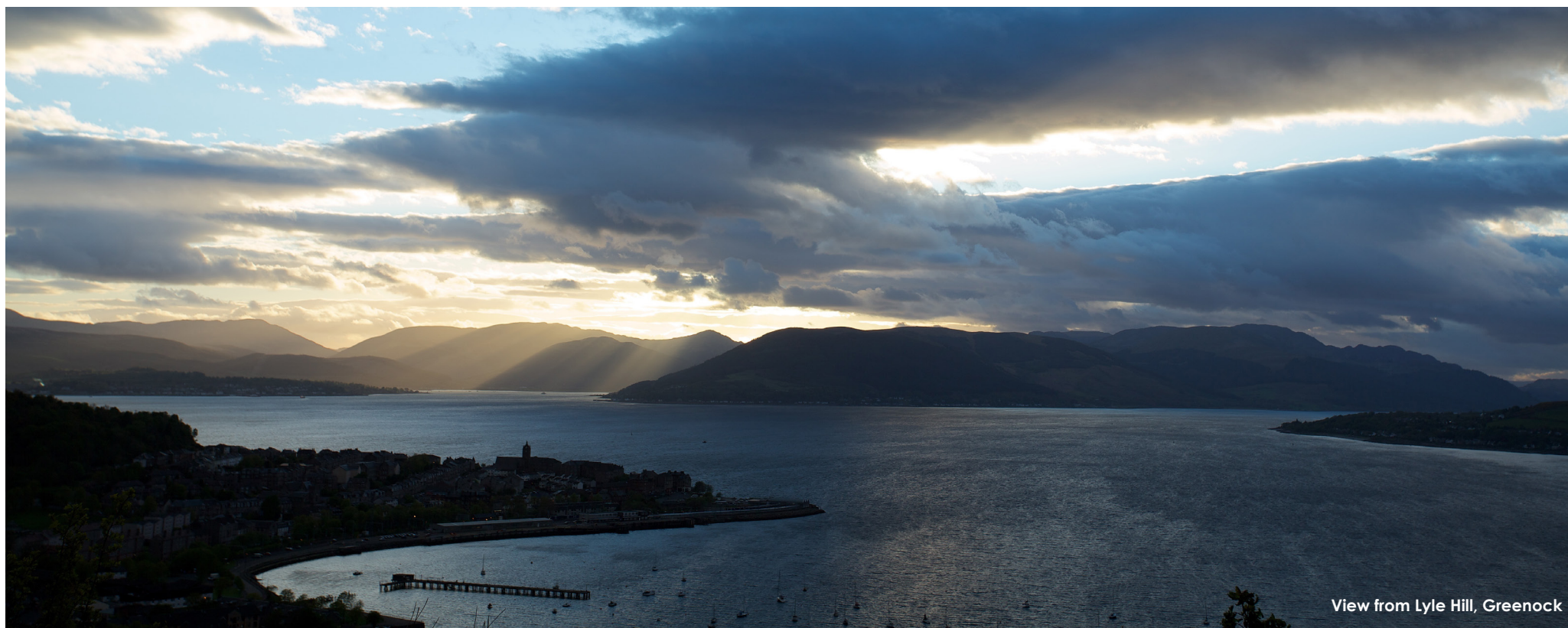
Inverclyde has a thriving and diverse local economy, economic activity is increased and skills development enables both those in work and those furthest from the labour market to realise their full potential.

Priority 3: Inequalities

There will be low levels of poverty and deprivation and the gap in income and health between the richest and poorest members of our communities will be reduced.

Priority 4: Environment, Culture and Heritage

Inverclyde's environment, culture and heritage will be protected and enhanced to create a better place for all Inverclyde residents and an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.



View from Lyle Hill, Greenock

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Introduction

3.1 Inverclyde has many distinctive and unique places. Examples include the Free French Memorial and Lyle Hill, which offer panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde; Quarriers Village, built in the 19th century as an orphans' village and filled with individually designed homes of that period; the A-listed Edwardian Wemyss Bay railway station; and the grid-pattern Greenock West End conservation area, which is contained to the north by the popular Greenock Esplanade. These, and other places, have stood the test of time and remain places where people want to live and visit.

3.2 The Council is keen to have more successful places in Inverclyde, and all new development will be expected to contribute to creating successful places. This is particularly important in relation to the Plan's Priority Projects and Priority Places, which reflect major Council investments and the larger scale regeneration opportunities in Inverclyde.

Creating Successful Places

3.3 The Council is keen that all development contributes to making Inverclyde a better place to live, work, study, visit and invest. To differing degrees, all scales and types of development have the potential to make an impact on the surrounding environment and community. It is important to the Council that this impact is a positive one. To this end, the Council will have regard to the six qualities of a successful place when considering all development proposals.

Distinctive

Resource Efficient

Safe and Pleasant

Adaptable

Easy to Move Around

Welcoming

3.4 **Figure 2** illustrates the factors that contribute to the six qualities of a successful place. Not all will be relevant to every development proposal and planning application, but where they are, the Council will expect development proposals to have taken account of them, and it will have regard to them in the assessment of planning applications.

3.5 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report, which accompanies the Plan, sets out mitigation and enhancement measures, which would make the environmental impact of development of the sites identified in the Plan more sustainable, thus contributing to the creation of successful places.

POLICY 1 - CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing and assessing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 2 and demonstrated in a design-led approach. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes and Design Guidance for New Residential Development Supplementary Guidance. When assessing proposals for the development opportunities identified by this Plan, regard will also be had to the mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report.

Looking over Greenock from Lyle Road



FIGURE 2: Factors Contributing to Successful Places



Priority Projects

3.6 Over the lifetime of this Plan, the Council expects to be a leading or major partner in priority projects that have land use implications. Collectively, these projects mark a major investment in the economy, infrastructure, housing and communities of Inverclyde. This Plan offers in-principle support to the delivery of these projects, which are detailed below.

Glasgow City-Region City Deal

3.7 Inverclyde is one of 8 local authorities participating in the Glasgow City-Region City Deal project. The City Deal aims to fund major infrastructure projects; create thousands of new jobs and assist thousands of unemployed people back to work; improve public transport and connectivity; drive business innovation and growth; and generate billions of pounds of private sector investment. In Inverclyde, this investment will focus on:

- **Greenock Ocean Terminal** - this project will expand the quayside and deliver a new visitor centre in order to increase capacity for cruise ship visits and freight handling. It is anticipated that it will enable 100 cruise ships to visit Inverclyde each year, bringing 150,000 visitors to central Scotland.
- **Inverkip Infrastructure** - this project addresses the restricted network and junction capacity on the A78 trunk road at four locations in and around Inverkip. The project will release investment and enable the development of a major 20 hectare brownfield site around the former Inverkip Power Station, creating potential for in excess of 600 houses and up to 6,000 square metres of community and commercial space.
- **Inchgreen, Greenock** - this project will redevelop a brownfield site and develop underutilised quay assets to offer a dedicated on-shore marine hub, complimentary to the marine activities at the Inchgreen dry dock.

Affordable Housing Supply Programme

3.8 The Council's housing association partners are delivering an ambitious programme of new quality affordable homes as part of the Scottish Government's More Homes Scotland programme.

Early Learning and Childcare

3.9 The Council is continuing to implement proposals to deliver the 1140 hour entitlement to early learning and childcare. The expansion has required substantial levels of investment in workforce and infrastructure to ensure that the required capacity is in place. This has involved the development of new and expanded early years' facilities in locations across Inverclyde.

Inverclyde Cemetery Capacity

3.10 The Council is currently investigating potential locations for the provision of additional cemetery capacity within Inverclyde, with the identification and development of capacity required during the lifetime of this Plan. Investigations are currently focused on options for expanding cemetery capacity at the existing Knocknairhill and Kilmacolm cemeteries.

Inverclyde Green Connections – Linking People and Place

3.11 The Council, in partnership with a number of other organisations and groups is developing an Inverclyde Green Connections programme, which aims to improve connections between neighbourhoods and deliver green network and placemaking improvements within the Greenock and Port Glasgow areas. The programme seeks to build on several projects set out in existing area renewal and green network strategies and the Active Travel Strategy.

POLICY 2 - PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Council will support, in principle, development proposals associated with the Priority Projects listed in Schedule 1

SCHEDULE 1: Inverclyde Local Development Plan Priority Projects

Glasgow City-Region City Deal

- Greenock Ocean Terminal
- Inverkip Infrastructure
- Inchgreen, Greenock

Affordable Housing Supply Programme

Early Learning and Childcare

Inverclyde Cemetery Capacity

Inverclyde Green Connections

Priority Places

3.12 This Plan identifies several larger scale development opportunities with the potential to have a transformational impact on their surrounding area, and in some cases Inverclyde as a whole. Owing to their size and complexity, these sites are long term development opportunities and have been designated as Priority Places due to the importance that the Council places on delivering development on the sites and its desire to see the creation of quality places. Schedule 3 lists the Priority Places and their preferred uses, and Policy 3 supports their comprehensive development, in line with the identified uses. Policy 3 is supported by Supplementary Guidance, which sets out the development frameworks for these sites.

POLICY 3 - PRIORITY PLACES

The Council will support redevelopment proposals for the Priority Places where these are in line with the preferred strategy set out in Schedule 2 and the development frameworks set out in the Priority Places Supplementary Guidance.

SCHEDULE 2 – Inverclyde Local Development Plan Priority Places

Priority Place

Preferred Strategy

The Harbours, Greenock

Mixed use development including housing, education, tourism and heritage, shops, food and drink, public house, financial and professional services, and marine-related business and industrial uses. Development proposals to comply with refreshed masterplan for the site.

James Watt Dock/Garvel Island, Greenock

Mixed use development including housing, business, assembly and leisure, hotel and hostels, residential institutions, non-residential institutions, marine-related business and industrial uses, and ancillary retail and food and drink. Development proposals to comply with refreshed masterplan for the site, which is to enhance support/protection for marine-related businesses.

Former Inverkip Power Station

Mixed use development including housing, community facilities, leisure, hotel, food and drink, public house, neighbourhood retail, financial and professional services, and business uses, and green infrastructure. Development proposals are to address the full site.

Peat Road/Hole Farm, Greenock

Housing with community facilities, neighbourhood retail, and green network enhancements. Whole site masterplan required.

Spango Valley, Greenock

Mixed use development including business, industrial, storage or distribution (collectively to form no less than 35% of developable area), housing (to form no more than 50% of developable area), residential institutions, non-residential institutions, neighbourhood retail, neighbourhood food and drink, appropriate leisure and recreation, green infrastructure, park and ride, and appropriate renewable energy uses.

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| | |
|---|---|
| | Development proposals are to address the full site, with the exception of former Greenock High School site which is identified for prison use. |
| Drumfrochar Road, Greenock | Housing and industrial development. |
| Port Glasgow Eastern Gateway | Mixed use development including housing, business and industrial uses, active travel improvements, public realm and green network enhancements. |
| Port Glasgow Industrial Estate | Consolidation of industrial area, housing development and green network enhancement in line with comprehensive masterplan. |
| <i>Town centre uses (Schedule 6) are required to comply with the Network of Centres strategy (Policy 22).</i> | |

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 Since Inverclyde Council signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in 2007, in the period to 2020 it has made a 25.25% reduction in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by its buildings and operations. Local residents, businesses and organisations have also made efforts to reduce carbon emissions through, for instance, installing insulation and solar panels and by being more energy efficient.

4.2 In April 2019, the Scottish Government declared a 'climate emergency'. In response to this, and building on progress made so far, the Scottish Government has set an ambitious target to achieve 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions including:

- 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 from a 1990 baseline
- net-zero emissions by 2045 from a 1990 baseline
- at least 50% of building stock to be heated using zero emissions system by 2030
- renewable energy generation to account for the equivalent of 50% of its energy demand by 2030

4.3 These targets require the Council to continue, through its own actions

and its planning policy agenda, to pursue the further reduction of greenhouse gases. The Plan seeks to help achieve this through delivering sustainable development in sustainable locations, supporting the generation of heat and electricity from sustainable sources, sustainable waste management and promoting sustainable travel.

4.4 Flooding is predicted to be the most likely impact of climate change on Inverclyde. Although the area has a history of flooding, climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and intensity, owing to sea level rises and more severe weather events.

Supplying Energy

4.5 In 2018, 62.5% of greenhouse gas emissions in Inverclyde were estimated to be associated with the generation of heat and electricity. Encouraging generation from low-carbon and renewable sources can have a significant impact on meeting carbon reduction targets. Consequently, the Council supports, in principle, heat and electricity infrastructure that will help reduce greenhouse gases, subject to consideration of the impact of the proposed development.

4.6 Wind turbines are a means of generating electricity from a renewable resource. The Council's Supplementary Guidance on Energy sets out a spatial framework and other criteria to guide and assess proposals for wind turbines and wind farms, as well as guidance for other renewable energy technologies.



POLICY 4 - SUPPLYING ENERGY

Proposals for infrastructure for the generation, storage or distribution of heat and electricity will be supported in principle where they contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas production. Proposals will be assessed with regard to impact, including cumulative impact on:

- a) the resources protected by the Plan's historic buildings and places and natural and open spaces chapters;
- b) the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses;
- c) tourism and recreational resources;
- d) air quality;
- e) aviation and defence interests;
- f) telecommunication and broadcasting interests; and
- g) traffic and pedestrian safety

Where relevant, proposals are to be accompanied with restoration plans acceptable to the Council.

