



Planning and Regulatory Services Committee

Thursday, 09 December 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the **Planning and Regulatory Services Committee** is to be held at **Remote Locations via Video Conference**, on **Thursday, 09 December 2021** at **09:30**.

BUSINESS

1. **Sederunt**
2. **Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests ***
Guidance Note 5 - 6
3. **21-00206-APP_Redacted** 7 - 52
4. **Planning Application - 21/00396/APP** 53 - 92
Report by Appointed Officer

Plot substitutions at no's 1 to 43 and 47-50 (total no of plots are decreased from 47 to 35 and proposed to be renumbered 301 - 319 and 401- 413) (permissions 18/01209/APP and 16/01244/APP)
Glassgreen Elgin South Elgin Moray for Springfield Properties PLC
5. **Planning Application 21/01487/APP Redacted** 93 - 128
Report by Appointed Officer
6. **21/01750/PAN** 129 - 134
Report by Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance)

Installation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) including siting of battery containers, power conversation units and transformers, a substation, hardstanding area, fencing, vehicular access, grid connection and ancillary works on land at Drum Farm, Keith

Report by Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance)

Redevelopment including a new sawmill, log sorting line along with timber yard at James Jones and Sons Ltd. Garmouth Road, Mosstodloch

Summary of Planning and Regulatory Services

Committee functions:

Town and Country Planning; Building Standards; Environmental Health; Trading Standards; Weights & Measures, Tree Preservation Orders, and Contaminated Land issues.

Moray Council Committee meetings are currently being held virtually due to Covid-19. If you wish to watch the webcast of the meeting please go to:

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_43661.html

to watch the meeting live.

- * **Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests** - The Chair of the meeting shall seek declarations from any individual or political group at the beginning of a meeting whether any prior decision has been reached on how the individual or members of the group will vote on any item(s) of business on the Agenda, and if so on which item(s). A prior decision shall be one that the individual or the group deems to be mandatory on the individual or the group members such that the individual or the group members will be subject to sanctions should they not vote in accordance with the prior decision. Any such prior decisions will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.

THE MORAY COUNCIL

Planning and Regulatory Services Committee

SEDERUNT

Councillor David Bremner (Chair)
Councillor Aaron McLean (Depute Chair)

Councillor Frank Brown (Member)
Councillor John Cowe (Member)
Councillor Gordon Cowie (Member)
Councillor John Divers (Member)
Councillor Claire Feaver (Member)
Councillor Marc Macrae (Member)
Councillor Ray McLean (Member)
Councillor Louise Nicol (Member)
Councillor Laura Powell (Member)
Councillor Derek Ross (Member)
Councillor Amy Taylor (Member)
Councillor Sonya Warren (Member)

Clerk Name:	Lissa Rowan
Clerk Telephone:	07765 741754
Clerk Email:	committee.services@moray.gov.uk



**GUIDANCE NOTE PRODUCED FOR PLANNING & REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 9 DECEMBER 2021**

REPORT ON APPLICATION

“Note for guidance of the Committee where the decision of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee is contrary to the recommendations of the Director of Environmental Services in respect to a Planning Application.”

Any Councillor putting forward a motion to refuse an application, contrary to recommendation, shall clearly state the reasons for refusal. These reasons should be based on policies contained in the approved Local Development Plan or some other material consideration. Time should be allowed to ensure that these reasons are carefully noted for minuting purposes.

Where Councillors put forward a motion to approve an application, contrary to recommendation, an indication should be given of any specific matters which should be subject of conditions along with reasons which should be based on policies in the approved Local Development Plan or some other appropriate consideration.

Note for guidance where the decision of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee is to depart from the Local or Structure Plan.

Where a Councillor is convinced that there is reason to depart from Local Development Plan policy; then the Councillor's reasons for making the motion should be clearly stated for minuting purposes. Any matters which should be subject to conditions drafted subsequently by the Director of Environmental Services should be indicated. If the Committee remains of a mind to approve such an application then the whole matter will be subject to statutory procedures as apply. In such cases, Councillors should be aware that the application may require to be advertised as a departure and any objections reported to the next available meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee. It also may be necessary to convene a hearing to consider the views of objectors.

There are three potential consequences if Committee takes a decision where the proper procedures have not been followed in whole or in part. Firstly, the person aggrieved by a decision may apply to the Supreme Courts in Scotland for an Order either compelling the Council to act according to law, quashing the decision altogether or declaring a decision to be unlawful coupled with an order to prevent the decision being implemented. A referral to the Supreme Courts in these circumstances is known as applying for Judicial Review.

Secondly, in addition to the application for Judicial Review when questions of alleged failure, negligence or misconduct by individuals or local authorities in the management of public funds arise and are raised either by or with the External Auditor of the Council and where an individual can be blamed the sanctions available are:-

Censure of a Councillor or an Officer

Suspension of a Councillor for up to one year

Disqualification of a Councillor for up to five years

In the case of the Council being to blame, recommendations may be made to the Scottish Ministers about rectification of the authorities accounts. Ministers can make an order giving effect to these recommendations.

Thirdly, whilst the Ombudsman accepts that Planning authorities have the freedom to determine planning applications as they wish procedural impropriety may be interpreted as maladministration. This can also lead to recommendations by the Ombudsman that compensation be paid.

Consistent implementation of departure procedures maintains public confidence in the planning system and is consistent with the time and effort invested in preparing the Local Development Plan.

WARD 04_17

21/00206/APP
17th February 2021

Application under S42 to vary condition no 2 of planning permission 18/01209/APP - phasing to reflect updated masterplan 2021 along with revisions to layout and substitution of Plots 122 to 129 at Elgin South Elgin Moray for Springfield Properties PLC

Comments:

- Advertised for neighbour notification purposes - notification not possible because no premises situated on land to which notification can be sent.
- The proposal has previously been reported to Committee and the appointed officer considers that the proposals contain significant amendments for Committee to re-consider. Namely the Section 42 revision to phasing across the whole Elgin South 18/01209/APP consent and the relocation of the commercial units.

Procedure:

- In the event Members are minded to approve, a modification of the Section 75 legal agreement is required prior to issue of the consent.
- One representation has been received.
- In the event that the related planning application 21/00396/APP is refused (impacting upon overall numbers within Elgin South), agreement is in place with the applicant to pay the necessary Developer Obligations. If 21/00396/APP is approved, no further obligation payment is required for this planning application (see observations below).

Recommendation **Grant Planning Permission - Subject to the Following:-**

Conditions/Reasons

1. The development hereby granted forms part of, and is related to, a development granted planning permission under formal decision notice 16/01244/APP dated 10 May 2018 wherein:
 - a) the terms and conditions as attached to the permission granted under formal decision notice 16/01244/APP are hereby re-iterated and remain in force in so far as they relate to the development hereby approved, in particular Conditions 13-22, 24, 27, 30, 34, 39, 40, 51, 53-56 inclusive (or as amended under 18/01209/APP approved on 16 May 2019), including any details already approved thereunder to discharge the requirements of the identified conditions; and
 - b) no part of the development as hereby granted shall be exercised in

conjunction with, or in addition to, the building design and plot layout details already approved for plots 122 to 129.

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory form of development and that it progresses in accordance with the already approved and required details, and that only one permission is implemented.

2. Notwithstanding the submitted 'Phasing Plan' superseding the phasing referred to in condition 2 of planning permission 18/01209/APP, no development shall commence on the area covered by Moray Local Development Plan 2020, Elgin Settlement Statement designation CF4 Glassgreen Primary School until such time as Moray Council, as planning authority, have confirmed in writing to the applicant that it is satisfied that an alternative school site has been secured elsewhere. Thereafter the development of the CF4 designation must be carried out in accordance with the updated 'Phasing Plan' hereby approved.

Reason: In order to ensure that the currently designated CF4 school site is put to no other use until an acceptable alternative school site at Glassgreen has been investigated, and ensure Moray Council retain control over the adequate provision of the school site.

3. Prior to development starting, details of the 0.9m stone wall, adjoining the apartment on plots 131-136 must be submitted to and approved in writing by Moray Council as Planning Authority. The wall must be constructed and completed prior to the first occupation of the flats.

Reason: In order that further consideration of the proposed boundary treatment.

4. No development works shall commence until a detailed drawing (scale 1:200) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority confirming the provision of, or location where a future Electric Vehicle (EV) charging unit(s) can be connected to an appropriate electricity supply, including details (written proposals and/ or plans) to confirm the provision of the necessary cabling, ducting, and consumer units capable of supporting the future charging unit; and thereafter the EV charging infrastructure shall be provided in accordance with the approved drawing and details prior to occupation of the first dwelling house.

Reason: In the interests of an acceptable form of development and the provision of infrastructure to support the use of low carbon transport, through the provision of details currently lacking.

5. Parking provision for houses shall be provided at the following rates:
 - 1 Bedroom = 1 space.
 - 2 -3 Bedrooms = 2 spaces.
 - 4 or more bedrooms = 3 spaces.
 - Parking for flats (Plots 131-136) shall be provided as shown on Drawing EL02_PL_SL_07 including provision of 6 bicycle stores and 2 visitor parking spaces.

Reason: To ensure the permanent availability of the level of parking necessary for residents/visitors/others in the interests of an acceptable development and road safety.

6. Parking shall be provided prior to the completion of each house which it is associated with and thereafter retained and available for that purpose unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority.

Reason: To ensure the permanent availability of the level of parking necessary for residents/visitors/others in the interests of an acceptable development and road safety.

7. No boundary fences, hedges, walls or any other obstruction whatsoever over 0.6m in height and fronting onto the public road shall be within 2.4m of the edge of the carriageway.

Reason: To enable drivers of vehicles entering or exiting the site to have a clear view so that they can undertake the manoeuvre safely and with the minimum interference to the safety and free flow of traffic on the public road.

8. No works shall commence on any area proposed for development until a Construction Traffic Management Plan for the respective area has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority. The Construction Traffic Management Plan shall include the following information:
 - a. duration of works;
 - b. construction programme;
 - c. number of vehicle movements (i.e. materials, plant, staff, components);
 - d. anticipated schedule for delivery of materials and plant;
 - e. full details of any temporary construction access;
 - f. full details of construction traffic routes from the A941 and A96 to the site, including any proposals for temporary haul routes and routes to be used for the disposal of any materials from the site;
 - g. measures to be put in place to prevent material being deposited on the public road;
 - h. measures to be put in place to safeguard the movements of pedestrians;
 - i. traffic management measures to be put in place during works including any specific instructions to drivers; and
 - j. parking provision, loading and unloading areas for construction traffic.

Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure an acceptable form of development in terms of the arrangements to manage traffic during construction works at the site.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are:-

The proposal accords with the relevant provisions of the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 and there are no material considerations (inclusive of the updated Elgin South Masterplan) that indicate otherwise.

List of Informatives:

The TRANSPORTATION MANAGER has made the following comments:-

The provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers and/or associated infrastructure shall be provided in accordance with Moray Council guidelines. Cabling between charging units and parking spaces must not cross or obstruct the public road including footways.

Infrastructure provided to enable EV charging must be retained for this purpose for the lifetime of the development unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Guidance on Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging requirements can be found at:

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file134860.pdf>

Before commencing development, the applicant is obliged to apply for Construction Consent in accordance with Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 for new roads. The applicant will be required to provide technical information, including drawings and drainage calculations, and provide a Road Bond to cover the full value of the works in accordance with the Security for Private Road Works (Scotland) 1985 Regulations. Advice on this matter can be obtained from the Moray Council web site or by emailing transport.develop@moray.gov.uk

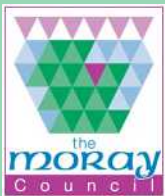
Requirement for any traffic calming, road construction materials and specifications and any SUDs related to the drainage of the public road must be submitted and approved through the formal Roads Construction Consent process.

Public utility apparatus may be affected by this proposal. Contact the appropriate utility service in respect of any necessary utility service alterations which have to be carried out at the expense of the developer.

No building materials/scaffolding/builder's skip shall obstruct the public road (including footpaths) without permission from the Roads Authority.

The applicant shall free and relieve the Roads Authority from any claims arising out of their operations on the road or extension to the road.

LIST OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT		
Reference No.	Version No.	Title/Description
EL02_LP_01		Location plan
1287DT(AS)901	C	Balerno - elevations and floor plans
BINSTORE_01 A		Bin store details and layout
1104DT(AS_901	C	Lauder - elevations and floor plans
1202DT(AS)901	D	Roslin - elevations and floor plans
932TE(AS)901 A		Dallachy - elevations and floor plans
EL02-ENG-300		Levels layout
EL02-ENG-600		Drainage layout
EL02_PL_SL_03		SGG remix - landscaping plan
EL02_T3-V1(C)901		Flat type range - elevations and floor plans
950SD(AS)901 E		Ardmore - elevations and floor plans
EL02_PL_SL_05		SGG remix 15 - parking provision
		Phasing plan - updated
EL02_PL_SL_06		SGG remix 15 - EV charging
		Horizontal 2 bike locker
EL02_PL_SL_01	A	SGG remix 15 - site layout
EL02_PL_SL_02	A	SGG remix 15 - house type allocation
EL02_PL_SL_04	A	SGG remix 15 - material conditions



PLANNING APPLICATION COMMITTEE SITE PLAN

Planning Application Ref Number:

21/00206/APP

Site Address:

Elgin South

Elgin

Applicant Name:

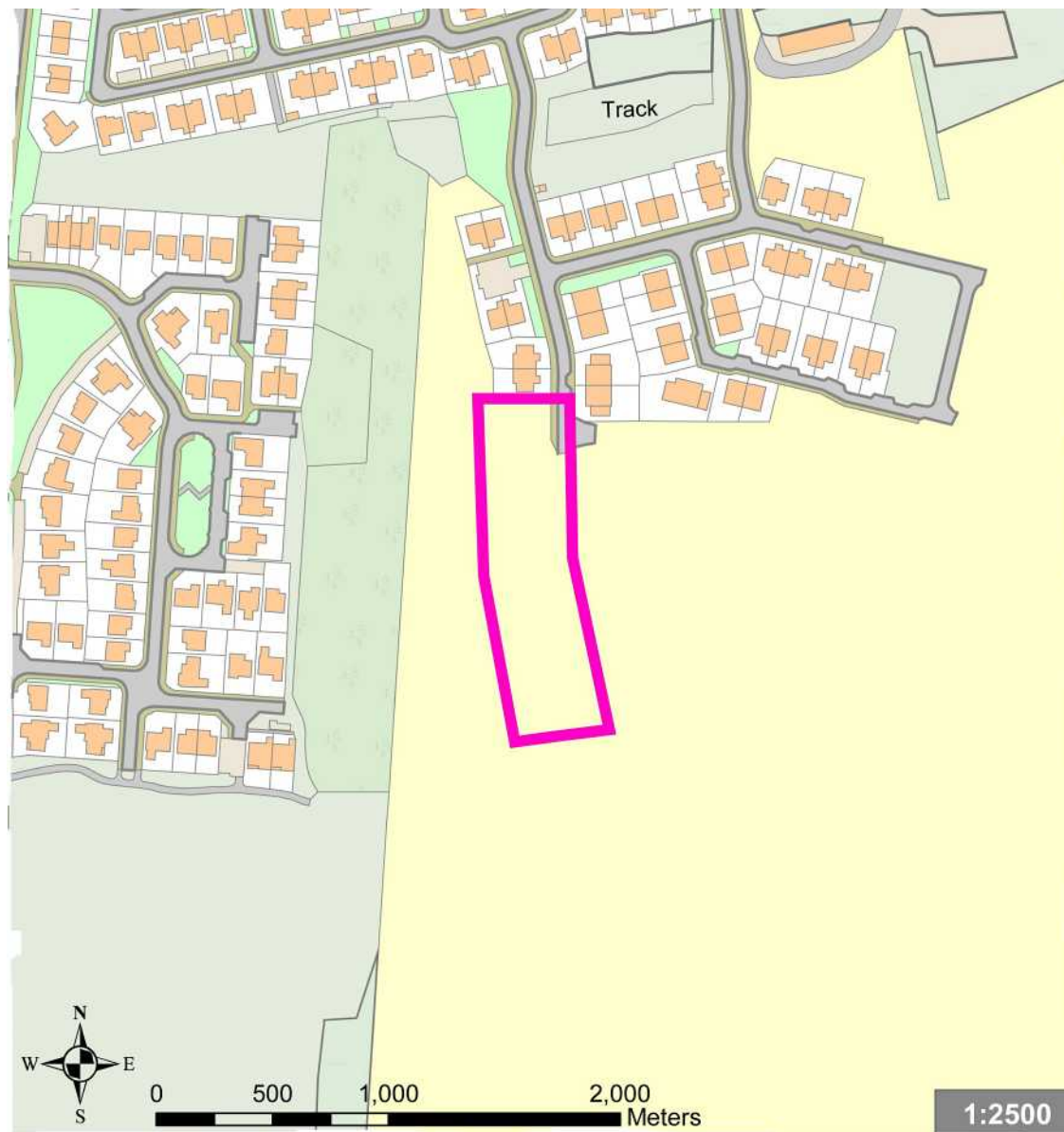
Springfield Properties PLC

Plans, drawings and other material submitted to the local authority are protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (section 47). You may only use material which is downloaded and/or printed for consultation purposes, to compare current applications with previous schemes and to check whether developments have been completed in accordance with approved plans.

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Location Plan



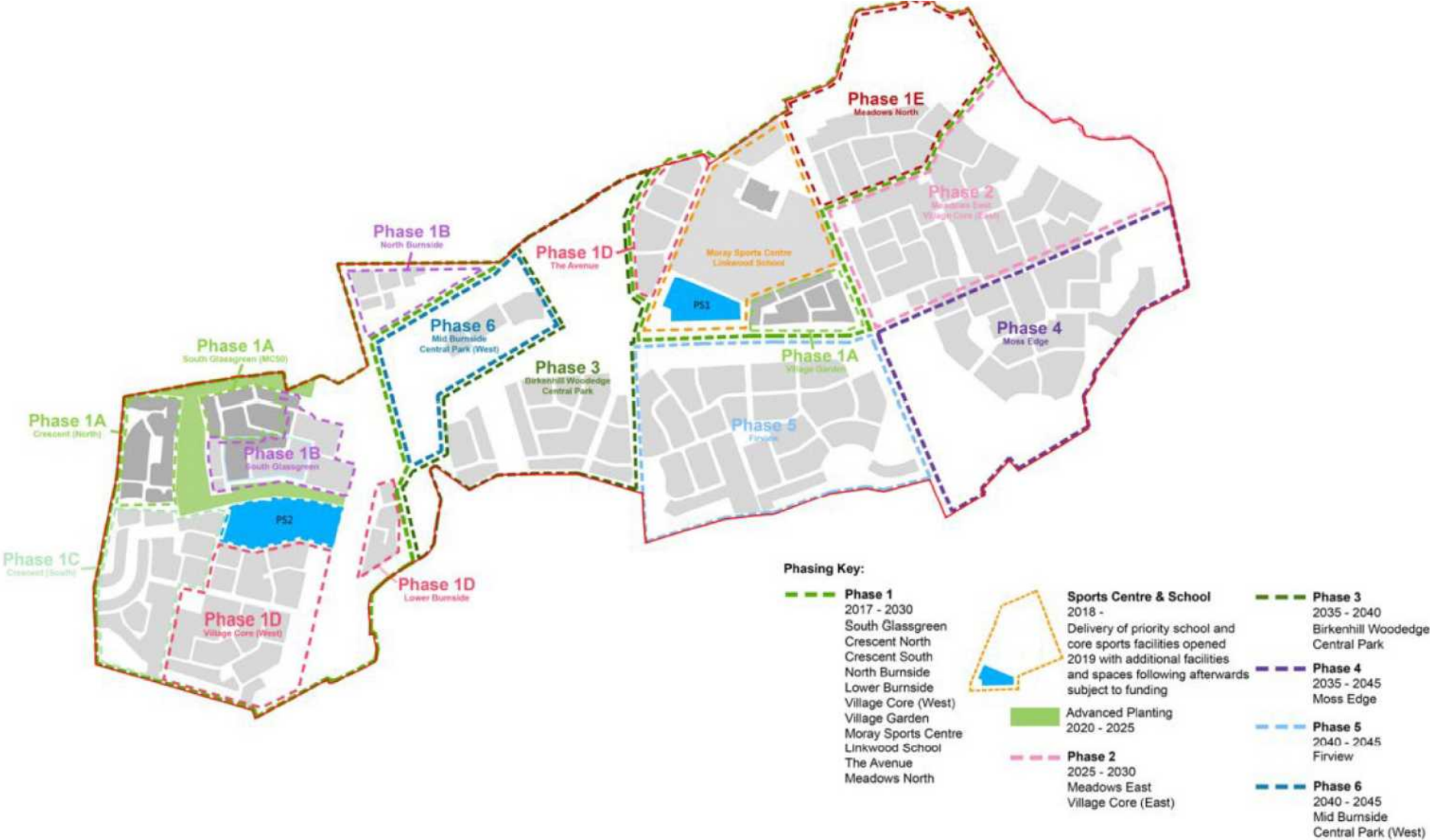
Site Location



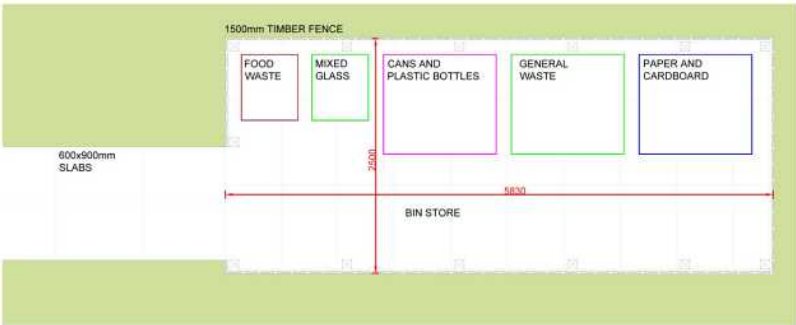
Site Layout



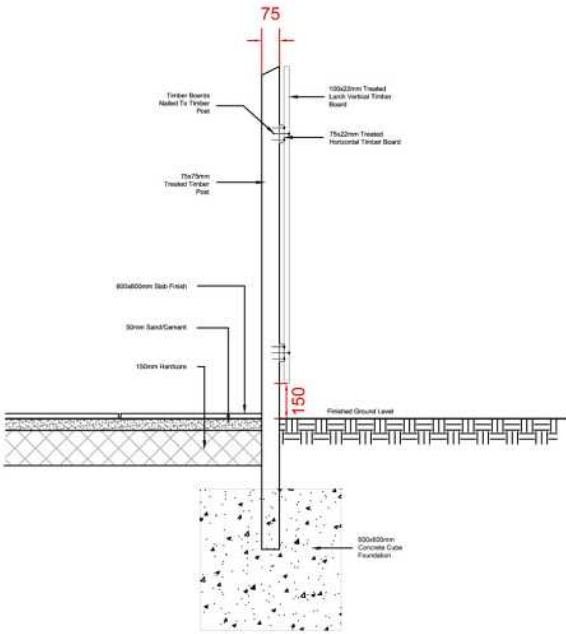
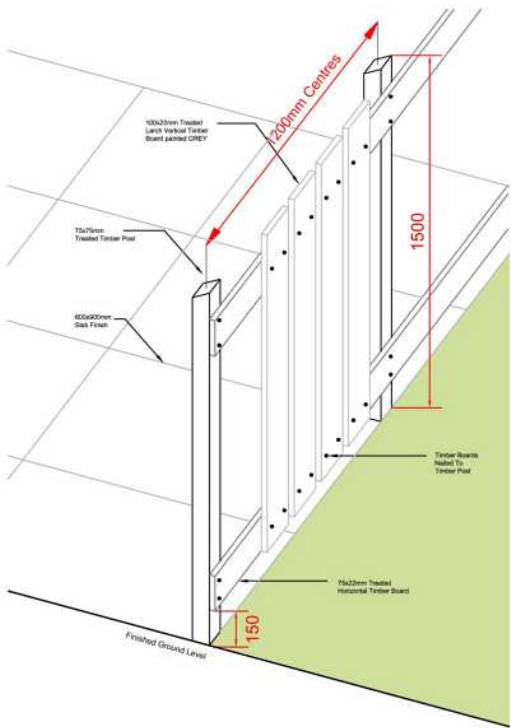
Updated Phasing Plan



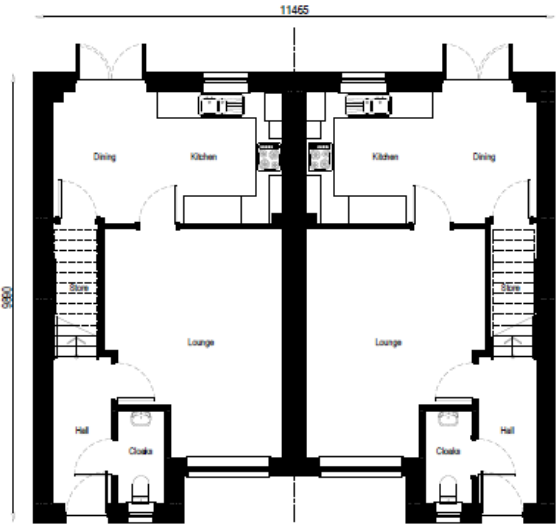
Bin Storage Area



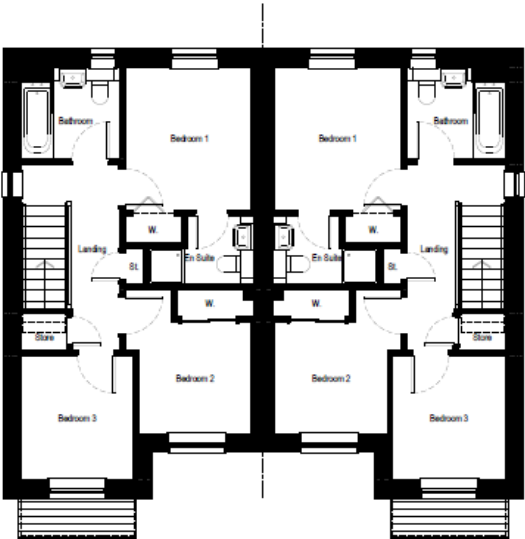
GENERIC BIN STORE LAYOUT



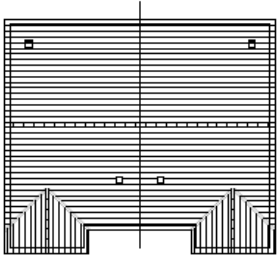
Ardmore House Type



Ground Floor Layout 1:50



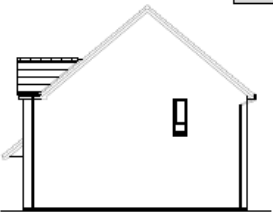
First Floor Layout 1:50



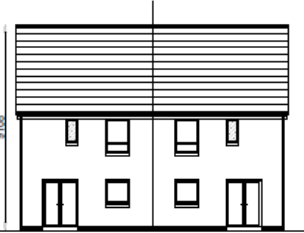
Roof Layout 1:100



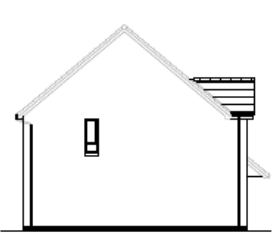
Front Elevation 1:100



Side Elevation 1:100



Rear Elevation 1:100

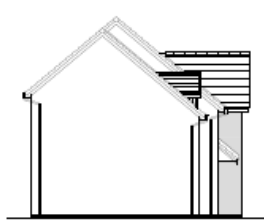
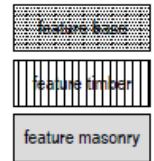
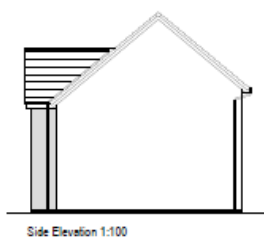
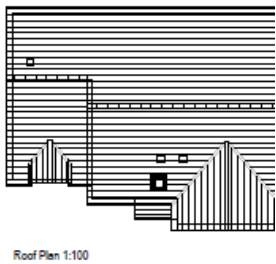
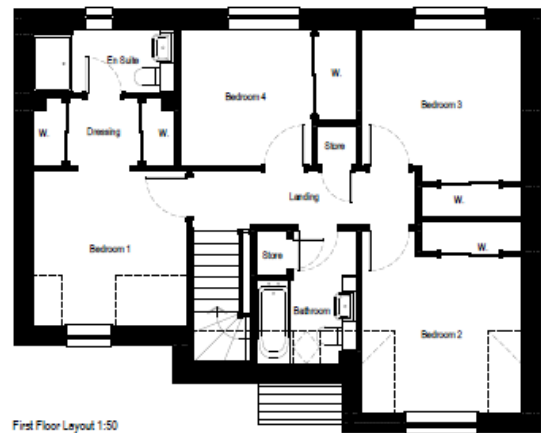
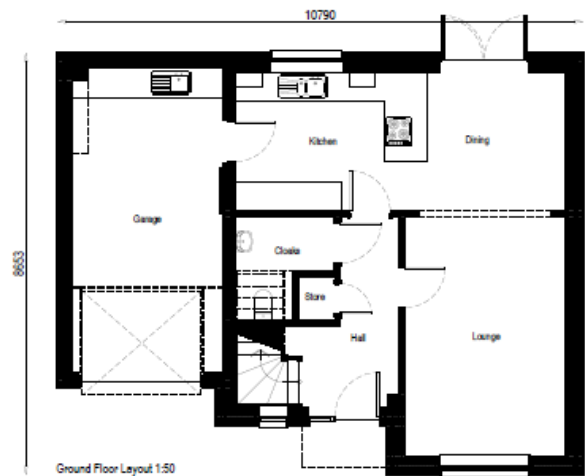


