

18/01536/APP
5th December 2018

**Partial remix of existing consent (ref: 16/00083/APP) to
provide 30 affordable homes R1 Stynie Road Stynie
Road Mosstodloch Moray
for Springfield Properties PLC**

Comments:

- A SITE VISIT has been carried out.
- The application is on a housing site designated for 50 or more dwellings within the Development Plan, regardless of whether the application is for all or part of the site.
- Advertised as a departure from the development plan.
- Advertised for neighbour notification purposes - notification not possible because no premises situated on land to which notification can be sent.
- 3 representations received.

Procedure:

- Legal agreement required prior to issue of any consent in order to incorporate developer obligations relating to healthcare provision.

Recommendation Grant Planning Permission - Subject To The Following:-

1. Completion of Legal Agreement; and
2. The following conditions:

Conditions/Reasons

1. Prior to the commencement of any works, a full site Construction Environmental Management Plan, including a dedicated pollution prevention section, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority, in consultation with SEPA; and thereafter all work shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan.

Reason - In order to minimise the impacts of necessary construction works on the environment.

2. No development shall commence until an amended Landscape Scheme has been submitted to and approved by the Council, as Planning Authority. This shall be based upon the Planning Landscaping Layout drawing number MS01 PL03 Rev N and Landscape Management Plan MS01_SL_PL-05, and show and clarify the

following:

- (a) details of the numbers, species, position, planting distances and sizes (standard sizes) of all planting to be undertaken; and
- (b) the arrangements for the time-scale(s) for all new planting, seeding and turfing to be undertaken together with the arrangements for the long-term maintenance of all proposed landscaping arrangements.

Thereafter, the landscaping arrangements shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme details. Any trees or plants which (within a period of 5 years from the planting) die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the following planting season with others of similar size, number and species unless this Council as Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation of this planning condition.

Reason - In order to remove any ambiguity regarding the terms of the landscape scheme, and to ensure that the approved landscaping works are timeously carried out and properly maintained in a manner which will not adversely affect the development or amenity and character of the area. (Note: This is required because although the current drawing MS01_PL03 Rev N contains a Planting Schedule this does not identify which trees are semi mature, heavy standard avenue trees, heavy standard trees or multi stemmed trees on the landscape layout itself. For further advice refer to informative advice below).

- 3. No work shall commence until scaled drawings of the proposed pumping station have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason – To ensure a satisfactory form of development and as these details are currently lacking from the application.

- 4. Prior to the commencement of development details of the affordable housing specification shall be submitted to and approved by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Head of Housing and Property Service regarding the detailed arrangements for the long-term delivery and provision of the affordable housing accommodation on the site, which shall include evidence to confirm the identity of the organisation (or other similar agency) responsible for the provision and management of all affordable housing provided on the site.

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

Reason - To ensure all off the residential units approved on site are affordable and managed accordingly.

- 5. Prior to the commencement of development a construction phase surface water management plan shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Planning Authority. The plan shall include measures to prevent increased flood risk to neighbouring properties and measures to ensure heavily silted surface water does not enter the River Spey catchment. Thereafter the development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason - To prevent surface water flooding during the course of the development and minimise risk to the River Spey SAC.

6. Notwithstanding the details submitted on the site layout plan (Drawing MS01_PL01 Rev K), these are not accepted. Prior to commencement of construction the following details shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority:
- Details (Plan 1:500 min) showing the full extent of the roads intended for adoption to be provided as part of the application/Phase 1 of the development (including roads and verges currently shown outwith the red line boundary in front of plots 18-43).
 - Parking to plots 15 and 16 shall be set back 2 metres from the edge of the road.
 - The road width between plots 16 and 25 shall be widened to 5.5m and the narrowing at the north eastern corner of plot 16 shall be removed.
 - The proposed footway connection on the eastern side of plot 16 shall be provided with a raised kerb on its eastern side and a dropped kerb crossing on both sides of the road in front of plot 25.

Reason - To ensure acceptable:-

- Provision of information currently lacking from the submission to ensure adequate development infrastructure that does not create any hazard to road users in the interests of road safety.
 - Parking provision.
 - Development infrastructure that does not create any hazard to road users in the interests of road safety.
 - Infrastructure for non-motorised road users, ensuring the provision of routes to schools and local facilities and a sustainable development.
7. Prior to the commencement of construction the following shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority:
- A Construction Traffic Management Plan which includes details of any temporary site access arrangements, site compounds, lay down areas and site parking (Plan scale 1:500 min), proposals to safeguard non-motorised road users;
 - Details (Plan(s) scale 1:500 min) showing the provision of off-site infrastructure for non-motorised users which comprises the following items including signage and road markings:
 - A new 3.0m wide cycleway (approx. 360 metres in length) along the eastern side of the U18E Stynie Road between the northern site access and the back of the bellmouth on the north side of the junction at Mossmill Park (Point A as shown on sketch 10/01267/MC/01 Rev A);
 - A new 2.0m wide footway (approx 35 metres in length) along the western side of the U18E Stynie Road between a point opposite the site frontage at the southern site boundary to the back of the bellmouth at the car park for Speymouth Hall;
 - A pedestrian crossing point, including dropped kerbs and tactile paving, on both sides of the U18E Stynie Road at a point to be agreed with the Roads Authority between the site boundary and the footway to