Relevant proposals are required to accord with the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Energy.

Heat Networks

4.7 Heat networks offer the opportunity for a more efficient and sustainable means of generating and delivering heat by removing the generation of heat from within individual properties to a communal facility. Heat networks, which are also referred to as district heating, are part of the step-change required towards a more sustainable future and less reliance on gas, and other carbon fuels, as a heat source.

POLICY 5 - HEAT NETWORKS

Major Developments will be required to meet heat demand through a district heating network or other low-carbon alternative, unless the application is accompanied by an energy statement clearly demonstrating that this is not feasible. All proposed developments located adjacent to significant heat sources or proposed/existing heat networks should be designed in such a way as to be capable of connecting to a heat network from that source and any land required for heat network infrastructure should be protected.

Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technology

4.8 The Plan is obliged by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to include a policy requiring all new buildings to avoid greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of low and zero carbon generating technologies.

POLICY 6 - LOW AND ZERO CARBON GENERATING TECHNOLOGY

Support will be given to all new buildings designed to ensure that at least 20% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. This percentage will increase to at least 25% by the end of 2025. Other solutions will be considered where:

- a) it can be demonstrated that there are significant technical constraints to using on-site low and zero-carbon generating technologies; and
- b) there is likely to be an adverse impact on the historic or natural environment.

* This requirement will not apply to those exceptions set out in Standard 6.1 of the 2017 Domestic and Non-Domestic Technical Handbooks associated with the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004, or to equivalent exceptions set out in later versions of the handbook.

Waste Reduction and Management

4.9 Inverclyde is well served in terms of waste services, particularly recycling. Kerbside recycling services are available to most households, and there are 36 neighbourhood recycling points and 2 larger recycling centres at Pottery Street, Greenock and Kirn Drive, Gourock.

4.10 The Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan sets out a hierarchy for managing waste, in the order of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery, along with a number of targets, including that for all waste by 2025 70% will be recycled and a maximum of 5% will be landfilled. In 2019/20, Inverclyde recycled 54% of household waste.

4.11 No major planning applications for waste management infrastructure are anticipated over the lifetime of this Plan. Proposals for smaller and local facilities, which contribute to waste reduction and management, will be supported in principle, subject to consideration of their impacts and acceptable

site restoration, where applicable. Sustainable management of waste is also promoted by making the separation, storage and collection of waste as easy as possible and encouraging opportunities for integrating efficient energy and waste innovations within business environments.

POLICY 7 - WASTE REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

Proposals for waste management facilities will be supported where they:

- a) support the national Zero Waste Plan and promote the waste hierarchy;
- b) enable the management of waste closer to where it arises;
- c) avoid significant adverse impact on the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses and the road network; and
- d) avoid significant adverse impact on the resources protected by the Plan's historic buildings and places and natural and open spaces chapters.

Where necessary, proposals should demonstrate how any site affected by the proposal will be fully restored through an appropriate aftercare programme and a financial guarantee to ensure its implementation.

Where applicable, the design and layout of new development must enable the separation, storage and collection of waste in a manner that promotes the waste hierarchy. Opportunities for integrating efficient energy and waste innovations within business environments will be encouraged.

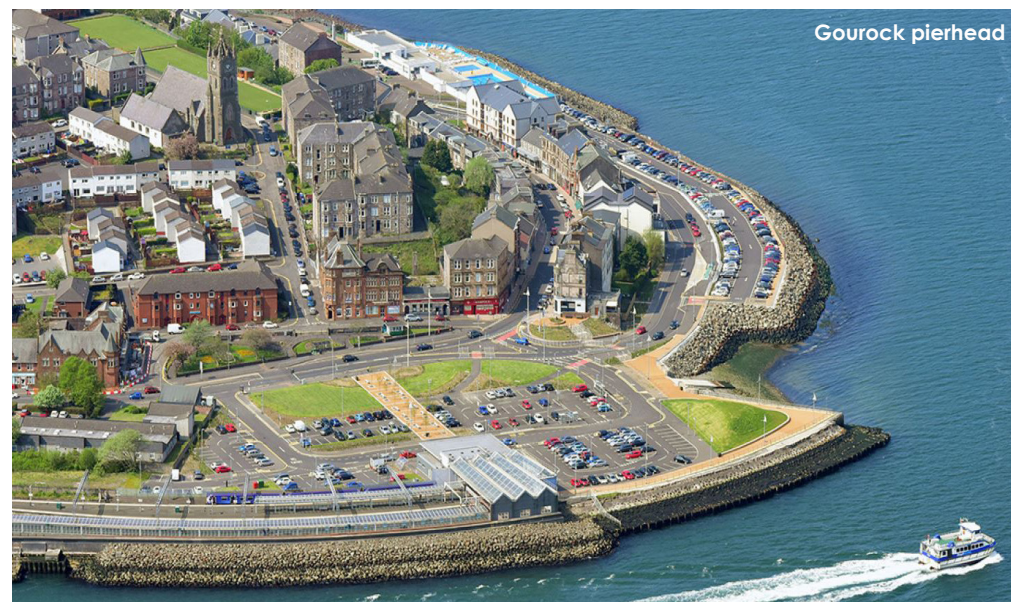
Climate Change Adaptation

4.12 Climate change is a key issue for all levels of government. There is clear evidence of global temperature rises with the impacts of this for Scotland predicted to be increases in temperatures, including extreme heat, rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Inverclyde as a coastal authority with a steep sloping hinterland is particularly vulnerable to the impact of these changes. Flooding could have a severe negative impact on buildings, infrastructure and the landscape, while extreme weather events could affect energy, water, transport and communication networks, natural habitats and wildlife, and have implications for the delivery of Council services and social

and economic well-being.

4.13 While mitigation measures such as the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency can, and have stabilised and reduced levels of greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland, climate change adaptation is required to prepare for the negative effects of climate change and be in a position to take advantage of any opportunities.

4.14 Inverclyde Council's Climate Change Plan (2018) sets the objectives examining the likely impacts of climate change on the Council's operations and the Inverclyde area, and the consideration of climate change adaptation projects and initiatives in addition to flooding related projects already planned. In support of this, and as an escalation of commitment to adapting to climate change, the Council is a member of Climate Ready Clyde, a cross-sector initiative which brings partners together to work strategically to minimise risks from climate change and take advantage of the opportunities climate change creates in the Glasgow City Region. Climate Ready Clyde has developed an Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for Glasgow City Region.



4.15 Whilst there is a major task involved in adapting existing infrastructure, buildings and spaces for climate change, it is important that new development is already adapted, or adaptable for climate change. Addressing adaptation at the outset of a development project is easier and more economical than retrofitting solutions. To initiate this process, the Council will begin to seek climate risk and vulnerability assessments to be submitted with relevant proposals (initially for Major Development proposals). Information on what proposals this will be applicable to and the required content of the assessment will be set out in planning guidance.

POLICY 8 - CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Where required by planning guidance, Major Developments are to be accompanied by a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

Managing Flood Risk

4.16 Flooding can affect local communities by damaging properties, disrupting transport networks and putting public safety at risk. Inverclyde's waterfront location makes the area susceptible to coastal flooding, whilst the topography means that surface water flowing down the hillsides can combine with local burns to cause flooding events. During high tides or in stormy conditions, river and surface water flooding can also combine with coastal flooding to increase the impacts of flooding events.

4.17 With climate change predicted to raise sea levels and increase the frequency of heavy rain and extreme weather events, it is likely that the risk of river, coastal and surface water flooding will increase.

4.18 The Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District for 2016-2022 sets out the schemes required in Inverclyde to reduce and manage flood risk. It includes schemes on Coves Burn in Gourrock, Bouverie Burn in Port Glasgow, Cartsburn in Greenock, Gotter Water in Quarrier's Village and Glen Mosston Burn in Kilmacolm, and other measures including the development of a surface water management plan and raising awareness of flood risk. These schemes will be completed by 2022 apart from Coves Burn that did not meet the cost benefit analysis. An integrated catchment study of areas in Inverclyde has been completed as part of the Plan. This highlights areas of flood risk and areas that will be prioritised in future Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

4.19 The Council's 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment – Planning Guidance for Developers', sets out when Flood Risk Assessments will be required and what issues they require to cover.

POLICY 9 - MANAGING FLOOD RISK

Development proposals will be assessed against the Flood Risk Framework set out in Scottish Planning Policy. Proposals must demonstrate that they will not:

- a) be at significant risk of flooding (i.e. within the 1 in 200 year design envelope);**
- b) increase the level of flood risk elsewhere; and**
- c) reduce the water conveyance and storage capacity of a functional flood plain.**

The Council will support, in principle, the flood risk management schemes set out in the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016, subject to assessment of the impacts on the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses, the resources protected by the Plans historic buildings and places and natural and open spaces chapters, and the transport network. Where practical and effective, nature-based solutions to flood management will be preferred.

Surface and Waste Water Drainage

4.20 Surface water is a significant cause of flooding in Inverclyde, and can also impact on water quality by carrying pollutants into local burns and rivers. For sustainability and to prevent sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not normally accept any surface water connections into its combined sewer system. Many new developments now require to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). These systems can also provide an opportunity for enhancing local biodiversity by creating ponds and wetlands, which slow water flow and filter out pollutants. It is also important that waste water (effluent) from new development is appropriately drained and treated in order to protect public health, amenity and environmental resources. In the majority of cases new development will be required to connect to the public sewer.

4.21 The Council's 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment – Planning Guidance for Developers', sets out when Drainage Impact Assessments will be required and the issues they require to cover.

POLICY 10 - SURFACE AND WASTE WATER DRAINAGE

New build development proposals which require surface water to be drained should demonstrate that this will be achieved during construction and once completed through a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), unless the proposal is for a single dwelling or the discharge is directly to coastal waters.

The provision of SuDS should be compliant with the principles set out in the SuDS Manual C753 and Sewers for Scotland 4th edition, or any successor documents.

Where waste water drainage is required, it must be demonstrated that the development can connect to the existing public sewerage system. Where a public connection is not feasible at present, a temporary waste water drainage system can be supported if:

- a) a public connection will be available in future, either through committed sewerage infrastructure or pro-rata developer contributions; and
- b) the design of, and maintenance arrangements for, the temporary system meet the requirements of SEPA, Scottish Water and Inverclyde Council, as appropriate.

Private sustainable sewerage systems within the countryside can be supported if it is demonstrated that they pose no amenity, health or environmental risks, either individually or cumulatively.

Developments including SuDS are required to have an acceptable maintenance plan in place, which identifies who will be responsible for maintenance and how this will be funded in the long term.



Fergusons shipyard and Gourrock Ropeworks, Port Glasgow

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

Introduction

5.1 Inverclyde has excellent transport connections with the A8 and A78 trunk roads running through the area, and it has two train lines with thirteen stations, all of which connect Inverclyde with the rest of the Glasgow City Region and beyond. A number of bus companies also operate across Inverclyde, while four ferry services provide connections to various locations in Argyll and Bute. Inverclyde is also connected by a comprehensive core path network and National Cycle Network routes NCN75 and NCN753, which provide active travel connections to Renfrewshire, Glasgow and Ayrshire.

5.2 Transport is critical to the prosperity and sustainability of our communities. Economic activity and growth relies on a transport network that enables people and goods to move efficiently around Inverclyde, Scotland and to international markets. Also important is the need to tackle climate change by cutting transport emissions, which requires an approach that reduces the need to travel by unsustainable modes such as the car and prioritises sustainable travel choices.

5.3 Planning can improve connectivity and promote sustainable travel by locating new development near active travel and public transport networks, thereby giving people the choice of walking, cycling or using public transport. It is also important to identify where additional transport infrastructure and services are needed to support new development and ensure that developers contribute toward its provision. Supporting new transport technologies, including the provision of charging points for electric vehicles, will also help reduce carbon emissions.

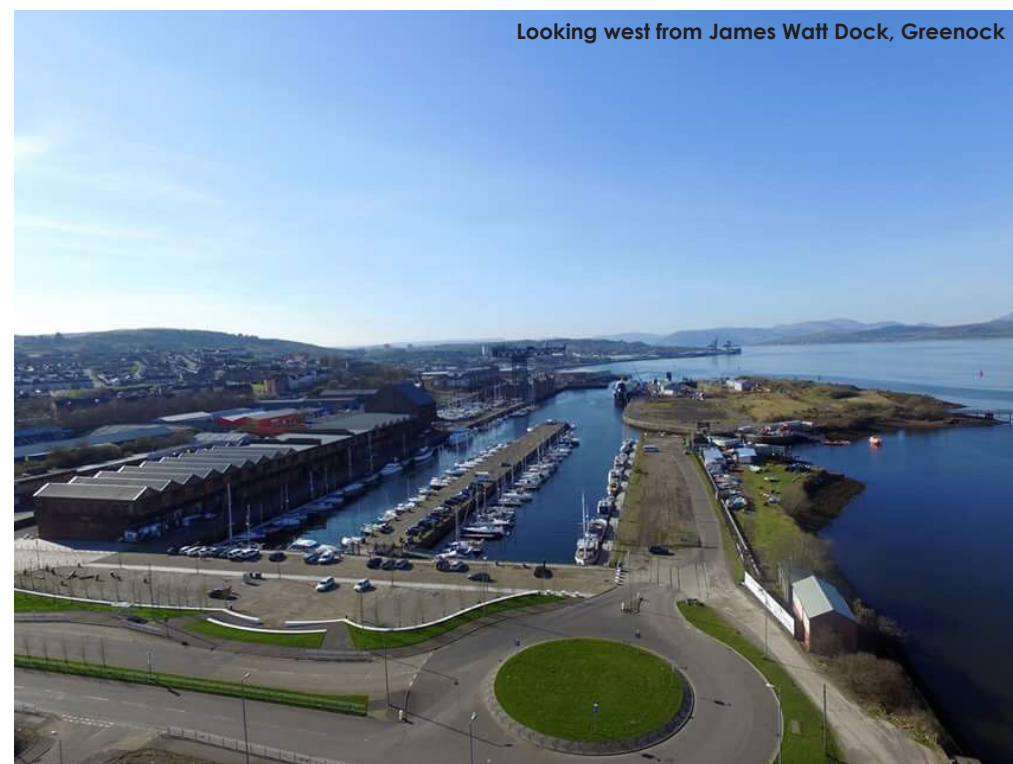
5.4 Good digital connectivity allows businesses to reach their markets, and people to keep in touch and work flexibly, wherever they are.