Side Elevation 1:100



Perspective Illustration NTS

Balerno House Type



3D illustration NTS

Flats



Second Floor - Glenside

Second Floor - Finswey



First Floor - Glenside

First Floor - Finswey



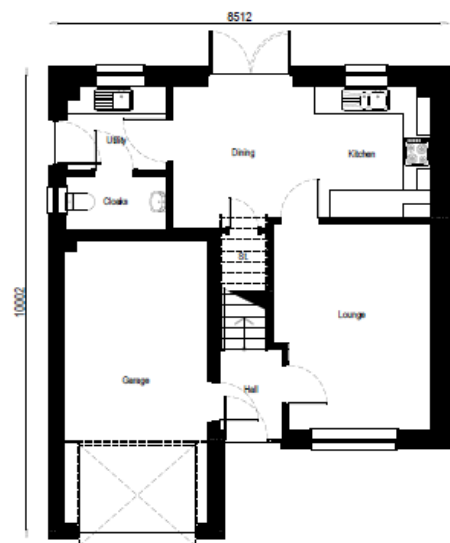
Ground Floor - Glenside

Ground Floor - Finswey

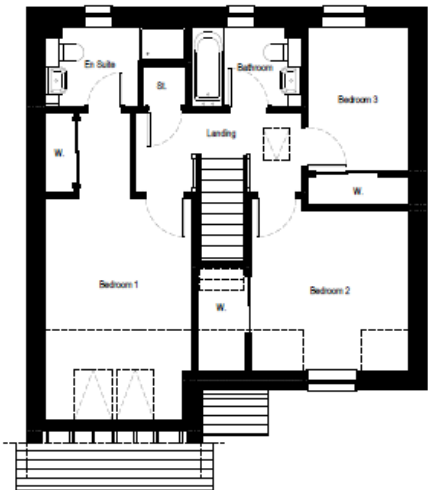


3D Perspective Illustration

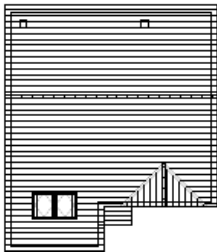
Lauder House Type



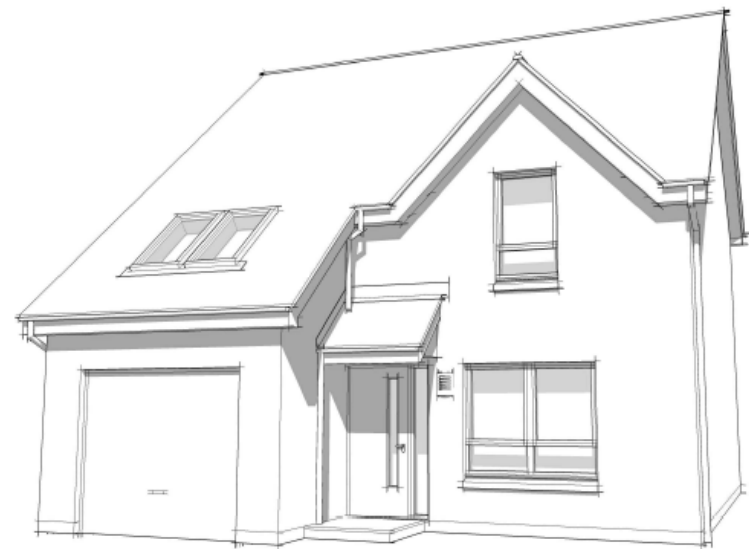
Ground Floor Layout 1:50



First Floor Layout 1:50



Roof Plan 1:100



3D Illustration NTS

View from A941 westward towards site



View looking south from the north



PLANNING APPLICATION: 21/00206/APP

In the event that a recommendation on this planning application is overturned the Committee is reminded of the advice contained on the front page of the agenda for Reports on Applications

THE PROPOSAL

- Vary condition 2 of Elgin South planning permission 18/01209/APP, which relates to phasing and brings the phasing in line with the updated Elgin South masterplan 2021.
- Revise the layout and substitution of Plots 122 to 129, to form additional 5 units. These will comprise of an additional house unit and additional flats which will have in part replaced the previous commercial units that existed upon this location, and the flats now extending to 3 storeys instead of two, will accommodate additional flats, so 6 are hosted within the one block.
- 2 accessible house units are proposed.
- The previously approved commercial ground floor units, will now be provided elsewhere to the south, and are currently shown within pending planning application 21/01163/APP.

THE SITE

- The site sits within R20 Glassgreen, Elgin South which has been largely progressed.
- As the site had already been stripped in preparation for the consented layout, and development remains ongoing at the adjoining South Glassgreen housing phase, it currently forms part of the wider building site.
- The site area subject of amendment extends to approximately 0.58 hectares. The Section 42 element of the application relation to overall Elgin South phasing plan, with the phasing being updated to reflect the layout as contained with the updated Elgin South Masterplan. In summary the emphasis of the phasing in Elgin South has now swung westward, with the phases east of Linkwood West left until last.

HISTORY

16/01244/APP – Phase 1 of Elgin LONG2 south to include 870 houses neighbourhood uses including Classes 1 shops 2 financial professional & other services 3 food & drink 4 business 8 residential institutions 10 non-residential institutions Moray Sport Centre (with provision for indoor & outdoor recreation) two primary school sites and associated infrastructure (transport drainage & open space) and landscaping at Elgin South, Elgin, Moray. Approved by Committee on 10 May 2018 following conclusion of the legal agreement.

18/01209/APP - Application under Section 42 to vary condition 1 of planning consent 16/01244/APP to maintain provision for 870 houses (as approved) but vary phasing design and site layout details i.e. adjust Phase 1A boundary (western most part of Phase

1A within Crescent North and South Glassgreen character areas) to provide 50 affordable homes together with consequential revisions to boundaries of Phase 1D (South Glassgreen) and eastern most part of Phase 1A (Meadows North character area) and Phase 1C (Meadows East character area) revise mix of homes (including site layout and new Braemar and Lauder house types) within Crescent North and South Glassgreen character areas revise layout and reduce number of houses by 18 units within Village Garden character area to accommodate revision to alignment gas pipeline revise numbers and mix of houses including site layout within Village Core and Meadows East character areas to accommodate 18 homes relocated from Village Garden at Elgin South, Elgin Moray. Approved by committee in 15/05/19.

18/01603/S75 - Section 42 application to vary the phasing condition (Condition) of Proposed modification of planning obligation (associated with application 16/01244/APP) for Phase 1 development at Elgin LONG 2 South to apply to development occurring under planning applications 16/01244/APP and 18/01209/APP at Elgin South LDP2015 Long 2 Elgin Moray. Concluded in May 2019.

19/00666/APP - Substitution of house types on Plots 1-4 Crescent North (as per 16/01244/APP) at Elgin South, Elgin, Moray. This saw a remix of house types already approved elsewhere within the Elgin South development. Approved under delegated powers on 10/03/20 and required a modified Section 75 agreement.

19/01641/APP - Remix of plots 37-40 and 44-47 at (8no total) Crescent North Elgin South Elgin Moray. This saw a remix of house types already approved elsewhere within the Elgin South development. Approved under delegated power in April 2020.

21/01163/APP - Residential development landscaping and associated infrastructure at Glassgreen Village Phase 2, Elgin South. Pending application for 192 house units, commercial units and associated infrastructure, landscaping and drainage.

POLICY - SEE APPENDIX

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertised for neighbour notification purposes.

CONSULTATIONS

Scottish Water – No objections and advice to applicant that separate contact/application will be required at the time of connection. Sewer connections in the vicinity will be required.

Building Standards – A Building Warrant will be required.

Flood Risk Management Team – No objections.

Environmental Health Manager: Contaminated Land – No objections.

Environmental Health Manager – No objections.

Transportation Manager – Following submission of amended plans resolving some queries the proposal may be supported subject to the conditions and informatives recommended.

Housing Strategy and Development Manager – No objection. No affordable units were present within this area of the Elgin South consented area, and are provided elsewhere within 18/01209/APP. The proposal has no impact on affordable house provision.

Developer Obligations - No further developer obligations will be sought. The existing Section 75 legal agreement relating to planning application 16/01244/APP and its modifications will cover this current planning application. However, in the event planning application 21/00394/APP is refused (which will have offset the increase in numbers arising from the current proposals but reducing previous house unit numbers by 12 units) then a contribution would be required.

Strategic Planning and Development – Input received resulting in modification of layout, parking, landscaping and materials to ensure compliance with policies PP1 Place making, PP3 infrastructure and Services, DP1 Development Principles and the updated Elgin South Masterplan. In addition to the amended plans received, for the substitution of plots 122 – 129 the Section 42 request to bring the Elgin South phasing plan into alignment the phasing for planning permission 18/01209/APP.

At its meeting on 3rd August 2021 the Committee agreed that the land currently designated as CF4 for a primary school would not be released for the development of alternative uses until the Council is satisfied as to the suitability of the proposed new primary school site and its inclusion in the revised masterplan. Therefore, any changes to condition 2 of planning permission 18/01209/APP would need to address this.

OBJECTIONS-REPRESENTATIONS

NOTE: Following the determination of this application, name and address details will be/have been removed (i.e. redacted) in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (paragraph 3 of Minute, Planning & Regulatory Services Committee 16 September 2014).

Issue: Concern that bats and ground mammals may be disrupted by the development. All flora and fauna should be offered as much protection as possible from development.

Comments (PO): As this application relates to an area of land already consented for housing, and which has been stripped, and used for storage of materials, laydown area and vehicle parking any disruption has already occurred. Ongoing compliance with Construction Environmental Plans etc remain in place.

OBSERVATIONS

Section 25 of the 1997 Act as amended requires applications to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan i.e. the adopted Moray Local Development Plan 2020 (MLDP 2020) unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended allows applicants to apply to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached to a planning consent. In determining such an application, the Council, as Planning Authority can only consider the conditions subject to which planning permission should be granted and may:

- grant permission unconditionally (i.e. remove the conditions attached to the planning consent);
- grant permission conditionally with differing conditions; or
- refuse the application (i.e. keep the conditions attached to the planning consent).

Background

As the principle of housing is established under the larger commenced consent, it is borne in mind that beyond the sites immediate boundaries, the layout is already consented and works substantially commenced.

Policy DP2 Housing sets out that development on designated sites must comply with the site development requirements within the settlement plans and policies. In this regard the current proposal seeks to alter some house types, minor alterations to the previously approved layout and as such readily complies with Policy DP2 where this can be applied to a portion of a consented surrounding housing development. Matters such as developer contributions, affordable housing provision, drainage, open space provision have all been previously addressed with the original application here.

Of note whilst the layout is not altered significantly the proposal seeks to add 5 units via the amendments described above. Similarly, the whole consented site for Elgin South approved under 18/01209/APP is affected by the Section 42 to request to vary a condition of the previous Elgin South consent relating to phasing of the whole development. Upon this basis, neighbour notification was carried for all properties bounding the Elgin South site to allow the opportunity for any comments on the changes to phasing.

The main issues are considered below:

Amended house types and layout (PP1, PP3, DP1, DP2 and R19)

The overall number of units will increase by 5, partly as a result of the removal of the ground floor commercial units from the block of flats, which will now host additional flats across three floors instead of two floors. This will see six 2-3 bedroom flat present in the block to the south end of the site. 3 storey flats are used a key building elsewhere in the Elgin South development, and this proposed block would sit adjacent to open space to the south and west. Three storey flats are now commonplace throughout Elgin.

With regard to the design and siting of the units, the general design is typical of the house builder's style, found elsewhere within the Elgin South development and other sites across Moray. The massing of the units (in terms of footprint and height) is similar to that currently consented. These can be adequately accommodated within the development without detriment to the character established through the existing consents for the development.

Some amendments were required however to ensure the building materials reflected those elsewhere in the same character area, and a condition is recommended to ensure that EV charging infrastructure is provided.

The adjustment of the house types is assessed against the design requirement of policy PP1 Placemaking in so far as the design might alter the character or appearance of this area of the development. While the design of houses differs from those previously approved, they still compliment and resemble the differing designs and pallet of material utilised elsewhere in the development.

There is no reduction in the amount of landscaping provided upon the site, and the change will see the introduction of additional trees along the frontage. There are no aspects of the proposal that would increase detriment toward biodiversity when compared to the previously approved layout.

The proposals therefore accord with the above cited policies and amendments were sought to ensure that all place-making and infrastructure requirement of current policy are met.

Principle of Section 42 request (PP1, PP3, DP1 and DP2)

In seeking to vary condition 2 of planning permission 18/01209/APP the applicant seeks to bring the phasing plan previously approved in line with the updated phasing within the updated Elgin South Masterplan. As referred to in the consultation response from Strategic Planning and Development, the variation sought brings the extant Elgin South consent into line with the updated Elgin South Masterplan phasing plan for development in the area moving forward and beyond planning permission 18/01209/APP itself.

This is however caveated in relation to ongoing site investigations into the revised location of the Glassgreen school site. The currently approved site (MLDP designation CF4) is no longer big enough for the site now required for the prospective school, and the applicant and Moray Council have worked together to select an alternative, larger site and update the Elgin Masterplan accordingly. As site investigations are commencing to confirm the suitability of the new site (identified as PS2 in the updated masterplan) it would be premature to approve in its entirety the updated phasing plan, which would effectively see the CF4 designation changed to housing land. A condition is recommended allowing the retention of the CF4 designation until such time as the site investigations give the Council comfort that PS2 can be progressed.

Accessible Housing (DP2)

Condition 13 of 18/01209/APP refers to the 'Accessible Housing Statement' (Elgin South Design & Access Statement, Rev C, May 2017 as submitted as part of application 16/01244/APP), which does allow for some flexibility across the various phases, so long as 10% of the private housing stock is accessible. Whilst the number accessible house units is acceptable for the development and meets the 10% requirement, it is noted that the previously approved layout in this area was host to 7 accessible units. The applicant is aware that in future phases the number of accessible units across the Elgin South consented area will be balanced in order to comply with the above planning condition.

Access and Parking (DP1)

The Transportation service has been consulted in relation to the development and has no objection to the approval of the application subject to conditions to be reiterated from planning permission 16/01244/APP and 18/01209/APP. During the course of the application amended plans were sought to remedy some minor parking issues, and this had been achieved.

The road layout serving these has undergone some alterations but has not altered substantively from the layout approved under the previous applications, and the amount of parking proposed per unit is still sufficient for the flats now proposed. The provision of parking in the revised layout increases the amount of parking to the side of properties when compared to the approved layout. These would see a slight reduction in vehicle dominated frontages in line with the aims of policy DP1.

Drainage (EP12)

Surface water would drain within the curtilage to individual surface water soakaways, whilst foul drainage would drain to the public sewer. This arrangement is in keeping with that of the wider development and would be in accordance with the requirements of policies EP12.

Developer Obligations (PP3)

There are two planning applications in this vicinity which impact upon overall numbers of units within the consented Elgin area where 870 house units have been approved. While the current application seeks an increase in 5 units, the other application on the same committee agenda (to be determined first) would see a reduction in 12 house units, which means a net reduction of 7 units would occur.

The existing s75 relating to planning application 16/01244/APP has been future proofed and covers all subsequent planning applications where there is no material change to the legal agreement. The contributions in the existing s75 are based on the £6,500 cap per residential unit for 870 units, therefore above changes in number of units trigger a modification to the existing s75 legal agreement.

While this proposal would increase the number of units for this site, if a net loss were realised, no additional contribution would be required. Agreement is in place with the application that additional contributions for the 5 additional units would be required, if application 21/00396/APP was for any reason refused.

The proposal therefore complies with the requirements of policy PP3 infrastructure and Services section d) relating to developer obligations.

Conclusion - In light of the above, the proposed section 42 and amendments are acceptable.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are: -

The proposal accords with the relevant provisions of the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 and there are no material considerations (inclusive of the updated Elgin South Masterplan) that indicate otherwise.

Author/Contact

Neal MacPherson

Ext: 01343 563266

Officer:

Principal Planning Officer

Beverly Smith

Development Management & Building Standards Manager

APPENDIX

POLICY

Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020

PP1 PLACEMAKING

- a) Development must be designed to create successful, healthy places that support good physical and mental health, help reduce health inequalities, improve people's wellbeing, safeguard the environment and support economic development.
- b) A Placemaking Statement is required for residential developments of 10 units and above to be submitted with the planning application to articulate how the development proposal addresses the requirements of policy PP1 Placemaking and other relevant LDP policies and guidance. The Placemaking Statement must include sufficient information for the council to carry out a Quality Audit. Where considered appropriate by the council, taking account of the nature and scale of the proposed development and of the site circumstances, this shall include a landscaping plan, a topographical survey, slope analysis, site sections, 3D visualisations, a Street Engineering Review and a Biodiversity Plan. The Placemaking Statement must demonstrate how the development promotes opportunities for healthy living and working. The landscape plan must set out details of species type, size, timescales for planting and maintenance.
- c) To create successful, healthy places residential developments of 10 units and above must comply with Scottish Government policy Creating Places and Designing Streets and must incorporate the following fundamental principles:
 - (i) **Character and Identity**
 - Create places that are distinctive to prevent homogenous 'anywhere' development;
 - Provide a number of character areas reflecting site characteristics that have their own distinctive identity and are clearly distinguishable;
 - Provide distinctiveness between and in each character area through a combination of measures including variation in urban form, street structure/network, architecture and masonry, accent features (such as porches), surrounds and detailing, materials (buildings and surfaces), colour, boundary treatments, hard/soft landscaping and a variety of approaches to tree species and planting that emphasises the hierarchy of open spaces and streets within a cohesive design strategy for the whole development;
 - Distinctiveness must be reinforced along main thoroughfares, open spaces and places where people may congregate such as shopping/service centres;
 - Retain, incorporate and/or respond to relevant elements of the landscape such as topography and planted features, natural and historic environment, and propose street naming (in residential developments of 20 units and above, where proposed names are to be submitted with the planning application) to retain and enhance local associations;

(ii) Healthier, Safer Environments

- Designed to prevent crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour with good levels of natural surveillance and security using treatments such as low boundary walls, dual frontages (principal rooms) and well-lit routes to encourage social interaction. Unbroken high boundary treatments such as wooden fencing and blank gables onto routes, open spaces and communal areas will not be acceptable.
- Designed to encourage physical exercise for people of all abilities.
- Create a distinctive urban form with landmarks, key buildings, vistas, gateways and public art to provide good orientation and navigation through the development.
- Provide a mix of compatible uses, where indicated within settlement statements, integrated into the fabric of buildings within the street.
- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists by providing a permeable movement framework that incorporates desire lines (including connecting to and upgrading existing desire lines) and is fully integrated with the surrounding network to create walkable neighbourhoods and encourage physical activity.
- Integrate multi- functional active travel routes, green and open space into layout and design, to create well connected places that encourage physical activity, provide attractive spaces for people to interact and to connect with nature.
- Create safe streets that influence driver behaviour to reduce vehicle speeds that are appropriate to the local context such as through shorter streets, reduced visibility and varying the building line.
- Provide seating opportunities within streets, paths and open spaces for all generations and mobility's to interact, participate in activity, and rest and reflect.
- Provide for people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings, places and open spaces.
- Create development with public fronts and private backs.
- Maximise environmental benefits through the orientation of buildings, streets and open space to maximise the health benefits associated with solar gain and wind shelter.

(iii) Housing Mix

- Provide a wide range of well integrated tenures, including a range of house types and plot sizes for different household sizes, incomes and generations and meet the affordable and accessible requirements of policy DP2 Housing.
- All tenures of housing should have equal access to amenities, greenspace and active travel routes.

(iv) Open Spaces/Landscaping

- Provide accessible, multi-functional open space within a clearly defined hierarchy integrated into the development and connected via an active travel network of green/blue corridors that are fully incorporated into the development and to the surrounding area, and meet the requirements of policy EP5 Open Space and the Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance and Policy EP12 Managing the Water Environment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Developments Supplementary Guidance.

- Landscaped areas must provide seasonal variation, (mix of planting and colour) including native planting for pollination and food production.
- Landscaping areas that because of their size, shape or location would not form any useable space or that will not positively contribute to the character of an area will not contribute to the open space requirements of Policy EP4 Open Space.
- Semi-mature tree planting and shrubs must be provided along all routes with the variety of approaches reflecting and accentuating the street hierarchy.
- Public and private space must be clearly defined.
- Play areas (where identified) must be inclusive, providing equipment so the facility is for every child/young person regardless of ability and provided upon completion of 50% of the character area.
- Proposals must provide advance landscaping identified in site designations and meet the quality requirements of policy EP5 Open Space.
- Structural landscaping must incorporate countryside style paths (such as bound or compacted gravel) with waymarkers.
- Maintenance arrangements for all paths, trees, hedging, shrubs, play/sports areas, roundabouts and other open/ green spaces and blue/green corridors must be provided.

v) Biodiversity

- Create a variety of high quality multi- functional green/blue spaces and networks that connect people and nature, that include trees, hedges and planting to enhance biodiversity and support habitats/wildlife and comply with policy EP2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and EP5 Open Space.
- A plan detailing how different elements of the development will contribute to supporting biodiversity must be included in the design statement submitted with the planning application.
- Integrate green and blue infrastructure such as swales, permeable paving, SUDS ponds, green roofs and walls and grass/wildflower verges into streets, parking areas and plots to sustainably address drainage and flooding issues and enhance biodiversity from the outset of the development.
- Developments must safeguard and where physically possible extend or enhance wildlife corridors and green/blue networks and prevent fragmentation of existing habitats.

(vi) Parking

- Car parking must not dominate the streetscape to the front or rear of properties. On all streets a minimum of 50% of car parking must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line with a maximum of 50% car parking within the front curtilage or on street, subject to the visual impact being mitigated by hedging, low stone boundary walls or other acceptable treatments that enhance the streetscape.
- Provide semi-mature trees and planting within communal private and public/visitor parking areas and on-street parking at a maximum interval of 4 car parking spaces.
- Secure and covered cycle parking and storage, car sharing spaces and electric car charging points must be provided in accordance with policy DP1 Development Principles.

- Parking areas must use a variation in materials to reduce the visual impact on the streetscene.

(vii) Street Layout and Detail

- Provide a clear hierarchy of streets reinforced through street width, building density and street and building design, materials, hard/soft landscaping and a variety of approaches to tree planting and shrubs.
- Streets and connecting routes should encourage walking and cycling over use of the private car by providing well connected, safe and appealing routes.
- Design junctions to prioritise pedestrians, accommodate active travel and public transport and service/emergency vehicles to reflect the context and urban form and ensure that the street pattern is not standardised.
- Dead-end streets/cul-de-sacs will only be selectively permitted such as on rural edges or where topography, site size, shape or relationship to adjacent developments prevent an alternative more permeable layout. These must be short, serving no more than 10 units and provide walking and cycling through routes to maximise connectivity to the surrounding area.
- Where a roundabout forms a gateway into, or a landmark within, a town and/or a development, it must be designed to create a gateway feature or to contribute positively to the character of the area.
- Design principles for street layouts must be informed by a Street Engineering Review (SER) and align with Roads Construction Consent (RCC) to provide certainty that the development will be delivered as per the planning consent.

- (d) Future masterplans will be prepared through collaborative working and in partnership between the developer and the council for Lochyhill (Forres), Barhill Road (Buckie), Elgin Town Centre/Cooper Park, Elgin North East, Clarkly Hill, Burghead and West Mosstodloch. Masterplans that are not prepared collaboratively and in partnership with the council will not be supported. Masterplans that are approved will be Supplementary Guidance to the Plan.→→→
- (e) Proposals for sites must reflect the key design principles and safeguard or enhance the green networks set out in the Proposals Maps and Settlement Statements. Alternative design solutions may be proposed where justification is provided to the planning authority's satisfaction to merit this.

PP2 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Development proposals which support the Moray Economic Strategy to deliver sustainable economic growth will be supported where the quality of the natural and built environment is safeguarded, there is a clear locational need and all potential impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated.

PP3 INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Development must be planned and co-ordinated with infrastructure to ensure that places function properly and proposals are adequately served by infrastructure and services.

- a) In relation to infrastructure and services developments will be required to provide the following as may be considered appropriate by the planning authority, unless these requirements are considered not to be necessary:

- i) Education, Health, Transport, Sports and Recreation and Access facilities in accord with Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Open Space.
- ii) Green infrastructure and network requirements specified in policy EP5 Open Space, Town and Village Maps and, contained within Supplementary Guidance on the Open Space Strategy, Masterplans and Development Briefs.
- iii) Mitigation/modification to the existing transport network (including road and rail) to address the impact of the proposed development in terms of safety and efficiency. This may include but not be limited to passing places, road widening, junction enhancement, bus stop infrastructure, and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential road and transport improvements are identified and shown on the Town and Village Maps as Transport Proposals (TSP's) including the interventions in the Elgin Transport Strategy. These requirements are not exhaustive and do not pre-empt any measures which may result from the Transport Assessment process.
- iv) Electric car charging points must be provided at all commercial and community parking facilities. Access to charging points must also be provided for residential properties, where in-curtilage facilities cannot be provided to any individual residential property then access to communal charging facilities should be made available. Access to other nearby charging facilities will be taken into consideration when identifying the need for communal electric charging points.
- v) Active Travel and Core Path requirements specified in the Council's Active Travel Strategy and Core Path Plan.
- vi) Safe transport and access routes linking to existing networks and mitigating the impacts of development off-site.
- vii) Information Communication Technology (ICT) and fibre optic broadband connections for all premises unless justification is provided to substantiate it is technically unfeasible.
- viii) Foul and surface water drainage, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), including construction phase SUDS.
- ix) Measures that implement the waste management hierarchy as defined in the Zero Waste Plan for Scotland including the provision of local waste storage and recycling facilities designed into the development in accord with policy PP1 Placemaking. For major applications a site waste management plan may be required to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved during the construction phase.
- x) Infrastructure required to improve or increase capacity at Water Treatment Works and Waste Water Treatment Works will be supported subject to compliance with policy DP1.
- xi) A utilities plan setting out how existing and new utility (including gas, water, electricity pipelines and pylons) provision has been incorporated into the layout

and design of the proposal. This requirement may be exempted in relation to developments where the council considers it might not be appropriate, such as domestic or very small scale built developments and some changes of use.

b) Development proposals will not be supported where they:

- i) Create new accesses onto trunk roads and other main/key routes (A941 & A98) unless significant economic benefits are demonstrated or such access is required to facilitate development that supports the provisions of the development plan.
- ii) Adversely impact on active travel routes, core paths, rights of way, long distance and other access routes and cannot be adequately mitigated by an equivalent or better alternative provision in a location convenient for users.
- iii) Adversely impact on blue/green infrastructure, including green networks important for wildlife unless an equivalent or better alternative provision will be provided.
- iv) Are incompatible with key waste sites at Dallachy, Gollanfield, Moycroft and Waterford and would prejudice their operation.
- v) Adversely impact on community and recreational sites, buildings or infrastructure including CF designations and cannot be adequately mitigated.
- vi) Adversely impact on flood alleviation and mitigation infrastructure.
- vii) Compromise the economic viability of bus or rail facilities.

c) Harbours

Development within and diversification of harbours to support their sustainable operation will be supported subject to compliance with other policies and settlement statements.

d) Developer Obligations

Developer obligations will be sought to mitigate any measurable adverse impact of a development proposal on local infrastructure, including education, healthcare, transport (including rail), sports and recreational facilities and access routes. Obligations will be sought to reduce, eliminate or compensate for this impact. Developer obligations may also be sought to mitigate any adverse impacts of a development, alone or cumulatively with other developments in the area, on the natural environment.

Where necessary obligations that can be secured satisfactorily by means of a planning condition attached to planning permission will be done this way. Where this cannot be achieved, the required obligation will be secured through a planning agreement in accordance with Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations.

Developer obligations will be sought in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations. This sets out the anticipated infrastructure requirements, including methodology and rates.

Where a developer considers that the application of developer obligations renders a development commercially unviable a viability assessment and 'open-book accounting' must be provided by the developer which Moray Council, via the District Valuer, will verify, at the developer's expense. Should this be deemed accurate then the Council will enter into negotiation with the developer to determine a viable level of developer obligations.

The Council's Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance provides further detail to support this policy.

DP1 DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

This policy applies to all development, including extensions and conversions and will be applied reasonably taking into account the nature and scale of a proposal and individual circumstances.