- Speymouth Hall;
- iv) Widening of the existing footway (Approx 55 metres in length) along the eastern side of the U18E Stynie Road to provide a continuous 3.0m wide cycleway from the new 3.0m wide cycleway detailed in item i) above (Point A) and Findlay Road (Point B) as shown on sketch 10/01267/MC/01 Rev A;
- v) A pedestrian crossing point, including dropped kerbs and tactile paving, on both sides of the U18E Stynie Road at a point to be agreed with the Roads Authority approximately 10 metres to the north of Glebe Road; and
- vi) Provision of cycle route signage to the Moray Council standards and specification from the development to the B9015 (Main Street).
- c) Details (Plan scale 1:1000 min) for the widening of the U18E Stynie Road to 5.5 metres along the full extent of the site frontage (approx. 250 metres) onto Stynie Road, to the Moray Council standards and specification, including the extension of street lighting and road drainage.
- d) Details (Plan(s) scale 1:500 min) of a 4.5m x 120m visibility splay in both directions at the northern access and a 4.5m x 90m visibility splay in both directions at the southern access.

The approved Construction Traffic Management Plan must be complied with at all times. The works identified in b) and c) above shall be completed in accordance with the approved details prior to the commencement of the 5th house or flat.

Reason - To ensure acceptable:-

- a) Development that does not create any hazard to road users in the interests of road safety.
 - b) Infrastructure for non-motorised road users, ensuring the provision of routes to schools and local facilities and a sustainable development.
 - c) Infrastructure at the development access and to cater for additional traffic generated by the development.
 - d) To ensure acceptable access and visibility in the interest of road safety for the proposed development and other road users.
8. No work shall commence until details and a scaled plan (1:1000) have been submitted showing the exact route of the new pedestrian footpath linking the site to Mossmill Park and the timing for its implementation. Thereafter the footpath shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and completed prior to commencement of works to construct plot 25.

Reason - To ensure connectivity between the development and the adjacent housing, in accordance with Designing Streets policy.

9. Parking provision shall be provided and maintained for use in accordance with the approved site layout plan (Drawing No. MS01_PL01 Rev K) unless otherwise agreed in writing with Moray Council Transportation.

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

10. The visibility splays at the northern and southern site access junctions as detailed in the approved drawings (Condition 7(d) refers) are to be maintained clear of any obstructions at all times. All boundary fences shall be set back behind the visibility splay which will become part of the adopted public road.

Reason - To ensure acceptable access and visibility in the interest of road safety for the proposed development and other road users.

11. New boundary walls/fences/planting shall be set back from the edge of the prospective public carriageway at a distance of 2.0m. No fences, walls, planting or obstructions in or along the front/rear of service verges.

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

12. No boundary fences, hedges, walls or any other obstruction whatsoever over 1.0 metre in height and fronting onto the public road shall be within 2.4 metres of the edge of the carriageway, measured from the level of the public carriageway, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority.

Reason - To enable drivers of vehicles leaving driveways to have a clear view over a length of road sufficient to allow safe exit, in the interests of road safety for the proposed development and other road users.

13. Houses requiring 2 parking spaces shall have a driveway length of 6.0m minimum in front of any garage to permit a second car to park, unless alternative parking arrangements are provided. No part of the driveway shall be included in the public road.

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

14. Driveways over service verges shall be constructed to accommodate vehicles and shall be surfaced with bituminous macadam.

Reason - To ensure acceptable infrastructure at the individual development accesses.

15. Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority, the equipped play area and surrounding area of open space shall be provided in accordance with the approved plans prior to the commencement of the 20th residential unit on site. Thereafter the equipped play area shall be maintained in accordance with the approved Landscape Management Plan MS01_SL_PL-05 for the lifetime of the development.

Reason – To ensure the timeous provision of the play area and surrounding open space.

16. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2011 (or any order

revoking and re-enacting that order) no windows shall be installed on the south facing (side) elevations of the house on plot 1 or flats on plots 7-10.

Reason - In order to preserve the privacy levels of the neighbouring existing houses.

17. For the avoidance of doubt, the approved position of flats on plots 7-14 is as shown on the approved site layout drawing no. MS01_PL01.

Reason – To avoid any ambiguity between the site plan and the position of the flats shown on some supporting layout plans relating to drainage and levels details.