Promoting Sustainable and Active Travel

5.5 The Council aims to ensure that new housing, business and industry, retail, and other commercial and community development promotes the vision, priorities and outcomes set out within the National Transport Strategy (NTS2), including the sustainable travel hierarchy: walking, cycling, public transport and cars. It will seek to achieve this through a spatial strategy that directs the majority of development to sustainable locations and requires proposals, proportionate to their scale and proposed use, to make new development accessible by walking and cycling, both internally and, where practicable,

through links to the external path and footway network. For larger sites, where sufficient passenger numbers might be generated, the road network will be required to be accessible by public transport, although it is recognised that the provision of services will be a commercial decision for operators, with funding support occasionally available. The installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure is a requirement in new developments, as set out in the Energy Supplementary Guidance.

5.6 At the Main Issues Report stage, suggestions of improvements to transport infrastructure were received including the need for additional car parking in Kilmacolm village centre. Future developments of the transport network are to be investigated and included if required in the Local Transport Strategy. The Active Travel Strategy (2018) established preferred improvements to Inverclyde's active travel routes. These strategies will identify improvements to the transport network in order to make it more efficient and promote sustainable travel. Included projects will be supported in principle, subject to consideration and mitigation of the impact of the schemes on the development opportunities and places protected by this Plan.



POLICY 11 - PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Development proposals, proportionate to their scale and proposed use, are required to:

- a) provide safe and convenient opportunities for walking and cycling access within the site and, where practicable, links to the wider walking, cycling network and public transport network; and
- b) include electric vehicle charging infrastructure, having regard to the Energy Supplementary Guidance.

Proposals for development, which the Council considers will generate significant travel demand, are required to be accompanied by a travel plan demonstrating how travel to and from the site by means other than private car will be achieved and encouraged. Such development should also demonstrate that it can be accessed by public transport.

The Council will support the implementation of transport and active travel schemes as set out in national, regional and Council-approved strategies, subject to adequate mitigation of the impact of the scheme on: development opportunities; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; and the resources protected by the Plan's historic buildings and places and natural and open spaces chapters.

Managing the Impact of Development on the Transport Network

5.7 Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. In order to identify any potential capacity issues on the strategic road network (i.e. A8 & A78), the Council consulted Transport Scotland on the development opportunities identified in the Plan. Transport Scotland indicated that it is not considered there will be a significant cumulative impact on the trunk road network as a result of new development, but that the potential impact of individual proposals on the trunk road network may still require to be considered, and where appropriate, mitigated.

5.8 To ensure that the road network continues to operate efficiently, the Council has standards in place for road development and parking, which new development is expected to comply with. This may require additional improvements to the transport network outwith the actual development site.

Where this is the case, developers will be required to meet these costs.

POLICY 12 - MANAGING IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE TRANSPORT NETWORK

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards, including cycle parking standards. Developers are required to provide or financially contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.



Gourock Railway Station

Air quality

5.9 The Council carries out regular air quality monitoring at 17 sites across Inverclyde. As at 2021, Inverclyde does not have any Air Quality Management Areas. The Council is currently working with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) to reduce emissions from road traffic and support the development of projects that improve traffic management and accessibility.

5.10 Some developments can directly affect air quality or change travel patterns in such a way that air quality is affected. In these instances the Council will expect an Air Quality Assessment to be undertaken and mitigation measures to be implemented.

POLICY 13 - AIR QUALITY

Development that could have a detrimental impact on air quality, or would introduce a sensitive receptor to an area with poor air quality, will be required to be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment, which identifies the likely impacts and sets out how these will be mitigated to an acceptable level.

Communications Infrastructure

5.11 Inverclyde has good digital connectivity, with 4G mobile and superfast broadband coverage available across the majority of the area. This is of benefit to the economy and social networks and contributes towards it being an attractive place to live and invest.

POLICY 14 - COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council will support new digital communication infrastructure where it is sited to avoid adverse impact on: the streetscape; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; and the resources protected by the Plan's historic buildings and places, and natural and open spaces chapters.

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

OUR TOWNS, VILLAGES AND COUNTRYSIDE

Introduction

6.1 Inverclyde's mix of densely populated urban areas, coastal and rural villages, and isolated countryside over a relatively small area of 62 square miles is unique to the west of Scotland.

6.2 Greenock is the largest town with an estimated population of approximately 43,000 (2016). It is Inverclyde's main administrative centre, with the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership based in the town centre, along with West College Scotland's Greenock campus and is also the main retail and commercial centre. It has an active waterfront, with marine uses operating out of Inchgreen, James Watt Dock, the East India and Victoria Harbours, and a busy freight and cruise ship port at Greenock Ocean Terminal. Electronic and service companies operate from business locations around the town. Complementing the residential and business areas of Greenock are some of Inverclyde's most popular greenspaces such as Battery Park, Lyle Hill and Greenock Cemetery.

6.3 Port Glasgow is the second largest town with an estimated population of approximately 15,000 (2016). The central area has seen significant investment in recent years through the redevelopment of the former Scott Lithgow shipyard and the re-routing of the A8 trunk road, which together have enabled the development of modern format retail units as part of an extended town centre and the development of over 400 new houses in the former Kingston yard area. Ferguson Marine continues a proud history of shipbuilding in Port Glasgow, with Port Glasgow Industrial Estate and the Kelburn Business Park being the town's other main employment locations.

6.4 Gourock has an estimated population of approximately 10,000 (2016). The town centre has been remodelled to ease traffic and parking congestion on the traditional-style Kempock Street, which is home to a number of independent traders and draws in visitors from across Inverclyde and beyond. The town centre has also benefitted from investment in the train station and outdoor swimming pool. Gourock has two ferry terminals providing links to different locations in Argyll. Outwith the town centre, it is predominantly residential, with the Faulds Park area being the main employment location.

6.5 Inverkip has a traditional village centre based along Main Street with a new commercial and community centre built at its eastern extent. The village has an estimated population of approximately 3000 (2016) having expanded significantly since the 1980s as a result of the Swallow Brae and Hill Farm housing

developments. Kip Marina, which sits across the A78 from the main village, is a busy leisure marina, offering access to the Firth of Clyde sailing waters.

6.6 Wemyss Bay, with a population of around 2500 (2016), has one of Scotland's finest railway buildings, which serves as both the terminus for the Glasgow-Wemyss Bay railway line and the terminal for ferry services to the Isle of Bute. The village has a mix of traditional predominantly red sandstone buildings and more modern housing in the Castle Wemyss area. To the north of Wemyss Bay lies the site of the former Inverkip Power Station, now demolished.

6.7 Kilmacolm, which has a population of approximately 4000 (2016), is nestled in the countryside but within commuting distance of Inverclyde's towns and the Glasgow conurbation. Its Victorian centre is home to a variety of independent businesses and to Kilmacolm community centre and library, which provides modern facilities in carefully converted historic buildings. Kilmacolm is characterised by green wedges, such as Milton Wood, which bring the countryside into the heart of the village. St Columba's, an independent, non-denominational day school, is located within Kilmacolm.

6.8 Quarrier's Village was developed as an orphans' village in the 19th century and is still the headquarters of the Quarriers charity, although much of it is now in general residential use. The original 'Quarrier's Homes' are now part of a conservation area, while there has been some modern development, including around the former Bridge of Weir hospital, which sits to the east of the main village. Quarrier's Village has an estimated population of 700 (2016).

6.9 Inverclyde's countryside ranges from urban fringe land providing easy access to the countryside, through highly productive agricultural land to isolated and rarely disturbed moorland. It is dotted by reservoirs and lochs, and crisscrossed by burns and rivers. There is an extensive path network, and much of the Inverclyde countryside is part of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, making it an excellent recreational resource. Although mainly covering upland areas, the Park extends to the coast at Lunderston Bay, which is a popular beach area.

6.10 The Council's preferred location for new development is within the existing towns and villages, particularly where this re-uses previously developed land.

Green Belt and Countryside

6.11 The pattern of development within Inverclyde has been very much shaped by its geography, with a densely developed coastal strip giving way to a sparsely developed rural hinterland. This has been reinforced through the years by a planning strategy that has sought to contain development within the built up area and minimise development in the Green Belt and Countryside. The benefits of this strategy have been a focus on the regeneration and renewal of the urban areas, the placing of development into sustainable locations close to existing services and infrastructure, and the protection of our rural environment. This has been achieved through policies which direct development to existing towns and villages, and restrict development in the Green Belt and Countryside to appropriate types and locations. This approach is supported by national policy and Clydeplan and remains appropriate. Proposals for the development of small scale residential development (1-3 houses) will also be assessed against Policy 20.

POLICY 15 - GREEN BELT AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located, and landscaped, and is associated with:

- a) agriculture, horticulture, woodland or forestry;
- b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location;
- c) infrastructure with a specific locational need;
- d) the appropriate re-use of a redundant stone or brick building, the retention of which is desirable for its historic interest or architectural character, subject to that interest or character being retained; or
- e) intensification (including extensions and outbuildings) within the curtilage of an existing use, which is of an appropriate scale and form.

Proposals associated with the uses set out in criteria a)-c) must provide justification as to why the development is required at the proposed location. Proposals in the green belt must not undermine the objectives of the green belt as set out in Scottish Planning Policy and the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan. Non-conforming uses will only be considered favourably in exceptional or mitigating circumstances.

Soils

6.12 Inverclyde has a rich variety of soil types, ranging from prime/good quality agricultural land around Quarriers Village and Inverkip to carbon rich peatland on Duchal Moor. Soil is recognised as an important natural resource, with agricultural land important for food production and the rural economy. It also supports and influences a range of habitats, stores carbon, and helps prevent and reduce flooding by storing water.

POLICY 16 - SOILS

Development on prime agricultural land will only be supported if:

- a) it is on land allocated for development in this Local Development Plan or meets a need identified in the Strategic Development Plan;
- b) there is a specific locational need for the development;
- c) it is for small scale development directly linked to a rural business; or
- d) it is for renewable energy generation or mineral extraction, and the proposals include provision for the site to be returned to its former status.

Development should avoid the unnecessary disturbance of peat and carbon-rich soils. Best practice must be adopted in the movement, storage, management and reinstatement of peat and carbon-rich soils.

Where peat and carbon rich soils are present on an application site, a depth survey must be undertaken which demonstrates that areas of deep peat have been avoided as far as is possible. A peat management plan must also be produced, detailing mitigation measures which demonstrate that the unnecessary disturbance, degradation or erosion of peat will be avoided. It will also need to be demonstrated that adverse impacts on the soil resource during the construction and operational phases of a development will be minimised and the development will not result in a net increase in CO2 emissions over its lifetime.

Brownfield Land

6.13 Inverclyde has a significant supply of brownfield land within the urban area, including 155.27ha of vacant and derelict land, with 61% identified as vacant and 39% derelict. The vacant and derelict land supply, and the supply of brownfield land more broadly, is mainly comprised of former industrial sites and social housing sites that have been demolished as part of an ongoing renewal program, with a number of the larger sites being vacant or derelict for over 20 years.

6.14 In line with Scottish Planning Policy, the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and the Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan, the Local Development Plan prioritises brownfield redevelopment as it contributes to the regeneration of our local areas, improves environmental quality, is an efficient use of land, provides an opportunity to remediate contaminated sites, and is often located in close proximity to key infrastructure networks.

6.15 The Council is particularly keen to support brownfield redevelopment as recent research has shown that vacant and derelict land in particular has a significant negative effect on local communities, economic development and environmental quality. For example, proximity to vacant and derelict land can adversely affect people's physical and mental health and community wellbeing, with increased effects in areas of higher deprivation. It has also been shown that proximity to vacant and derelict land negatively impacts developer perceptions and confidence, which has knock on effects for economic development.

6.16 The Council actively encourages and will support appropriate temporary greening uses on brownfield land. A range of uses will be considered, including but not limited to biodiversity projects, growing spaces, community gardens and recreation resources. The Council will also support advanced structure planting to create a landscape framework for future development.