The Council will require applicants to provide impact assessments in order to determine the impact of a proposal. Applicants may be asked to determine the impacts upon the environment, transport network, town centres, noise, air quality, landscape, trees, flood risk, protected habitats and species, contaminated land, built heritage and archaeology and provide mitigation to address these impacts.

Development proposals will be supported if they conform to the relevant Local Development Plan policies, proposals and additional guidance, meet the following criteria and address their individual and cumulative impacts:

(i) Design

- a) The scale, density and character must be appropriate to the surrounding area and create a sense of place (see Policy PP1) and support the principles of a walkable neighbourhood.
- b) The development must be integrated into the surrounding landscape which will include safeguarding existing trees and undertaking replacement planting to include native trees for any existing trees that are felled, and safeguarding any notable topographical features (e.g. distinctive knolls), stone walls and existing water features by avoiding channel modifications and culverting. A tree survey and tree protection plan must be provided with planning applications for all proposals where mature trees are present on site or that may impact on trees outwith the site. The strategy for new tree provision should follow the principles of the "Right Tree in the Right Place".
- c) Make provision for new open space and connect to existing open space under the requirements of Policy EP5 and provide details of the future maintenance of these spaces. A detailed landscape plan must be submitted with planning applications and include information about green/blue infrastructure, tree species, planting, ground/soil conditions, and natural and man-made features (e.g. grass areas, wildflower verges, fencing, walls, paths, etc.).
- d) Demonstrate how the development will conserve and enhance the natural and built environment and cultural heritage resources, retain original land contours and integrate into the landscape.

- e) Proposals must not adversely impact upon neighbouring properties in terms of privacy, daylight or overbearing loss of amenity.
- f) Proposals do not result in backland development or plots that are subdivided by more than 50% of the original plot. Sub-divided plots must be a minimum of 400m², excluding access and the built-up area of the application site will not exceed one-third of the total area of the plot and the resultant plot density and layout reflects the character of the surrounding area.
- g) Pitched roofs will be preferred to flat roofs and box dormers are not acceptable.
- h) Existing stone walls on buildings and boundaries must be retained. Alterations and extensions must be compatible with the character of the existing building in terms of design, form, choice of materials and positioning and meet all other relevant criteria of this policy.
- i) Proposals must orientate and design buildings to maximise opportunities for solar gain.
- j) All developments must be designed so as to ensure that all new buildings avoid a specified and rising proportion of the projected greenhouse gas emissions from their use (calculated on the basis of the approved design and plans for the specific development) through the installation and operation of low and zero-carbon generating technologies.

(ii) Transportation

- a) Proposals must provide safe entry and exit from the development, including the appropriate number and type of junctions, maximise connections and routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including links to active travel and core path routes, reduce travel demands and ensure appropriate visibility for all road users at junctions and bends. Road, cycling, footpath and public transport connections and infrastructure must be provided at a level appropriate to the development and connect people to education, employment, recreation, health, community and retail facilities.
- b) Car parking must not dominate the street scene and must be provided to the side or rear –and behind the building line. Maximum (50%) parking to the front of buildings and on street may be permitted provided that the visual impact of the parked cars is mitigated by hedging or low stone boundary walls. Roadways with a single carriageway must provide sufficient off road parking to avoid access routes being blocked to larger service vehicles and prevent parking on pavements.
- c) Provide safe access to and from the road network, address any impacts on road safety and the local road, rail and public transport network. Any impacts identified through Transport Assessments/ Statements must be identified and mitigated. This may include but would not be limited to, passing places, road widening, junction improvements, bus stop infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential mitigation measures have been identified in association with the development of sites and the most significant are shown on the Proposals Map as TSP's.

- d) Provide covered and secure facilities for cycle parking at all flats/apartments, retail, community, education, health and employment centres.
- e) Garages and parking provision must be designed to comply with Moray Council parking specifications see Appendix 2.
- f) The road layout must be designed to allow for the efficient mechanical sweeping of all roadways and channels, pavements, turning areas and junctions. The road layout must also be designed to enable safe working practices, minimising reversing of service vehicles, with hammerheads minimised in preference to turning areas such as road stubs or hatchets, and to provide adequate space for the collection of waste and movement of waste collection vehicles.
- g) The road and house layout in urban development should allow for communal refuse collection points where the design does not allow for individual storage within the curtilage and / or collections at kerbside. Communal collection points may either be for the temporary storage of containers taken by the individual householder or for the permanent storage of larger containers. The requirements for a communal storage area are stated within the Council's Kerbside Collection Policy, which will be a material consideration.
- h) Road signs should be minimised designed and placed at the back of footpaths to reduce street clutter, avoid obstructing pedestrian movements and safeguarding sightlines;
- i) Within communal parking areas there will be a requirement for electric car charging points. Parking spaces for car sharing must be provided where a need is identified by the Transportation Manager.

(iii) Water environment, pollution, contamination

- a) Acceptable water and drainage provision must be made, including the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) for dealing with surface water including temporary/ construction phase SUDS (see Policy EP12).
- b) New development should not be located in areas at flood risk or increase vulnerability to flooding (see Policy EP12). Exceptions to this would only be considered in specific circumstances, e.g. extension to an existing building or change of use to an equal or less vulnerable use. Where this exception is applied the proposed development must include resilience measures such as raised floor levels and electrical sockets.
- c) Proposals must avoid major hazard sites and address any potential risk of pollution including ground water contamination in accordance with recognised pollution prevention and control measures.
- d) Proposals must protect and wherever practicable enhance water features through for example naturalisation of watercourses by introducing a more natural planform and removing redundant or unnecessary structures.
- e) Proposals must address and sufficiently mitigate any contaminated land issues.

- f) Make acceptable arrangements for waste collection and management and encourage recycling.
- g) Avoid sterilising significant workable reserves of minerals, prime agricultural land or productive forestry.
- h) Proposals must avoid areas at risk of coastal erosion and coastal change.

DP2 HOUSING

- a) Proposals for development on all designated and windfall housing sites must include a design statement and shall include supporting information regarding the comprehensive layout and development of the whole site, addressing infrastructure, access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and service vehicles, landscaping, drainage, affordable and accessible housing and other matters as may be required by the planning authority, unless these requirements are not specified in the site designation or are considered not to be required.

Proposals must comply with Policy PP1, DP1, the site development requirements within the settlement plans, all other relevant policies within the Plan and must comply with the following requirements;

- b) Piecemeal/ individual plot development proposals**

Piecemeal and individual/ plot development proposals will only be acceptable where details for the comprehensive redevelopment of the site are provided to the satisfaction of the planning authority and proposals comply with the terms of Policy DP1, other relevant policies including access, affordable and accessible housing, landscaping and open space and where appropriate key design principles and site designation requirements are met.

Proposals for piecemeal/ plot development must be accompanied by a Delivery Plan setting out how the comprehensive development of the site will be achieved.

- c) Housing density**

Capacity figures indicated within site designations are indicative only. Proposed capacities will be considered through the Quality Auditing process against the characteristics of the site, character of the surrounding area, conformity with all policies and the requirements of good Placemaking as set out in Policies PP1 and DP1.

- d) Affordable Housing**

Proposals for all housing developments (including conversions) must provide a contribution towards the provision of affordable housing.

Proposals for new housing developments of 4 or more units (including conversions) must provide 25% of the total units as affordable housing in affordable tenures to be agreed by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager. For proposals of less than 4 market housing units a commuted payment will be required towards meeting housing needs in the local housing market area.

A higher percentage contribution will be considered subject to funding availability, as informed by the Local Housing Strategy. A lesser contribution or alternative in the form of off-site provision or a commuted payment will only be considered where

exceptional site development costs or other project viability issues are demonstrated and agreed by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager and the Strategic Planning and Development Manager. Intermediate tenures will be considered in accordance with the HNDA and Local Housing Strategy, and agreed with the Housing Strategy and Development Manager.

Further detail on the implementation of this policy is provided in the Policy Guidance note on page 40.

e) Housing Mix and Tenure Integration

Proposals must demonstrate tenure integration and meet the following criteria;

- Architectural style and external finishes must ensure that homes are tenure blind
- The spatial mix must ensure communities are integrated to share school catchment areas, open spaces, play areas, sports areas, bus stops and other community facilities.

f) Accessible Housing

Housing proposals of 10 or more units incorporating affordable housing will be required to provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard. Flexibility may be applied on sites where topography would be particularly challenging for wheelchair users.

Further detail on the implementation of this policy is provided in the Policy Guidance note on page 41.

POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE- AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing

Providing affordable housing is a key priority for Moray Council and this is reflected in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2017 highlights the significant requirement for affordable housing in Moray, which is a national issue, resulting from a number of factors including affordability issues, downturn in the economy and the shortage of public and private sector rented houses.

Planning policies assist with the provision of affordable housing, which is defined in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) as;

"housing of a reasonable quality that is affordable to people on modest incomes. Affordable housing may be provided in the form of social rented accommodation, mid-market rented accommodation, shared ownership housing, shared equity housing, housing sold at a discount (including plots for self-build and low cost housing without subsidy." This local development plan regards lower quartile earnings as "modest incomes".

The 2017 HNDA identified a requirement for 56% of all need and demand to be affordable units in Moray between 2017 and 2035. This Local Development Plan has lowered the threshold so that individual house proposals are required to make a contribution towards

affordable housing provision, which is intended to ensure proposals do not circumnavigate the policy and provide a fair and transparent process.

A number of variables influence affordability of housing, including mortgage deposit requirements, mortgage interest rates, lower quartile house prices, lower quartile private rents, lower quartile full time gross earnings. Changes in these variables will affect the affordability of housing in Moray. The maximum affordable rent and maximum affordable house purchase prices is published on the Council's website at

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_90100.html. The current Local Housing Allowance will be used as a proxy for average private sector rents.

Affordable housing should be provided on site and as part of a mixed development of private and affordable units. To meet the need for affordable housing there may be proposals for 100% provision of affordable housing and these will be acceptable as part of a wider mixed community, provided all other Local Development Plan policies are met.

The policy requires single house proposals to make a commuted sum payment as a developer obligation towards affordable housing, with the cost figure published annually on the Council website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_94665.html and determined by the District Valuer's assessment of the value of serviced land for affordable housing in Moray. This allows developers to be clear at the outset of a project about the potential cost of commuted payments and should be reflected in land values.

The type of affordable housing to be provided will be determined by the Housing and Property service. Developers should contact Housing and Property as early as possible. Housing and Property will decide whether a commuted payment or affordable units will be required on a site by site basis. Housing and Property will provide developers with an affordable housing mix, detailing the size and type of housing required based on HNDA/LHS requirements.

The Council will consider the following categories of affordable housing within the context of the needs identified in the HNDA/ LHS;

- Social rented accommodation- housing provided by an affordable rent managed by a Registered Social Landlord such as a housing association or another body regulated by the Scottish Housing Regulator, including Moray Council.
- Mid-market rent accommodation- housing with rents set at a level higher than purely social rent, but lower than market rent levels and affordable by households in housing need. Mid-market rent housing can be provided by the private and social housing sectors.
- Shared equity housing- sales to low income households, administered through a Scottish Government scheme e.g. Low-cost initiative for First Time Buyers (LIFT).

Any proposals to provide affordable housing in a form other than those listed above, must demonstrate that the cost to the householder is "affordable" in the Moray context and that the property will remain "affordable" in perpetuity.

Affordable housing requirement figures will be rounded up.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is produced annually by the Council and identifies details of the proposed delivery of affordable housing.

Accessible housing

Scottish Planning Policy states (para 28) that "the aim is to achieve the right development in the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost" and "that policies and decisions should be.....supporting delivery of accessible housing."

Policy DP2 aims to;

- Assist the Council, the NHS and the Health and Social Care Moray to meet the challenges presented by our ageing population and the shared aim of helping people to live well at home or in a homely setting. The HNDA 2017 demonstrates that Moray's population is ageing and there is a trend towards older and smaller households.
- Provide increased choice of tenure to people with physical disabilities or mobility impairments, by increasing the supply of accessible housing in the private sector. There is currently a mismatch between the size and type of housing required and the size and type of housing available across all tenures. This mismatch, along with increasing housing needs associated with physical disability, are the likely drivers of owner occupiers seeking public sector accessible housing to meet medical needs.

Accessible/ adapted housing can promote independence and wellbeing for older or disabled people, can facilitate self- care, informal care and unpaid care, potentially prevent falls and hospital admissions and can delay entry into residential care.

Policy DP2 requires that housing proposals of 10 or more units incorporating affordable housing must provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard where all the rooms are accessible to a wheelchair user.

This applies to new build and conversion/ redevelopment projects. Flexibility may apply where there is extremely challenging topography or where the site is in a remote location. For the purposes of Policy DP2, "remote" locations are defined as being rural areas outside settlement and Rural Grouping boundaries as defined in the Local Development Plan.

Accessible units should be in a location which provides convenient access, in terms of distance, gradient and available public transport, to reach the facilities needed for independent living. Small, low maintenance gardens are generally regarded as a positive feature by this customer group.

New wheelchair accessible housing in any tenure must comply with Housing for Varying Needs Standards (HfVNs), including the standards specific to dwellings for wheelchair users. HfVNs is available at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20131205115152uo_/http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/cs/HousingOutput/start.htm

The specific design specification required to meet the terms of this policy are;

External requirements

- location(s) convenient for amenities and facilities e.g. public transport, local shops etc
- car parking space as close as possible to the entrance door and at a maximum distance of 15m (HfVNs para 7.13.4 refers).

- Step free paths within curtilage, ramp gradients preferably of 1:20 but no steeper than 1:12 (HfVNs para 7.7.1 refers)

Internal requirements

- Hallways- minimum 1200mm wide (HfVNs para 10.2.3 refers)
- Door frames- minimum 926mm wide door leaf, giving a clear width of 870mm (HfVNs para 10.5.7 refers)
- Bathrooms/ wet rooms- 1500mm wheelchair turning circle required (HfVNs para 14.9.2 refers)

Accessible housing requirement figures will be rounded down.

All proposals for new build or converted housing should set out details of how they will comply with this policy in their planning application.

DP7 RETAIL/ TOWN CENTRES

a) Town Centres

Developments likely to attract significant footfall including retail, offices, leisure, entertainment/cultural and community facilities must be located in town centres.

Within Core Retail Areas (identified on settlement maps, CRA), at ground level, only development for Use Class 1 Shops, Use Class 2 Financial, professional and other services, or Use Class 3 Food and drink will be supported. Above ground floor level residential use will, in principle, be supported as an appropriate use.

Proposals must be appropriate to the scale, character and role of the town centre (Table 6) and support a mix of uses within the town centre. Proposals that would lead to a concentration of a particular use to the detriment of the town's vitality and viability will not be supported.

b) Outwith Town Centres

Outwith town centres, development (including extensions and sub-divisions) likely to attract significant footfall including retail, offices, leisure, entertainment/cultural and community facilities must;

- Demonstrate that no sequentially preferable sites are available. Locations will be considered in the following order of preference;
 - Town centres (as shown on settlement maps).
 - Edge of centre.
 - Commercial Centres (as shown on settlement maps, CC).
 - Brownfield or OPP sites that are or can be made easily accessible by pedestrians and a choice of modes of transport.
 - Out of centre sites that are or can be made easily accessible by pedestrians and a choice of modes of transport.
- Demonstrate that there is no unacceptable individual or cumulative impact on the vitality and viability of the network of town centres (Table 6), where appropriate by a Retail Impact Assessment.

Flexibility will be allowed to ensure that community, education and health care uses are located where they are easily accessible to the communities they serve.

c) Neighbourhood Retail

Small shops that are intended to primarily serve the convenience needs of a local neighbourhood within a settlement boundary will be supported. Depending on scale, proposals may be required to demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the network of town centres (Table 6), by a Retail Impact Assessment or Retail Statement. Within a neighbourhood one unit of up to 400m² designed to meet the day to day convenience needs of the neighbourhood will be supported. Other small units of up to 150m² that contribute to creating a mix of uses in a neighbourhood centre/hub will be supported. This could include small retail uses (Class 1 non-food), financial and professional services (Class2) and cafes and small restaurants (Class 3). Neighbourhood hubs/centres should aim to contribute to the sense of community and place, the sustainability of an area, reduce the need to travel for day to day requirements and provide adequate parking and servicing areas.

Change of use of established or consented neighbourhood retail units will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that active marketing has failed to find a retail use for the premise. For a change of use to be considered, the premises must have been vacant and actively marketed for a minimum of three years at an appropriate market rent/value. Where the unit is part of a consent for wider development, the three year marketing period will be counted from the completion of the development as a whole i.e. change of use of a retail unit will not be considered half way through completion of a development or in the three years after the completion of the whole development.

d) Ancillary Retailing

See policy DP5 Business and Industry in respect of ancillary retailing to an industrial or commercial business.

e) Outwith Settlement Boundaries

Outwith settlement boundaries, proposals for small scale retail development will only be supported if these are ancillary to a tourism or agricultural use. Small scale extensions to existing retail activity will only be supported where this does not undermine the vitality and viability of the network of town centres (Table 6).

EP2 BIODIVERSITY

All development proposals must, where possible, retain, protect and enhance features of biological interest and provide for their appropriate management. Development must safeguard and where physically possible extend or enhance wildlife corridors and green/blue networks and prevent fragmentation of existing habitats.

Development should integrate measures to enhance biodiversity as part of multi-functional spaces/ routes.

Proposals for 4 or more housing units or 1000 m² or more of commercial floorspace must create new or, where appropriate, enhance natural habitats of ecological and amenity value.

Developers must demonstrate, through a Placemaking Statement where required by Policy PP1 which incorporates a Biodiversity Plan, that they have included biodiversity features in the design of the development. Habitat creation can be achieved by providing links into existing green and blue networks, wildlife friendly features such as wildflower

verges and meadows, bird and bat boxes, amphibian friendly kerbing, wildlife crossing points such as hedgehog highways and planting to encourage pollination, wildlife friendly climbing plants, use of hedges rather than fences, incorporating biodiversity measures into SUDS and retaining some standing or lying dead wood, allotments, orchards and woodlands.

Where development would result in loss of natural habitats of ecological amenity value, compensatory habitat creation will be required where deemed appropriate.

EP5 OPEN SPACE

a) Existing Open Space (ENV's and Amenity Land)

Development which would result in a change of use of a site identified under the ENV designation in settlement statements or amenity land designations in rural groupings to anything other than open space use will be refused. Proposals that would result in a change of use of an ENV4 Sports Area to any other use (including other ENV categories) will be refused. The only exceptions are where the proposal is for essential community infrastructure required to deliver the key objectives of the Council and its Community Planning Partners, excluding housing, or for a site specific opportunity identified within the settlement statement. Where one of these exceptions applies, proposals must:

- Be sited and designed to minimise adverse impacts on the principal function of the space and the key qualities and features identified in the Moray Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance.
- Demonstrate that there is a clear excess of the type of ENV and the loss of the open space will not negatively impact upon the quality, accessibility and quantity of open space provision and does not fragment green networks (with reference to the Moray Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance, green network mapping and for ENV4 Sports Area in consultation with SportScotland) or replacement open space provision of equivalent function, quality and accessibility is made.

The temporary use of unused or underused land as green infrastructure is encouraged, this will not prevent any future development potential which has been identified from being realised. Proposals that would result in a change of use of an ENV4 Sports Area to any other use (including other ENV categories) will be refused.

Proposals for allotments or community growing on existing open space will be supported where they do not adversely affect the primary function of the space or the key qualities and features identified in the Moray Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance and a locational requirement has been identified in the Council's Food Growing Strategy. Consideration will include related aspects such as access, layout, design and car parking requirements.

Any new/proposed extension to existing cemetery sites requiring an intrusive ground investigation must be undertaken in accordance with SEPA's guidance on assessing the impacts of cemeteries on groundwater before any development occurs at the site.

Areas identified in Settlement Statements as ENV are categorised based on their primary function as set out below. These are defined in the Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance.

- ENV 1** Public Parks and Gardens
- ENV 2** Amenity Greenspace
- ENV 3** Playspace for children and teenagers
- ENV 4** Sports Areas
- ENV 5** Green Corridors
- ENV 6** Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace
- ENV 7** Civic Space
- ENV 8** Allotments
- ENV 9** Cemeteries and proposed extensions
- ENV 10** Private Gardens and Grounds
- ENV 11** Other Functional Greenspace

b) Green Infrastructure and Open Space in New Development

New development must incorporate accessible multifunctional open space of appropriate quantity and quality to meet the needs of development and must provide green infrastructure to connect to wider green/blue networks. In Elgin, Buckie and Forres green infrastructure must be provided as required in the green network mapping. Blue drainage infrastructure will require to be incorporated within green open space. The blue-green context of the site will require to be considered from the very outset of the design phase to reduce fragmentation and maximize the multi-benefits arising from this infrastructure.

Open space provision in new developments must meet the accessibility, quality and quantity standards set out below and meet the requirements of policy PP1 Placemaking, EP2 Biodiversity, other relevant policies and any site specific requirements within the Settlement Statements. Developers must demonstrate through a Placemaking Statement that they have considered these standards in the design of the open space, this must include submission of a wider analysis plan that details existing open space outwith the site, key community facilities in the area and wider path networks.

i) Accessibility Standard

Everyone will live within a five minute walk of a publicly usable space of at least 0.2ha.

ii) Quality Standard

All new development proposals will be assessed and must achieve a very good quality score of no less than 75%. Quality will be assessed by planning officers at the planning application stage against the five criteria below using the bullet point prompts. Each criterion will be scored on a scale of 0 (poor) to 5 (very good) with an overall score for the whole development expressed as a percentage.

Accessible and well connected

- Allows movement in and between places, consideration to be given to reflecting desire lines, permeable boundaries, and multiple access points
- Accessible entrances in the right places.

- Accessible for all generations and mobility's, including consideration of gradient and path surfaces.
- Provide appropriately surfaced, inclusive, high quality paths.
- Connects with paths, active travel routes and other transport modes including bus routes.
- Offers connecting path network with legible waymarking and signage.

Attractive and Appealing Places

- Attractive with positive image created through character and quality elements.
- Attractive setting for urban areas.
- Quality materials, equipment and furniture.
- Attractive plants and landscape elements that support character, including providing seasonal and sensory variation and food production.
- Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas.
- Adequate bin provision.
- Long term maintenance measures in place.↵

Biodiverse supporting ecological networks (see Policy EP2 Biodiversity)

- Contribute positively to biodiversity through the creation of new natural habitats for ecological and amenity value.
- Large enough to sustain wildlife populations, including green/blue networks and landscaping.
- Offers a diversity of habitats.
- Landscaping and open space form part of wider landscape structure and setting.
- Connects with wider blue/green networks Provide connections to existing green/bue networks and avoids fragmentation of existing habitats.
- Ensure a balance between areas managed positively for biodiversity and areas managed primarily for other activities e.g. play, sport.
- Resource efficient, including ensuring open space has a clear function and is not "left over".

Promotes activity, health and well being

- Provides multifunctional open space for a range of outdoor physical activities reflecting user needs and location.
- Provides diverse play, sport, and recreational facilities for a range of ages and user groups.
- Providing places for social interaction, including supporting furniture to provide seating and resting opportunities.
- Appropriate high quality facilities meeting needs and reflecting the site location and site.
- Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages with consideration to be given to existing facilities, overlooking, and ease of access for users.
- Open space is flexible to accommodate changing needs.

Safe, Welcoming and contributing to Character and Identity

- Safe and welcoming.
- Good levels of natural surveillance.
- Discourage anti-social behaviour.
- Appropriate lighting levels.

- Sense of local identity and place.
- Good routes to wider community facilities e.g connecting to schools, shops, or transport nodes.
- Distinctive and memorable places that support local culture and identity. →
- Catering for a range of functions and activities providing a multi-functional space meeting needs.
- Community involvement in management.

iii) Quantity Standard

Unless otherwise stated in site designations, the following quantity standards will apply.

- Residential sites less than 10 units - landscaping to be determined under the terms of Policy DP1 Development Principles to integrate the new development.
- Residential sites 10-50 units and new industrial sites- minimum 15% open space
- Residential sites 51-200 units- minimum 20% open space
- Residential sites 201 units and above and Business Parks- minimum 30% open space which must include allotments, formal parks and playspaces within residential sites.

In meeting the quantity requirements, only spaces which have a clear multi benefit function will be counted. Structure and boundary landscaping areas must make provision for public access and link into adjacent green corridors. The quantity standard must be met within the designation boundaries. For windfall sites the quantity standard must be new open space provision within the application boundaries.

Open Spaces approved in new developments will be classed as ENV spaces upon granting of consent.

Proposals must also comply with the Council's Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance.

EP12 MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

a) Flooding

New development will not be supported if it would be at significant risk of flooding from any source or would materially increase the possibility of flooding elsewhere. For development at or near coastal locations, this includes consideration of future flooding that may be caused by sea level rise and/or coastal change eroding existing natural defences in the medium and long term.

Proposals for development in areas considered to be at risk from flooding will only be permitted where a flood risk assessment to comply with the recommendations of Scottish Planning Policy and to the satisfaction of Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Council is provided by the applicant.

There are different levels of flood risk assessment dependent on the nature of the flood risk. The level of assessment should be discussed with the Council prior to submitting a planning application.

- Level 1** - a flood statement with basic information with regard to flood risk.
- Level 2** - full flood risk assessment providing details of flood risk from all sources, results of hydrological and hydraulic studies and any appropriate proposed mitigation.

Assessments must demonstrate that the development is not at risk of flooding and would not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. Level 2 flood risk assessments must be signed off by a competent professional. The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Development Supplementary Guidance provides further detail on the information required.

Due to continuing changes in climatic patterns, the precautionary principle will apply when reviewing any application for an area at risk from inundation by floodwater. Proposed development in coastal areas must consider the impact of tidal events and wave action when assessing potential flood risk.

The following limitations on development will also be applied to take account of the degree of flooding as defined in Scottish Planning Policy;

- a) In areas of little to no risk (less than 0.1%), there will be no general constraint to development.
- b) Areas of low to medium risk (0.1% to 0.5%) will be considered suitable for most development. A flood risk assessment may be required at the upper end of the probability range i.e. (close to 0.5%) and for essential civil infrastructure and the most vulnerable uses. Water resistant materials and construction may be required. Areas within this risk category will generally not be suitable for civil infrastructure. Where civil infrastructure must be located in these areas or is being substantially extended, it should be designed to be capable of remaining operational and accessible during flooding events.
- c) Areas of medium to high risk (0.5% or above) may be suitable for:
 - Residential, institutional, commercial and industrial development within built up areas provided that flood protection measures to the appropriate standard already exist and are maintained, are under construction, or are a planned measure in a current flood management plan.
 - Essential infrastructure within built up areas, designed and constructed to remain operational during floods and not impede water flow.
 - Some recreational, sport, amenity and nature conservation uses, provided appropriate evacuation procedures are in place, and
 - Employment related accommodation e.g. caretakers or operational staff.

Areas within these risk categories will generally not be suitable for the following uses and where an alternative/lower risk location is not available;

- Civil infrastructure and most vulnerable uses.
- Additional development in undeveloped and sparsely developed areas, unless a location is essential for operational reasons e.g. for navigation and water based recreation, agriculture, transport or utilities infrastructure (which should be designed to be operational during floods and not impede water flows).
- New caravan and camping sites

Where development is permitted, measures to protect against or manage flood risk will be required and any loss of flood storage capacity mitigated to achieve a neutral or better outcome. Water resistant materials and construction must be

used where appropriate. Land raising and elevated buildings on structures such as stilts are unlikely to be acceptable.

b) Surface Water Drainage: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

Surface water from development must be dealt with in a sustainable manner that has a neutral effect on flooding or which reduces the risk of flooding. The method of dealing with surface water must also avoid pollution and promote habitat enhancement and amenity. All sites must be drained by a sustainable drainage system (SUDS) designed in line with current CIRIA guidance. Drainage systems must contribute to enhancing existing "blue" and "green" networks while contributing to place-making, biodiversity, recreational, flood risk and climate change objectives.

When considering the appropriate SUDS design for the development the most sustainable methods, such as rainwater harvesting, green roofs, bio retention systems, soakaways, and permeable pavements must be considered first. If it is necessary to include surface water attenuation as part of the drainage system, only above ground attenuation solutions will be considered, unless this is not possible due to site constraints.

If below ground attenuation is proposed the developer must provide a robust justification for this proposal. Over development of a site or a justification on economic grounds will not be acceptable. When investigating appropriate SUDS solutions developers must integrate the SUDS with allocated green space, green networks and active travel routes to maximise amenity and biodiversity benefits.

Specific arrangements must be made to avoid the issue of permanent SUDS features becoming silted-up with run-off. Care must be taken to avoid the spreading and/or introduction of invasive non-native species during the construction of all SUDS features. On completion of SUDS construction the developer must submit a comprehensive Operation and Maintenance Manual. The ongoing maintenance of SUDS for all new development will be undertaken through a factoring agreement, the details of which must be supplied to the Planning Authority.