18. All surface water drainage infrastructure within the development shall be implemented in accordance with the details contained in the approved 'Drainage Strategy Report' and associated drainage drawings MS01_ENG-635, MS01-ENG-206, MS01-ENG-625, MS01-ENG-205, MS01-ENG-630, MS01-ENG-207 and MS01-ENG-640. Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the planning authority, this drainage infrastructure will be completed prior to the first occupation of any housing unit in the development and thereafter maintained for the lifetime of the development in accordance with the approved 'Drainage Strategy Report'.

Reason – To ensure an acceptable form of development is provided in accordance with intentions stated in the submitted Drainage Assessment, and to provide for adequate protection of the water environment from surface water run-off during the lifetime of the development.

19. Prior to the commencement of development a manufacturers specification for the Air Source Heat Pumps including noise output levels shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall be implemented in accordance with these details.

Reason – To ensure a satisfactory form of development which protects residential amenity against noise disturbance, and as these details are currently lacking from the application.

Reason(s) for Decision

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

The application represents an acceptable departure from the Mosstodloch R1 designation in that, the proposal departs from policy E9 on the basis that the SUDs are located out with the designation and settlement boundary, however the existing extant consent already permits SUDs in this area and the SUDs proposals will result in minimal visual impact. In all other respects the proposal accords with the Moray Local Development Plan 2015 and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise.

List of Informatives:

THE TRANSPORTATION MANAGER, DIRECT SERVICES has commented that:-

Planning consent does not carry with it the right to carry out works within the public road boundary and the applicant must contact the Transportation Manager for road opening permit in accordance with the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. This includes any temporary access joining with the public road.

Before commencing development the applicant is obliged to apply for Roads 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 road.maint@moray.gov.uk

The developer must contact the Roads Authority Senior Engineer in the Traffic section at Moray Council HQ, Elgin – Tel 01343 563780 to discuss the requirements for the introduction of a 40 mph speed limit on the U18E Stynie Road. The developer shall meet all the costs associated with the promotion and implementation of the 40mph speed limit.

The Construction Traffic Management Plan must include details of any temporary site access arrangements, site compounds, lay down areas and site parking (Plan scale 1:500 min), proposals to safeguard non-motorised road users and control procedures to address the impact of heavy goods vehicles/construction traffic on the U18E Stynie Road which includes the repair of any damage to the public road attributable to the development and the prevention of materials or water being deposited on the public road.

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

If required, street furniture will need to be repositioned at the expense of the developer. In addition any existing roadside ditch may require a pipe or culvert. Advice on these matters can be obtained by e-mailing road.maint@moray.gov.uk

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

The applicant shall ensure that their operations do not adversely affect any Public Utilities, which should be contacted prior to commencement of operations.

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

The developer must contact the Roads Authority Street Lighting Section at Ashgrove Depot, Elgin - Tel (01343) 557300, Ext 7343 to discuss the proposals.

The developer must contact the Roads Authority Roads Maintenance Manager (West) at Ashgrove Depot, Elgin - Tel (01343) 557300, Ext 7349 to discuss the proposals.

THE MANAGER, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND BUILDING STANDARDS has commented that:

This development is subject to a Unilateral Obligation in regard to the arrangements for developer obligations towards addressing the impact of the development upon health care, with the proposed contribution payable in instalments.

Through the Quality Audit process for this application the specification of trees was sought and whilst this has been provided within the Planting Schedule on the Landscaping Layout MS01_PL03 Rev N the drawing itself does not identify which trees are semi mature, heavy standard avenue trees, heavy standard trees or multi stemmed trees. The standard of trees requires to be identified on the drawing. At present whilst the tree species corresponds to the schedules it is not possible to identify the standard of tree to be planted. Clarification of this is required to ensure that sufficient screening is provided to reduce the dominance of parking areas and also to ensure quality open spaces are established early in the development. The hedge planting backing onto the car parking blocks a desire line from car to footway. This could be changed to shrub planting to allow easier/direct access from parking to the adjacent footway.

Root containment is required on the Beech trees that front onto cycle path and Stynie Road.

The Quality Audit sought details of lighting provision which was primarily to ensure that the central open space and cycle path were well lit to provide safer environments.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MANAGER has commented that:

We would advise that the metal slide should be north facing to avoid direct sunlight as experience has indicated they can overheat if aligned the other way.

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE has commented that:-

The applicant is reminded that all wild birds, their nests and their eggs are protected by law under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and that it is their responsibility to develop the site in accordance with all wildlife legislation and that works should be timed carefully to avoid the times of year when wild birds are likely to be nesting, i.e. the breeding season.

SCOTTISH SOUTHERN ENERGY have the following advice:

Our records indicate that an existing 11,000 volt overhead line passes along the southerly and easterly boundary of the site. All works in proximity to overhead

lines must be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety Guidance note GS 6. The legislation dictates that where works are to be undertaken within 9 metres horizontal distance from an overhead line positive steps must be taken to manage the risk identified on site. These steps can include, making the line dead, erecting barriers at ground level, erecting high level bunting and goal posts (6 metres from the line), using appropriate excavator, restricting jib movement, etc. I'm unsure of the layout of the development, however provided that any development works adheres to the above mentioned legislation we would have no issues with the development.