6.17 Inverclyde has a proud tradition of industrial activity, stretching from its heavy industrial past of shipbuilding to the more recent manufacturing of electronic equipment and components. Many of these industries developed at a time when environmental standards were not as stringent as they are now, and this has resulted in a number of sites across Inverclyde that are potentially contaminated. When a new use is proposed for a site it is essential that any contamination is treated to ensure that the new use can operate safely. Guidance on site investigations and remediation measures is contained in the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note 33 'Development of contaminated land'.

POLICY 17 - BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT

The Council offers in principle support for proposals to bring brownfield sites in the urban area into beneficial use.

Proposals for the temporary greening of brownfield sites will be supported where it is demonstrated that they will deliver a positive impact to the local environment and overall amenity of the area. For sites identified for development in this Plan, temporary greening projects should not prejudice the future development of the site.

Proposals for advanced structure planting to create a landscape framework for future development on sites identified in the Plan will be supported.

Development proposed on land that the Council considers to be potentially contaminated will only be supported where a survey has identified the nature and extent of any contamination present on site and set out a programme of remediation or mitigation measures that are acceptable to the Council and ensure that the site can be made suitable for the proposed use.



OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Introduction

7.1 Repopulation is a priority of the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan. Whilst the reasons for population changes are varied and complex, the availability of good quality housing in places where people want to live is a significant factor. Inverclyde offers a wide range of housing including Victorian villas, marina-side living, waterfront flats and historic building conversions. New build homes for owner occupation provide additional choice for existing and new residents, and housing associations continue to make significant investment in building new houses and investing in existing stock. Whilst there has been demolition of unpopular housing, areas of low-demand housing remain, which the Council and housing associations are continuing to address. The Council is committed to ensuring that the housing available within Inverclyde meets the needs of existing and new residents, and through this Plan will make sufficient land available to meet housing need and demand, and protect and improve the attractiveness of existing residential areas.

Land for Housing

7.2 The 2017 Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan establishes the housing supply target and housing land requirement for the Inverclyde area for the periods 2012 to 2024 and 2024 to 2029. The housing supply target is a policy view of the number of homes a planning authority has agreed will be delivered in housing market areas taking into account a range of factors. The housing land requirement, is based on the housing supply target, but enhanced by a generosity allowance (15%) to ensure that sufficient land is identified to enable the housing supply target to be delivered. A housing supply target and housing land requirement is set for different tenures (affordable and private housing) and market areas (Inverclyde and Renfrewshire, which includes part of Inverclyde), as well as the Council area as a whole. The Inverclyde housing market area for private housing sits wholly within the Inverclyde local authority area and contains the main urban area of Greenock, Port Glasgow and Gourock, as well as Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. The Renfrewshire housing sub market area for private housing contains Kilmacolm and Quarrier's Village, the Renfrewshire local authority area, and part of East Renfrewshire.

7.3 As the expected adoption date of this Plan is 2022 and Scottish Planning Policy states that local development plans should allocate land to meet the housing land requirement up to 10 years from the date of adoption, this plan also has to set the housing land requirement to 2032. For the 2029 to 2032 period, the plan sets a zero housing land requirement. This is owing to the generosity

and ambition of the housing land requirement to 2029 meaning that it is not considered necessary for this Plan to identify additional land for the 2029-2032 period. This position will be reviewed in future plans.

7.4 As there have already been housing completions between 2012, which is the base year of the housing land requirement, and 2019, which is the date of the most recent finalised housing land audit, Table 1 sets out the balance of the housing land requirement that remains to be met after these completions are taken into account. This is established for the Council area as a whole for affordable and private housing and for the different housing market areas for private sector housing (**Table 1**).

TABLE 1: Housing Land Requirement in Inverclyde

| | | Inverclyde Local Authority Area | | | Inverclyde Housing Market Area | Renfrewshire Housing Sub Market Area | Renfrewshire Housing Sub Market Area (Inverclyde part) |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | Affordable | Private | All Tenure | Private | Private | Private |
| A | Housing Land Requirement 2012-24 | 1,270 | 2,360 | 3,630 | 2,220 | 8,160 | 140 |
| B | Completions 2012-2019 | 441 | 604 | 1,045 | 601 | 3,872 | 3 |
| C | Balance of Housing Land Requirement 2019-2024 (A-B) | 829 | 1,756 | 2,585 | 1,629 | 4,288 | 137 |
| D | Housing Land Requirement 2024-2029 | 460 | 980 | 1,440 | 920 | 2,030 | 60 |
| E | Housing Land Requirement 2029-2032 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| F | Housing Land Requirement 2024-2029/32 (D+E) | 460 | 980 | 1,440 | 920 | 2,030 | 60 |

7.5 As well as providing land to meet the housing land requirement, the Council is required to maintain a five-year effective housing land supply at all times. This is calculated by a pro rata division of the Clydeplan Housing Land Requirement. Table 2 sets out the 5 year requirement for the 2021-2026 period.

TABLE 2: 5 year supply of effective housing land requirement

| | | Inverclyde Local Authority Area | | | Inverclyde Housing Market Area | Renfrewshire Housing Sub Market Area | Renfrewshire Housing Sub Market Area (Inverclyde part) |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | Affordable | Private | All Tenure | Private | Private | Private |
| G | Housing Land Requirement 2012-29 | 1,730 | 3,340 | 5,070 | 3,140 | 10,190 | 200 |
| H | Annual Housing Land Requirement (G/17) | 102 | 196 | 298 | 185 | 599 | 12 |
| J | 5 year requirement (H*5) | 509 | 982 | 1,491 | 924 | 2,997 | 59 |

7.6 Schedule 3 sets out the land identified for housing in this Plan. This is based on sites included in the 2019 Housing Land Audit and new allocations made by this Plan. The 2019 Housing Land Audit is the most recent finalised audit and forms the base year for the housing land calculations informing the preparation of this Plan. It has been updated to take account of actual completions in 2019/20, the projected completions set out in the 2021-2026 Strategic Housing Investment Plan, and comments submitted by Homes for Scotland at the Main issues Report stage. The Housing Land Technical Report 2021 provides detail of the land allocated for housing.

7.7 The Council is required to maintain a 5-year effective land supply at all times, and will monitor its land supply through an annual housing land audit to ensure it is doing so. If additional housing land is required, Policy 18 sets out the criteria against which proposals will be assessed.

7.8 The Council supports, in principle, the development of housing on the sites identified in Schedule 3, subject to assessment against relevant Supplementary Guidance and other policies of the Plan. Housing development on other appropriate sites within the residential areas and town and local centres will also be supported, subject to the same assessment. All housing development will be assessed against Supplementary Guidance on Design Guidance for New Residential Development, Planning Application Advice Notes, and Delivering Green Infrastructure through New Development.

7.9 Owing to the land identified and being delivered for affordable housing in Inverclyde, it has been concluded there is no longer a need for the Local Development Plan to have a policy seeking a contribution of affordable housing from private housing development sites across the whole of Inverclyde, as owing to More Homes Scotland funding and the quantity of land available to housing associations, affordable housing requirements can be met without contribution from private sector sites. However, it is recognised that within the Inverclyde villages (Kilmacolm, Quarrier's Village, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay) there is limited supply of affordable housing available and no land identified for affordable housing development. Therefore, in order to increase the supply of affordable housing, there will be a requirement for 25% of houses on greenfield housing sites in the Inverclyde villages to be affordable.

POLICY 18 - LAND FOR HOUSING

To enable delivery of the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan housing supply target for Inverclyde, new housing development will be supported on the sites identified in Schedule 3, and on other appropriate sites within residential areas and town and local centres. All proposals for residential development will be assessed against relevant Supplementary Guidance including Design Guidance for Residential Development, Planning Application Advice Notes, and Delivering Green Infrastructure Through New Development.

The Council will undertake an annual audit of housing land in order to ensure that it maintains a 5 year effective housing land supply. If additional land is required for housing development, the Council will consider proposals with regard to the policies applicable to the site and the following criteria:

- a) a strong preference for appropriate brownfield sites within the identified settlement boundaries;
- b) there being no adverse impact on the delivery of the Priority Places and Projects identified by the Plan;
- c) that the proposal is for sustainable development; and
- d) evidence that the proposed site(s) will deliver housing in time to address the identified shortfall within the relevant Housing Market Area.

There will be a requirement for 25% of houses on greenfield housing sites in the Inverclyde villages to be for affordable housing. Supplementary Guidance will be prepared in respect of this requirement.

Individual and Small Scale Housing Development in the Green Belt and Countryside

7.10 The Council has a planning strategy that seeks to direct residential development to existing built up areas, and minimise the encroachment of development into the Green Belt and isolated development in the Countryside. This is a sustainable approach in terms of reducing the need to travel and making use of existing infrastructure, whilst also supporting urban regeneration and protecting the rural environment. However, the Council does recognise the need for some new houses in the Countryside for operational or economic reasons, and that the reuse of existing houses and buildings can offer an opportunity for residential development that does not have an impact on the

countryside environment. Policy 19 is applicable for proposals for up to 3 houses in the Green Belt or Countryside.

POLICY 19 – INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL SCALE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREEN BELT AND COUNTRYSIDE

Proposals for individual and small scale housing development (up to 3 houses) in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be supported in the following circumstances:

- a) where the dwelling(s) is justified by the operational needs of a farm or other viable business which is inherently rural in nature and has been in operation for at least 5 years;
- b) where the dwelling(s) is an ancillary and integral part of a development that would bring significant economic benefits to Inverclyde;
- c) demolition and replacement of a habitable dwelling which cannot otherwise be brought up to current building standards, and where the proposed dwelling is similar in scale to the existing dwelling;
- d) sub-division of an existing dwelling to create one or more additional dwellings, but only where any extensions are clearly ancillary to the existing building; or
- e) conversion of redundant stone or brick built non-residential buildings, where the proposal is supported by proof that the existing building is no longer needed for its original purpose, and a structural survey indicates that the building is structurally sound and capable of conversion without substantial alteration, extension or rebuilding, with any new build element clearly ancillary to the existing building.

In all instances, dwellings are required to be designed and located to respect and complement their Green Belt/Countryside location and their landscape setting. Any new development should positively contribute to the established character of the local landscape in terms of siting, scale, design, form and materials.

Residential Areas

7.11 Inverclyde contains many successful residential areas, and it is important for the Council's repopulation agenda that these remain attractive places to live. The Council will therefore support resident's proposals to improve their

properties where these proposals do not have an unacceptable impact on their neighbours' enjoyment of their own properties, the appearance of the surrounding area or traffic and pedestrian safety. New houses will also be supported in existing residential areas where the impact on existing houses is acceptable, and the design and layout of the new houses are in keeping with their surroundings. Likewise, appropriate non-residential development can also enhance residential areas as a place to live, but needs to be considerably located, designed and operated to avoid unacceptable impact on nearby houses. Proposals for the development or use of premises for home-working, live-work units, micro-businesses and community hubs will also be supported, subject to there being no unacceptable impacts.

POLICY 20 - RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Proposals for development within residential areas will be assessed with regard to their impact on the amenity, character and appearance of the area. Where relevant, assessment will include reference to the Council's Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.

Wheelchair Accessible Housing

7.12 The Council's Local Housing Strategy 2017-2022 includes a target for 3% of new build social housing to be wheelchair accessible. Delivery of this target is being achieved through sites identified in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan. The Scottish Government's More Homes Division issued guidance in March 2019 relating to the setting of wheelchair accessible housing targets for housing of all tenures in Local Housing Strategies. The Council's next Local Housing Strategy is due in 2022. In advance of that, the 2020 update of the Local Housing Strategy refers to extending the target for wheelchair accessible homes across all tenures, and also refers to the Specialist Provision Review that is being undertaken by the Council. Early work on that exercise, using the 'Still Minding the Step' methodology identified an estimated unmet need of 266 households with unmet wheelchair accessible housing need, rising to 456 households by 2026. To address this, the Specialist Housing Review recommends a 5% target for wheelchair accessible housing in new build developments across all tenures. It is considered that the application of this target would only be practical on sites of 20 or more houses.

7.13 The Scottish Government guidance from March 2019 states that in relation to this target, home suitable for wheelchairs users to live in should as a minimum comply with the design criteria indicated as a 'basic' requirement

for wheelchair users, as outlined in Housing for Varying Needs (HfVN) (column 'B' in 'Summary of Design Criteria') and that local authorities are strongly encouraged to include the design criteria indicated as 'desirable' (column 'D' in 'Summary of Design Criteria') wherever possible.

7.14 The Council recognises the practical difficulties that a wheelchair accessible housing target may cause private sector housebuilders with regard to the design of developments and marketing of wheelchair accessible housing. It will work with developers to confirm and identify demand for wheelchair accessible housing on development sites. Developers are encouraged to make early contact with the Council in this regard.

POLICY 21 - WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

The Council will seek the provision of 5% wheelchair accessible housing on new build development sites of 20 or more units. Developers will be required to demonstrate that they have considered the demand for and provision of wheelchair accessible housing if they are seeking an exemption from this requirement.

Community Facilities

7.15 Since 2004, the Council has invested £270m in rationalising and improving its schools estate, with, at 2016, the condition of all school buildings being rated Good or Satisfactory. Investment in the schools estate, including early years' provision, continues. The new Greenock Health Centre on Wellington Street opens in 2021, contributing to the regeneration of the Broomhill area.