All developments of less than 3 houses or a non-householder extension under 100 square metres must provide a Drainage Statement. A Drainage Assessment will be required for all developments other than those identified above.

c) Water Environment

Proposals, including associated construction works, must be designed to avoid adverse impacts upon the water environment including Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and should seek opportunities for restoration and/or enhancement, if appropriate. The Council will only approve proposals impacting on water features where the applicant provides a report to the satisfaction of the Council that demonstrates that any impact (including cumulative) on water quality, water quantity, physical form (morphology), river hydrology, sediment transport and erosion, coastal processes (where relevant) nature conservation (including protected species), fisheries, recreational, landscape, amenity and economic and social impact can be adequately mitigated.

The report must consider existing and potential impacts up and downstream of the development particularly in respect of potential flooding. The Council operates a

presumption against the culverting of watercourses and any unnecessary engineering works in the water environment.

A buffer strip of at least 6 metres between any new development and all water features is required and should be proportional to the bank width and functional river corridor (see table on page 96). This must achieve the minimum width within the specified range as a standard, however, the actual required width within the range should be calculated on a case by case basis by an appropriately qualified individual. These must be designed to link with blue and green networks, including appropriate native riparian vegetation and can contribute to open space requirements.

Developers may be required to make improvements to the water environment as part of the development. Where a Water Framework Directive (WFD) water body specific objective is within the development boundary, or in proximity, developers will need to address this within the planning submission through assessment of potential measures to address the objective and implementation, unless adequate justification is provided. Where there is no WFD objective the applicant should still investigate the potential for watercourse restoration along straightened sections or removal of redundant structures and implement these measures where viable.

Width to watercourse (top of bank)	Width of buffer strip (either side)
Less than 1m	6m
1-5m	6-12m
5-15m	12-20m
15m+	20m+

The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Development Supplementary Guidance provides further detail on the information required to support proposals.

EP13 FOUL DRAINAGE

All development within or close to settlements (as defined in the Local Development Plan) of more than 2,000 population must connect to the public sewerage system unless connection is not permitted due to lack of capacity. In such circumstances, temporary provision of private sewerage systems may be allowed provided Scottish Water has confirmed investment to address this constraint has been allocated within its investment Programme and the following requirements have been met;

- Systems must not have an adverse effect on the water environment
- Systems must be designed and built to a standard which will allow adoption by Scottish Water
- Systems must be designed such that they can be easily connected to a public sewer in the future. Typically this will mean providing a drainage line up to a likely point of connection.

All development within or close to settlements (as above) of less than 2,000 population will require to connect to public sewerage except where a compelling case is made otherwise. Factors to be considered in such a case will include size of the proposed development, whether the development would jeopardise delivery of public sewerage infrastructure and existing drainage problems within the area.

Where a compelling case is made, a private system may be acceptable provided it does not pose or add a risk of detrimental effects, including cumulative, to the natural and built environment, surrounding uses or amenity of the general area.

Where a private system is deemed to be acceptable, within settlements as above or small scale development in the countryside, a discharge to land, either full soakaway or raised mound soakaway, compatible with Technical Handbooks (which sets out guidance on how proposals may meet the Building Regulations) must be explored prior to considering a discharge to surface waters.

EP14 POLLUTION, CONTAMINATION & HAZARDS

a) Pollution

Development proposals which may cause significant air, water, soil, light or noise pollution or exacerbate existing issues must be accompanied by a detailed assessment report on the levels, character and transmission of the potential pollution with measures to mitigate impacts. Where significant or unacceptable impacts cannot be mitigated, proposals will be refused.

b) Contamination

Development proposals on potentially contaminated land will be approved where they comply with other relevant policies and;

- i) The applicant can demonstrate through site investigations and risk assessment, that the site is in a condition suitable for the proposed development and is not causing significant pollution of the environment; and
- ii) Where necessary, effective remediation measures are agreed to ensure the site is made suitable for the new use and to ensure appropriate disposal and/ or treatment of any hazardous material.

c) Hazardous sites

Development proposals must avoid and not impact upon hazardous sites or result in public safety concerns due to proximity or use in the vicinity of hazardous sites.

LONG2 Elgin South

- Proposals must comply with the Elgin South Masterplan Supplementary Guidance. The Masterplan layout is shown on page 171.
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) required.
- Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) required.
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey required.
- A Transport Assessment is required, the scope of which must be agreed with Transport Scotland and the Moray Council Transportation.
- Vehicular connection to the A96(T) required via the Barmuckity Business Park.
- A Water Framework Directive waterbody specific objective will require to be addressed.

WARD 07_17

21/00396/APP
23rd March 2021

Plot substitutions at no's 1 to 43 and 47-50 (total no of plots are decreased from 47 to 35 and proposed to be renumbered 301 - 319 and 401- 413) (permissions 18/01209/APP and 16/01244/APP) Glassgreen Elgin South Elgin Moray for Springfield Properties PLC

Comments:

- Advertised for neighbour notification purposes - notification not possible because no premises situated on land to which notification can be sent. Also advertised as a departure from the Moray Local Development Plan 2020.
- The proposal has previously been reported to Committee and the appointed officer considers that the proposals contains significant amendments that Committee may wish to re-consider. Namely the relocation of the commercial units.

Procedure:

- In the event Members are minded to approve, a modification of the Section 75 legal agreement is required prior to issue of the consent.
- No objections received.

Recommendation Grant Planning Permission - Subject To The Following:-

Conditions/Reasons

- 1 The development hereby granted forms part of, and is related to, a development granted planning permission under formal decision notice 16/01244/APP dated 10 May 2018 wherein:
 - a) the terms and conditions as attached to the permission granted under formal decision notice 16/01244/APP are hereby re-iterated and remain in force in so far as they relate to the development hereby approved, in particular Conditions 13-22, 24, 27, 30, 34, 39-41, 50, 52, 53-56 inclusive (or as amended under 18/01209/APP approved on 16 May 2019), including any details already approved thereunder to discharge the requirements of the identified conditions; and
 - b) no part of the development as hereby granted shall be exercised in conjunction with, or in addition to, the building design and plot layout details already approved for plot substitutions at plots 1-43 and 47-50 (total no of plots are decreased from 47 to 35 and proposed to be renumbered 301-322, and 323-335).

Reasons: To ensure a satisfactory form of development and that it progresses in accordance with the already approved and required details, and that only one permission is implemented.

2. Notwithstanding the EV Charging details shown on Drawing Number EL02_PL_SL_14 Rev B which are not accepted, no development works shall commence until a detailed drawing (scale 1:200) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority confirming the provision of, or location where a future Electric Vehicle (EV) charging unit(s) can be connected to an appropriate electricity supply, including details (written proposals and/or plans) to confirm the provision of the necessary cabling, ducting, and consumer units capable of supporting the future charging unit; and thereafter the EV charging infrastructure shall be provided in accordance with the approved drawing and details prior to the first occupation of the dwelling house.

Reason: In the interests of an acceptable form of development and the provision of infrastructure to support the use of low carbon transport, through the provision of details currently lacking.

3. Parking provision for houses shall be provided at the following rates:
 - 1 Bedroom = 1 space
 - 2-3 Bedrooms = 2 spaces
 - 4 or more bedrooms = 3 spaces
 - 1 secure covered cycle parking space shall be provided per flat

Parking shall be provided prior to the completion of each house which it is associated with and thereafter retained and available for that purpose unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority.

Reason: To ensure the permanent availability of the level of parking necessary for residents/visitors/others in the interests of an acceptable development and road safety.

4. No boundary fences, hedges, walls or any other obstruction whatsoever over 0.6m in height and fronting onto the public road shall be within 2.4m of the edge of the carriageway.

Reason: To enable drivers of vehicles entering or exiting the site to have a clear view so that they can undertake the manoeuvre safely and with minimum interference to the safety and free flow of traffic on the public road.

5. No works shall commence on any area proposed for development until a Construction Traffic Management Plan for the respective area has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority. The Construction Traffic Management Plan shall include the following information:
 - a. duration of works;
 - b. construction programme;

- c. number of vehicle movements (i.e. materials, plant, staff, components);
- d. anticipated schedule for delivery of materials and plant;
- e. full details of any temporary construction access;
- f. full details of construction traffic routes from the A941 and A96 to the site, including any proposals for temporary haul routes and routes to be used for the disposal of any materials from the site;
- g. measures to be put in place to prevent material being deposited on the public road;
- h. measures to be put in place to safeguard the movements of pedestrians;
- i. traffic management measures to be put in place during works including any specific instructions to drivers; and
- j. parking provision, loading and unloading areas for construction traffic.

Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure an acceptable form of development in terms of the arrangements to manage traffic during construction works at the site.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are:-

The proposal accords with the relevant provisions of the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 with the exception of an acceptable departure from the car parking requirements in Policies PP1 and DP1 and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise.

List of Informatives:

The TRANSPORTATION MANAGER has made the following comments:-

The provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers and/or associated infrastructure shall be provided in accordance with Moray Council guidelines. Cabling between charging units and parking spaces must not cross or obstruct the public road including footways. Infrastructure provided to enable EV charging must be retained for this purpose for the lifetime of the development unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Guidance on Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging requirements can be found at:

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file134860.pdf>

Before commencing development, the applicant is obliged to apply for Construction Consent in accordance with Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 for new roads. The applicant will be required to provide technical information, including drawings and drainage calculations, and provide a Road Bond to cover the full value of the works in accordance with the Security for Private Road Works (Scotland) 1985 Regulations. Advice on this matter can be obtained from the Moray Council web site or by emailing

transport.develop@moray.gov.uk

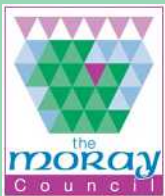
Requirement for any traffic calming, road construction materials and specifications and any SUDs related to the drainage of the public road must be submitted and approved through the formal Roads Construction Consent process.

Public utility apparatus may be affected by this proposal. Contact the appropriate utility service in respect of any necessary utility service alterations which have to be carried out at the expense of the developer.

No building materials/scaffolding/builder's skip shall obstruct the public road (including footpaths) without permission from the Roads Authority. The applicant shall free and relieve the Roads Authority from any claims arising out of their operations on the road or extension to the road.

LIST OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT	
Reference No. Version No.	Title/Description
1653DT-F(AS)901 A	Kintore - elevations and floor plans
EL02_LP_03	Location plan
1224DT (AS) 901 H	Arden - elevations and floor plans
950SD (AS) 901 E	Ardmore - elevations and floor plans
EL02-ENG-320	Levels layout
EL02-ENG-600 A	Drainage layout
652-757CF-901 G	Auldearn - elevations and floor plans
1287DT-901 C	Balerno - elevations and floor plans
1339DTAS-901 G	Braemar - elevations and floor plans
1932CT AS-901 F	Culbin - elevations and floor plans
1104DTAS-901 C	Lauder - elevations and floor plans
237DTAS-901 B	Nairn - elevations and floor plans
1237SDAS-901 D	Nairn - elevations and floor plans
1202DTAS-901 D	Roslin - elevations and floor plans
SR-901	Standard sun lounge - elevations and floor plans

SPE101.121 SL-01	Landscape overall proposals
SPE101.121 SL-02	Planting plan 1 of 5
SPE101.121 SL-03	Planting plan 2 of 5
SPE101.121 SL-07	Planting schedule
EL02_PL_BALERNO_01	Balerno key building elevations and floor plans
EL02-ENG-210	Indicative utility layout
EL02_PL_BALERNO_01	Balerno key building elevations and floor plans
EL02_PL_CILBIN_01	Culbin key building elevations and floor plan
SPE101.121 SL-09 C	Planting plan
EL02_PL_SL_12	Character areas key buildings
1073SD-901 K	Cupar house type
932TE AS-901 A	Dallachy house type
EL02_PL_SL_09 C	Site layout
EL02_PL_SL_10 C	House type allocation
EL02_PL_SL_12 A	Material conditions
EL02_PL_SL_11 B	Landscape layout
EL02_PL_SL_13 B	Parking provision
EL02_PL_SL_14 B	EV charging



PLANNING APPLICATION COMMITTEE SITE PLAN

Planning Application Ref Number:

21/00396/APP

Site Address:

Glassgreen Elgin South

Elgin

Applicant Name:

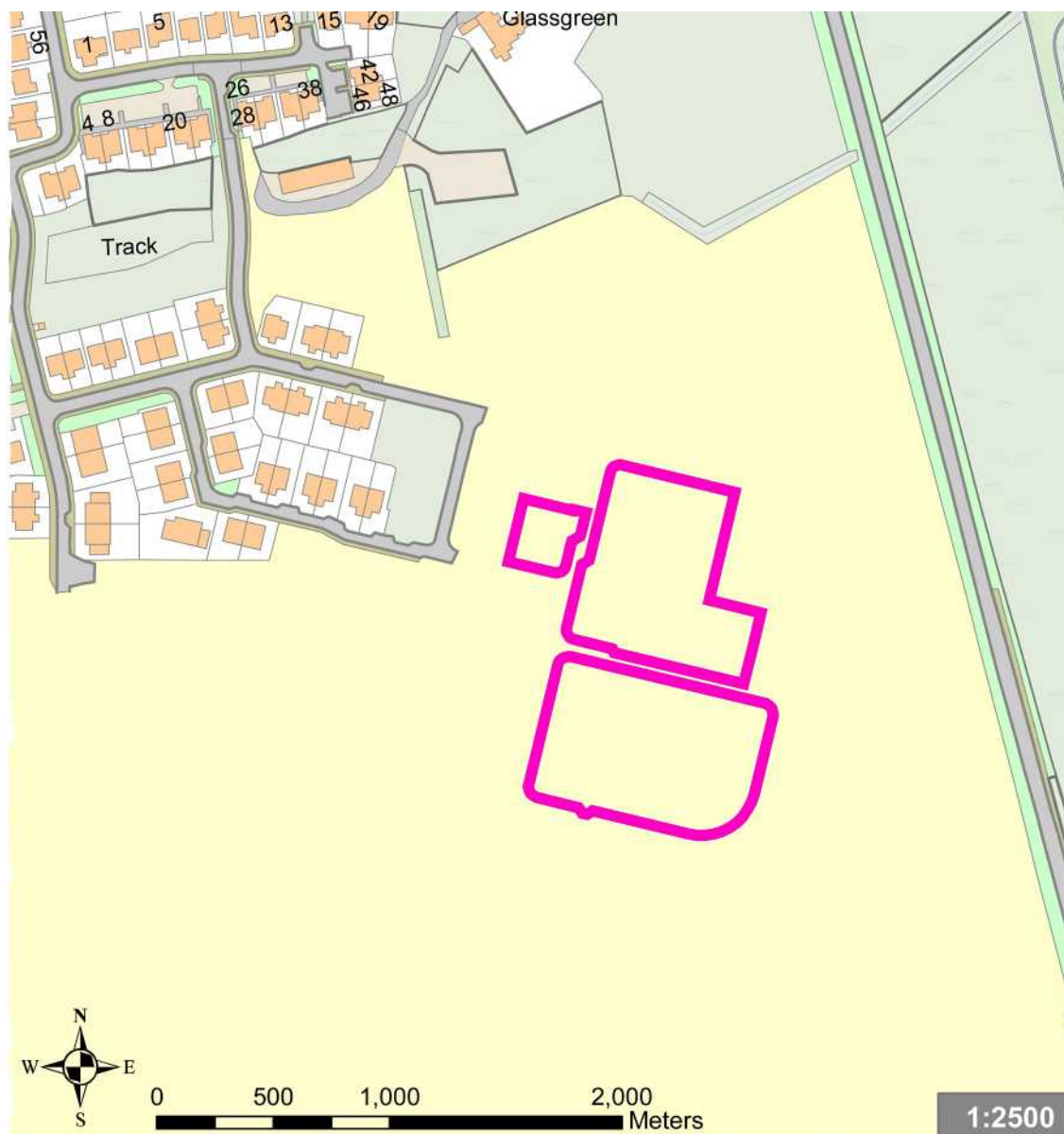
Springfield Properties PLC

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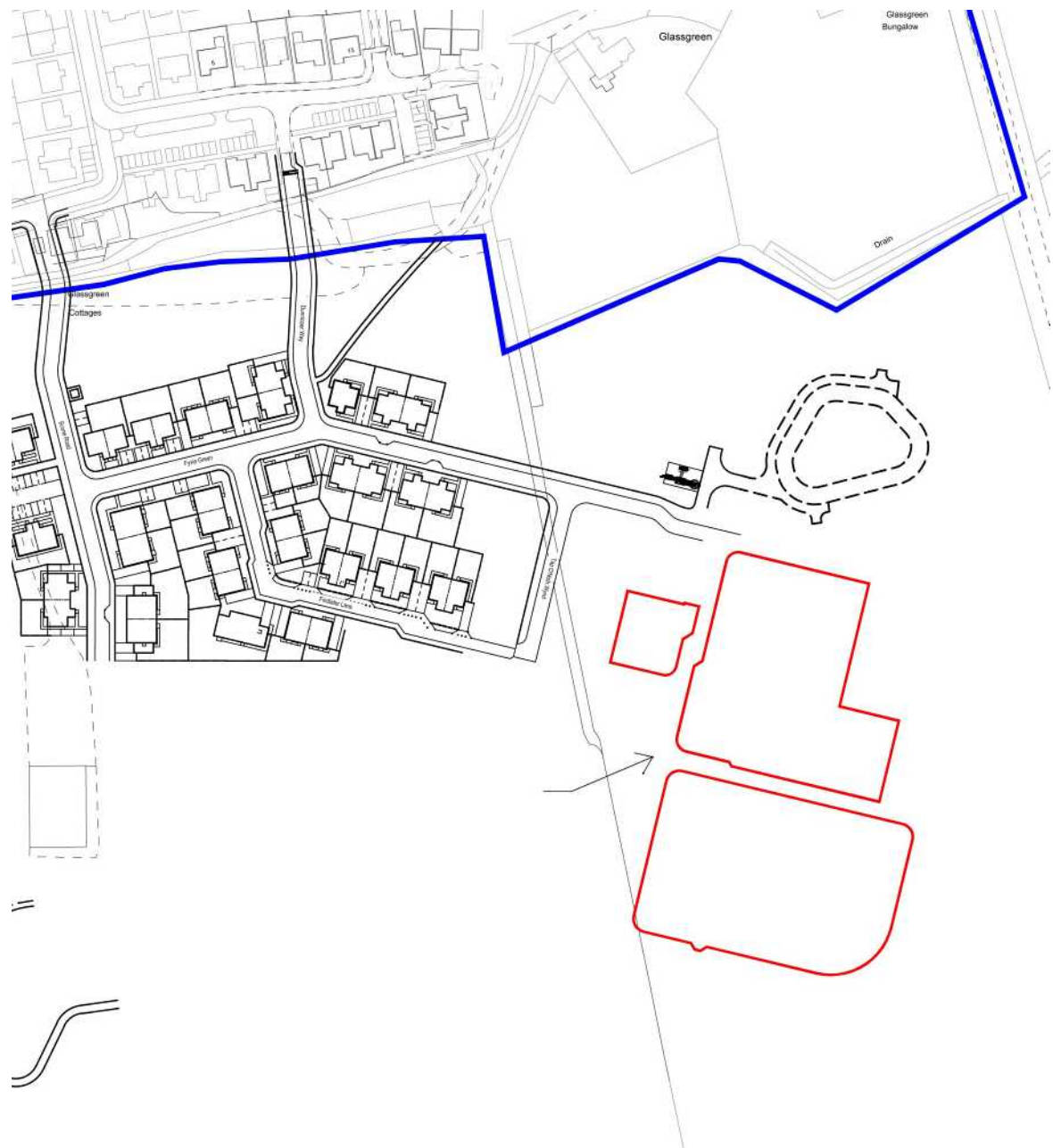
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Location Plan



Site Location





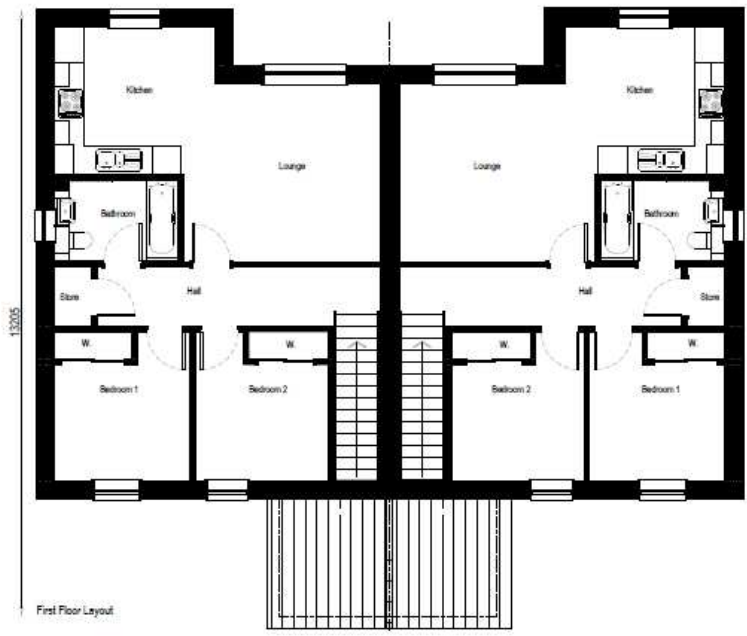
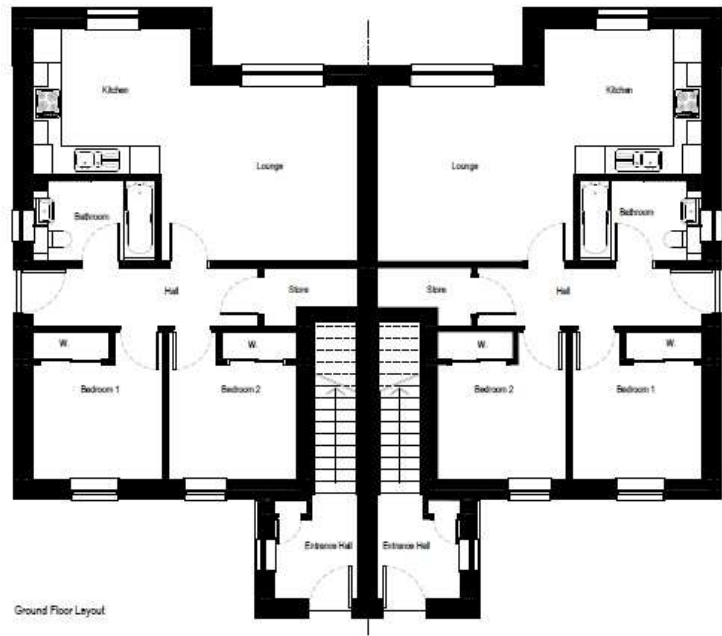
Parking Plan



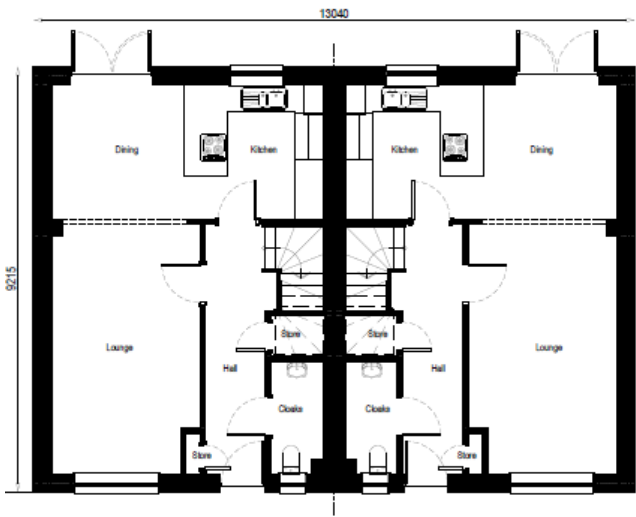
Planting plan



Auldearn Flats



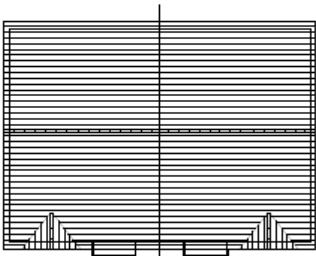
Cupar House Type Semi



Ground Floor Layout 1:50



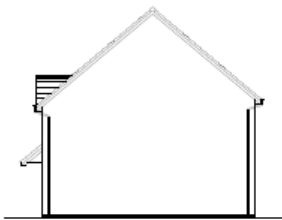
First Floor Layout 1:50



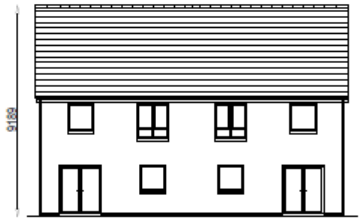
Roof Layout 1:100



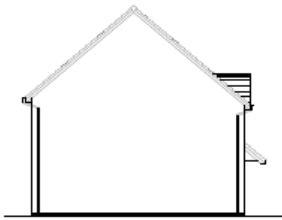
Front Elevation 1:100



Side Elevation 1:100



Rear Elevation 1:100



Side Elevation 1:100



3d illustration

View from A941 looking west across site



View looking eastward across site



PLANNING APPLICATION: 21/00396/APP

In the event that a recommendation on this planning application is overturned the Committee is reminded of the advice contained on the front page of the agenda for Reports on Applications

THE PROPOSAL

- Plot substitutions at No's 1-43 and 47-50 (total no of plots are decreased from 47 to 35 and proposed to be renumbered 301-319 and 401-413).
- Remove the retail element from the ground floor of one of the blocks of flats.
- The proposal will see a reduction in the numbers from 47 to 35 residential units. This results form a move away from terraced or flatted properties, to detached and semi-detached two storey properties. Two blocks of flatted apartments will remain.
- The previously approved commercial ground floor units, will now be provided elsewhere to the south, and are currently shown to be provided within pending planning application 21/01163/APP.
- The changes have seen alterations to the layout, parking and landscaping of the development.

THE SITE

- The site sits within R20 Glassgreen, Elgin South which has been substantively progressed.
- As the site had already been stripped in preparation for the consented layout, and development remains ongoing at the adjoining South Glassgreen housing phase, it currently forms part of the wider building site.
- The site area subject of amendment extends to approximately 1.16 hectares and was originally agricultural land, but has now been partially committed with roadways and is being used as a construction compound.

HISTORY

16/01244/APP – Phase 1 of Elgin LONG2 south to include 870 houses neighbourhood uses including Classes 1 shops 2 financial professional & other services 3 food & drink 4 business 8 residential institutions 10 non-residential institutions Moray Sport Centre (with provision for indoor & outdoor recreation) two primary school sites and associated infrastructure (transport drainage & open space) and landscaping at Elgin South, Elgin, Moray. Approved by Committee on 10 May 2018 following conclusion of the legal agreement.

18/01209/APP - Application under Section 42 to vary condition 1 of planning consent 16/01244/APP to maintain provision for 870 houses (as approved) but vary phasing design and site layout details i.e. adjust Phase 1A boundary (western most part of Phase 1A within Crescent North and South Glassgreen character areas) to provide 50 affordable homes together with consequential revisions to boundaries of Phase 1D (South

Glassgreen) and eastern most part of Phase 1A (Meadows North character area) and Phase 1C (Meadows East character area) revise mix of homes (including site layout and new Braemar and Lauder house types) within Crescent North and South Glassgreen character areas revise layout and reduce number of houses by 18 units within Village Garden character area to accommodate revision to alignment gas pipeline revise numbers and mix of houses including site layout within Village Core and Meadows East character areas to accommodate 18 homes relocated from Village Garden at Elgin South Elgin Moray. Approved by Committee in 15 May 2019.

18/01603/S75 - Section 42 application to vary the phasing condition (Condition) of Proposed modification of planning obligation (associated with application 16/01244/APP) for Phase 1 development at Elgin LONG 2 South to apply to development occurring under planning applications 16/01244/APP and 18/01209/APP at Elgin South LDP2015 Long 2 Elgin Moray. Concluded in May 2019.

19/00666/APP - Substitution of house types on Plots 1-4 Crescent North (as per 16/01244/APP) at Elgin South, Elgin, Moray. This saw a remix of house types already approved elsewhere within the Elgin South development. Approved under delegated powers on 10 March 2020 and required a modified Section 75 agreement.

19/01641/APP - Remix of plots 37-40 and 44-47 at (8no total) Crescent North Elgin South Elgin, Moray. This saw a remix of house types already approved elsewhere within the Elgin South development. Approved under delegated powers in April 2020.

POLICY - SEE APPENDIX

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertised for neighbour notification purposes and as a departure from the Moray Local Development Plan 2020.

CONSULTATIONS

Health and Safety Executive (gas pipeline) – further discussion with Scottish Gas Networks clarified that the amendment would not increase the number of houses, nor reduce the proximity of house units to the adjoining high pressure gas main. No objection.

Scottish Water – no objections and advice to applicant that separate contact/application will be required at the time of connection. Sewer connections in the vicinity will be required, and have already been provided in part.

Building Standards – a Building Warrant will be required.

Flood Risk Management Team – no objections.

Environmental Health Manager: Contaminated Land – no objections.

Environmental Health Manager – no objections.

Transportation Manager – following submission of amended plans resolving parking and roads issues, the proposal is acceptable subject to the condition and informative proposed.

Housing Strategy and Development Manager – no objection as number of affordable houses is maintained.