If the applicant would like quotation for the lines to be dismantled and replaced with underground cable, they should call Tel; 08000 483 515.

LIST OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT	
Reference No. Version No.	Title/Description
10/01267/MC/01 Rev A	Off Site Infrastructure
MS01_ENG-635	Swale section
MS01-ENG-206	Drainage Area plan
MS01-ENG-625	Drainage construction details
MS01-ENG-205	Drainage layout
MS01-ENG-630	Infiltration basin sections
MS01-ENG-207	Overland flow layout
MS01-ENG-640	Soakaway layout
MS01-ENG-100	Topographical survey
MS01-ENG-200	Planning levels layout
MS01-SL-PL-06 B	Roads hierarchy
	Indicative elevations - CS type - green
	Indicative elevations - F type - green
	Indicative elevations - H type - blue
	Indicative elevations - CS type - blue

	Street elevation
	Visual 01
	Visual 02
MS01_PL03 N	Landscaping layout
2016/D/PL/01	D type - Elevations and floor plan
MC/2016/A/01	A type cottage flat - elevations and floor plans
MC/2018/CS/01 B	CS type semi detached - elevations and floor plans
MS01_MC_01 A	Material conditions drawing
MS01_PL-05	Landscape management plan
MS01_PL02 I	House type allocation
MS01_PL04 J	Phasing plan
MS01_PL06 B	Material conditions
	Play area detail
01	Play equipment layout
MC/2017/F/01	F type semi-detached - elevations and floor plans
MS01_LP_PL-01 C	Location plan
MS01_OL00	Overall layout
MS01_PL01 K	Site layout
MC/2018/CS/PEND/01 C	CS type terraced - elevations and floor plans

Supporting Information to accompany formal decision notice:

DRAINAGE STRATEGY REPORT, Stynie Road, Mosstodloch prepared by Springfield Properties.



PLANNING APPLICATION COMMITTEE SITE PLAN

Planning Application Ref Number:

18/01536/APP

Site Address:

R1 Stynie Road

Stynie Road Mosstodloch

Applicant Name:

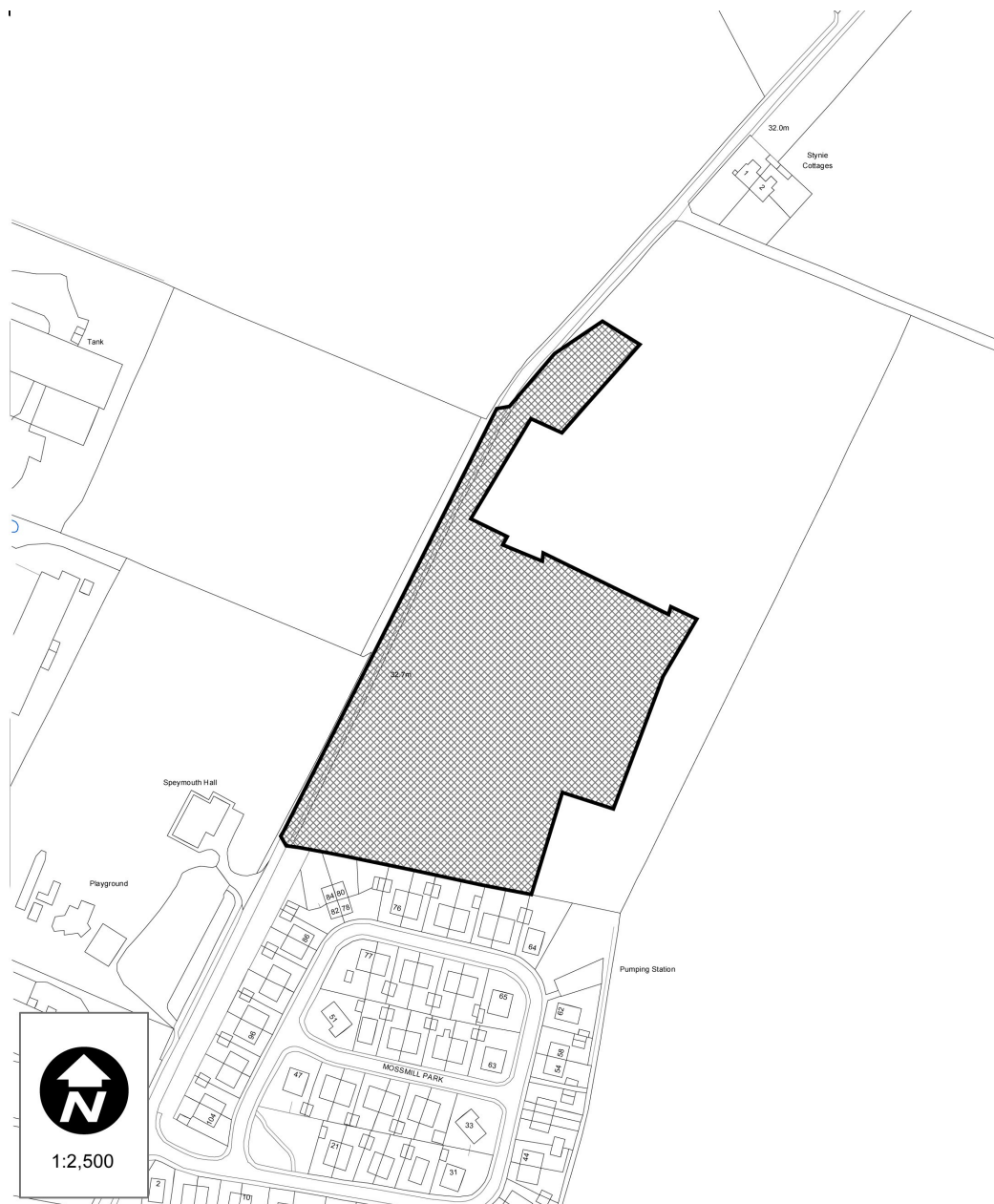
Springfield Properties PLC

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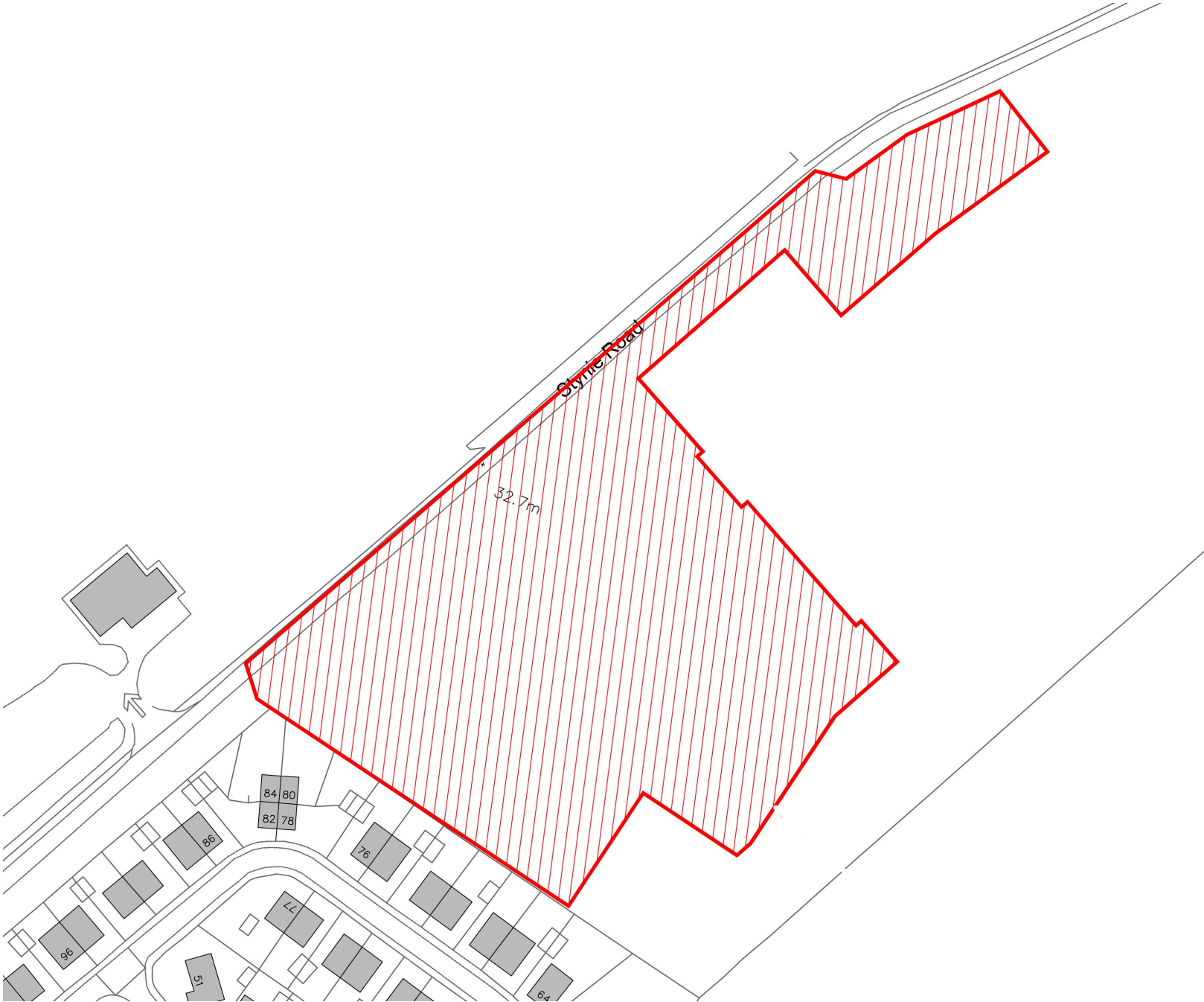
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Location Plan