7.16 The Council and Inverclyde Leisure fund and manage a range of community facilities around Inverclyde, and continually monitor the use and condition of these properties. As communities change so do the requirements for community facilities, and it may be that over the lifetime of this Plan some existing community facilities will fall out of use, whilst new ones will become required. The Council recognises the value of community facilities and will support the provision of new facilities in appropriate locations. Currently proposed facilities are listed in Schedule 5. The Council will also consider the ongoing requirement for community use of any community facility for which a change of use is proposed. Inverclyde's cultural and performance venues, some of which are run as commercial ventures, also serve a community function. Venues such as the Beacon Arts Centre, the Albany, Waterfront Cinema, the Watt Institution, and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Museum and Heritage

Centre, all in Greenock, and Port Glasgow Town Hall all contribute to the cultural and community life of Inverclyde.

7.17 New housing development can increase usage of community infrastructure such as schools, sometimes resulting in new or extended infrastructure being required. In such circumstances, the Council considers it reasonable to seek a financial contribution from the developers of new housing towards the cost of the new infrastructure required as a result of the development. The Council will prepare Supplementary Guidance setting out the types of community infrastructure developer contributions will be sought for, in what circumstances they will be sought, and the level of contribution that will be sought. With regard to educational requirements, the Planning Service liaises with Education colleagues on the implications of new housing development on schools through the annual housing land audit and during the Plan preparation process. Current analysis indicates that proposed development could lead to pressure on pupil capacities in the following: St Columba's High School and Wemyss Bay, St Andrew's, Aileymill and St Ninian's primary schools.

POLICY 22 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Proposals for the new community facilities identified in Schedule 4 will be supported. Community facilities in other locations will be supported where the location is appropriate in terms of avoiding adverse impact on the amenity and operation of existing and surrounding uses, and where it can be reached conveniently by walking, cycling or public transport by its proposed users.

Proposals that would result in the loss of a community facility (including cultural/performance venues) will need to demonstrate that the facility is no longer required for the existing or an alternative community use.

The Council will produce Supplementary Guidance setting out the circumstances under which it will seek financial contributions from the developers of new housing towards new or extended community infrastructure required as a result of that housing development.



Housing under construction - James Watt Dock, Greenock

SCHEDULE 3: Housing development opportunity sites

| Site Ref | Site/Address | Remaining / Indicative Capacity | Notes | Site Ref | Site/Address | Remaining / Indicative Capacity | Notes |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>INVERCLYDE HOUSING MARKET AREA</u> <u>PORT GLASGOW</u> | | | | <u>GREENOCK</u> | | | |
| R1 | Slaemuir (various sites) | 64 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | R14 | James Watt Dock (East) | 137 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map |
| R2 | Arran Avenue, Park Farm | 115 | | R15 | James Watt Dock/ Garvel Island | 900 | James Watt Dock/Garvel Island Priority Place |
| R3 | Former Broadfield Hospital | 54 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map. | R16 | Sinclair Street | 12 | |
| R4 | Woodhall | 140 | Port Glasgow Eastern Gateway Priority Place | R17 | Carwood Street | 31 | |
| R5 | Southfield Avenue (former St. Stephen's Sch.) | 224 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | R18 | East Crawford Street | 40 | |
| R6 | Dubbs Road (former Boglestone Clinic) | 24 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | R19 | Ratho/MacDougall Street | 100 | |
| R7 | Port Glasgow Industrial Estate | 500 | Capacity increased from 200 | R20 | Cardross Crescent (former King's Glen School) | 57 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map |
| R8 | Dougliehill Terrace | 4 | | R21 | Glenbrae Road | 15 | New allocation 2021 |
| R9 | Selkirk Road | 18 | | R22 | Whinhill | 100 | New allocation 2021 |
| R10 | Clune Park | 80 | Port Glasgow Eastern Gateway Priority Place | R23 | Gareloch Road | 100 | |
| R11 | 3 Highholm Street | 12 | | R24 | Wellington Park | 120 | |
| R12 | Broadstone Ave (former Broadstone Hospital) | 12 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | R25 | Drumfrochar Road | 50 | Drumfrochar Road Priority Place |
| R13 | Lilybank Road (former Lilybank School) | 16 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | R26 | Mearns Street | 10 | New allocation 2021 |
| PORT GLASGOW TOTAL | | 1,263 | | R27 | Mount Pleasant Street (former Highlander's Academy) | 44 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map. |
| | | | | R28 | Duncan Street (former Greenock Health Centre) | 35 | |
| | | | | R29 | Victoria/East India Harbour | 240 | The Harbours Priority Place |

| Site Ref | Site/Address | Remaining / Indicative Capacity | Notes | Site Ref | Site/Address | Remaining / Indicative Capacity | Notes |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| R30 | 25 West Blackhall Street | 4 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map. | R46 | Norfolk Road | 10 | New allocation 2021 |
| R31 | 16 West Stewart Street | 24 | | R47 | Auchmead Road (former Ravenscraig Sch.) | 36 | Development started– not shown on Proposals Map |
| R32 | Houston Street | 20 | | R48 | Spango Valley | 420 | Spango Valley Priority Place |
| R33 | Ardgowan Square | 8 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | GREENOCK TOTAL | | 3,253 | |
| R34 | Union Street | 130 | Capacity increased from 60 | <u>GOUROCK</u> | | | |
| R35 | Eldon Street | 22 | New allocation 2021 | R49 | Weymouth Crescent | 10 | |
| R36 | Madeira Street (former Greenock Academy) | 30 | | R50 | Kirn Drive | 110 | |
| R37 | Eldon Street | 60 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map. | R51 | Kempock House, Kirn Drive | 5 | Development started– not shown on Proposals Map |
| R38 | Lyle Road (former Holy Cross Sch.) | 15 | | R52 | McPherson Drive | 22 | New allocation 2021 |
| R39 | Peat Road/Hole Farm | 102 | Peat Road Priority Place | R53 | Shore Street | 8 | |
| R40 | Tay Street/Tweed Street | 69 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map. | R54 | Ashburn Gate | 13 | |
| R41 | Davey Street | 26 | | R55 | 1 Ashton Road | 11 | |
| R42 | Ravenscraig Hospital | 198 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map | R56 | Cowal View | 16 | Development started– not shown on Proposals Map |
| R43 | Auchneagh Road | 28 | Development started – not shown on Proposals Map. | R57 | Levan Farm (Phase 3) | 150 | |
| R44 | Westmorland Road | 40 | | GOUROCK TOTAL | | 345 | |
| R45 | Cumberland Walk | 20 | New allocation 2021 | <u>INVERKIP & WEMYSS BAY</u> | | | |
| | | | | R58 | The Glebe, Inverkip | 32 | Development started– not shown on Proposals Map |
| | | | | R59 | Former Inverkip Power Station | 670 | Inverkip Power Station Priority Place |
| | | | | INVERKIP & WEMYSS BAY TOTAL | | 702 | |

| Site Ref | Site/Address | Remaining / Indicative Capacity | Notes |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| KILMACOLM & QUARRIERS VILLAGE | | | |
| R60 | Leperstone Avenue, Kilmacolm | 7 | Development started– not shown on Proposals Map |
| R61 | West of Quarry Drive, Kilmacolm | 78 | New allocation 2021 |
| R62 | Smithy Brae, Kilmacolm | 42 | New allocation 2021 (part) |
| R63 | Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm | 12 | Development started– not shown on Proposals Map |
| R64 | Whitelea Road, Kilmacolm | 4 | |
| R65 | Former Balrossie School, Kilmacolm | 64 | |
| R66 | Kaimes Grove (inc. Woodside Care Home), Quarriers Village | 6 | New allocation 2021 (part) |
| R67 | Craigbet Road, Quarriers Village | 9 | New allocation 2021 |
| KILMACOLM & QUARRIERS VILLAGE TOTAL | | 229 | |
| INVERCLYDE TOTAL | | 5,792 | |
| <p>Source: 2019 Housing Land Audit, revised to reflect actual completions, Homes for Scotland comments and the 2021-26 Strategic Housing Investment Plan. Also includes new sites and revised capacities suggested through Main Issues Report process.</p> <p>Indicative capacity: This reflects the remaining capacity on sites that have been started. Other capacities are based on planning permissions, development proposals or Council estimates. Actual capacity will be based on design-led proposals for the site based on creating a successful place. Indicative capacities should not be considered a 'target' capacity, and proposals matching the indicative capacity will not be considered acceptable if the design is not considered acceptable.</p> | | | |

| SCHEDULE 4: Community Facilities Opportunities | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Reference | Proposed Facility | Location |
| F1 | Community centre | McLeod Street, Greenock |
| F2 | Community learning disability hub | Brachelston Street, Greenock |
| F3 | New cemetery capacity | To be confirmed |
| F4 | New West College Scotland Campus | To be confirmed |
| F5 | Kilmacolm village centre car park | To be confirmed |

OUR TOWN AND LOCAL CENTRES

Introduction

8.1 Inverclyde is well served by a network of town and local centres offering a range of shops and services in easily accessible locations. These centres also serve important civic, cultural, commercial and leisure functions, and are important employment locations. Some centres have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many business and facilities closed for lengthy periods in 2020 and 2021. It is obviously hoped and anticipated that these centres will return to normal over the course of this Plan period, and the paragraphs below reflect the normal operating status of these centres.

8.2 Greenock is the largest town centre drawing visitors from across the authority area and beyond. It is identified as a Strategic Centre in the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan. It offers Inverclyde's largest concentration and selection of food and non-food shopping, and a wide range of non-retail services and businesses such as a cinema, the Waterfront Leisure Centre, the Watt Institution, the Beacon Arts Centre, the Greenock West College Scotland campus and a number of restaurants, pubs and nightclubs that provide evening activity. It is also an important employment hub, with a number of large offices located there. In this and previous Plans, Greenock is recognised as having a Central Area, which is the main focus for shopping activity, and an Outer Area, which is more service orientated. Greenock previously had a retail core identified within which there was a restriction on non-Class 1 uses (i.e. shops). In order to increase flexibility for investment, this Plan has removed that restriction. The Council has identified a number of underutilised sites and buildings in Greenock town centre including the predominantly vacant eastern wing of the Oak Mall shopping centre, the King Street car park, and the former Babylon night club and the multi-storey car park site, both on West Stewart Street. These sites are considered to have an adverse impact on the environment and perception of the town centre being a successful place. The Council is therefore keen to see these sites brought into productive use. The Council is also working with Sustrans to revitalise West Blackhall Street, Greenock town centre's main commercial street, and to improve walking and cycling connections to and through the town centre. A masterplan for Greenock town centre was prepared following a charrette in 2016. The Council will continue to investigate options for implementation of the masterplan proposals.

8.3 Port Glasgow town centre's role has changed in recent years from mainly convenience shopping for the town's residents to offering large format food and non-food shopping that draws shoppers from across Inverclyde. The Council has recently invested in improving the public realm within the town

centre's traditional core, and is undertaking renovations of the King George VI building, the town centre's oldest building. There are proposals for the installation of sculpture celebrating Port Glasgow's shipbuilding heritage in Coronation Park, adjoining the town centre. A masterplan for Port Glasgow town centre was prepared following a charrette in 2014. The Council will continue to investigate options for implementation of the masterplan proposals.

8.4 Gourock serves as a convenient centre for the residents of the town and to travellers and commuters making use of the ferry connections to Argyll and Bute. Its waterfront location including a seasonal outdoor swimming pool, traditional format and concentration of independent shops and cafes mean that it also attracts day visitors from across Inverclyde and beyond. It has benefitted from recent investment in its railway station, road network and parking facilities, and from environmental improvements along the waterfront and at the pierhead.

8.5 Local centres range from the traditional village centre of Kilmacolm, which has an attractive mix of independent traders, to the modern purpose-built local centre in Inverkip. All local centres have an important role in providing convenient services and a community focus.



Inverkip village centre

Network of Centres Strategy

8.6 Together, our town and local centres form a network with each centre serving a specific purpose and community. The Plan seeks to manage development within and outwith these centres so that they continue to complement each other for the benefit of the whole area, whilst offering healthy competition for the benefit of customers. It does this by directing appropriate uses to the network of centres in preference to other locations and by controlling development that would have an unacceptable impact on centres within the network. This is consistent with the 'sequential approach' set out in paragraph 68 of Scottish Planning Policy. The Plan recognises and seeks to safeguard Greenock as the main town centre within Inverclyde. Residential development is encouraged within the network of centres as it contributes to footfall, activity and security.

POLICY 23 - NETWORK OF CENTRES STRATEGY

The preferred locations for the uses set out in Schedule 5 are within the network of town and local centres identified in Schedule 6. Proposals which accord with the role and function of the network of centres as set out in Schedule 6 and the opportunities identified in Schedule 7 will be supported. Proposals for Schedule 6 uses outwith the network of centres or not conforming with the role and function of a particular centre will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) there is not a suitable sequentially preferable opportunity;**
- b) there will not be an unacceptable impact on the vibrancy, vitality or viability of other centres within the network of centres; and**
- c) there are clear community or economic benefits that can be best achieved at the proposed location.**

Proposals for Business (Class 4), residential and hotel uses will also be supported in town and local centres.