Developer Obligations - no further developer obligations will be sought. The existing s75 legal agreement relating to planning application 16/01244/APP and its modifications will cover this current planning application.

Strategic Planning and Development – noting that the recently approved updated Elgin South Masterplan shifts the intended zoning of retail units further south within South Glassgreen, and therefore the removal of the shop units from this location would not be a departure.

The revised layout removes internal streets that were solely used for parking which creates a better block layout and allows properties to be orientated “back to back”. The removal of these parking streets is welcomed and creates streets that are naturally overlooked and therefore safer. The street layout still provides a positive frontage to the east which is a requirement of the approved masterplan. On this basis the proposed changes to the street layout are acceptable.

The applicant has now provided information relating to two key buildings. These buildings will incorporate feature stonework on the principle elevations and will aid in providing character and distinction from the other house types within the character area and is therefore acceptable in this instance.

While positive changes have been made to the overall layout, two smaller streets (i.e. Plots 309 & 310 and 326 & 327) still fail to meet the 50% threshold and therefore remain a departure from the policy. These are small streets with two houses on each and are significantly set back from the main route into the site. The landscape plan shows that in addition to these plots being set back from the main route there will be two rows of hedging and tree planting. This will ensure that adequate landscape mitigation is provided ensuring that there is no detrimental impact on the wider street-scene/layout.

The applicant has also made changes to these plots from previous layouts by separating the location of the large double driveways so that they are no longer adjacent to each other. This helps to reduce the visual impact and perception of driveways dominating the street-scene which is welcomed.

The application proposes a remix from a previously approved consent and therefore is a material consideration in the determination of this application. The changes that have been made to the layout ensure that the layout complies with the parking element of PP1. This is with the exception of the two small streets mentioned above which can be deemed to be an acceptable departure from the policy for the reasons stated in this instance.

OBJECTIONS-REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

OBSERVATIONS

Section 25 of the 1997 Act as amended requires applications to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan i.e. the adopted Moray Local Development Plan 2020 (MLDP 2020) unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Background

The reason this application is going before Committee is that the proposal, while not seeking to increase the number of house units on the proposed development, does alter the layout and seek to remove the approved commercial unit from the block of flats, as previously approved.

As the principle of housing is established under the larger commenced consent, it is borne in mind that beyond the sites immediate boundaries, the layout is already consented. Policy DP2 Housing setting out that development on designated sites must comply with the site development requirements within the settlement plans and policies. In this regard the current proposal seeks to reduce and alter some house types and minor alterations to the previously approved layout and as such readily complies with Policy DP2 where this can be applied to a portion of a consented surrounding housing development. Matters such as developer contributions, affordable housing provision, drainage, open space provision have all been previously addressed with the original application here.

The main issues are considered below:

Amended house types and layout (PP1, PP3, DP1, DP2 and R19)

There has been a substantive change in the layout for this area of the site, with a move away from terraced housing as was approved under the 2018 application.

With regard to the design and siting of the units, the general design is typical of the house builder's style, found elsewhere within the Elgin South development and other sites across Moray. The massing of the units (in terms of footprint and height) is similar to that currently consented. These can be adequately accommodated within the development without detriment to the character established through the existing consents for the development.

The adjustment of the house types is assessed against the design requirement of policy PP1 Placemaking in so far as the design might alter the character or appearance of this area of the development. While the design of houses differs from those previously approved at this location, they still compliment and resemble the differing designs and pallet of material utilised elsewhere in the development. Of note, some updates to materials used, are reflected in other more recent applications for Elgin South.

There are no aspects of the proposal that would increase detriment toward biodiversity when compared to the previously approved layout and whilst the landscaping will be altered, the proposed landscaping as presented on submitted landscaping plan is acceptable and still proposed substantive feature planting, especially at its north east corner. The lower density also contributes to an altered layout acceptable in terms of space and amenity.

As the updated south masterplan is a material consideration, the focus of the necessary commercial/neighbourhood retail requirement has been identified as being located further

south within Elgin South and indeed commercial units are proposed within the submitted application 21/01163/APP Glassgreen Village Phase 2, which will be considered before Committee in due course. With the delays to Linkwood phases and emphasis within the updated masterplan in the South Glassgreen area, a new hub or focal point is now proposed within application 21/01163/APP for Glassgreen Village Phase 2.

No affordable housing previously approved is being altered or affected by this proposal, which relates solely to private housing.

The proposal accords with the relevant aspects of the above policies such as PP1 Placemaking, PP3 Infrastructure and Services and DP1 Development Principles except for the acceptable departures discussed below.

Access and Parking (PP1 and DP1)

The Transportation service has been consulted in relation to the development and has no objection to the approval of the application subject to conditions to be reiterated from planning permission 16/01244/APP and 18/01209/APP. During the course of the application amended plans were sought to remedy some parking issues and for several areas.

The road layout serving these has undergone some alterations but has not altered substantively from the layout approved under the previous applications, and the amount of parking proposed per unit is still sufficient for the flats now proposed. The provision of parking in the revised layout increases the amount of parking to the side of properties when compared to the approved layout. These would see a reduction in vehicle dominated frontages in line with the aims of policy DP1 Development Principles and PP1 Placemaking. Policy DP1(ii)(b) and PP1 vi) require 50% of the parking on each street to be behind the building line of each unit and while this has been achieved on most streets, for four plots (309 & 310 and 326 & 327) served by un-adopted shared roadways, the 50% will not be achieved. As these plots will be set back, perpendicular from the main street frontage serving them, and will not be sit in a prevalent part of the site they are considered acceptable in this instance. It is acknowledged, that as a remix of a consented site, there are several constraints upon the site, such as preordained access points, drainage infrastructure and HSE gas pipeline spacing requirements that constrain the extent to which the layout can be re-arranged. Plots 309 and 310 in particular are also bound by landscaping and specimen oak trees such that its frontage parking will set back from the road bounding on the east side of the site.

The parking therefore constitutes an acceptable departure from policies PP3 and DP1.

Drainage (EP12)

Surface water would drain within the curtilage to individual surface water soakaways, whilst foul drainage would drain to the public sewer. This arrangement is in keeping with that of the wider development and would be in accordance with the requirements of policy EP12 Management and Enhancement of the Water Environment.

Developer Obligations (PP3)

As the proposal would see a reduction in the Standard Rate Unit Equivalent (SRUE) of the consented scheme, no further developer obligations are required. This does not conflict with policy PP3 and the overall numbers of units being reduced by 12 would not compromise the total number of units approved under 18/01209/APP, but note should be taken of other current planning applications under consideration on nearby sites which

may increase these numbers, such as 21/00206/APP, which would see an increase of 5 house units. Monitoring is taking place to ensure any increase in overall numbers in Elgin South are met with appropriate obligation payments.

Accessible Housing (DP2)

Condition 13 of 18/01209/APP refers to the 'Accessible Housing Statement' (Elgin South Design & Access Statement, Rev C, May 2017 as submitted as part of application 16/01244/APP), which does allow for some flexibility across the various phases, so long as 10% of the private housing stock is accessible. Whilst the number of accessible house units is acceptable (4 units) for the development and meets the 10% requirement, it is noted that the previously approved layout in this area was host to 13 accessible units. The applicant is aware that in future phases the number of accessible units across the Elgin South consented area will be balanced in order to comply with the above planning condition.

The proposal therefore accords with policy DP2 Housing, section f) in terms of accessible housing requirements.

Conclusion

In light of the above, the proposed revised layout, change in mix of housing is acceptable, as being either compliant with policy or an acceptable departure. The applicant in reducing the density has used the space to accommodate more detached and semi-detached housing whilst still maintaining landscaping to the north east corner.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are: -

The proposal accords with the relevant provisions of the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 with the exception of an acceptable departure from the car parking requirements in Policies PP1 and DP1 and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise.

**Author/Contact
Officer:**

Neal MacPherson
Principal Planning Officer

Ext: 01343 563266

**Beverly Smith
Development Management & Building Standards Manager**

APPENDIX

POLICY

Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020

PP1 PLACEMAKING

- a) Development must be designed to create successful, healthy places that support good physical and mental health, help reduce health inequalities, improve people's wellbeing, safeguard the environment and support economic development.
- b) A Placemaking Statement is required for residential developments of 10 units and above to be submitted with the planning application to articulate how the development proposal addresses the requirements of policy PP1 Placemaking and other relevant LDP policies and guidance. The Placemaking Statement must include sufficient information for the council to carry out a Quality Audit. Where considered appropriate by the council, taking account of the nature and scale of the proposed development and of the site circumstances, this shall include a landscaping plan, a topographical survey, slope analysis, site sections, 3D visualisations, a Street Engineering Review and a Biodiversity Plan. The Placemaking Statement must demonstrate how the development promotes opportunities for healthy living and working. The landscape plan must set out details of species type, size, timescales for planting and maintenance.
- c) To create successful, healthy places residential developments of 10 units and above must comply with Scottish Government policy Creating Places and Designing Streets and must incorporate the following fundamental principles:
 - (i) **Character and Identity**
 - Create places that are distinctive to prevent homogenous 'anywhere' development;
 - Provide a number of character areas reflecting site characteristics that have their own distinctive identity and are clearly distinguishable;
 - Provide distinctiveness between and in each character area through a combination of measures including variation in urban form, street structure/network, architecture and masonry, accent features (such as porches), surrounds and detailing, materials (buildings and surfaces), colour, boundary treatments, hard/soft landscaping and a variety of approaches to tree species and planting that emphasises the hierarchy of open spaces and streets within a cohesive design strategy for the whole development;
 - Distinctiveness must be reinforced along main thoroughfares, open spaces and places where people may congregate such as shopping/service centres;
 - Retain, incorporate and/or respond to relevant elements of the landscape such as topography and planted features, natural and historic environment, and propose street naming (in residential developments of 20 units and above, where proposed names are to be submitted with the planning application) to retain and enhance local associations;

(ii) Healthier, Safer Environments

- Designed to prevent crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour with good levels of natural surveillance and security using treatments such as low boundary walls, dual frontages (principal rooms) and well-lit routes to encourage social interaction. Unbroken high boundary treatments such as wooden fencing and blank gables onto routes, open spaces and communal areas will not be acceptable.
- Designed to encourage physical exercise for people of all abilities.
- Create a distinctive urban form with landmarks, key buildings, vistas, gateways and public art to provide good orientation and navigation through the development.
- Provide a mix of compatible uses, where indicated within settlement statements, integrated into the fabric of buildings within the street.
- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists by providing a permeable movement framework that incorporates desire lines (including connecting to and upgrading existing desire lines) and is fully integrated with the surrounding network to create walkable neighbourhoods and encourage physical activity.
- Integrate multi- functional active travel routes, green and open space into layout and design, to create well connected places that encourage physical activity, provide attractive spaces for people to interact and to connect with nature.
- Create safe streets that influence driver behaviour to reduce vehicle speeds that are appropriate to the local context such as through shorter streets, reduced visibility and varying the building line.
- Provide seating opportunities within streets, paths and open spaces for all generations and mobility's to interact, participate in activity, and rest and reflect.
- Provide for people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings, places and open spaces.
- Create development with public fronts and private backs.
- Maximise environmental benefits through the orientation of buildings, streets and open space to maximise the health benefits associated with solar gain and wind shelter.

(iii) Housing Mix

- Provide a wide range of well integrated tenures, including a range of house types and plot sizes for different household sizes, incomes and generations and meet the affordable and accessible requirements of policy DP2 Housing.
- All tenures of housing should have equal access to amenities, greenspace and active travel routes.

(iv) Open Spaces/Landscaping

- Provide accessible, multi-functional open space within a clearly defined hierarchy integrated into the development and connected via an active travel network of green/blue corridors that are fully incorporated into the development and to the surrounding area, and meet the requirements of policy EP5 Open Space and the Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance and Policy EP12 Managing the Water Environment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Developments Supplementary Guidance.
- Landscaped areas must provide seasonal variation, (mix of planting and colour) including native planting for pollination and food production.
- Landscaping areas that because of their size, shape or location would not form any useable space or that will not positively contribute to the character of an area will not contribute to the open space requirements of Policy EP4 Open Space.
- Semi-mature tree planting and shrubs must be provided along all routes with the variety of approaches reflecting and accentuating the street hierarchy.
- Public and private space must be clearly defined.
- Play areas (where identified) must be inclusive, providing equipment so the facility is for every child/young person regardless of ability and provided upon completion of 50% of the character area.
- Proposals must provide advance landscaping identified in site designations and meet the quality requirements of policy EP5 Open Space.
- Structural landscaping must incorporate countryside style paths (such as bound or compacted gravel) with waymarkers.
- Maintenance arrangements for all paths, trees, hedging, shrubs, play/sports areas, roundabouts and other open/ green spaces and blue/green corridors must be provided.

v) Biodiversity

- Create a variety of high quality multi- functional green/blue spaces and networks that connect people and nature, that include trees, hedges and planting to enhance biodiversity and support habitats/wildlife and comply with policy EP2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and EP5 Open Space.
- A plan detailing how different elements of the development will contribute to supporting biodiversity must be included in the design statement submitted with the planning application.
- Integrate green and blue infrastructure such as swales, permeable paving, SUDS ponds, green roofs and walls and grass/wildflower verges into streets, parking areas and plots to sustainably address drainage and flooding issues and enhance biodiversity from the outset of the development.
- Developments must safeguard and where physically possible extend or enhance wildlife corridors and green/blue networks and prevent fragmentation of existing habitats.

(vi) Parking

- Car parking must not dominate the streetscape to the front or rear of properties. On all streets a minimum of 50% of car parking must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line with a maximum of 50% car parking within the front curtilage or on street, subject to the visual impact being mitigated by hedging, low stone boundary walls or other acceptable treatments that enhance the streetscape.
- Provide semi-mature trees and planting within communal private and public/visitor parking areas and on-street parking at a maximum interval of 4 car parking spaces.
- Secure and covered cycle parking and storage, car sharing spaces and electric car charging points must be provided in accordance with policy DP1 Development Principles.
- Parking areas must use a variation in materials to reduce the visual impact on the streetscene.

(vii) Street Layout and Detail

- Provide a clear hierarchy of streets reinforced through street width, building density and street and building design, materials, hard/soft landscaping and a variety of approaches to tree planting and shrubs.
- Streets and connecting routes should encourage walking and cycling over use of the private car by providing well connected, safe and appealing routes.
- Design junctions to prioritise pedestrians, accommodate active travel and public transport and service/emergency vehicles to reflect the context and urban form and ensure that the street pattern is not standardised.
- Dead-end streets/cul-de-sacs will only be selectively permitted such as on rural edges or where topography, site size, shape or relationship to adjacent developments prevent an alternative more permeable layout. These must be short, serving no more than 10 units and provide walking and cycling through routes to maximise connectivity to the surrounding area.
- Where a roundabout forms a gateway into, or a landmark within, a town and/or a development, it must be designed to create a gateway feature or to contribute positively to the character of the area.
- Design principles for street layouts must be informed by a Street Engineering Review (SER) and align with Roads Construction Consent (RCC) to provide certainty that the development will be delivered as per the planning consent.

- (d) Future masterplans will be prepared through collaborative working and in partnership between the developer and the council for Lochyhill (Forres), Barhill Road (Buckie), Elgin Town Centre/Cooper Park, Elgin North East, Clarkly Hill, Burghead and West Mosstodloch. Masterplans that are not prepared collaboratively and in partnership with the council will not be supported. Masterplans that are approved will be Supplementary Guidance to the Plan.
- (e) Proposals for sites must reflect the key design principles and safeguard or enhance the green networks set out in the Proposals Maps and Settlement Statements. Alternative design solutions may be proposed where justification is provided to the planning authority's satisfaction to merit this.

PP3 INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Development must be planned and co-ordinated with infrastructure to ensure that places function properly and proposals are adequately served by infrastructure and services.

- a) In relation to infrastructure and services developments will be required to provide the following as may be considered appropriate by the planning authority, unless these requirements are considered not to be necessary:
 - i) Education, Health, Transport, Sports and Recreation and Access facilities in accord with Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Open Space.
 - ii) Green infrastructure and network requirements specified in policy EP5 Open Space, Town and Village Maps and, contained within Supplementary Guidance on the Open Space Strategy, Masterplans and Development Briefs.
 - iii) Mitigation/modification to the existing transport network (including road and rail) to address the impact of the proposed development in terms of safety and efficiency. This may include but not be limited to passing places, road widening, junction enhancement, bus stop infrastructure, and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential road and transport improvements are identified and shown on the Town and Village Maps as Transport Proposals (TSP's) including the interventions in the Elgin Transport Strategy. These requirements are not exhaustive and do not pre-empt any measures which may result from the Transport Assessment process.
 - iv) Electric car charging points must be provided at all commercial and community parking facilities. Access to charging points must also be provided for residential properties, where in-curtilage facilities cannot be provided to any individual residential property then access to communal charging facilities should be made available. Access to other nearby charging facilities will be taken into consideration when identifying the need for communal electric charging points.
 - v) Active Travel and Core Path requirements specified in the Council's Active Travel Strategy and Core Path Plan.
 - vi) Safe transport and access routes linking to existing networks and mitigating the impacts of development off-site.
 - vii) Information Communication Technology (ICT) and fibre optic broadband connections for all premises unless justification is provided to substantiate it is technically unfeasible.
 - viii) Foul and surface water drainage, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), including construction phase SUDS.
 - ix) Measures that implement the waste management hierarchy as defined in the Zero Waste Plan for Scotland including the provision of local waste storage and recycling facilities designed into the development in accord with policy PP1 Placemaking. For major applications a site waste management plan may be

required to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved during the construction phase.

- x) Infrastructure required to improve or increase capacity at Water Treatment Works and Waste Water Treatment Works will be supported subject to compliance with policy DP1.
- xi) A utilities plan setting out how existing and new utility (including gas, water, electricity pipelines and pylons) provision has been incorporated into the layout and design of the proposal. This requirement may be exempted in relation to developments where the council considers it might not be appropriate, such as domestic or very small scale built developments and some changes of use.

b) Development proposals will not be supported where they:

- i) Create new accesses onto trunk roads and other main/key routes (A941 & A98) unless significant economic benefits are demonstrated or such access is required to facilitate development that supports the provisions of the development plan.
- ii) Adversely impact on active travel routes, core paths, rights of way, long distance and other access routes and cannot be adequately mitigated by an equivalent or better alternative provision in a location convenient for users.
- iii) Adversely impact on blue/green infrastructure, including green networks important for wildlife unless an equivalent or better alternative provision will be provided.
- iv) Are incompatible with key waste sites at Dallachy, Gollanfield, Moycroft and Waterford and would prejudice their operation.
- v) Adversely impact on community and recreational sites, buildings or infrastructure including CF designations and cannot be adequately mitigated.
- vi) Adversely impact on flood alleviation and mitigation infrastructure.
- vii) Compromise the economic viability of bus or rail facilities.

c) Harbours

Development within and diversification of harbours to support their sustainable operation will be supported subject to compliance with other policies and settlement statements.

d) Developer Obligations

Developer obligations will be sought to mitigate any measurable adverse impact of a development proposal on local infrastructure, including education, healthcare, transport (including rail), sports and recreational facilities and access routes. Obligations will be sought to reduce, eliminate or compensate for this impact. Developer obligations may also be sought to mitigate any adverse impacts of a development, alone or cumulatively with other developments in the area, on the natural environment.

Where necessary obligations that can be secured satisfactorily by means of a planning condition attached to planning permission will be done this way. Where this cannot be achieved, the required obligation will be secured through a planning agreement in accordance with Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations.

Developer obligations will be sought in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations. This sets out the anticipated infrastructure requirements, including methodology and rates.

Where a developer considers that the application of developer obligations renders a development commercially unviable a viability assessment and 'open-book accounting' must be provided by the developer which Moray Council, via the District Valuer, will verify, at the developer's expense. Should this be deemed accurate then the Council will enter into negotiation with the developer to determine a viable level of developer obligations.

The Council's Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance provides further detail to support this policy.

DP1 DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

This policy applies to all development, including extensions and conversions and will be applied reasonably taking into account the nature and scale of a proposal and individual circumstances.

The Council will require applicants to provide impact assessments in order to determine the impact of a proposal. Applicants may be asked to determine the impacts upon the environment, transport network, town centres, noise, air quality, landscape, trees, flood risk, protected habitats and species, contaminated land, built heritage and archaeology and provide mitigation to address these impacts.

Development proposals will be supported if they conform to the relevant Local Development Plan policies, proposals and additional guidance, meet the following criteria and address their individual and cumulative impacts:

(i) Design

- a) The scale, density and character must be appropriate to the surrounding area and create a sense of place (see Policy PP1) and support the principles of a walkable neighbourhood.
- b) The development must be integrated into the surrounding landscape which will include safeguarding existing trees and undertaking replacement planting to include native trees for any existing trees that are felled, and safeguarding any notable topographical features (e.g. distinctive knolls), stone walls and existing water features by avoiding channel modifications and culverting. A tree survey and tree protection plan must be provided with planning applications for all proposals where mature trees are present on site or that may impact on trees outwith the site. The strategy for new tree provision should follow the principles of the "Right Tree in the Right Place".
- c) Make provision for new open space and connect to existing open space under the requirements of Policy EP5 and provide details of the future maintenance of

these spaces. A detailed landscape plan must be submitted with planning applications and include information about green/blue infrastructure, tree species, planting, ground/soil conditions, and natural and man-made features (e.g. grass areas, wildflower verges, fencing, walls, paths, etc.).

- d) Demonstrate how the development will conserve and enhance the natural and built environment and cultural heritage resources, retain original land contours and integrate into the landscape.
- e) Proposals must not adversely impact upon neighbouring properties in terms of privacy, daylight or overbearing loss of amenity.
- f) Proposals do not result in backland development or plots that are subdivided by more than 50% of the original plot. Sub-divided plots must be a minimum of 400m², excluding access and the built-up area of the application site will not exceed one-third of the total area of the plot and the resultant plot density and layout reflects the character of the surrounding area.
- g) Pitched roofs will be preferred to flat roofs and box dormers are not acceptable.
- h) Existing stone walls on buildings and boundaries must be retained. Alterations and extensions must be compatible with the character of the existing building in terms of design, form, choice of materials and positioning and meet all other relevant criteria of this policy.
- i) Proposals must orientate and design buildings to maximise opportunities for solar gain.
- j) All developments must be designed so as to ensure that all new buildings avoid a specified and rising proportion of the projected greenhouse gas emissions from their use (calculated on the basis of the approved design and plans for the specific development) through the installation and operation of low and zero-carbon generating technologies.

(ii) Transportation

- a) Proposals must provide safe entry and exit from the development, including the appropriate number and type of junctions, maximise connections and routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including links to active travel and core path routes, reduce travel demands and ensure appropriate visibility for all road users at junctions and bends. Road, cycling, footpath and public transport connections and infrastructure must be provided at a level appropriate to the development and connect people to education, employment, recreation, health, community and retail facilities.
- b) Car parking must not dominate the street scene and must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line. Maximum (50%) parking to the front of buildings and on street may be permitted provided that the visual impact of the parked cars is mitigated by hedging or low stone boundary walls. Roadways with a single carriageway must provide sufficient off road parking to avoid access routes being blocked to larger service vehicles and prevent parking on pavements.

- c) Provide safe access to and from the road network, address any impacts on road safety and the local road, rail and public transport network. Any impacts identified through Transport Assessments/ Statements must be identified and mitigated. This may include but would not be limited to, passing places, road widening, junction improvements, bus stop infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential mitigation measures have been identified in association with the development of sites and the most significant are shown on the Proposals Map as TSP's.
- d) Provide covered and secure facilities for cycle parking at all flats/apartments, retail, community, education, health and employment centres.
- e) Garages and parking provision must be designed to comply with Moray Council parking specifications see Appendix 2.
- f) The road layout must be designed to allow for the efficient mechanical sweeping of all roadways and channels, paviers, turning areas and junctions. The road layout must also be designed to enable safe working practices, minimising reversing of service vehicles, with hammerheads minimised in preference to turning areas such as road stubs or hatchets, and to provide adequate space for the collection of waste and movement of waste collection vehicles.
- g) The road and house layout in urban development should allow for communal refuse collection points where the design does not allow for individual storage within the curtilage and / or collections at kerbside. Communal collection points may either be for the temporary storage of containers taken by the individual householder or for the permanent storage of larger containers. The requirements for a communal storage area are stated within the Council's Kerbside Collection Policy, which will be a material consideration.
- h) Road signs should be minimised designed and placed at the back of footpaths to reduce street clutter, avoid obstructing pedestrian movements and safeguarding sightlines;
- i) Within communal parking areas there will be a requirement for electric car charging points. Parking spaces for car sharing must be provided where a need is identified by the Transportation Manager.

(iii) Water environment, pollution, contamination

- a) Acceptable water and drainage provision must be made, including the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) for dealing with surface water including temporary/ construction phase SUDS (see Policy EP12).
- b) New development should not be located in areas at flood risk or increase vulnerability to flooding (see Policy EP12). Exceptions to this would only be considered in specific circumstances, e.g. extension to an existing building or change of use to an equal or less vulnerable use. Where this exception is applied the proposed development must include resilience measures such as raised floor levels and electrical sockets.

- c) Proposals must avoid major hazard sites and address any potential risk of pollution including ground water contamination in accordance with recognised pollution prevention and control measures.
- d) Proposals must protect and wherever practicable enhance water features through for example naturalisation of watercourses by introducing a more natural planform and removing redundant or unnecessary structures.
- e) Proposals must address and sufficiently mitigate any contaminated land issues.
- f) Make acceptable arrangements for waste collection and management and encourage recycling.
- g) Avoid sterilising significant workable reserves of minerals, prime agricultural land or productive forestry.
- h) Proposals must avoid areas at risk of coastal erosion and coastal change.

DP2 HOUSING

- a) Proposals for development on all designated and windfall housing sites must include a design statement and shall include supporting information regarding the comprehensive layout and development of the whole site, addressing infrastructure, access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and service vehicles, landscaping, drainage, affordable and accessible housing and other matters as may be required by the planning authority, unless these requirements are not specified in the site designation or are considered not to be required.

Proposals must comply with Policy PP1, DP1, the site development requirements within the settlement plans, all other relevant policies within the Plan and must comply with the following requirements;

b) Piecemeal/ individual plot development proposals

Piecemeal and individual/ plot development proposals will only be acceptable where details for the comprehensive redevelopment of the site are provided to the satisfaction of the planning authority and proposals comply with the terms of Policy DP1, other relevant policies including access, affordable and accessible housing, landscaping and open space and where appropriate key design principles and site designation requirements are met.

Proposals for piecemeal/ plot development must be accompanied by a Delivery Plan setting out how the comprehensive development of the site will be achieved.

c) Housing density

Capacity figures indicated within site designations are indicative only. Proposed capacities will be considered through the Quality Auditing process against the characteristics of the site, character of the surrounding area, conformity with all policies and the requirements of good Placemaking as set out in Policies PP1 and DP1.

d) Affordable Housing

Proposals for all housing developments (including conversions) must provide a contribution towards the provision of affordable housing.

Proposals for new housing developments of 4 or more units (including conversions) must provide 25% of the total units as affordable housing in affordable tenures to be agreed by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager. For proposals of less than 4 market housing units a commuted payment will be required towards meeting housing needs in the local housing market area.

A higher percentage contribution will be considered subject to funding availability, as informed by the Local Housing Strategy. A lesser contribution or alternative in the form of off-site provision or a commuted payment will only be considered where exceptional site development costs or other project viability issues are demonstrated and agreed by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager and the Strategic Planning and Development Manager. Intermediate tenures will be considered in accordance with the HNDA and Local Housing Strategy, and agreed with the Housing Strategy and Development Manager.

Further detail on the implementation of this policy is provided in the Policy Guidance note on page 40.

e) Housing Mix and Tenure Integration

Proposals must demonstrate tenure integration and meet the following criteria;

- Architectural style and external finishes must ensure that homes are tenure blind.
- The spatial mix must ensure communities are integrated to share school catchment areas, open spaces, play areas, sports areas, bus stops and other community facilities.

f) Accessible Housing

Housing proposals of 10 or more units incorporating affordable housing will be required to provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard. Flexibility may be applied on sites where topography would be particularly challenging for wheelchair users.

Further detail on the implementation of this policy is provided in the Policy Guidance note on page 41.

POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE- AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing

Providing affordable housing is a key priority for Moray Council and this is reflected in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2017 highlights the significant requirement for affordable housing in Moray, which is a national issue, resulting from a number of factors including affordability issues, downturn in the economy and the shortage of public and private sector rented houses.

Planning policies assist with the provision of affordable housing, which is defined in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) as;

"Housing of a reasonable quality that is affordable to people on modest incomes. Affordable housing may be provided in the form of social rented accommodation, mid-market rented accommodation, shared ownership housing, shared equity housing, housing sold at a discount (including plots for self-build and low cost housing without subsidy." This local development plan regards lower quartile earnings as "modest incomes".