Site location



Site plan











PLANNING APPLICATION: 18/01536/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 for the erection of 30 affordable houses/units on the south west portion of the R1 Stynie Road designation in Mosstodloch.
- Planning permission has already been granted on the whole of the R1 designation for the erection of 59 residential units following the approval of application 16/00083/APP on 12th March 2018. This previous consent is extant, however, the development has not yet commenced.
- Although this application only covers around half of the overall R1 designation, a detailed layout plan has been provided for the remainder of the site, which indicates the intention to erect a total of 76 units across the site and also details where the associated infrastructure, such as, roads, SUDs, footways/cycleway, landscaping and a central open space will be located.
- The proposed 30 residential units are broken down into 4 semi-detached single storey houses (type CS semi-detached, 2 bedrooms), 8 single storey terraced houses (type CS terraced 2 bedrooms), 8 two storey terraced flats (type A, 1 bedroom) and 10 two storey semi-detached houses (types D, 3 bedrooms & Type F, 4 bedrooms). The 5 separate house types have a relatively traditional pitched roof form and are to be finished in smooth grey concrete roof tiles and a mixture of wet harl render and painted timber cladding on the walls.
- The houses will be connected to the public water supply, and public foul sewerage system via a new proposed wastewater pumping station which is to be located within the northern area of the site. Surface water from the roads and widened Stynie Road will be disposed of via swales and infiltration basins located throughout the site. Curtilage surface water run-off will be infiltrated within private soakaways for each plot.
- The development has been designed around a large central area of open space, which is included in the application site and (together with a cycle way and equipped play area) will be provided as part of this first phase of the development. The Landscaping scheme comprises a mix of semi-mature/feature trees, heavy standard avenue/heavy standard trees, multi-stemmed/feathered trees, beech hedges, shrub beds/borders and planted swales. Identified tree species are Beech, Copper Beach, Crab Apple, Cherry, Rowan, Lime, Birch, Hawthorn and Hornbeam.
- The following supporting documents have also been provided; Design and Access Statement, Planning Statement which incorporates the Sustainability Statement, Transport Statement, Flood Risk Assessment, and Drainage Strategy Report.

THE SITE

- The site is approx. 1.9 hectares in area and comprises the south west portion of the R1 Mosstodloch designation, which is identified as having an indicative capacity of 50 units within the Moray Local Development Plan 2015. The site boundary does, however, also stretch to the north of the R1 designation to incorporate an area of land beyond the settlement boundary, which contains SUDs infrastructure, which will not only serve the proposed houses but also the rest of the houses in the remainder of the R1 designation.
- The site has been designated for housing through a succession of local plans and has benefited from detailed planning permission for 59 houses since the original grant of permission on 8 February 2013. This original consent was later extended via the grant of planning application 16/00083/APP, which remains extant and unimplemented.
- The site is currently used as agricultural land, is generally flat and low lying with a gentle slope at the northern boundary of the site.
- The site is bounded to the south-west by a residential estate, to the north-west by a public road (Stynie Road) and to the south-east and north-east by open agricultural land.
- The River Spey SAC, SPA and SSSI are located approx. 880m to the east.
- The SEPA indicative flood map shows that the site is identified as being at 'little or no risk' from river flooding. The SEPA flood map also indicates that the majority of the site is at low risk from surface water flooding, with small localised areas shown to be at 'medium or high risk'.
- Known sites of archaeological interest are present within the application site boundary, which have been subject of previous archaeological investigations.

HISTORY

10/01267/APP - Detailed application for the erection of 59 residential units at Stynie Road, Mosstodloch - approved at committee and subsequently issued with permission following conclusion of the legal agreement on 8 February 2013.

16/00083/APP – S42 application for the variation of condition on planning application 10/01267/APP for the erection of 59 residential units at Stynie Road, Mosstodloch - approved at committee and subsequently issued with permission following conclusion of the legal agreement on 12 March 2018.

POLICY - SEE APPENDIX

ADVERTISEMENTS

- Advertised as a departure from the development plan.
- Advertised for neighbour notification purposes.

CONSULTATIONS

Development Plans - Policy and urban design comments provided. Amendments sought and provided to ensure fuller compliance with quality audit aims and with placemaking policy PP3 (see observations section).

Moray Flood Risk Management – Comments provided on surface water drainage arrangements and following further submissions, no objections subject to conditions.

Developer Obligations - Developer Obligations assessment carried out in relation to current Local development plan policy and associated supplementary planning guidance. Contributions are sought towards provision of healthcare facilities. A Unilateral Instrument of Planning Obligation will be required to secure these contributions.

Moray Access Manager - No objections.