SCHEDULE 5 – Uses Directed to the Network of Centres

Shops (Class 1)
Financial, professional and other services (Class 2)
Food and drink (Class 3)
Non-residential institutions (Class 10)
Assembly and leisure (Class 11)
Amusement arcade/centre (Sui generis)
Betting office (Sui generis)
Beautician/Nail bar (Sui generis)
Hot food takeaway (Sui generis)
Pay day loan shop (Sui generis)
Public house (Sui generis)
Tattoo parlour (Sui generis)
Taxi/private hire office (Sui generis)
Theatre (Sui generis)
Other uses most closely associated with, or most appropriately located within town or local centres.

(Descriptions in brackets as per Town and Country Planning (Use Classes)(Scotland) Order 1997 (as amended))

SCHEDULE 6 – Network of Centres Strategy

| Centre | Status | Role and function |
|---|------------------|---|
| Greenock | Strategic Centre | Greenock Central Area is the preferred location for new retail development over 1,000 square metres. New retail development in the Greenock Outer Area should not exceed 1,000 square metres. Greenock town centre is the preferred location for other Schedule 5 uses with an Inverclyde-wide catchment. |
| Port Glasgow Gourock | Town Centre | Second preferred locations for new retail development over 1,000 square metres. Preferred location for other Schedule 5 uses with whole town catchments |
| The Cross, Kilmacolm Dubbs Road, Pt Glasgow Sinclair Street, Greenock Lyndedoch Street, Greenock Barrs Cottage, Greenock Cardwell Road, Gourock Kip Park, Inverkip Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay, Inverkip Power Station* Spango Valley, Greenock* * proposed local centre as part of comprehensive masterplan | Local centre | New retail development should not exceed 1,000 square metres Preferred location for other Schedule 5 uses serving a local catchment. |
| Local facilities | | Proposals for new Schedule 5 uses outwith the town and local centres shall not exceed 250 square metres in total. |

SCHEDULE 7 – Network of Centres Opportunities

| Reference | Centre | Site/Location |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| C1 | Greenock Town Centre | 15 Nelson Street |
| C2 | Greenock Town Centre | 16 West Stewart Street |
| C3 | Greenock Town Centre | 25 West Stewart Street |
| C4 | Greenock Town Centre | Oak Mall eastern wing |
| C5 | Inverkip Local Centre | Main Street |
| C6 | Inverkip Power Station | New local centre |
| C7 | Spango Valley, Greenock | New local centre |
| C8 | Gourock | Shore Street |



Port Glasgow Town Centre



Grey Place, Greenock

Network of Centres Sui Generis uses

8.7 Inverclyde's town and local centres are home to a wide variety of uses. Their central locations and high level of passing trade make them an obvious place for commercial businesses to locate. The Use Class Order (1997) divides different types of land and property uses into different classes, and sets out when planning permission is needed to allow changes of use between the different classes. Some of the Use Classes relate to uses that would normally be found in town and local centres, such as Shops and Food & Drink. Other uses are known as sui generis (meaning 'of its own kind') and do not sit within a particular Use Class. These are often uses which the planning system seeks to keep a tighter control on for reasons of amenity or well-being.

POLICY 24 – NETWORK OF CENTRES SUI GENERIS USES

Proposals for the Sui Generis uses listed in Schedule 6 and any other Sui Generis uses proposed within the network of centres will be assessed with regard to:

- a) whether there would be an unacceptable impact on the amenity and operation of existing and surrounding uses;
- b) whether the proposal will result in a concentration of a particular use or uses that would be to the detriment of the centre's vibrancy, vitality or viability, and the wellbeing of the community;
- c) the contribution the proposal would make to the vibrancy, vitality and viability of the centre by way of increasing footfall or making use of a vacant unit; and
- d) the availability and suitability of other locations within the centre.

OUR JOBS AND BUSINESSES

Introduction

9.1 Inverclyde has seen a significant economic shift in the last 30 years, most notably from a manufacturing to a service based economy. The presence of national and multi-national employers present in Inverclyde evidences the current diversity with service-based companies such as RBS, EE, and Amazon operating alongside maritime-related employers such as Ferguson Marine and Caledonian MacBrayne. Small and medium enterprises in sectors including life sciences, food and drink manufacture, and auto-related services are also a key source of employment. Retail and financial and professional services are big employers in our town centres. The public and third sectors are also important employers. City Deal investment in a dedicated cruise ship berth at Greenock Ocean Terminal also highlights the growing importance of tourism in Inverclyde's economy.

Business and Industrial Areas

9.2 Inverclyde's varied economy is served by a range of industrial areas, including waterside locations that have long served maritime-related industry, post-war industrial estates, and the former Enterprise Zones where the area's service industries have located. More recently there has been investment in new industrial units at Kelburn Business Park in Port Glasgow and high quality offices at Riverside Business Park in Greenock. Scarlow House in Port Glasgow, the Municipal Buildings in Gourock and Custom House in Greenock have all recently been renovated to provide centrally located office space.

9.3 Inverclyde Waterfront is identified as a Strategic Economic Investment Location by the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan. This includes Inchgreen in Greenock (City Deal site) for renewable and specialist marine services and Carlsdyke for business and financial services. Greenock Ocean Terminal (City Deal site) is identified by Clydeplan as a Strategic Freight Transport Hub. The Council continues to recognise the economic value of its ports, harbours and docks, and seeks to retain the existing or potential value of these areas for maritime-related industry, except where a masterplan associated with this Plan has identified an alternative use.

9.4 The Plan recognises that as Inverclyde's economy has changed so too has demand for the type and location of business and industrial premises. In older industrial estates there are clusters of underused properties and vacant land. The Plan identifies these areas for economic mixed use, where uses that would either contribute to permanent employment creation or clearly support the operation of existing businesses are supported.

POLICY 25 - BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Proposals for development within the business and industrial areas identified on the Proposals Map will be assessed against the following strategy:

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC INVESTMENT LOCATIONS

Areas identified under 25(a) on the Proposals Map are promoted and safeguarded for business and financial services.

Inchgreen (25(b) on the Proposals Map is promoted and safeguarded for marine related business and industry.

STRATEGIC FREIGHT TRANSPORT HUB

Greenock Ocean Terminal (25(c) on the Proposals Map) is safeguarded for freight transport and cruise liner activity.

LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Areas identified under 25(d) on the Proposals Map are safeguarded for business, general industrial, and storage/distribution uses (Class 4, 5 and 6).

Other uses may be supported within areas 25(a)-(d) where it is clearly demonstrated that they:

- a) are ancillary to the safeguarded use
- b) will not prevent the future development of the site for the safeguarded use

ECONOMIC MIXED USE AREAS

The areas identified as 25(e) on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded for business, general industrial, and storage/distribution uses (Class 4, 5 and 6); and other uses, which would either contribute to permanent employment creation or clearly support the operation of existing businesses.

PORTS, HARBOURS AND DOCKS

Port, harbour and dock facilities will be safeguarded from development that would adversely impact on their existing or potential maritime related use, except where the area has been identified for alternative uses by this Plan or associated Supplementary Guidance.

Business and Industrial Development Opportunities

9.5 There is a need to attract private sector businesses and investment into Inverclyde, as well as supporting existing businesses to grow and new small and medium-sized businesses to set up. This is key to Inverclyde's future prosperity as it will widen the business base, create new job opportunities, help retain the existing population, attract new people to the area, and support and enhance local services.

9.6 The Plan identifies a generous and varied supply of development land; including large scale sites such as Spango Valley and Inchgreen, medium sized sites at Main Street, and smaller sites such as Bogston Lane (all Greenock). This supply is intended to meet the aspirations of different sectors and business sizes.

POLICY 26 – BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Business, industrial, and storage or distribution uses (Class 4, 5 and 6) on the sites listed in Schedule 8 and shown on the Proposals Map, will be supported.



SCHEDULE 8: Business and Industrial Development Opportunities

| Site Ref | Site/Location | Site Area (ha) | Preferred Use | Additional Information |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| PORT GLASGOW | | | | |
| E1 | Kelburn (Parklea Rd) | 1.48 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E2 | Duchal Street | 0.66 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E3 | Newark Street | 0.98 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| GREENOCK | | | | |
| E4 | Bogston Lane | 0.21 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E5 | Port Glasgow Rd (south) | 0.59 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E6 | Inchgreen | 16.86 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | Strategic Economic Investment Location and City Deal site |
| E7 | Sinclair Street | 2.43 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E8 | James Watt Dock /Garvel Island | Indicative | Class 4, 5 & 6 | See Priority Places Supplementary Guidance |
| E9 | Main Street | 1.43 | Class 4 | Strategic Economic Investment Location |
| E10 | Cartsdyke Avenue | 0.43 | Class 4 | Strategic Economic Investment Location |
| E11 | Crescent Street | 0.37 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E12 | Ingleston Street | 1.16 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E13 | Scott Street | 0.27 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E14 | Drumfrochar Road | 2.32 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E15 | Drumfrochar Road | 0.69 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |

| Site Ref | Site/Location | Site Area (ha) | Preferred Use | Additional Information |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| E16 | Spango Valley | Indicative | Class 4, 5 & 6 | See Priority Places Supplementary Guidance |
| E17 | Larkfield Industrial Estate | 1.78 | Class 4, 5 & 6 | |
| E18 | Former Inverkip Power Station | Indicative | Class 4 | See Priority Places Supplementary Guidance |

Tourism Development

9.7 Inverclyde's waterfront location, programme of events and rich cultural and natural heritage make it an appealing place to visit. Attractions and facilities include the James Watt Dock and Kip marinas, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Newark Castle, Gourock Waterfront, and the rural villages of Kilmacolm and Quarrier's Village. Many visitors also stop as they pass through Inverclyde on their way to and from ferries to Argyll. In recent years, although interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the cruise liner business at Greenock Ocean Terminal has grown significantly, bringing more tourists and ship crew into the area. With the City Deal funded project for a dedicated cruise liner berth and visitor centre being delivered, a return to growth for this sector is being prepared for.

9.8 The Plan supports tourism by safeguarding existing tourist related facilities and adopting a positive approach to the development of new facilities.

POLICY 27 – TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for change of use of tourism related facilities will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they are no longer viable as a business in their current use.

Development of tourism related facilities will be supported in appropriate locations where:

- a) it avoids adverse impact on the amenity and operation of existing and adjacent uses;
- b) major trip-generating proposals can be travelled to by sustainable modes of transport; and
- c) it is appropriately sited and designed for its location and avoids significant adverse impact on the resources protected by the Plan's historic buildings and places, and natural and open spaces chapters.

Minerals Extraction

9.9 Inverclyde does not currently have any live mineral workings and the Council is unaware of any workable mineral resource being present within its area. Mineral workings, whilst important for the economy, can have an impact on local communities, the environment and built and natural heritage. The Council's position is that any proposals for mineral extraction should be brought forward through the Local Development Plan process. As such, no proposals for mineral workings will be supported during the lifetime of this Plan. Should any proposals come forward during the Plan period, they will be assessed in accordance with the other policies of the Plan and Scottish Planning Policy.

Glasgow Airport

9.10 The Council recognises Glasgow Airport as being important for the economy and connectivity of Inverclyde and the wider Glasgow City Region. The Council supports, in principle, improvements to the surface connectivity to Glasgow Airport, particularly where these would improve sustainable and public transport access from Inverclyde and the wider City Region. The Council recognises the potential benefits of stronger links between Glasgow Airport and Greenock Ocean Terminal's cruise ship and freight functions.

OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND PLACES

10.1 Inverclyde's buildings and places chart the long history of the area. Archaeological finds evidence the occupation of the area from pre-historic through to Roman times; Newark Castle and the initial growth of our towns and villages occurred during medieval times; and the industrialisation and urbanisation of the 18th to 20th centuries shaped Inverclyde as we know it now. Inverclyde's past has gifted the present day with a rich and varied legacy of historic buildings and places which significantly contribute to the culture, character and sense of place, and which support tourism and the economy. These include conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other archaeological sites, and gardens and designed landscapes.

10.2 As well as the policies below, when assessing proposals affecting these historic buildings and places, the Council will have regard to Historic Environment Policy Scotland (2019) and any successor document, as well as the 'Managing Change' series of guidance notes prepared by Historic Environment Scotland.



Ardgowan Bowling Club, Greenock

Conservation Areas

10.3 Inverclyde has eight conservation areas: Greenock (West End and Cathcart Square/William Street), Gourock (West Bay and Kempock Street/Shore Street), Inverkip, Kilmacolm (South East and The Cross) and Quarrier's Homes. There are Article 4 Directions associated with five of these, the exceptions being The Cross, Kilmacolm and the two Gourock conservation areas. Article 4 Directions remove permitted development rights from the conservation areas they cover. It is intended to prepare a standard Article 4 Direction that will apply to each of the eight conservation areas.

10.4 Conservation Area Appraisals are useful documents for understanding the important features of conservation areas, assisting their positive management and informing development management decisions. Conservation Area Appraisals have been completed for the Greenock West End (2016) and Quarrier's Homes (2020). It is intended that appraisals will be prepared for the other conservation areas over the lifetime of this Plan.

POLICY 28 – CONSERVATION AREAS

Proposals for development, within or affecting the setting of a conservation area, are to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area. In assessing such proposals regard will be had to any relevant Conservation Area Appraisals or other information relating to the historic or architectural value of the conservation area.