The 2017 HNDA identified a requirement for 56% of all need and demand to be affordable units in Moray between 2017 and 2035. This Local Development Plan has lowered the threshold so that individual house proposals are required to make a contribution towards affordable housing provision, which is intended to ensure proposals do not circumnavigate the policy and provide a fair and transparent process.

A number of variables influence affordability of housing, including mortgage deposit requirements, mortgage interest rates, lower quartile house prices, lower quartile private rents, lower quartile full time gross earnings. Changes in these variables will affect the affordability of housing in Moray. The maximum affordable rent and maximum affordable house purchase prices is published on the Council's website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_90100.html. The current Local Housing Allowance will be used as a proxy for average private sector rents. Affordable housing should be provided on site and as part of a mixed development of private and affordable units. To meet the need for affordable housing there may be proposals for 100% provision of affordable housing and these will be acceptable as part of a wider mixed community, provided all other Local Development Plan policies are met.

The policy requires single house proposals to make a commuted sum payment as a developer obligation towards affordable housing, with the cost figure published annually on the Council website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_94665.html and determined by the District Valuer's assessment of the value of serviced land for affordable housing in Moray. This allows developers to be clear at the outset of a project about the potential cost of commuted payments and should be reflected in land values.

The type of affordable housing to be provided will be determined by the Housing and Property service. Developers should contact Housing and Property as early as possible. Housing and Property will decide whether a commuted payment or affordable units will be required on a site by site basis. Housing and Property will provide developers with an affordable housing mix, detailing the size and type of housing required based on HNDA/LHS requirements.

The Council will consider the following categories of affordable housing within the context of the needs identified in the HNDA/ LHS;

- Social rented accommodation- housing provided by an affordable rent managed by a Registered Social Landlord such as a housing association or another body regulated by the Scottish Housing Regulator, including Moray Council.
- Mid-market rent accommodation- housing with rents set at a level higher than purely social rent, but lower than market rent levels and affordable by households in housing need. Mid-market rent housing can be provided by the private and social housing sectors.
- Shared equity housing- sales to low income households, administered through a Scottish Government scheme e.g. Low-cost initiative for First Time Buyers (LIFT).

Any proposals to provide affordable housing in a form other than those listed above, must demonstrate that the cost to the householder is "affordable" in the Moray context and that the property will remain "affordable" in perpetuity.

Affordable housing requirement figures will be rounded up.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is produced annually by the Council and identifies details of the proposed delivery of affordable housing.

Accessible housing

Scottish Planning Policy states (para 28) that "the aim is to achieve the right development in the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost" and "that policies and decisions should be.....supporting delivery of accessible housing."

Policy DP2 aims to;

- Assist the Council, the NHS and the Health and Social Care Moray to meet the challenges presented by our ageing population and the shared aim of helping people to live well at home or in a homely setting. The HNDA 2017 demonstrates that Moray's population is ageing and there is a trend towards older and smaller households.
- Provide increased choice of tenure to people with physical disabilities or mobility impairments, by increasing the supply of accessible housing in the private sector. There is currently a mismatch between the size and type of housing required and the size and type of housing available across all tenures. This mismatch, along with increasing housing needs associated with physical disability, are the likely drivers of owner occupiers seeking public sector accessible housing to meet medical needs.

Accessible/ adapted housing can promote independence and wellbeing for older or disabled people, can facilitate self- care, informal care and unpaid care, potentially prevent falls and hospital admissions and can delay entry into residential care.

Policy DP2 requires that housing proposals of 10 or more units incorporating affordable housing must provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard where all the rooms are accessible to a wheelchair user.

This applies to new build and conversion/ redevelopment projects. Flexibility may apply where there is extremely challenging topography or where the site is in a remote location. For the purposes of Policy DP2, "remote" locations are defined as being rural areas outside settlement and Rural Grouping boundaries as defined in the Local Development Plan.

Accessible units should be in a location which provides convenient access, in terms of distance, gradient and available public transport, to reach the facilities needed for independent living. Small, low maintenance gardens are generally regarded as a positive feature by this customer group.

New wheelchair accessible housing in any tenure must comply with Housing for Varying Needs Standards (HfVNs), including the standards specific to dwellings for wheelchair users. HfVNs is available at

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20131205115152uo_/http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/cs/HousingOutput/start.htm

The specific design specification required to meet the terms of this policy are;

External requirements:

- Location(s) convenient for amenities and facilities e.g. public transport, local shops etc.
- Car parking space as close as possible to the entrance door and at a maximum distance of 15m (HfVNs para 7.13.4 refers).
- Step free paths within curtilage, ramp gradients preferably of 1:20 but no steeper than 1:12 (HfVNs para 7.7.1 refers).

Internal requirements:

- Hallways- minimum 1200mm wide (HfVNs para 10.2.3 refers)
- Door frames- minimum 926mm wide door leaf, giving a clear width of 870mm (HfVNs para 10.5.7 refers).
- Bathrooms/ wet rooms- 1500mm wheelchair turning circle required (HfVNs para 14.9.2 refers).

Accessible housing requirement figures will be rounded down.

All proposals for new build or converted housing should set out details of how they will comply with this policy in their planning application.

EP2 BIODIVERSITY

All development proposals must, where possible, retain, protect and enhance features of biological interest and provide for their appropriate management. Development must safeguard and where physically possible extend or enhance wildlife corridors and green/blue networks and prevent fragmentation of existing habitats.

Development should integrate measures to enhance biodiversity as part of multi-functional spaces/ routes.

Proposals for 4 or more housing units or 1000 m² or more of commercial floorspace must create new or, where appropriate, enhance natural habitats of ecological and amenity value.

Developers must demonstrate, through a Placemaking Statement where required by Policy PP1 which incorporates a Biodiversity Plan, that they have included biodiversity features in the design of the development. Habitat creation can be achieved by providing links into existing green and blue networks, wildlife friendly features such as wildflower verges and meadows, bird and bat boxes, amphibian friendly kerbing, wildlife crossing points such as hedgehog highways and planting to encourage pollination, wildlife friendly climbing plants, use of hedges rather than fences, incorporating biodiversity measures into SUDS and retaining some standing or lying dead wood, allotments, orchards and woodlands.

Where development would result in loss of natural habitats of ecological amenity value, compensatory habitat creation will be required where deemed appropriate.

EP12 MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

a) Flooding

New development will not be supported if it would be at significant risk of flooding from any source or would materially increase the possibility of flooding elsewhere.

For development at or near coastal locations, this includes consideration of future flooding that may be caused by sea level rise and/or coastal change eroding existing natural defences in the medium and long term.

Proposals for development in areas considered to be at risk from flooding will only be permitted where a flood risk assessment to comply with the recommendations of Scottish Planning Policy and to the satisfaction of Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Council is provided by the applicant.

There are different levels of flood risk assessment dependent on the nature of the flood risk. The level of assessment should be discussed with the Council prior to submitting a planning application.

Level 1 - a flood statement with basic information with regard to flood risk.

Level 2 - full flood risk assessment providing details of flood risk from all sources, results of hydrological and hydraulic studies and any appropriate proposed mitigation.

Assessments must demonstrate that the development is not at risk of flooding and would not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. Level 2 flood risk assessments must be signed off by a competent professional. The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Development Supplementary Guidance provides further detail on the information required.

Due to continuing changes in climatic patterns, the precautionary principle will apply when reviewing any application for an area at risk from inundation by floodwater. Proposed development in coastal areas must consider the impact of tidal events and wave action when assessing potential flood risk.

The following limitations on development will also be applied to take account of the degree of flooding as defined in Scottish Planning Policy;

- a) In areas of little to no risk (less than 0.1%), there will be no general constraint to development.
- b) Areas of low to medium risk (0.1% to 0.5%) will be considered suitable for most development. A flood risk assessment may be required at the upper end of the probability range i.e. (close to 0.5%) and for essential civil infrastructure and the most vulnerable uses. Water resistant materials and construction may be required. Areas within this risk category will generally not be suitable for civil infrastructure. Where civil infrastructure must be located in these areas or is being substantially extended, it should be designed to be capable of remaining operational and accessible during flooding events.
- c) Areas of medium to high risk (0.5% or above) may be suitable for:
 - Residential, institutional, commercial and industrial development within built up areas provided that flood protection measures to the appropriate standard already exist and are maintained, are under construction, or are a planned measure in a current flood management plan.
 - Essential infrastructure within built up areas, designed and constructed to remain operational during floods and not impede water flow.
 - Some recreational, sport, amenity and nature conservation uses, provided appropriate evacuation procedures are in place, and
 - Employment related accommodation e.g. caretakers or operational staff.

Areas within these risk categories will generally not be suitable for the following uses and where an alternative/lower risk location is not available;

- Civil infrastructure and most vulnerable uses.
- Additional development in undeveloped and sparsely developed areas, unless a location is essential for operational reasons e.g. for navigation and water based recreation, agriculture, transport or utilities infrastructure (which should be designed to be operational during floods and not impede water flows).
- New caravan and camping sites.

Where development is permitted, measures to protect against or manage flood risk will be required and any loss of flood storage capacity mitigated to achieve a neutral or better outcome. Water resistant materials and construction must be used where appropriate. Land raising and elevated buildings on structures such as stilts are unlikely to be acceptable.

b) Surface Water Drainage: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

Surface water from development must be dealt with in a sustainable manner that has a neutral effect on flooding or which reduces the risk of flooding. The method of dealing with surface water must also avoid pollution and promote habitat enhancement and amenity. All sites must be drained by a sustainable drainage system (SUDS) designed in line with current CIRIA guidance. Drainage systems must contribute to enhancing existing "blue" and "green" networks while contributing to place-making, biodiversity, recreational, flood risk and climate change objectives.

When considering the appropriate SUDS design for the development the most sustainable methods, such as rainwater harvesting, green roofs, bio retention systems, soakaways, and permeable pavements must be considered first. If it is necessary to include surface water attenuation as part of the drainage system, only above ground attenuation solutions will be considered, unless this is not possible due to site constraints.

If below ground attenuation is proposed the developer must provide a robust justification for this proposal. Over development of a site or a justification on economic grounds will not be acceptable. When investigating appropriate SUDS solutions developers must integrate the SUDS with allocated green space, green networks and active travel routes to maximise amenity and biodiversity benefits.

Specific arrangements must be made to avoid the issue of permanent SUDS features becoming silted-up with run-off. Care must be taken to avoid the spreading and/or introduction of invasive non-native species during the construction of all SUDS features. On completion of SUDS construction the developer must submit a comprehensive Operation and Maintenance Manual. The ongoing maintenance of SUDS for all new development will be undertaken through a factoring agreement, the details of which must be supplied to the Planning Authority.

All developments of less than 3 houses or a non-householder extension under 100 square metres must provide a Drainage Statement. A Drainage Assessment will be required for all developments other than those identified above.

c) **Water Environment**

Proposals, including associated construction works, must be designed to avoid adverse impacts upon the water environment including Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and should seek opportunities for restoration and/or enhancement, if appropriate. The Council will only approve proposals impacting on water features where the applicant provides a report to the satisfaction of the Council that demonstrates that any impact (including cumulative) on water quality, water quantity, physical form (morphology), river hydrology, sediment transport and erosion, coastal processes (where relevant) nature conservation (including protected species), fisheries, recreational, landscape, amenity and economic and social impact can be adequately mitigated.

The report must consider existing and potential impacts up and downstream of the development particularly in respect of potential flooding. The Council operates a presumption against the culverting of watercourses and any unnecessary engineering works in the water environment.

A buffer strip of at least 6 metres between any new development and all water features is required and should be proportional to the bank width and functional river corridor (see table on page 96). This must achieve the minimum width within the specified range as a standard, however, the actual required width within the range should be calculated on a case by case basis by an appropriately qualified individual. These must be designed to link with blue and green networks, including appropriate native riparian vegetation and can contribute to open space requirements.

Developers may be required to make improvements to the water environment as part of the development. Where a Water Framework Directive (WFD) water body specific objective is within the development boundary, or in proximity, developers will need to address this within the planning submission through assessment of potential measures to address the objective and implementation, unless adequate justification is provided. Where there is no WFD objective the applicant should still investigate the potential for watercourse restoration along straightened sections or removal of redundant structures and implement these measures where viable.

Width to watercourse (top of bank)	Width of buffer strip (either side)
Less than 1m	6m
1-5m	6-12m
5-15m	12-20m
15m+	20m+

The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Development Supplementary Guidance provides further detail on the information required to support proposals.

EP13 FOUL DRAINAGE

All development within or close to settlements (as defined in the Local Development Plan) of more than 2,000 population must connect to the public sewerage system unless connection is not permitted due to lack of capacity. In such circumstances, temporary provision of private sewerage systems may be allowed provided Scottish Water has confirmed investment to address this constraint has been allocated within its investment Programme and the following requirements have been met;

- Systems must not have an adverse effect on the water environment
- Systems must be designed and built to a standard which will allow adoption by Scottish Water.
- Systems must be designed such that they can be easily connected to a public sewer in the future. Typically this will mean providing a drainage line up to a likely point of connection.

All development within or close to settlements (as above) of less than 2,000 population will require to connect to public sewerage except where a compelling case is made otherwise. Factors to be considered in such a case will include size of the proposed development, whether the development would jeopardise delivery of public sewerage infrastructure and existing drainage problems within the area.

Where a compelling case is made, a private system may be acceptable provided it does not pose or add a risk of detrimental effects, including cumulative, to the natural and built environment, surrounding uses or amenity of the general area.

Where a private system is deemed to be acceptable, within settlements as above or small scale development in the countryside, a discharge to land, either full soakaway or raised mound soakaway, compatible with Technical Handbooks (which sets out guidance on how proposals may meet the Building Regulations) must be explored prior to considering a discharge to surface waters.

EP14 POLLUTION, CONTAMINATION & HAZARDS

a) Pollution

Development proposals which may cause significant air, water, soil, light or noise pollution or exacerbate existing issues must be accompanied by a detailed assessment report on the levels, character and transmission of the potential pollution with measures to mitigate impacts. Where significant or unacceptable impacts cannot be mitigated, proposals will be refused.

b) Contamination

Development proposals on potentially contaminated land will be approved where they comply with other relevant policies and;

- i) The applicant can demonstrate through site investigations and risk assessment, that the site is in a condition suitable for the proposed development and is not causing significant pollution of the environment; and
- ii) Where necessary, effective remediation measures are agreed to ensure the site is made suitable for the new use and to ensure appropriate disposal and/ or treatment of any hazardous material.

c) Hazardous sites

Development proposals must avoid and not impact upon hazardous sites or result in public safety concerns due to proximity or use in the vicinity of hazardous sites.

R20 Glassgreen, Elgin South 18 ha 195 units

- Proposals must comply with the Elgin South Masterplan Supplementary Guidance. The Masterplan layout is shown on page 171.
- Site R20 includes South Glassgreen and Crescent (North) neighbourhoods within the Elgin South masterplan.

- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) required.
- Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) required.
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey required.
- Open space and play areas must be provided in compliance with the masterplan.

WARD 04_17

21/01487/APP
6th October 2021

**Amend house design approved under ref 15/00244/APP
 on Plot 8 Ordiequish Fields Ordiequish Road Fochabers
 Moray
 for Bob Milton Properties Ltd**

Comments:

- The application is reported to Committee because it proposes a new house type on a development previously approved by Committee decision under application reference 15/00244/APP (for the erection of 49 dwelling houses on R1 Ordiequish Road, Fochabers).
- The proposal has been advertised for neighbour notification purposes.
- One public representation has been received on the application.

Procedure:

None

Recommendation

Grant Planning permission subject to the following conditions and informatives:-

Conditions/Reasons

1. The development hereby granted for Plot 8 forms part of a development granted planning permission under formal decision notice 15/00244/APP dated 26 November 2015, and the conditions attached thereto are hereby re-iterated insofar as they relate to the development hereby granted.

Reason: To ensure that there are no unauthorised departures from the approved plans which could adversely affect the development or character and amenity of the surrounding properties and area for the respective reason given for the conditions.

2. No development works shall commence on the dwelling house until details (written proposals and/or plans) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority to confirm the provision of the necessary cabling, ducting, and consumer units capable of supporting the proposed EV charging point location. Thereafter the EV charging infrastructure shall be provided in accordance with the approved drawing and details prior to the first occupation of the dwelling house.

Reason: In the interests of an acceptable form of development and the provision of infrastructure to support the use of low carbon transport, through the provision of details currently lacking.

3. Three car parking spaces shall be provided within the site prior to the occupation or completion of the dwelling house, whichever is the sooner. The parking spaces shall thereafter be retained throughout the lifetime of the development, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Council, as Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the permanent availability of the level of parking necessary for residents/visitors/others in the interests of an acceptable development and road safety.

4. No boundary fences, hedges, walls or any other obstruction whatsoever over 0.6m in height and fronting onto the prospective public road shall be within 2.4m of the edge of the carriageway.

Reason: To enable drivers of vehicles entering or exiting the site to have a clear view so that they can undertake the manoeuvre safely and with the minimum interference to the safety and free flow of traffic on the public road.

5. New boundary walls/fences shall be set back from the edge of the public carriageway at a distance of 2.0m.

Reason: To ensure acceptable development in the interests of road safety.

6. The garage shall only be used for domestic purposes incidental to and ancillary to the use of the dwellinghouse as such.

Reason: In order to ensure that the garage is used for domestic purposes only.

7. Notwithstanding the submitted details, there shall be no window openings (including roof light openings) on the west side elevation or the west roof slope of the domestic garage hereby approved as part of Plot 8. This restriction shall apply throughout the lifetime of the development unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure an acceptable form of development and to protect residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

8. No development works shall commence on the dwelling house until details (plans and elevations including material specification) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority showing the precise location and design of the 600mm boundary wall to be provided on the north and east boundaries, and any other proposed boundary treatment along the south and west boundaries. Thereafter the development must be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason: In order to provide details currently lacking and in order to ensure an acceptable form of development.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are:-

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 and there are no material considerations which indicate otherwise.

List of Informatives:

THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER has commented that:-

This planning consent relates solely to the application site edged red as detailed on the Site Layout Plan drawing number SLP001/02/01b and Site Plan drawing number HT08/01/06a. For the avoidance of any doubt, this does not include approval of any amended house designs or plots (indicated on the aforementioned site layout plan) which differ from those approved under planning consent 15/00244/APP dated 26 November 2015, or any subsequent planning consents issued for amended houses on plots on this residential development.

A Building Warrant will be required for the proposals. Should you require further assistance please contact the Building Standards Duty Officer between 2pm and 4pm or telephone on 03001234561. No appointment is necessary. Alternatively e-mail buildingstandards@moray.gov.uk

THE TRANSPORTATION MANAGER, has commented that:-

The provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers and/or associated infrastructure shall be provided in accordance with Moray Council guidelines. Cabling between charging units and parking spaces must not cross or obstruct the public road including footways. Infrastructure provided to enable EV charging must be retained for this purpose for the lifetime of the development unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Guidance on Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging requirements can be found at:
<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file134860.pdf>

Planning consent does not carry with it the right to carry out works within the public road boundary.

Before starting any work on the existing public road the applicant is obliged to apply for a road opening permit in accordance with Section 56 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. This includes any temporary access joining with the public road. Advice on these matters can be obtained by emailing roadspermits@moray.gov.uk

Before commencing development the applicant is obliged to apply for Construction Consent in accordance with Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 for new roads. The applicant will be required to provide technical information, including drawings and drainage calculations, [and provide a Road Bond to cover the full value of the works in accordance with the Security for Private Road Works (Scotland) 1985 Regulations]. Advice on this matter can be obtained from the Moray Council web site or by emailing constructionconsent@moray.gov.uk

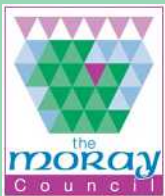
Public utility apparatus may be affected by this proposal. Contact the appropriate utility service in respect of any necessary utility service alterations which have to be carried out at the expense of the developer.

No building materials/scaffolding/builder's skip shall obstruct the public road (including footpaths) without permission from the Roads Authority.

The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that surface/ground water does not run from the prospective public road into their property.

The applicant shall free and relieve the Roads Authority from any claims arising out of their operations on the road or extension to the road.

LIST OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT	
Reference No. Version No.	Title/Description
900 A	Roads layout
	Frontage elevation
HT08/01/03 B	Elevations
HT08/01/05D-1	Garage elevations and floorplans
	Location plan
HT08/01/06 A	Site plan
HT08/01/02 A	Floor plans
SLP001/02/01 B	Site layout



PLANNING APPLICATION COMMITTEE SITE PLAN

Planning Application Ref Number:

21/01487/APP

Site Address:

Plot 8 Ordiequish Fields

Ordiequish Road Fochabers

Applicant Name:

Bob Milton Properties Ltd

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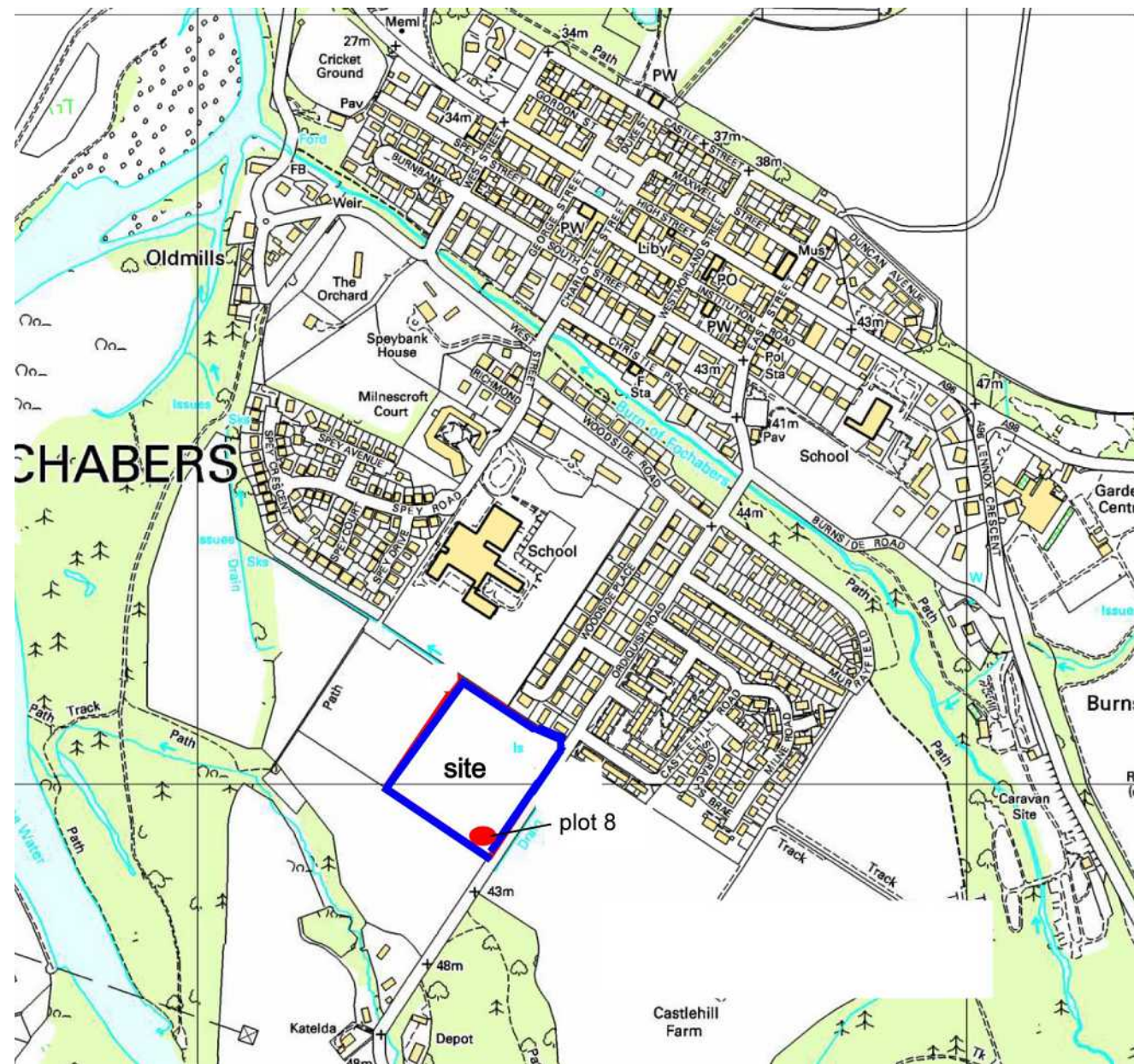
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Location Plan



Site Location



[illegible]

Photo location plan



Site from North East



Site from South East



PLANNING APPLICATION: 21/01487/APP

In the event that a recommendation on this planning application is overturned the Committee is reminded of the advice contained on the front page of the agenda for Reports on Applications

THE PROPOSAL

- This application seeks planning permission to amend the house design approved on Plot 8 Ordiequish Fields under the application 15/00244/APP (for the erection of 49 dwelling houses on R1 Ordiequish Road, Fochabers).
- The proposed dwelling is a two storey, five bedroom detached property. The design of the dwelling incorporates a twin gable frontage, rear conservatory and bay window features on the east gable elevation. The house type previously approved for plot 8, was a single storey, four bedroom dwelling with an integral garage known in this scheme as a “Craigton” house type.
- As part of the application, the plot area will be increased by including a portion of land to the west previously delineated as part of the neighbouring plot, “plot 9”.
- The material finishes of the proposed dwelling include Tuscany beige roughcast render and feature artificial stone for the walls with dark grey concrete roof tiles.
- The proposed detached garage has a one and half storey design, the design of which incorporates a first floor Juliet balcony. The first floor of the garage allows for flexible space to be used for storage/office space. The garage will be finished to match the dwelling.
- The plot layout arrangement includes garden area, driveway, parking provision with the proposed location for the EV charging point identified, and, boundary details including; a partial 1800mm screen fence along the mutual boundary to the west and the agreed 600mm feature boundary wall to provide a defined entrance to the development.
- The dwelling will connect to the public water supply and mains drainage with two on plot soakaway rings, updated drainage calculations have been provided to take account of the revised design.
- Plot 8 is part of a commenced residential development under application 15/00244/APP with construction on “Phase 1” underway.

THE SITE

- Located on the southern edge of Fochabers, the site is located on the R1 Ordiequish Road Local Development Plan Designation which covers an area of 2.6ha and has an indicative capacity for 50 units.
- Plot 8 (approx. 740sqm) is the south east corner plot of the development approved under application 15/00244/APP and is located within “Phase 1” of the consented development.
- Plot 8 is located to the south of the southerly access road to the development, with the U14E Ordiequish Road public road located to the east of the plot and Plot 9 located to the west. Plot 8 and the remainder of the development is bounded by existing post and wire fencing to the south with fields beyond.

- The settlement of Fochabers falls within the Spey Valley Special Landscape Area.

HISTORY

12/01577/PPP - Planning permission in principle for 50 houses and associated works on Site R1 Fochabers. This was approved 10 February 2014, subject to conditions and the terms of a s75 Agreement covering developer contributions and affordable housing provision.

15/00244/APP - Detailed planning permission for the erection of 49 houses on land west of Ordiquish Road, Fochabers. Decision issued by Committee Decision on 26 November 2015 subject to conditions and informatives. This application also necessitated a “Minute of Variation” to the previously agreed s75 Agreement.

21/00933/APP - Change of house type approved under ref 15/00244/APP to Chilton House type on Plot 3 Ordiequish Road Fochabers. Decision issued on 18 August 2021.

POLICY - SEE APPENDIX

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertised for neighbour notification purposes.

CONSULTATIONS

Contaminated Land - No objection.

Environmental Health – No objection.

Moray Flood Risk Management – No objection.

Scottish Water – No objection with advisory information advising that Scottish Water records show that there is proposed infrastructure within the site but that it is understood to be pipework proposed by the developer to service the Development. Thereafter information about the Scottish Water Pre-Development Enquiry Process is provided for the developer.

Transportation Manager – No objection with conditions and informatives to ensure compliance with current policy requirements including electric vehicle charging enabling infrastructure, and, plot specific access and parking requirements.

Developer Obligations – Notes that application relates to a site where developer obligations are covered within an existing s75 legal agreement under planning application 12/01577/PPP and as later modified under planning application 15/00244/APP.

The requirement for developer obligations is covered by the existing s75 legal agreement. This current planning application only changes the house type on Plot 8 from a previously approved 4 bed to a 5 bed dwelling, and this change results in less than 1 Standard

Residential Unit Equivalent (SRUE). Therefore, no further developer obligations will be sought, the existing s75 Agreement will not need to be modified, and the existing legal agreement will apply.

OBJECTIONS-REPRESENTATIONS

NOTE: Following the determination of this application, name and address details will be/have been removed (i.e. redacted) in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (paragraph 3 of Minute, Planning & Regulatory Services Committee 16 September 2014).

One public representation received.

Issue: General, non-site specific comments on the need to protect wildlife, flora and fauna.

Comments: The application site is part of the commenced development works under the terms of application 15/00244/APP. Application 15/00244/APP was the subject of ecological assessment and related condition. This application is for an amended design only therefore any previous conditions still apply and does not require further ecological assessment.