Environmental Protection – No objections.

Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology - No objections, the site has already been the subject of a programme of archaeological works.

Scottish Water - No objections.

Environmental Health - No objections.

Contaminated Land - No objections.

Transportation Manager - No objections subject to conditions and informatives covering access, parking, construction traffic and footway/cycleway provision.

Housing Strategy and Development Manager - No objections, subject to conditions regarding provision of affordable units.

Innes Community Council - No response received.

Scottish Natural Heritage – No objections. We have been involved with the Quality Audit process and are satisfied that there are no natural heritage issues that could be impacted upon.

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).

Three letters of representation have been received from:-

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

All objections/representations have been read and where material, given the appropriate consideration prior to the recommendation now reached.

Headings of objection reasons selected by objectors from objection/representation weblink:

- Affecting natural environment
- Dust
- Height of proposed development
- Loss of privacy (being overlooked)
- Noise
- Permitted Development
- Road access
- Road safety
- Smell
- Traffic
- View affected

The grounds for objection/representation are summarised as follows:

Issue: Object to the proposals on the grounds of excessive noise and pollution.

Comment (PO): The proposal is for a residential development which is not anticipated to generate excessive levels of noise or pollution. There may be an element of noise or dust generated during the construction process; however, this would only be for a relatively short period of time and it would be unduly restrictive to refuse developments on the basis of potential for construction noise. Should any nuisance occur then Environmental Health have powers under the Environmental Protection Act to remedy this issue.

Issue: Privacy impact and overlooking

The proposed houses which bound the existing neighbouring houses should be single storey with a line of trees proposed between the properties in addition to the proposed 1.8m high fence.

Comment (PO): Where the rear elevation of the proposed two storey houses faces directly towards the neighbouring existing properties, there is a separation distance of 12.8m from the rear face of the proposed houses to the shared boundary and this compares to the approved two storey houses which are located 8.5m from the shared boundary. The proposed scheme therefore represents an improvement on the currently approved scheme and is considered to achieve an acceptable level of privacy between proposed and neighbouring houses.

For plots 1 and 7, where the proposed houses are orientated gable on to the existing neighbouring houses, the F-type houses on plot 1 do not have any proposed windows in the gable elevation; similarly following discussions with the applicants it has been agreed that the windows in the gable elevation of the proposed A-type flats on plot 7 be removed.

On the basis of the above as there will be no significant loss of privacy it is not considered necessary to limit the height of the proposed houses along the shared boundary with the existing houses to single storey.

With regard to the potential for tree planting between the properties, as the proposed houses are located to the north of the existing properties, any trees planted along the shared boundary would, in time, overshadow the proposed houses. This would minimise solar gain and potentially pose a maintenance concern in future due to the restricted access to the area, and for these reasons it is not considered appropriate to plant trees along this shared boundary.

Issue: Loss of view

Comment (PO): The loss of view is not a material planning consideration and cannot be taken into account in the determination of this application.

Issue: Adverse impact on wildlife including loss of existing hedging.

Comments (PO): Although the existing roadside bushes/hedge will be lost as a result of the development, the remainder of the site has a low level of habitat value as it is in arable agricultural use. A detailed landscaping plan has been submitted in support of the application which details hedge and tree planting throughout the site along with a naturalised SUDs feature along the Stynie Road frontage, which incorporates a mixture of grasses, hostas, ferns and foxgloves and will add together to enhance the overall habitat value of the site.

Issue: Road safety

Road infrastructure insufficient to serve the development and increased road safety concerns regarding children using the play park by Stynie Hall due to the additional traffic in the area.

The proposed access just off the existing bend in Stynie Road will be dangerous.

Comments (PO): The Transportation Section have confirmed that they have no objection to approval of the application, subject to conditions, which include the widening of Stynie Road along the frontage of the site to accommodate the development, the provision of a cycleway along the frontage of the site linking into the existing path network in Mosstodloch and provision of crossing points to the play park at Stynie Hall, all of which will act to preserve or improve road safety in the area.

The access just off the bend in Stynie Road will be provided in accordance with transportation standards with sufficient visibility splays maintained to ensure there are no adverse road safety issues.

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 Plan 2015 (MLDP) unless material considerations indicate otherwise. On 18 December 2018, at a special meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee, the Proposed Plan was approved as the “settled view” of the Council and minimal weight will be given to the Proposed Plan, with the 2015 MLDP being the primary consideration.

R1 Stynie Road (MLDP Policies H1, IMP1 and Mosstodloch R1) and departure issues (E9)

The site comprises roughly half of the larger R1 Mosstodloch residential designation with an indicative capacity of 50 houses. The text accompanying the designation outlines that a 15m landscaped strip should be provided along the northern boundary and the avenue of trees along Stynie Road should be extended along the site frontage. In addition structural landscaping will be required within the site to ensure visually discrete groupings of houses. Road improvements to Stynie Road will be required, including widening of the road, provision of footways/cycleway, extension of street lighting and speed limits. Two points of access should be provided onto Stynie Road. Due to the proximity of the River Spey SAC, information should be provided in support of proposals to ensure measures can be put in place to avoid adverse impact on water quality.