Where the demolition of an unlisted building is proposed, consideration will be given to the contribution the building makes to the character and appearance of the conservation area. If such a building makes a positive contribution to the area, there will be a presumption in favour of retaining it. Applicants should demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to secure the future of the building. Proposals for demolition will not be supported in the absence of a planning application for a replacement development that preserves or enhances the character and appearance of the conservation area.

Listed Buildings

10.5 Inverclyde has 247 listed buildings, details of which are available on the Council's website. Twenty-five of these are A-listed as they are of national or international importance, including Gourrock Ropeworks in Port Glasgow and the Custom House and Sugar Warehouses in Greenock.

10.6 Many listed buildings are within the ownership of the Council, and in recent years there has been significant investment made at the Municipal Buildings and Watt Institution in Greenock and King George VI building in Port Glasgow, to retain or prepare the listed buildings for active use and secure their future. Other buildings including the former sugar warehouses on James Watt Dock have been made wind and watertight with Council support until such times as a new and sustainable use can be found. However, there are also listed buildings within Inverclyde on the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland. The Council will work with interested parties to find suitable future uses for these and other listed buildings.



Greenock Crematorium

POLICY 29 – LISTED BUILDINGS

Proposals for development affecting a listed building, including its setting, are required to protect its special architectural or historical interest. In assessing proposals, due consideration will be given to how the proposals will enable the building to remain in active use.

Demolition of a listed building will not be permitted unless the building is no longer of special interest; it is clearly incapable of meaningful repair; or there are overriding environmental or economic reasons in support of its demolition. Applicants should also demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to secure the future of the building as set out in national guidance.

Enabling Development

10.7 One means of securing the future of listed buildings, or other buildings of architectural merit, is to permit enabling development facilitating the restoration or retention of a listed building through cross-funding provided by new development, usually within the grounds of the listed building. Examples of this in Inverclyde include the former Bridge of Weir Hospital near Quarrier's Village, Auchenbothie near Kilmacolm and Langhouse near Inverkip. The Council has also accepted the principle of enabling development as a means of restoring the former Balrossie School buildings near Kilmacolm.

10.8 Enabling development is often permitted in locations where new buildings would not normally be, such as in the green belt, with the justification being the retention or restoration of a listed building that might otherwise be lost. In these circumstances, it is important that it can be demonstrated that the enabling development is the only means by which the listed building can be saved, that it is appropriately designed and located, and that only the minimum enabling development necessary to save the listed building is permitted. The Council will bring forward Supplementary Guidance to provide additional advice and policy context on this matter.

POLICY 30 - ENABLING DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for enabling development to support the restoration of listed buildings, including those listed in Schedule 9, will be considered favourably where it can be clearly shown to be the only means of preventing the loss of the listed building and securing its long term future. Any enabling development is required to be the minimum necessary to achieve this aim, and the Council will not support enabling development where the scale of new building proposed is considered to outweigh the benefit of retaining the listed building. The resultant development is required to be designed and sited carefully to preserve or enhance the character and setting of the listed building. Further detail will be set out in the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Enabling Development which will form part of the assessment of any proposals.

SCHEDULE 9: Enabling Development Opportunities

| Reference | Site/Location |
|-----------|----------------------|
| ED1 | Balrossie, Kilmacolm |

Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites

10.9 Inverclyde has a rich archaeological heritage. This is evidenced by its 31 Scheduled Monuments ranging from High Castlehill, which is the remnants of a prehistoric settlement, through to the 15th century Newark Castle, the 19th century industrial archaeology of the Greenock Cut, and Larkfield Battery a Second World War anti-aircraft battery. There are also numerous sites of more local archaeological interest in Inverclyde.

10.10 Scheduled Monuments are of national importance and, as such, have a high level of protection with a separate consent system administered by Historic Environment Scotland. For non-scheduled archaeological sites, if as a result of development it is not possible to preserve these in situ then developers must undertake appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and during the development.

POLICY 31 – SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Development that would potentially have an adverse effect on a Scheduled Monument or the integrity of its setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Development affecting archaeological sites should seek to preserve the archaeological resource in situ. Where this is not possible, the developer will be required to fully record the archaeological resource for archiving, prior to development commencing.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

10.11 Inverclyde has 3 sites in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, a national designation recognising grounds, often of large houses, which were consciously laid out for artistic effect. These are Ardgowan, Duchal House and Finlaystone House.

POLICY 32 – GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

Development that would affect a Garden and Designed Landscape is required to protect and appropriately enhance their overall character and any feature of value, including their landscape integrity or settings.

OUR NATURAL AND OPEN SPACES

Introduction

11.1 Inverclyde has a rich and varied network of natural and open spaces. These include habitats of international importance at the Inner Clyde and Renfrewshire Heights, both of which are Special Protection Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and other sites of national ecological or geological importance, including Dunrod Hill.

11.2 Inverclyde has a distinctive landscape, with land rising steeply from a narrow coastal strip to the Renfrewshire Heights. Much of this upland area is within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, which is an important educational, environmental and recreational resource.

11.3 Our towns and villages contain a network of parks, playing fields and other open spaces, which contribute to the character and wellbeing of the area and are linked by a network of paths, which encourage active travel and recreational walks and cycles.

11.4 Collectively, the environmental, recreational and amenity resources identified by this section of the Plan form Inverclyde's 'green network'. It is important that they are protected for their intrinsic value, but also for the contribution they make to the character of the area, whilst providing environmental, community, economic and health benefits.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

11.5 Inverclyde has a diverse network of wildlife habitats, which host a variety of different species. The Inner Clyde and Renfrewshire Heights both benefit from Special Protection Area status; the former owing to its population of Redshank and the latter owing to its population of Hen Harriers. Both are designated as European (formerly Natura 2000) sites, with the Inner Clyde also designated as a Ramsar site, meaning it is a wetland of international importance. Proposals likely to have a significant effect on a European site require to be accompanied by information sufficient to allow the planning authority to carry out a Habitats Regulations Appraisal. This may require developers to commission detailed surveys of the relevant bird species. The Inner Clyde and Renfrewshire Heights sites, along with 5 further sites, are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to the geology, habitats or species of national importance found within them. Inverclyde is also home to a number of legally protected species, including bats, otters and badgers.

11.6 Inverclyde also has a network of Local Nature Conservation Sites, which have been designated for their contribution to biodiversity or geodiversity. All previously designated sites have been carried forward.

11.7 Most development has the opportunity to impact, positively or negatively, on biodiversity, even when it is not affecting a designated site. For example, connectivity between designated habitats is important, and fragmentation should be avoided. Even in small scale development there can be opportunities to encourage greater biodiversity through the incorporation of wildlife-friendly features in the building or landscaping.



POLICY 33 – BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY

EUROPEAN SITES

Development proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on a European site which are not directly connected with or necessary to their conservation management must be subject to an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal on conservation objectives. Proposals will only be permitted if the assessment demonstrates that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site either during construction or operation of the development, or if:

- a) there are no alternative solutions; and
- b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature; and
- c) compensatory measures are provided to ensure that the overall coherence of the network is protected.

In such cases, the Scottish Ministers must be notified.

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Development affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest will only be permitted where the objectives of the designation and the overall integrity of the area will not be compromised, or if any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

PROTECTED SPECIES

When proposing any development which may affect a protected species, the applicant should fulfil the following requirements: to establish whether a protected species is present; to identify how the protected species may be affected by the development; to ensure that the development is planned and designed so as to avoid or minimise any such impact, while having regard to the degree of protection which is afforded by legislation, including any separate licensing requirements; and to demonstrate that it is likely that any necessary licence would be granted.

LOCAL NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

Development is required to avoid having a significant adverse impact on Local Nature Conservation Sites. Any adverse impacts are to be minimised. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, adequate compensatory measures will be required.

NON-DESIGNATED SITES

All development should seek to minimise adverse impact on wildlife, especially species and habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Development should take account of connectivity between habitat areas. Where possible, new development should be designed to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

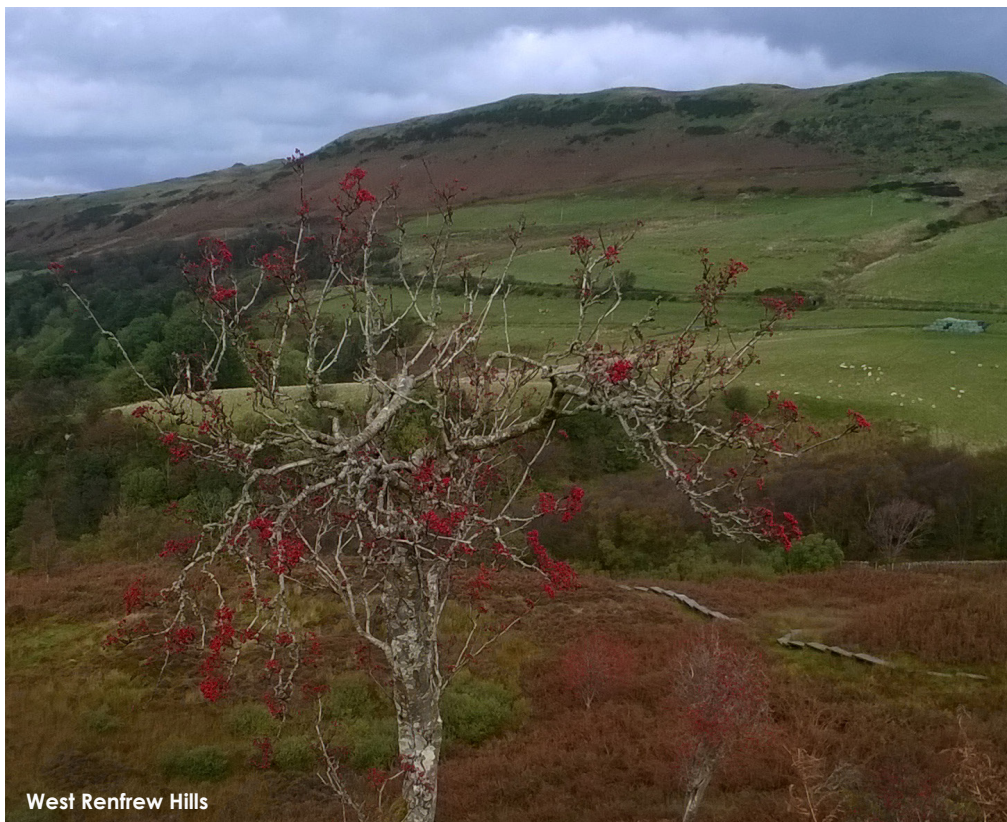


Knapps Loch, Kilmacolm

Landscape

11.8 Inverclyde's landscape is characterised by a predominantly urbanised narrow coastal strip, set against rising land, some of which is also developed, before giving way to uplands, where agriculture and woodland uses predominate. The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment (1999) identifies the following landscape character areas in Inverclyde: raised beach on the western coast around Inverkip and Wemyss Bay; upland river valley between Greenock and Inverkip, rugged upland farmland around Kilmacolm and Quarrier's Village and rugged moorland hills covering much of the upland area.

11.9 The West Renfrew Hills are designated as a Local Landscape Area. A Statement of Importance for this landscape area has been prepared in partnership with Nature.Scot. This identifies its special landscape qualities as including a strong sense of remoteness and wildness and iconic panoramic views from the Hills over the Firth of Clyde.



POLICY 34 – LANDSCAPE

The siting and design of development should take account of local landscape character and setting in order to conserve, enhance and /or restore landscape character and distinctiveness. Development should aim to conserve those features that contribute to local distinctiveness including:

- a) the setting of buildings and settlements within the landscape
- b) the pattern of woodlands, fields, hedgerows and trees; especially where they define/ create a positive settlement/ urban edge
- c) the character and distinct qualities of river corridors
- d) historic landscapes
- e) topographic features, including important/ prominent views, vistas and panoramas

When assessing development proposals likely to have a significant impact on the landscape, the guidance contained in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment will be taken into account.

Development that affects the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area is required to protect and, where possible, enhance its special landscape qualities as set out in the Statement of Importance. Where there is potential for development to result in a significant adverse landscape and/or visual impact, proposals should be amended to avoid or mitigate these impacts through being informed by a landscape and visual impact assessment.

Trees, Woodland and Forestry

11.10 Trees, woodland and forestry make a significant contribution to Inverclyde's landscape and streetscape. There are approximately 2000 hectares of woodland within Inverclyde, over half of which is commercial and approximately 500 hectares is native woodland. There are 141 hectares of ancient woodland, around 50% of which is native. There are also 33 Tree Preservation Orders in effect (January 2021), covering individual trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland within our towns and villages. Additional to that are trees which are integral to the character of areas designated for their natural and built heritage importance, for example in conservation areas. It

is intended to carry out a full review of the Tree Preservation Orders across Inverclyde during the lifetime of this Plan.

11.11 The Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy seeks to protect the existing forest resource in Scotland, and supports woodland removal only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits. A proposal for compensatory planting may form part of the planning determination. The policy supports the Scottish Government's ambition on forestry as expressed in the Climate Change Plan to increase Scotland's woodland cover from around 19% to 21% of the Scottish land area by 2032.

11.12 Forests and woodland are important resources and they make a substantial contribution to the economy at both national and local level, they provide considerable environmental benefits and help to improve people's lives through providing employment and improved health and mental wellbeing. They also contribute to sustainable water management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, and make our parks and countryside more attractive places to visit.