OBSERVATIONS

Section 25 of the 1997 Act as amended requires applications to be determined in accordance with the development plan i.e. the Adopted Moray Local Development Plan 2020 (MLDP) unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The main planning issues are considered below:

Background

As confirmed by the applicant, the application to change the house type has been submitted to meet current market demand in the area and the design proposed is a bespoke design to meet the aspirations of the applicant whilst seeking to reflect the overall character and appearance of the consented development.

Principle of Development

The principle of residential development on the site for residential use is accepted taking account the extant consent on the site (15/00244/APP), the commenced development works and the local plan designation of the site as a designated residential site (R1 Ordiequish Road).

Since the site currently benefits from an extant/commenced consent the assessment of this application is based on the revised house design, plot layout, amenity, drainage, access/parking considerations and any implications for developer obligations or the agreed s75.

Siting and Character (R1 Fochabers, PP1, DP1 and DP2)

As is the established character in this consented development, the house is to be positioned centrally on the plot with the orientation of the house fronting onto the

development road. The house design proposed which features 2 side bay windows will avoid a blank gable onto the U14E Ordiequish Road public road to the east. The position of the detached garage set back and to the side of the dwelling and wide driveway will ensure that cars can be parking mainly to the side of the dwelling, therefore reducing the dominance of parked cars on the streetscene. The plot layout also retains the required feature boundary wall along the north and eastern boundaries to provide a defined entrance to the development, providing a sense of place. In these terms the proposal reflects the siting and character of the consented development.

Design and amenity (PP1, PP3 DP1 and DP2)

The consented development comprises a variety of two, three, four and five bedroom modern detached and semi-detached house types, of single and two storey design. Although the proposed house design is now for a two storey dwelling, as a five bedroom, two storey house similar to other approved examples on the site, it will reflect and maintain the character, scale and density of the development. The material finishes proposed are consistent with the materials already agreed for this development. The house remains centrally positioned within the plot and the separation distances is consistent with those already agreed in the development.

Taking account of the increase in plot size, the plot is now a larger sized corner plot and the plot can accommodate the proposed detached garage without adverse impact on the character of the development or the individual surrounding plots. In order to address initial officer concerns, the garage height has been reduced to ensure it is of a size/scale appropriate to the site and is subservient to the proposed dwelling house. The position of the garage has also been altered to ensure that it sits further away from the western boundary.

The house footprint sits comfortably on the larger plot size, with an orientation which is directed towards the access road. In terms of the relationship between the proposed house and surrounding properties, no adverse impacts upon amenity i.e. loss of privacy, loss of light or overbearing impact is considered to occur, particularly since the detached garage has been reduced in height and repositioned.

The site plan shows the proposed location for the Electric Vehicle charging point. A condition to ensure that electric vehicle charging enabling infrastructure is provided on the plot as required by policy PP3 shall be attached to the decision as recommended by the Transportation Service.

With these observation comments in mind the proposal is considered to reflect the design and amenity of the consented development and accords with Policies PP1, PP3, DP1 and DP2.

Spey Valley Special Landscape Area (EP3, part b)

The siting and design of the proposed revised house design are in keeping with the character and amenity of the consented development and comply with the requirements of Policies PP1, DP1, DP2 and the settlement designation. The proposal will not result in any significant material change to the overall character of the consented development or the SLA designation and is therefore considered to comply with the requirements of EP3 part b.

Water and Drainage (DP1, EP12 and EP13)

The dwelling will connect to the public water supply and mains drainage with two on plot soakaway rings, updated drainage calculations have been provided to take account of the revised design.

Following consultation Moray Flood Risk Management has raised no objection to the proposal. Scottish Water has raised no objection to the proposal and it is noted that any connection required will be subject to liaison between the applicant and Scottish Water. The proposal complies with the requisite requirements of Policies DP1, EP12 and EP13.

Access and Parking DP1 and PP3

The Transportation Service has raised no objection to the proposal and has provided relevant and necessary Transportation conditions to ensure compliance with current policy requirements including electric vehicle charging enabling infrastructure, parking and plot access requirements. Subject to compliance with conditions the proposal is acceptable under Policies DP1 and PP3.

Developer Obligations and Affordable Housing (PP3)

Developer Obligations for the consented development (15/00244/APP) required financial contributions towards recreation provision in the Milnes High School Catchment Area and a contribution to the Core Path Network Improvement in Fochabers. These matters are covered by a s75 Legal Agreement. Following assessment, the Developer Obligations section, has confirmed that since this planning application only changes the house type on Plot 8 from a previously approved 4 bed to a 5 bed dwelling, and this change results in less than 1 Standard Residential Unit Equivalent (SRUE), no further Developer Obligations are required, and, that the existing s75 Agreement will not require to be modified, and the existing legal agreement will apply.

Affordable Housing (DP2)

As part of the consented development 15/00244/APP, affordable housing is also to be provided through on-site provision in the form of 12 affordable units which are located within the north-western/western part of the site (conditions 11 and 12). The final details for the affordable housing must be provided prior to commencement of "Phase 3" of the development and delivery of the affordable units on site must be achieved before the completion of the 34th market house. This proposal as a change of house type of plot 8 which is part of Phase 1 of the development does not affect these requirements which apply to latter phases of the development.

Taking account of these matters the proposal is acceptable under developer obligations and affordable housing requirements.

Conclusion

Overall the proposed amended house design, and, associated amendments to the site size and layout as detailed in this application will not significantly alter the overall character and appearance of the consented development and the application can therefore be recommended for approval subject to conditions.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are: -

The proposal accords with the provisions of the Moray Local Development Plan 2020 and there are no material considerations which indicate otherwise.

Author/Contact

Shona Strachan

Ext: 01343 563303

Officer:

Planning Officer

Beverly Smith

Development Management & Building Standards Manager

APPENDIX

POLICY

Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020

PP1 PLACEMAKING

- a) Development must be designed to create successful, healthy places that support good physical and mental health, help reduce health inequalities, improve people's wellbeing, safeguard the environment and support economic development.
- b) A Placemaking Statement is required for residential developments of 10 units and above to be submitted with the planning application to articulate how the development proposal addresses the requirements of policy PP1 Placemaking and other relevant LDP policies and guidance. The Placemaking Statement must include sufficient information for the council to carry out a Quality Audit. Where considered appropriate by the council, taking account of the nature and scale of the proposed development and of the site circumstances, this shall include a landscaping plan, a topographical survey, slope analysis, site sections, 3D visualisations, a Street Engineering Review and a Biodiversity Plan. The Placemaking Statement must demonstrate how the development promotes opportunities for healthy living and working. The landscape plan must set out details of species type, size, timescales for planting and maintenance.
- c) To create successful, healthy places residential developments of 10 units and above must comply with Scottish Government policy Creating Places and Designing Streets and must incorporate the following fundamental principles:
 - (i) **Character and Identity**
 - Create places that are distinctive to prevent homogenous 'anywhere' development;
 - Provide a number of character areas reflecting site characteristics that have their own distinctive identity and are clearly distinguishable;
 - Provide distinctiveness between and in each character area through a combination of measures including variation in urban form, street structure/network, architecture and masonry, accent features (such as porches), surrounds and detailing, materials (buildings and surfaces), colour, boundary treatments, hard/soft landscaping and a variety of approaches to tree species and planting that emphasises the hierarchy of open spaces and streets within a cohesive design strategy for the whole development;
 - Distinctiveness must be reinforced along main thoroughfares, open spaces and places where people may congregate such as shopping/service centres;
 - Retain, incorporate and/or respond to relevant elements of the landscape such as topography and planted features, natural and historic environment, and propose street naming (in residential developments of 20 units and above, where proposed names are to be submitted with the planning application) to retain and enhance local associations;

(ii) Healthier, Safer Environments

- Designed to prevent crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour with good levels of natural surveillance and security using treatments such as low boundary walls, dual frontages (principal rooms) and well-lit routes to encourage social interaction. Unbroken high boundary treatments such as wooden fencing and blank gables onto routes, open spaces and communal areas will not be acceptable.
- Designed to encourage physical exercise for people of all abilities.
- Create a distinctive urban form with landmarks, key buildings, vistas, gateways and public art to provide good orientation and navigation through the development.
- Provide a mix of compatible uses, where indicated within settlement statements, integrated into the fabric of buildings within the street.
- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists by providing a permeable movement framework that incorporates desire lines (including connecting to and upgrading existing desire lines) and is fully integrated with the surrounding network to create walkable neighbourhoods and encourage physical activity.
- Integrate multi- functional active travel routes, green and open space into layout and design, to create well connected places that encourage physical activity, provide attractive spaces for people to interact and to connect with nature.
- Create safe streets that influence driver behaviour to reduce vehicle speeds that are appropriate to the local context such as through shorter streets, reduced visibility and varying the building line.
- Provide seating opportunities within streets, paths and open spaces for all generations and mobility's to interact, participate in activity, and rest and reflect.
- Provide for people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings, places and open spaces.
- Create development with public fronts and private backs.
- Maximise environmental benefits through the orientation of buildings, streets and open space to maximise the health benefits associated with solar gain and wind shelter.

(iii) Housing Mix

- Provide a wide range of well integrated tenures, including a range of house types and plot sizes for different household sizes, incomes and generations and meet the affordable and accessible requirements of policy DP2 Housing.
- All tenures of housing should have equal access to amenities, greenspace and active travel routes.

(iv) Open Spaces/Landscaping

- Provide accessible, multi-functional open space within a clearly defined hierarchy integrated into the development and connected via an active travel network of green/blue corridors that are fully incorporated into the development and to the surrounding area, and meet the requirements of policy EP5 Open Space and the Open Space Strategy Supplementary Guidance and Policy EP12 Managing the Water Environment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Developments Supplementary Guidance.

- Landscaped areas must provide seasonal variation, (mix of planting and colour) including native planting for pollination and food production.
- Landscaping areas that because of their size, shape or location would not form any useable space or that will not positively contribute to the character of an area will not contribute to the open space requirements of Policy EP4 Open Space.
- Semi-mature tree planting and shrubs must be provided along all routes with the variety of approaches reflecting and accentuating the street hierarchy.
- Public and private space must be clearly defined.
- Play areas (where identified) must be inclusive, providing equipment so the facility is for every child/young person regardless of ability and provided upon completion of 50% of the character area.
- Proposals must provide advance landscaping identified in site designations and meet the quality requirements of policy EP5 Open Space.
- Structural landscaping must incorporate countryside style paths (such as bound or compacted gravel) with waymarkers.
- Maintenance arrangements for all paths, trees, hedging, shrubs, play/sports areas, roundabouts and other open/ green spaces and blue/green corridors must be provided.

v) Biodiversity

- Create a variety of high quality multi- functional green/blue spaces and networks that connect people and nature, that include trees, hedges and planting to enhance biodiversity and support habitats/wildlife and comply with policy EP2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and EP5 Open Space.
- A plan detailing how different elements of the development will contribute to supporting biodiversity must be included in the design statement submitted with the planning application.
- Integrate green and blue infrastructure such as swales, permeable paving, SUDS ponds, green roofs and walls and grass/wildflower verges into streets, parking areas and plots to sustainably address drainage and flooding issues and enhance biodiversity from the outset of the development.
- Developments must safeguard and where physically possible extend or enhance wildlife corridors and green/blue networks and prevent fragmentation of existing habitats.

(vi) Parking

- Car parking must not dominate the streetscape to the front or rear of properties. On all streets a minimum of 50% of car parking must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line with a maximum of 50% car parking within the front curtilage or on street, subject to the visual impact being mitigated by hedging, low stone boundary walls or other acceptable treatments that enhance the streetscape.
- Provide semi-mature trees and planting within communal private and public/visitor parking areas and on-street parking at a maximum interval of 4 car parking spaces.
- Secure and covered cycle parking and storage, car sharing spaces and electric car charging points must be provided in accordance with policy DP1 Development Principles.

- Parking areas must use a variation in materials to reduce the visual impact on the streetscene.

(vii) Street Layout and Detail

- Provide a clear hierarchy of streets reinforced through street width, building density and street and building design, materials, hard/soft landscaping and a variety of approaches to tree planting and shrubs.
- Streets and connecting routes should encourage walking and cycling over use of the private car by providing well connected, safe and appealing routes.
- Design junctions to prioritise pedestrians, accommodate active travel and public transport and service/emergency vehicles to reflect the context and urban form and ensure that the street pattern is not standardised.
- Dead-end streets/cul-de-sacs will only be selectively permitted such as on rural edges or where topography, site size, shape or relationship to adjacent developments prevent an alternative more permeable layout. These must be short, serving no more than 10 units and provide walking and cycling through routes to maximise connectivity to the surrounding area.
- Where a roundabout forms a gateway into, or a landmark within, a town and/or a development, it must be designed to create a gateway feature or to contribute positively to the character of the area.
- Design principles for street layouts must be informed by a Street Engineering Review (SER) and align with Roads Construction Consent (RCC) to provide certainty that the development will be delivered as per the planning consent.

- (d) Future masterplans will be prepared through collaborative working and in partnership between the developer and the council for Lochyhill (Forres), Barhill Road (Buckie), Elgin Town Centre/Cooper Park, Elgin North East, Clarkly Hill, Burghead and West Mosstodloch. Masterplans that are not prepared collaboratively and in partnership with the council will not be supported. Masterplans that are approved will be Supplementary Guidance to the Plan.
- (e) Proposals for sites must reflect the key design principles and safeguard or enhance the green networks set out in the Proposals Maps and Settlement Statements. Alternative design solutions may be proposed where justification is provided to the planning authority's satisfaction to merit this.

PP3 INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Development must be planned and co-ordinated with infrastructure to ensure that places function properly and proposals are adequately served by infrastructure and services.

- a) In relation to infrastructure and services developments will be required to provide the following as may be considered appropriate by the planning authority, unless these requirements are considered not to be necessary:
- i) Education, Health, Transport, Sports and Recreation and Access facilities in accord with Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Open Space.

- ii) Green infrastructure and network requirements specified in policy EP5 Open Space, Town and Village Maps and, contained within Supplementary Guidance on the Open Space Strategy, Masterplans and Development Briefs.
- iii) Mitigation/modification to the existing transport network (including road and rail) to address the impact of the proposed development in terms of safety and efficiency. This may include but not be limited to passing places, road widening, junction enhancement, bus stop infrastructure, and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential road and transport improvements are identified and shown on the Town and Village Maps as Transport Proposals (TSP's) including the interventions in the Elgin Transport Strategy. These requirements are not exhaustive and do not pre-empt any measures which may result from the Transport Assessment process.
- iv) Electric car charging points must be provided at all commercial and community parking facilities. Access to charging points must also be provided for residential properties, where in-curtilage facilities cannot be provided to any individual residential property then access to communal charging facilities should be made available. Access to other nearby charging facilities will be taken into consideration when identifying the need for communal electric charging points.
- v) Active Travel and Core Path requirements specified in the Council's Active Travel Strategy and Core Path Plan.
- vi) Safe transport and access routes linking to existing networks and mitigating the impacts of development off-site.
- vii) Information Communication Technology (ICT) and fibre optic broadband connections for all premises unless justification is provided to substantiate it is technically unfeasible.
- viii) Foul and surface water drainage, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), including construction phase SUDS.
- ix) Measures that implement the waste management hierarchy as defined in the Zero Waste Plan for Scotland including the provision of local waste storage and recycling facilities designed into the development in accord with policy PP1 Placemaking. For major applications a site waste management plan may be required to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved during the construction phase.
- x) Infrastructure required to improve or increase capacity at Water Treatment Works and Waste Water Treatment Works will be supported subject to compliance with policy DP1.
- xi) A utilities plan setting out how existing and new utility (including gas, water, electricity pipelines and pylons) provision has been incorporated into the layout and design of the proposal. This requirement may be exempted in relation to developments where the council considers it might not be appropriate, such as domestic or very small scale built developments and some changes of use.

b) Development proposals will not be supported where they:

- i) Create new accesses onto trunk roads and other main/key routes (A941 & A98) unless significant economic benefits are demonstrated or such access is required to facilitate development that supports the provisions of the development plan.
- ii) Adversely impact on active travel routes, core paths, rights of way, long distance and other access routes and cannot be adequately mitigated by an equivalent or better alternative provision in a location convenient for users.
- iii) Adversely impact on blue/green infrastructure, including green networks important for wildlife unless an equivalent or better alternative provision will be provided.
- iv) Are incompatible with key waste sites at Dallachy, Gollanfield, Moycroft and Waterford and would prejudice their operation.
- v) Adversely impact on community and recreational sites, buildings or infrastructure including CF designations and cannot be adequately mitigated.
- vi) Adversely impact on flood alleviation and mitigation infrastructure.
- vii) Compromise the economic viability of bus or rail facilities.

c) Harbours

Development within and diversification of harbours to support their sustainable operation will be supported subject to compliance with other policies and settlement statements.

d) Developer Obligations

Developer obligations will be sought to mitigate any measurable adverse impact of a development proposal on local infrastructure, including education, healthcare, transport (including rail), sports and recreational facilities and access routes. Obligations will be sought to reduce, eliminate or compensate for this impact. Developer obligations may also be sought to mitigate any adverse impacts of a development, alone or cumulatively with other developments in the area, on the natural environment.

Where necessary obligations that can be secured satisfactorily by means of a planning condition attached to planning permission will be done this way. Where this cannot be achieved, the required obligation will be secured through a planning agreement in accordance with Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations.

Developer obligations will be sought in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations. This sets out the anticipated infrastructure requirements, including methodology and rates.

Where a developer considers that the application of developer obligations renders a development commercially unviable a viability assessment and 'open-book accounting' must be provided by the developer which Moray Council, via the District Valuer, will verify, at the developer's expense. Should this be deemed accurate then

the Council will enter into negotiation with the developer to determine a viable level of developer obligations.

The Council's Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance provides further detail to support this policy.

DP1 DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

This policy applies to all development, including extensions and conversions and will be applied reasonably taking into account the nature and scale of a proposal and individual circumstances.

The Council will require applicants to provide impact assessments in order to determine the impact of a proposal. Applicants may be asked to determine the impacts upon the environment, transport network, town centres, noise, air quality, landscape, trees, flood risk, protected habitats and species, contaminated land, built heritage and archaeology and provide mitigation to address these impacts.

Development proposals will be supported if they conform to the relevant Local Development Plan policies, proposals and additional guidance, meet the following criteria and address their individual and cumulative impacts:

(i) Design

- a) The scale, density and character must be appropriate to the surrounding area and create a sense of place (see Policy PP1) and support the principles of a walkable neighbourhood.
- b) The development must be integrated into the surrounding landscape which will include safeguarding existing trees and undertaking replacement planting to include native trees for any existing trees that are felled, and safeguarding any notable topographical features (e.g. distinctive knolls), stone walls and existing water features by avoiding channel modifications and culverting. A tree survey and tree protection plan must be provided with planning applications for all proposals where mature trees are present on site or that may impact on trees outwith the site. The strategy for new tree provision should follow the principles of the "Right Tree in the Right Place".
- c) Make provision for new open space and connect to existing open space under the requirements of Policy EP5 and provide details of the future maintenance of these spaces. A detailed landscape plan must be submitted with planning applications and include information about green/blue infrastructure, tree species, planting, ground/soil conditions, and natural and man-made features (e.g. grass areas, wildflower verges, fencing, walls, paths, etc.).
- d) Demonstrate how the development will conserve and enhance the natural and built environment and cultural heritage resources, retain original land contours and integrate into the landscape.
- e) Proposals must not adversely impact upon neighbouring properties in terms of privacy, daylight or overbearing loss of amenity.

- f) Proposals do not result in backland development or plots that are subdivided by more than 50% of the original plot. Sub-divided plots must be a minimum of 400m², excluding access and the built-up area of the application site will not exceed one-third of the total area of the plot and the resultant plot density and layout reflects the character of the surrounding area.
- g) Pitched roofs will be preferred to flat roofs and box dormers are not acceptable.
- h) Existing stone walls on buildings and boundaries must be retained. Alterations and extensions must be compatible with the character of the existing building in terms of design, form, choice of materials and positioning and meet all other relevant criteria of this policy.
- i) Proposals must orientate and design buildings to maximise opportunities for solar gain.
- j) All developments must be designed so as to ensure that all new buildings avoid a specified and rising proportion of the projected greenhouse gas emissions from their use (calculated on the basis of the approved design and plans for the specific development) through the installation and operation of low and zero-carbon generating technologies.

(ii) Transportation

- a) Proposals must provide safe entry and exit from the development, including the appropriate number and type of junctions, maximise connections and routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including links to active travel and core path routes, reduce travel demands and ensure appropriate visibility for all road users at junctions and bends. Road, cycling, footpath and public transport connections and infrastructure must be provided at a level appropriate to the development and connect people to education, employment, recreation, health, community and retail facilities.
- b) Car parking must not dominate the street scene and must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line. Maximum (50%) parking to the front of buildings and on street may be permitted provided that the visual impact of the parked cars is mitigated by hedging or low stone boundary walls. Roadways with a single carriageway must provide sufficient off road parking to avoid access routes being blocked to larger service vehicles and prevent parking on pavements.
- c) Provide safe access to and from the road network, address any impacts on road safety and the local road, rail and public transport network. Any impacts identified through Transport Assessments/ Statements must be identified and mitigated. This may include but would not be limited to, passing places, road widening, junction improvements, bus stop infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential mitigation measures have been identified in association with the development of sites and the most significant are shown on the Proposals Map as TSP's.
- d) Provide covered and secure facilities for cycle parking at all flats/apartments, retail, community, education, health and employment centres.

- e) Garages and parking provision must be designed to comply with Moray Council parking specifications see Appendix 2.
- f) The road layout must be designed to allow for the efficient mechanical sweeping of all roadways and channels, pavements, turning areas and junctions. The road layout must also be designed to enable safe working practices, minimising reversing of service vehicles, with hammerheads minimised in preference to turning areas such as road stubs or hatchets, and to provide adequate space for the collection of waste and movement of waste collection vehicles.
- g) The road and house layout in urban development should allow for communal refuse collection points where the design does not allow for individual storage within the curtilage and / or collections at kerbside. Communal collection points may either be for the temporary storage of containers taken by the individual householder or for the permanent storage of larger containers. The requirements for a communal storage area are stated within the Council's Kerbside Collection Policy, which will be a material consideration.
- h) Road signs should be minimised designed and placed at the back of footpaths to reduce street clutter, avoid obstructing pedestrian movements and safeguarding sightlines;
- i) Within communal parking areas there will be a requirement for electric car charging points. Parking spaces for car sharing must be provided where a need is identified by the Transportation Manager.

(iii) Water environment, pollution, contamination

- a) Acceptable water and drainage provision must be made, including the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) for dealing with surface water including temporary/ construction phase SUDS (see Policy EP12).
- b) New development should not be located in areas at flood risk or increase vulnerability to flooding (see Policy EP12). Exceptions to this would only be considered in specific circumstances, e.g. extension to an existing building or change of use to an equal or less vulnerable use. Where this exception is applied the proposed development must include resilience measures such as raised floor levels and electrical sockets.
- c) Proposals must avoid major hazard sites and address any potential risk of pollution including ground water contamination in accordance with recognised pollution prevention and control measures.
- d) Proposals must protect and wherever practicable enhance water features through for example naturalisation of watercourses by introducing a more natural planform and removing redundant or unnecessary structures.
- e) Proposals must address and sufficiently mitigate any contaminated land issues.
- f) Make acceptable arrangements for waste collection and management and encourage recycling.

- g) Avoid sterilising significant workable reserves of minerals, prime agricultural land or productive forestry.
- h) Proposals must avoid areas at risk of coastal erosion and coastal change.

DP2 HOUSING

- a) Proposals for development on all designated and windfall housing sites must include a design statement and shall include supporting information regarding the comprehensive layout and development of the whole site, addressing infrastructure, access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and service vehicles, landscaping, drainage, affordable and accessible housing and other matters as may be required by the planning authority, unless these requirements are not specified in the site designation or are considered not to be required.

Proposals must comply with Policy PP1, DP1, the site development requirements within the settlement plans, all other relevant policies within the Plan and must comply with the following requirements;

- b) Piecemeal/ individual plot development proposals**

Piecemeal and individual/ plot development proposals will only be acceptable where details for the comprehensive redevelopment of the site are provided to the satisfaction of the planning authority and proposals comply with the terms of Policy DP1, other relevant policies including access, affordable and accessible housing, landscaping and open space and where appropriate key design principles and site designation requirements are met.

Proposals for piecemeal/ plot development must be accompanied by a Delivery Plan setting out how the comprehensive development of the site will be achieved.

- c) Housing density**

Capacity figures indicated within site designations are indicative only. Proposed capacities will be considered through the Quality Auditing process against the characteristics of the site, character of the surrounding area, conformity with all policies and the requirements of good Placemaking as set out in Policies PP1 and DP1.

- d) Affordable Housing**

Proposals for all housing developments (including conversions) must provide a contribution towards the provision of affordable housing.

Proposals for new housing developments of 4 or more units (including conversions) must provide 25% of the total units as affordable housing in affordable tenures to be agreed by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager. For proposals of less than 4 market housing units a commuted payment will be required towards meeting housing needs in the local housing market area.

A higher percentage contribution will be considered subject to funding availability, as informed by the Local Housing Strategy. A lesser contribution or alternative in the form of off-site provision or a commuted payment will only be considered where exceptional site development costs or other project viability issues are demonstrated and agreed by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager and the Strategic Planning and Development Manager. Intermediate tenures will be considered in

accordance with the HNDA and Local Housing Strategy, and agreed with the Housing Strategy and Development Manager.

Further detail on the implementation of this policy is provided in the Policy Guidance note on page 40.

e) Housing Mix and Tenure Integration

Proposals must demonstrate tenure integration and meet the following criteria;

- Architectural style and external finishes must ensure that homes are tenure blind
- The spatial mix must ensure communities are integrated to share school catchment areas, open spaces, play areas, sports areas, bus stops and other community facilities.

f) Accessible Housing

Housing proposals of 10 or more units incorporating affordable housing will be required to provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard. Flexibility may be applied on sites where topography would be particularly challenging for wheelchair users.

Further detail on the implementation of this policy is provided in the Policy Guidance note on page 41.

POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE- AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

Affordable Housing

Providing affordable housing is a key priority for Moray Council and this is reflected in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2017 highlights the significant requirement for affordable housing in Moray, which is a national issue, resulting from a number of factors including affordability issues, downturn in the economy and the shortage of public and private sector rented houses.

Planning policies assist with the provision of affordable housing, which is defined in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) as;

"housing of a reasonable quality that is affordable to people on modest incomes. Affordable housing may be provided in the form of social rented accommodation, mid-market rented accommodation, shared ownership housing, shared equity housing, housing sold at a discount (including plots for self-build and low cost housing without subsidy." This local development plan regards lower quartile earnings as "modest incomes".

The 2017 HNDA identified a requirement for 56% of all need and demand to be affordable units in Moray between 2017 and 2035. This Local Development Plan has lowered the threshold so that individual house proposals are required to make a contribution towards affordable housing provision, which is intended to ensure proposals do not circumnavigate the policy and provide a fair and transparent process.

A number of variables influence affordability of housing, including mortgage deposit requirements, mortgage interest rates, lower quartile house prices, lower quartile private rents, lower quartile full time gross earnings. Changes in these variables will affect the affordability of housing in Moray. The maximum affordable rent and maximum affordable house purchase prices is published on the Council's website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_90100.html. The current Local Housing Allowance will be used as a proxy for average private sector rents.

Affordable housing should be provided on site and as part of a mixed development of private and affordable units. To meet the need for affordable housing there may be proposals for 100% provision of affordable housing and these will be acceptable as part of a wider mixed community, provided all other Local Development Plan policies are met.

The policy requires single house proposals to make a commuted sum payment as a developer obligation towards affordable housing, with the cost figure published annually on the Council website at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_94665.html and determined by the District Valuer's assessment of the value of serviced land for affordable housing in Moray. This allows developers to be clear at the outset of a project about the potential cost of commuted payments and should be reflected in land values.

The type of affordable housing to be provided will be determined by the Housing and Property service. Developers should contact Housing and Property as early as possible. Housing and Property will decide whether a commuted payment or affordable units will be required on a site by site basis. Housing and Property will provide developers with an affordable housing mix, detailing the size and type of housing required based on HNDA/LHS requirements.

The Council will consider the following categories of affordable housing within the context of the needs identified in the HNDA/ LHS;

- Social rented accommodation- housing provided by an affordable rent managed by a Registered Social Landlord such as a housing association or another body regulated by the Scottish Housing Regulator, including Moray Council.
- Mid-market rent accommodation- housing with rents set at a level higher than purely social rent, but lower than market rent levels and affordable by households in housing need. Mid-market rent housing can be provided by the private and social housing sectors.
- Shared equity housing- sales to low income households, administered through a Scottish Government scheme e.g. Low-cost initiative for First Time Buyers (LIFT).

Any proposals to provide affordable housing in a form other than those listed above, must demonstrate that the cost to the householder is "affordable" in the Moray context and that the property will remain "affordable" in perpetuity.

Affordable housing requirement figures will be rounded up.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is produced annually by the Council and identifies details of the proposed delivery of affordable housing.