11.13 Proposed development sites often contain trees that could be impacted by the development process. Tree and woodland removal can impact on the ecology and landscape of local and wider environs. Tree and woodland removal should be kept to a minimum and where trees or woodland is felled, it should be replanted. To minimise and mitigate these impacts, the Council will produce Supplementary Guidance on trees. This will set out how development affecting existing trees will be assessed, how trees are to be retained and protected during the construction phase of a development, re-planting or compensatory requirements, and how existing and new trees are to be managed once a development is complete.

11.14 The Council is consulted by Scottish Forestry on new woodland creation proposals and on the felling and subsequent restocking of existing woodlands and afforested areas. Whilst this process sits outwith the planning system, new and amended forest and woodland proposals can have a significant effect, on our natural and open spaces. The Council will assess forestry proposals against the policies of this Plan and the Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region.

POLICY 35 – TREES, WOODLAND AND FORESTRY

The Council supports the retention of trees, including ancient and semi-natural woodland, trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders and other trees and hedgerows, which have significant amenity, historical, ecological, landscape or shelter value. Where the removal of such woodland, trees or hedgerows is proposed as part of a planning application, this will not be supported unless:

- a) it can be clearly demonstrated that the development cannot be achieved without removal; or**
- b) the public benefits of the proposal outweigh the loss of trees/hedgerows; and**
- c) compensatory planting will be provided, to a standard agreed by the Council.**

Development affecting trees will be assessed against Supplementary Guidance to be prepared by the Council.

Proposals for new forestry/woodland planting will be assessed with regard to the policies of this Plan and the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region.

Green Infrastructure

11.15 The term 'green infrastructure' is held by this Plan to refer to green and blue spaces which are designed, planned and managed to deliver benefits to our towns, villages, communities and the natural environment. Green infrastructure includes green elements such as open spaces, paths, landscaping, green roofs and walls, and blue elements such as ponds and natural drainage systems.

11.16 Green infrastructure, both individually and collectively, can help make our local places more attractive, and increase our health and wellbeing by improving air quality and providing opportunities for recreation, active travel and food growing. Green infrastructure also plays a key role in making our urban environment more resilient to the impacts of climate change through the provision of naturalised drainage systems and natural shelter. The creation and linking of new wildlife habitats will also enable wildlife to adapt.

Safeguarding Green Infrastructure

11.17 Open spaces and playing fields contribute to the attractiveness, wellbeing and biodiversity of Inverclyde. Inverclyde has a network of large public parks including Battery Park in Greenock, Darroch Park in Gourock, Coronation Park in Port Glasgow and Birkmyre Park in Kilmacolm. These large formal parks are complemented by a network of more local parks and open spaces, including Lyle Hill and Greenock cemetery, which make a significant contribution to the character and history of the area. Although not 'green', civic spaces like Cathcart Square and the Esplanade in Greenock are an important part of the open space network. While amenity open spaces in our business and residential areas, and play areas in the latter, are smaller in scale they serve an important purpose and make Inverclyde an attractive place to live and work. Existing allotments and community growing spaces are also protected as part of the open space network.

11.18 While outdoor sports pitches and facilities contribute to the open space network, they are also important in their own right as they encourage participation in sport and contribute to health and wellbeing. Sportscotland will be consulted on any development affecting outdoor sports facilities.

11.19 While the Proposals Maps identify open spaces and playing fields which are greater than 0.2 hectares in size, Policy 36 protects all open spaces and sports pitches which are of quality and value to the green network, or have the potential to be. The Council will prepare an Open Space Audit and Strategy to support the implementation of this policy.

11.20 Inverclyde also has an extensive path network, including 179 km of Core Paths criss-crossing the authority area and twenty Rights-of-Way. Route 75 of the National Cycle Network connects rural Inverclyde with the urban waterfront and is part of a route extending to Edinburgh in the east and Portavadie in the west. The path network includes the Greenock Cut, a 10km circular route running alongside the historic aqueduct, which provides panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde, and the Kelly Cut, which connects the Greenock Cut visitor centre to Wemyss Bay. The Council is currently progressing an active travel project which will deliver a dedicated cycle route from Gourock to Port Glasgow, adjacent to the A770/A8 corridor.

POLICY 36 – SAFEGUARDING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposals for new or enhanced open spaces, which are appropriate in terms of location, design and accessibility, will be supported.

Development proposals that will result in the loss of open space which is, or has the potential to be, of quality and value, will not be permitted, unless provision of an open space of equal or enhanced quality and value is provided within the development or its vicinity.

Outdoor sports facilities will be safeguarded from development except where:

- a) the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as an outdoor sports facility, or involves only a minor part of the facility and would not affect its use for sport and training;**
- b) the facility to be lost is to be replaced by a new or upgraded facility of comparable or better quality, which is convenient for the users of the original facility and maintains or improves overall playing capacity in the area; or**
- c) a relevant strategy demonstrates a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand, and the development would not result in a reduction in the overall quality of provision.**

Development that would result in the loss of a core path, right of way or other important outdoor access route will not be permitted unless acceptable alternative provision can be made.

Delivering Green Infrastructure Through New Development

11.21 To fully integrate green infrastructure into new development and enable connections to be made to the surrounding area, green infrastructure provision must be considered from the outset, as part of the initial design phase. It is key that green infrastructure proposals are informed by an appraisal of the existing natural features and eco system services on and in the vicinity of a development.

11.22 Green infrastructure provision in new development should maximise opportunities for multiple benefits, which is a key feature of this type of infrastructure. For example, appropriate landscaping not only improves an area's attractiveness, but can also cleanse and cool the air, contribute to flood management, reduce noise and promote better health and well-being. The multi-functional benefits of individual elements can be further increased when they are integrated. For example, when landscaping provides shelter for an area of open space.

11.23 The Council is keen to ensure that new development contributes to open space provision that is multi-functional, useable, and publicly accessible and meets the local needs of a range of users. This will be achieved by linking open space requirements to accessibility, quality and quantity standards set out in the Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure. Open space requirements will also be informed by an Open Space Strategy, which is currently being prepared.

11.24 It is important that new development incorporates paths and connections to the existing path network, especially where the opportunity exists to provide path access to the waterfront. The Council has developed an Active Travel Strategy, which identifies a range of actions for how the path network can be improved and expanded. The strategy projects will be supported in principle by this Plan.

11.25 The Council will support proposals for new permanent and temporary allotment and community growing spaces, where these are appropriate in terms of location, design and accessibility.

11.26 The Council will produce Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure, which will provide details on how green infrastructure should be integrated into new development, in terms of design, quality and quantity.

POLICY 37 – DELIVERING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH NEW DEVELOPMENT

Green infrastructure provision should be informed by an appraisal of the existing natural features and eco systems services on and in close proximity to the proposed development site and fully incorporated into the wider design process at an early stage, in line with the approach to be set out in the Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure.

Development proposals are required to provide open space in line with the

standards to be set out in Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure. The Supplementary Guidance will also set out circumstances under which off-site provision or a developer contribution towards green infrastructure will be provided.

Where opportunities exist, development proposals will be required to provide new paths linking to the active travel network. The provision of routes along water will be an essential requirement on development sites with access to a waterfront, unless not appropriate for operational or health and safety reasons.

Development proposals are required to demonstrate how naturalised features will be incorporated into SuDS provision, in order to provide additional benefits such as habitat creation and open space. Where a SuDS proposal forms part of open space provision, it should be made safe and accessible.

The Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure will set out how biodiversity enhancement can be incorporated into new developments, and the circumstances in which provision will be expected.

Green infrastructure proposals should be supported by information on how long term management will be achieved, including maintenance requirements, who will be responsible for meeting these requirements, and how they will be funded.

The Green Network

11.27 A Strategic Green Network Blueprint has been prepared for the Glasgow city region area. The blueprint identifies a Strategic Access Network that facilitates the off-road movement of people through green active travel routes and greenspace, and a Strategic Habitat Network that facilitates the movement of wildlife through the landscape. The blueprint also helps to identify gaps in the strategic habitat and access networks within Inverclyde and opportunities to address those gaps.

11.28 The Council supports the creation of the Strategic Green Network and the identification of opportunities aimed at addressing gaps in provision. While the Green Network opportunities identified by the Partnership are still being considered by the Council, supported opportunities will be identified in the Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure.

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

11.29 Clyde Muirshiel is Scotland's largest regional park, covering 108 square miles of countryside in Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire. Within Inverclyde, the Park boundary covers much of the upland moorland, and extends to the coast to include Lunderston Bay. It includes the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, and provides an excellent recreational and educational resource for Inverclyde residents and visitors.

11.30 The Park Objectives are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Clyde Muirshiel Park.
- To encourage and enable learning, understanding and enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel Park.
- To promote and foster environmentally sustainable development for the social and economic well-being of the people and communities within the Clyde Muirshiel Park area.

11.31 The Park area is covered by a number of other environmental and heritage designations protected by this Plan. This Plan supports the Park Objectives and the Park Strategy in principle, subject to assessment against other relevant policies of this Plan.

POLICY 38 – CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

Proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be considered with regard to the Park Objectives and Strategy and to the Park's statutory purpose of providing recreational access to the countryside.

Water Environment

11.32 In many ways, the geography and character of Inverclyde is defined by water. It sits proudly on the Firth of Clyde, is the source of the River Gryffe, has a countryside dotted with reservoirs, and includes the Greenock Cut, which is a 19th century example of water engineering which has Scheduled Monument status.

11.33 Whilst these waterbodies add to the attractiveness of Inverclyde, the area can also be adversely affected by water, primarily through flooding, caused by high tides on the Clyde and heavy rainfall. Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and severity of flooding events.

11.34 It is important therefore to manage the water environment in a way which protects and enhances its function as a natural drainage system by, for example, minimising and removing hard engineering which affects the natural flow of water, and by increasing its attractiveness as a habitat and for recreation.

11.35 This Plan also seeks to be consistent with Scotland's National Marine Plan which was approved in 2015, and with the forthcoming Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

POLICY 39 – WATER ENVIRONMENT

Development proposals affecting the water environment will be required to safeguard and improve water quality and the enjoyment of the water environment by:

- a) supporting the strategies and actions of the national and regional marine plans, and supporting the objectives and actions of the River Basin Management Plan for Scotland and the Clyde Area Management Plan, where applicable;
- b) minimising adverse impacts on, or improving, water quality, flow rate, morphology, riparian habitat and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems;
- c) the removal of existing culverts. This will be a requirement on development sites, unless it can be clearly demonstrated as not practical or resulting in the development not being viable;
- d) avoiding the hard engineering and culverting of waterways and the building over of existing culverts in new developments unless clearly demonstrated to be essential. Where culverts are required, they should be designed to maintain existing flow conditions and aquatic life, with long term maintenance arrangements;
- e) maintaining or improving waterside and water-based habitats; and
- f) providing appropriately sized buffer strips between development and watercourses, in line with SEPA guidance, and providing access to the water and waterside, where appropriate.

SCHEDULE OF DEVELOPMENT LAND OWNED BY PLANNING AUTHORITY (INVERCLYDE COUNCIL)

| DESCRIPTION OF LAND OWNED BY INVERCLYDE COUNCIL | REFERENCES TO POLICIES, PROPOSALS OR VIEWS CONTAINED IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH RELATE TO THE OCCURENCE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND |
|--|---|
| Land at Kelburn, Port Glasgow | Policy 3 – Priority Places |
| Land at Woodhall, Port Glasgow (R4) | Policy 3 – Priority Places Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Auchinleck Lane, Port Glasgow (R7) | Policy 3 – Priority Places Policy 18 – New housing Development |
| Land at Clune Park, Robert Street, Port Glasgow (R9) | Policy 3 – Priority Places Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Ratho/MacDougall Street, Greenock (R19) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Wellington Park, Greenock (R24) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Mearns Street, Greenock (R26) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at West Stewart Street (R31) (C2) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development Policy 23 – Network of Centres Strategy |
| Land at Madeira Street, Greenock (R36) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Lyle Road, Greenock (R38) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Peat Road/Hole Farm Road, Greenock (R39) | Policy 18 – Land for housing |
| Land at Westmorland Road, Greenock (R44) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Cumberland Walk, Greenock (R45) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Kirn Drive, Gourock (R50) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at McPherson Drive, Gourock (R52) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Shore Street, Gourock (R53) (C8) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development Policy 22 – Network of Centres Strategy |
| Land at Leperstone Avenue, Kilmacolm (R60) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land west of Quarry Drive, Kilmacolm (R61) | Policy 18 – New Housing Development |
| Land at Brachelston Street, Greenock (F2) | Policy 22 – Community Facilities |

| DESCRIPTION OF LAND OWNED BY INVERCLYDE COUNCIL | REFERENCES TO POLICIES, PROPOSALS OR VIEWS CONTAINED IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH RELATE TO THE OCCURENCE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND |
|---|---|
| Land at West Stewart Street, Greenock (C3) | Policy 22 – Network of Centres Strategy |
| Land at Crescent Street, Greenock (E11) | Policy 26 - Business and Industrial Development Opportunities |
| Land at Ingleston Street, Greenock (E12) | Policy 26 - Business and Industrial Development Opportunities |
| Land at Scott Street, Greenock (E13) | Policy 26 - Business and Industrial Development Opportunities |
| Land at Drumfrochar Road, Greenock (E15) | Policy 26 - Business and Industrial Development Opportunities |

Inverclyde
council

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