Accessible housing

Scottish Planning Policy states (para 28) that "the aim is to achieve the right development in the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost" and "that policies and decisions should be.....supporting delivery of accessible housing."

Policy DP2 aims to;

- Assist the Council, the NHS and the Health and Social Care Moray to meet the challenges presented by our ageing population and the shared aim of helping people to live well at home or in a homely setting. The HNDA 2017 demonstrates that Moray's population is ageing and there is a trend towards older and smaller households.
- Provide increased choice of tenure to people with physical disabilities or mobility impairments, by increasing the supply of accessible housing in the private sector. There is currently a mismatch between the size and type of housing required and the size and type of housing available across all tenures. This mismatch, along with increasing housing needs associated with physical disability, are the likely drivers of owner occupiers seeking public sector accessible housing to meet medical needs.

Accessible/ adapted housing can promote independence and wellbeing for older or disabled people, can facilitate self- care, informal care and unpaid care, potentially prevent falls and hospital admissions and can delay entry into residential care.

Policy DP2 requires that housing proposals of 10 or more units incorporating affordable housing must provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard where all the rooms are accessible to a wheelchair user.

This applies to new build and conversion/ redevelopment projects. Flexibility may apply where there is extremely challenging topography or where the site is in a remote location. For the purposes of Policy DP2, "remote" locations are defined as being rural areas outside settlement and Rural Grouping boundaries as defined in the Local Development Plan.

Accessible units should be in a location which provides convenient access, in terms of distance, gradient and available public transport, to reach the facilities needed for independent living. Small, low maintenance gardens are generally regarded as a positive feature by this customer group.

New wheelchair accessible housing in any tenure must comply with Housing for Varying Needs Standards (HfVNs), including the standards specific to dwellings for wheelchair users. HfVNs is available at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20131205115152uo_/http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/cs/HousingOutput/start.htm

The specific design specification required to meet the terms of this policy are;

External requirements

- location(s) convenient for amenities and facilities e.g. public transport, local shops etc
- car parking space as close as possible to the entrance door and at a maximum distance of 15m (HfVNs para 7.13.4 refers).
- Step free paths within curtilage, ramp gradients preferably of 1:20 but no steeper than 1:12 (HfVNs para 7.7.1 refers)

Internal requirements

- Hallways- minimum 1200mm wide (HfVNs para 10.2.3 refers)

- Door frames- minimum 926mm wide door leaf, giving a clear width of 870mm (HfVNs para 10.5.7 refers)
- Bathrooms/ wet rooms- 1500mm wheelchair turning circle required (HfVNs para 14.9.2 refers)

Accessible housing requirement figures will be rounded down.

All proposals for new build or converted housing should set out details of how they will comply with this policy in their planning application.

EP3 SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

i) Special Landscape Areas (SLA's)

Development proposals within SLA's will only be permitted where they do not prejudice the special qualities of the designated area set out in the Moray Local Landscape Designation Review, adopt the highest standards of design in accordance with Policy DP1 and other relevant policies, minimises adverse impacts on the landscape and visual qualities the area is important for, and are for one of the following uses;

- a) In rural areas (outwith defined settlement and rural grouping boundaries);
 - i) Where the proposal involves an appropriate extension or change of use to existing buildings, or
 - ii) For uses directly related to distilling, agriculture, forestry and fishing which have a clear locational need and demonstrate that there is no alternative location, or
 - iii) For nationally significant infrastructure developments identified in the National Planning Framework,
- b) In urban areas (within defined settlement, rural grouping boundaries and LONG designations);
 - i) Where proposals conform with the requirements of the settlement statements, Policies PP1, DP1 and DP3 as appropriate and all other policy requirements, and
 - ii) Proposals reflect the traditional settlement character in terms of siting and design.
- c) The Coastal (Culbin to Burghead, Burghead to Lossiemouth, Lossiemouth to Portgordon, Portgordon to Cullen Coast), Cluny Hill, Spynie, Quarrywood and Pluscarden SLA's are classed as " sensitive" in terms of Policy DP4 and no new housing in the open countryside will be permitted within these SLA's.

Proposals for new housing within other SLA's not specified in the preceding para will be considered against the criteria set out above and the criteria of Policy DP4.

- d) Where a proposal is covered by both a SLA and CAT or ENV policy/designation, the CAT policy or ENV policy/designation will take precedence.

b ii) **Landscape Character**

New developments must be designed to reflect the landscape characteristics identified in the Landscape Character Assessment of the area in which they are proposed.

Proposals for new roads and hill tracks associated with rural development must ensure that their alignment and use minimises visual impact, avoids sensitive natural heritage and historic environment features, including areas protected for nature conservation, carbon rich soils and protected species, avoids adverse impacts upon the local hydrology and takes account of recreational use of the track and links to the wider network.

EP12 MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

a) Flooding

New development will not be supported if it would be at significant risk of flooding from any source or would materially increase the possibility of flooding elsewhere. For development at or near coastal locations, this includes consideration of future flooding that may be caused by sea level rise and/or coastal change eroding existing natural defences in the medium and long term.

Proposals for development in areas considered to be at risk from flooding will only be permitted where a flood risk assessment to comply with the recommendations of Scottish Planning Policy and to the satisfaction of Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Council is provided by the applicant.

There are different levels of flood risk assessment dependent on the nature of the flood risk. The level of assessment should be discussed with the Council prior to submitting a planning application.

Level 1 - a flood statement with basic information with regard to flood risk.

Level 2 - full flood risk assessment providing details of flood risk from all sources, results of hydrological and hydraulic studies and any appropriate proposed mitigation.

Assessments must demonstrate that the development is not at risk of flooding and would not increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. Level 2 flood risk assessments must be signed off by a competent professional. The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Development Supplementary Guidance provides further detail on the information required.

Due to continuing changes in climatic patterns, the precautionary principle will apply when reviewing any application for an area at risk from inundation by floodwater. Proposed development in coastal areas must consider the impact of tidal events and wave action when assessing potential flood risk.

The following limitations on development will also be applied to take account of the degree of flooding as defined in Scottish Planning Policy;

- a) In areas of little to no risk (less than 0.1%), there will be no general constraint to development.
- b) Areas of low to medium risk (0.1% to 0.5%) will be considered suitable for most development. A flood risk assessment may be required at the upper end of the probability range i.e. (close to 0.5%) and for essential civil infrastructure and the

most vulnerable uses. Water resistant materials and construction may be required. Areas within this risk category will generally not be suitable for civil infrastructure. Where civil infrastructure must be located in these areas or is being substantially extended, it should be designed to be capable of remaining operational and accessible during flooding events.

- c) Areas of medium to high risk (0.5% or above) may be suitable for:
- Residential, institutional, commercial and industrial development within built up areas provided that flood protection measures to the appropriate standard already exist and are maintained, are under construction, or are a planned measure in a current flood management plan.
 - Essential infrastructure within built up areas, designed and constructed to remain operational during floods and not impede water flow.
 - Some recreational, sport, amenity and nature conservation uses, provided appropriate evacuation procedures are in place, and
 - Employment related accommodation e.g. caretakers or operational staff.

Areas within these risk categories will generally not be suitable for the following uses and where an alternative/lower risk location is not available;

- Civil infrastructure and most vulnerable uses.
- Additional development in undeveloped and sparsely developed areas, unless a location is essential for operational reasons e.g. for navigation and water based recreation, agriculture, transport or utilities infrastructure (which should be designed to be operational during floods and not impede water flows).
- New caravan and camping sites

Where development is permitted, measures to protect against or manage flood risk will be required and any loss of flood storage capacity mitigated to achieve a neutral or better outcome. Water resistant materials and construction must be used where appropriate. Land raising and elevated buildings on structures such as stilts are unlikely to be acceptable.

b) Surface Water Drainage: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

Surface water from development must be dealt with in a sustainable manner that has a neutral effect on flooding or which reduces the risk of flooding. The method of dealing with surface water must also avoid pollution and promote habitat enhancement and amenity. All sites must be drained by a sustainable drainage system (SUDS) designed in line with current CIRIA guidance. Drainage systems must contribute to enhancing existing "blue" and "green" networks while contributing to place-making, biodiversity, recreational, flood risk and climate change objectives.

When considering the appropriate SUDS design for the development the most sustainable methods, such as rainwater harvesting, green roofs, bio retention systems, soakaways, and permeable pavements must be considered first. If it is necessary to include surface water attenuation as part of the drainage system, only above ground attenuation solutions will be considered, unless this is not possible due to site constraints.

If below ground attenuation is proposed the developer must provide a robust justification for this proposal. Over development of a site or a justification on economic grounds will not be acceptable. When investigating appropriate SUDS

solutions developers must integrate the SUDS with allocated green space, green networks and active travel routes to maximise amenity and biodiversity benefits.

Specific arrangements must be made to avoid the issue of permanent SUDS features becoming silted-up with run-off. Care must be taken to avoid the spreading and/or introduction of invasive non-native species during the construction of all SUDS features. On completion of SUDS construction the developer must submit a comprehensive Operation and Maintenance Manual. The ongoing maintenance of SUDS for all new development will be undertaken through a factoring agreement, the details of which must be supplied to the Planning Authority.

All developments of less than 3 houses or a non-householder extension under 100 square metres must provide a Drainage Statement. A Drainage Assessment will be required for all developments other than those identified above.

c) Water Environment

Proposals, including associated construction works, must be designed to avoid adverse impacts upon the water environment including Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and should seek opportunities for restoration and/or enhancement, if appropriate. The Council will only approve proposals impacting on water features where the applicant provides a report to the satisfaction of the Council that demonstrates that any impact (including cumulative) on water quality, water quantity, physical form (morphology), river hydrology, sediment transport and erosion, coastal processes (where relevant) nature conservation (including protected species), fisheries, recreational, landscape, amenity and economic and social impact can be adequately mitigated.

The report must consider existing and potential impacts up and downstream of the development particularly in respect of potential flooding. The Council operates a presumption against the culverting of watercourses and any unnecessary engineering works in the water environment.

A buffer strip of at least 6 metres between any new development and all water features is required and should be proportional to the bank width and functional river corridor (see table on page 96). This must achieve the minimum width within the specified range as a standard, however, the actual required width within the range should be calculated on a case by case basis by an appropriately qualified individual. These must be designed to link with blue and green networks, including appropriate native riparian vegetation and can contribute to open space requirements.

Developers may be required to make improvements to the water environment as part of the development. Where a Water Framework Directive (WFD) water body specific objective is within the development boundary, or in proximity, developers will need to address this within the planning submission through assessment of potential measures to address the objective and implementation, unless adequate justification is provided. Where there is no WFD objective the applicant should still investigate the potential for watercourse restoration along straightened sections or removal of redundant structures and implement these measures where viable.

Width to watercourse (top of bank)	Width of buffer strip (either side)
Less than 1m	6m
1-5m	6-12m
5-15m	12-20m
15m+	20m+

The Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment for New Development Supplementary Guidance provides further detail on the information required to support proposals.

EP13 FOUL DRAINAGE

All development within or close to settlements (as defined in the Local Development Plan) of more than 2,000 population must connect to the public sewerage system unless connection is not permitted due to lack of capacity. In such circumstances, temporary provision of private sewerage systems may be allowed provided Scottish Water has confirmed investment to address this constraint has been allocated within its investment Programme and the following requirements have been met;

- Systems must not have an adverse effect on the water environment
- Systems must be designed and built to a standard which will allow adoption by Scottish Water
- Systems must be designed such that they can be easily connected to a public sewer in the future. Typically this will mean providing a drainage line up to a likely point of connection.

All development within or close to settlements (as above) of less than 2,000 population will require to connect to public sewerage except where a compelling case is made otherwise. Factors to be considered in such a case will include size of the proposed development, whether the development would jeopardise delivery of public sewerage infrastructure and existing drainage problems within the area.

Where a compelling case is made, a private system may be acceptable provided it does not pose or add a risk of detrimental effects, including cumulative, to the natural and built environment, surrounding uses or amenity of the general area.

Where a private system is deemed to be acceptable, within settlements as above or small scale development in the countryside, a discharge to land, either full soakaway or raised mound soakaway, compatible with Technical Handbooks (which sets out guidance on how proposals may meet the Building Regulations) must be explored prior to considering a discharge to surface waters.

R1 Ordiquish Road 2.6 ha 50 units

- Access to the site will be from Ordiquish Road and the layout must allow for future access requirements to R2.
- Two points of access required. Access arrangements must also take into consideration access for R4/LONG.
- Transport Assessment required. The Assessment must take into account other developments proposed off Ordiquish Road (R2, R4 and LONG).

- Provision of road improvements required including widening of Ordiquish Road. Assessment of the condition of the bridge over the Fochabers Burn required. Assessment of the need for junction improvements required.
- Footway and cycleway connections to the existing network and school required.
- A Pocket Park must be provided.
- Boundary landscaping must be provided.
- Development of this site must be significantly complete (50%) before commencement on R2.
- Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) required.
- Demonstrate that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from development activity causing pollution or sediment to reach the SAC, or changes to water quality and quantity.



REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 9 DECEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: 21/01750/PAN INSTALLATION OF A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) INCLUDING SITING OF BATTERY CONTAINERS, POWER CONVERSION UNITS AND TRANSFORMERS, A SUBSTATION, HARDSTANDING AREA, FENCING, VEHICULAR ACCESS, GRID CONNECTION AND ANCILARY WORKS ON LAND AT DRUM FARM, KEITH

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee that a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted on 4 November on behalf of Renewable Energy Systems Ltd.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (E) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the statutory functions of the Council as a Planning Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) in noting the terms of this report, the Committee advise upon any provisional views/relevant issues that Members of this Committee (or any other Member(s) of the Council) wish to raise about the proposed development so that these matters can be recorded and thereafter fed back to the prospective applicant in order to inform the development of their proposed formal application for planning permission; and
- (ii) the matters raised by the Committee also be forwarded to consultees likely to be involved in any formal application for planning permission for the proposal.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Scottish Government has published guidance which encourages elected members to highlight any issues with a proposed development at the pre-application stage which they would wish to see taken into account within any formal application for planning permission.
- 3.2 Following consideration by this Committee on 11 November 2014 it was agreed that any PAN received after this date would be reported to Committee to give Members of the Committee, and the Council, the opportunity to identify any key issues/provisional views about the proposed development and that these matters be reported back to applicant (paragraph 4 of the Minute refers).
- 3.3 This report is not about the merits of the proposed development but rather, based on local knowledge of local issues and wider concerns, etc. Members are invited to identify any matters relevant to the proposal. These will be reported back to the prospective applicant for their information and attention, and to inform the development of the proposed application. It is also proposed that, for information, Members' comments be forwarded to consultees likely to be involved in any formal application for planning permission for the proposal.
- 3.4 This PAN relates to a proposal for a battery energy storage scheme which will include inverters and transformers, grid connection container and compound with fencing, drainage and other associated development. The submission states that the development would have a capacity of up to 49.99 MW.
- 3.5 The site is located to the south east of the substation on Westerton Road, Keith. The site is on the eastern edge of Keith and is bounded by fields to the north, south and west. The land is largely flat and open. The site is accessed by tracks running to the north and west which are core paths. Vehicular access is proposed from the U35H to the north of the site and west of Drum Farm. The development is within the Countryside Around Town (CAT) around Keith as identified in the Moray Local Development Plan 2020. Mill Wood SSSI is approximately 1km to the east of the site A plan is appended showing the location and extent of the site (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.6 Planning permission is required for this proposal. The proposal is for an energy installation with a capacity of 49.9 MW therefore under the current hierarchy regulations the proposal would comprise a major development for planning purposes. The proposal will be subject to PAN and pre-application consultation procedures with the local community. The applicant has already made use of the Council's pre-application advice service to assist in identifying key issues and information that would be expected to accompany any formal application.
- 3.7 A formal response has been issued to the applicant's agent to confirm that the proposed arrangements for engaging with the local community are sufficient. The applicant proposes to consult with Keith and Strathisla Community Councils. In this case the applicant's agent has been advised that no additional parties require to be notified with a copy of the PAN.

- 3.8 The Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 have temporarily suspended the need to hold a public event in relation to PANs from 24 April 2020 provided that the PAN was submitted before the end of the emergency period and that any formal planning application following on from the PAN is lodged within 6 months of the end of the emergency period. There is no statutorily specified alternative to a public event during the emergency period but it is anticipated that prospective applicants propose reasonable alternatives which must include a minimum seven day period where information can be inspected and the public can make comments and ask questions to which they can expect to receive a response. In line with the new regulations the agent has confirmed that a virtual public event will be held on their website for a period of 7 days from 29 November and video/telephone appointments will be available for anyone wishing to discuss the project. The information will also be available online for an extended period. This will have been advertised locally prior to opening and the community council made aware of the arrangements. In order to be valid a major application must be supported by a pre-application consultation report setting out the steps taken to consult with the local community, details of comments made on the proposal and how the applicant has responded to all comments made on the proposal in the development of the application.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Identifying key issues at an early stage to assist with front loading major planning applications is a vital aspect of supporting and facilitating the Council's priority for economic development in Moray.

(b) Policy and Legal

Scottish Government guidance on the role of councillors in pre-application procedures affords elected members the opportunity to offer general provisional views on forthcoming developments which are the subject of a PAN where the details of the development have yet to be finalised.

(c) Financial implications

None

(d) Risk Implications

None.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None.

(h) Consultations

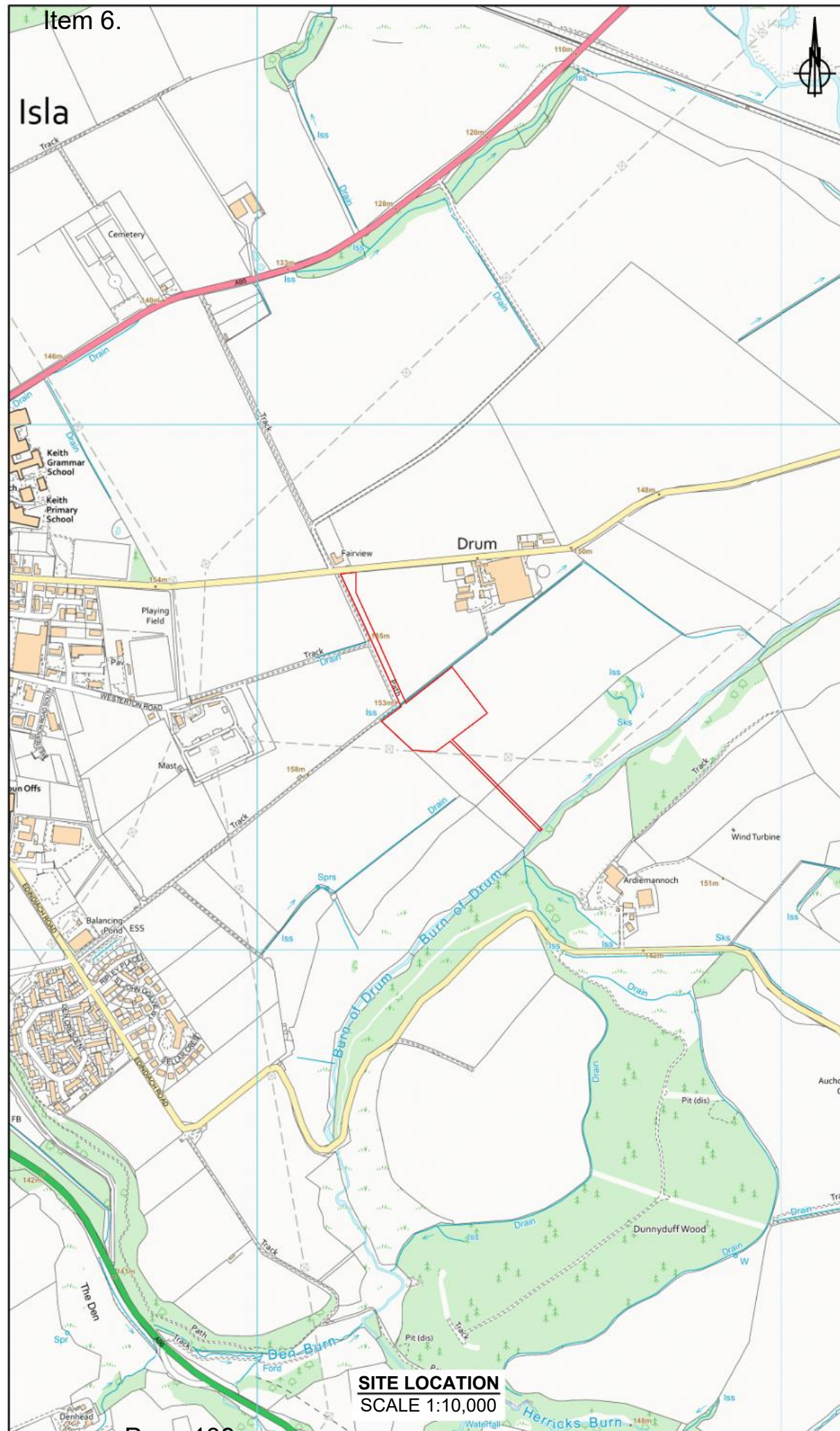
Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Legal Services Manager, the Development Management and Building Standards Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Strategic Planning & Delivery Manager, and Tracey Sutherland (Committee Services Officer) have been consulted, and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

Members of Moray Council who are not on the Planning & Regulatory Services Committee have also been consulted and any views received on the proposal will be made known at the meeting

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Council has received a PAN intimating that a formal application for planning permission will be submitted for a major development proposal. The Committee (and any other Member(s) of the Council) are asked to identify any provisional views/relevant issues which they would wish to see taken into account and inform the development of the proposal.**

Author of Report:	Lisa MacDonald Senior Planning Officer
Background Papers:	
Ref:	21/01750/PAN




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KEY:

— SITE BOUNDARY



3	JL	JF	TS	2021-10-29	BOUNDARY UPDATED FOR PAN
2	JL	JF	TS	2021-10-04	1:25K LOCATION ADDED TO PLAN
1	JL	JF	TS	2021-09-27	First Issue
ISSUE DRAWN CHKD APPD DATE					REVISION NOTES
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					BEAUFORT COURT, EGG FARM LANE, KINGS LANGLEY, HERTS WD4 8LR. UK TEL +44 (0) 1923 299200 WWW.RES-GROUP.COM



**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 9
DECEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: 21/01817/PAN - REDEVELOPMENT INCLUDING A NEW
SAWMILL, LOG SORTING LINE ALONG WITH TIMBER YARD AT
JAMES JONES AND SONS LTD. GARMOUTH ROAD
MOSSTODLOCH**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND
FINANCE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee that a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted on 18 November 2021 on behalf of James Jones and Sons Ltd.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (E) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the statutory functions of the Council as a Planning Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) in noting the terms of this report, the Committee advise upon any provisional views/relevant issues that Members of this Committee (or any other Member(s) of the Council) wish to raise about the proposed development so that these matters can be recorded and thereafter fed back to the prospective applicant in order to inform the development of their proposed formal application for planning permission; and
- (ii) the matters raised by the Committee also be forwarded to consultees likely to be involved in any formal application for planning permission for the proposal.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scottish Government has published guidance which encourages elected members to highlight any issues with a proposed development at the pre-

application stage which they would wish to see taken into account within any formal application for planning permission.

- 3.2 Following consideration by this Committee on 11 November 2014 it was agreed that any PAN received after this date would be reported to Committee to give Members of the Committee, and the Council, the opportunity to identify any key issues/provisional views about the proposed development and that these matters be reported back to the applicant (paragraph 4 of the Minute refers).
- 3.3 This current report is not about the merits of the proposed development but rather, based on local knowledge of local issues and wider concerns, etc. Members are invited to identify any matters relevant to the proposal. These will be reported back to the prospective applicant for their information and attention, and to inform the development of the proposed application. It is also proposed that, for information, Members' comments be forwarded to consultees likely to be involved in any formal application for planning permission for the proposal.
- 3.5 As described, this PAN relates to an extension to, and re-development of, an existing sawmill site at Garmouth Road, Mosstodloch. The proposed site lies to the immediate north of the existing, long established sawmill site (see location plan at **Appendix 1**) and outwith the settlement boundary of Mosstodloch as designated in the 2020 Adopted Moray Local Development Plan.
- 3.6 The proposed development will comprise new sawmill, log sorting line and timber storage yard; and new access from B9015 road, widening of this road and provision of new shared cycle/foot way alongside. Office and weighbridge facilities are also proposed. Surface water to be drained and treated through three levels of treatment including solids interceptors, SUDS ponds Swales and wetland area with high level overflow proposed to the River Spey for extreme weather events. Landscaped bunding/screening and planting is proposed around the perimeter of the proposed development
- 3.7 Planning permission is required for this proposal. It would be a major development in terms of the current Hierarchy Regulations (development site which exceeds 2 hectares) and would constitute a major development for planning purposes. As such, the proposal will be subject to PAN and pre-application consultation procedures with the local community.
- 3.8 In relation to this requirement for pre- application consultation the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 temporarily suspended the need to hold a public event in relation to PANs from 24 April 2020 provided that the PAN was submitted before the end of the emergency period and that any formal planning application following on from the PAN was lodged within 6 months of the end of the emergency period. There was no statutorily specified alternative to a public event during the emergency period, but it was anticipated that prospective applicants would provide reasonable alternatives, which would include a minimum seven-day period where information could be

inspected and the public could make comments and ask questions to which they should expect to receive a response.

- 3.9 In this case in addition to the information contained in the PAN advising that it was proposed to hold a public drop-in event in Speymouth Hall, Mosstodloch on 9 December 2021 between 1600 hours and 2000 hours to enable the public to view the proposals, give their views and ask question, the applicants agent has advised that the they have now;
- served a copy of the PAN upon the local Community Council, Innes Community Council
 - propose to distribute fliers to all immediate neighbours and households within 200 metres of the site and put up notices in shops/boards around Mosstodloch
 - advertise the public event in the local newspaper (Northern Scot) 7 days before the event.
- 3.10 A formal response is currently being issued to the applicant's agent to confirm that the proposed arrangements for engaging with the local community are sufficient, but highlighting that as some members of the public may have concerns regarding attending a public event at this particular time when COVID19 restrictions are in place, it would be advisable to also provide an online platform for the public to comment on the proposals too.
- 3.11 In order to be valid, any subsequent major application will require to be supported by a pre-application consultation report setting out the steps taken to consult with the local community, details of comments made on the proposal and how the applicant has responded to all comments made on the proposal in the development of the application.
- 3.12 Finally the applicants have already engaged in the major application process and pre- application advice has been provided by the Development Management Service.

3 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Identifying key issues at an early stage to assist with front loading major planning applications is a vital aspect of supporting and facilitating the Council's priority for economic development in Moray.

(b) Policy and Legal

Scottish Government guidance on the role of councillors in pre-application procedures affords elected members the opportunity to offer general provisional views on forthcoming developments, which are the subject of a PAN where the details of the development have yet to be finalised.

(c) Financial implications

None.

(d) Risk Implications

None.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None.

(h) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Legal Services Manager, the Development Management and Building Standards Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Strategic Planning & Delivery Manager, and Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer) have been consulted, and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

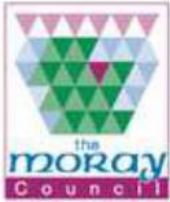
Members of Moray Council who are not on this Committee have also been consulted and any views received on the proposal will be made known at the meeting.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Council has received a PAN intimating that a formal application for planning permission will be submitted for a major development proposal, in this case for an extension to and re-development at James Jones Sawmill site Mosstodloch. The Committee (and any other Member(s) of the Council) are asked to identify any provisional views/relevant issues which they would wish to see taken into account and inform the development of the proposal.**

Author of Report: Katherine Donnachie
Planning Officer

Background Papers:
Ref: 21/01817/PAN



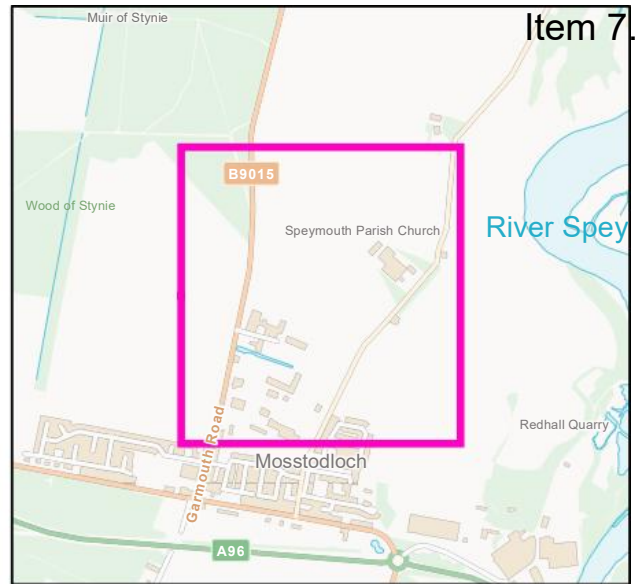
COMMITTEE SITE PLAN

FOCHABERS

Application Reference Number:

21/01817/PAN

Site re-development including a new sawmill log
sorting line along with timber yard at
James Jones And Sons Ltd
Garmouth Road
Mosstodloch



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