With regard to the indicative capacity of the site being 50 units, policy H1 and the designation text outlines that the designation capacities are indicative only and proposed capacities will be considered against the characteristics of the site and conformity with policies PP3, H8 and IMP1. With this in mind the application for 30 units along with the supporting layout plan covering the whole of the R1 designation and indicating a total of 76 units is not considered to be a departure in this regard, as outlined in the design and layout section later in this report.

The 15m landscaping strip along the northern boundary falls outwith the current application site boundary, however, the supporting wider layout plan indicates tree planting along this boundary, which although not 15m wide, is greater than was approved as part of the previous extant consent on site and when taken in conjunction with the wider landscaping proposals throughout the site (which incorporate high levels of beech hedging, tree planting etc.) overall the landscaping proposals are considered to be acceptable. Conditions covering these landscaping details and long-term maintenance of these areas will be attached to the formal decision notice.

The road, footpath and cycleway improvements together with two access points onto Stynie Road have been shown within the application site boundary and within the supporting wider layout plan in accordance with the site designation and transportation requirements.

In terms of the potential impact on the water quality of the River Spey SAC, as was the case with the existing consent on the site, conditions are again recommended to control and treat surface water run-off both during and after the construction of the development. Taking into board the conditions as recommended the interests of the River Spey SAC will be protected.

As with the previous approval on this site, some of the SUDs infrastructure will be located outwith the settlement boundary and designation, however, this will result in minimal visual impact as it will take the form of a grassed detention basin, which will largely maintain the appearance of a rural location. With this in mind and given that SUDs infrastructure has already been approved in this location, a departure from policy E9 can be supported.

Place-making: Design and Site Layout (PP3, PP2, H8, H9, E5 & IMP1)

During consideration of the application, discussions with the applicant have sought to promote an acceptable form of development in terms of good design and place-making principles as advocated by policy PP3 and the related Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). As a material consideration, a quality audit (QA) process, covering both design and site layout issues, has been agreed to assess the conformity of residential development with Policy PP3 place-making and Urban Design SPG principles.

The QA approach examines 12 criteria considered to contribute to place-making principles i.e. connections, public transport, safer environment, car parking, legibility/street hierarchy, character and identity, housing mix, access to facilities and amenities, natural features, open space, biodiversity, and landscaping. The QA adopts a "traffic light" approach to assess the criteria where:

- "red" means 'significant place-making issues where mitigation is required and if not addressed refusal would be recommended';
- "amber" means 'design principles within PP3 and the Urban Design Guide have been met, however further quality improvements could be made'; and
- "green" means 'PP3 principles and Urban Design Supplementary Guidance are fully met'.

A QA was undertaken for this application which identified a number of points requiring attention. These included confirmation regarding the provision of cycleways, bin collection points, shared surfacing details, amendments to minimise overbearing and privacy impacts on existing neighbouring houses, additional landscaping and play equipment details, further drainage details and measures to improve the character and identity of the scheme.

The applicants have subsequently submitted amended plans and information to address all of the above points including agreement over the provision of the cycleways, clarification of the use of shared bin collection points, full details of road surfacing details and drainage details. With regard to the privacy and overbearing issues raised the applicants have removed the windows in the gable of the south facing elevation of the flatted units 7-10 and pull these units a further 1.8m from the neighbouring boundary. A landscaping plan, maintenance schedule and full play equipment details have been provided. The landscaping plan includes a range of trees, shrubs and planting and reflects one of the main dominant characteristics of Mosstodloch, which is the prevalence of beech hedging and replicates this feature throughout the site, helping to create the character and identity of the development. The use of a two tone colour scheme throughout the site to create separate character areas across the whole of the R1 designation is also proposed, with the central part of the site around the main open area having elements of the houses clad in timber painted a muted green tone to tie in with the open green appearance of these areas. For the remainder of the site elements of other key dwellings have been picked out in timber cladding painted a muted blue grey tone, which again breaks up the massing of the buildings and general streetscape and improves overall navigation and sense of place throughout the development.

In summary, the amended proposals have incorporated all of the mitigation improvements highlighted in the QAs, and improve upon the proposal's compliance with place-making principles. These improvements result in a development which is acceptable and satisfies relevant planning policy and supplementary guidance including Policy PP3, H1 and IMP1.

The proposal is also considered to be compliant with Policy PP2. The submitted 'Sustainability Checklist' outlines that the residential units will be of an air tight design, with high insulation, maximisation of solar gain and use of triple glazed windows. In addition all units will be fitted with air source heat pumps, approval of details of which will be subject to a planning condition.

Drainage from the site will be managed in a sustainable manner, with construction methods adopted to minimise waste and use of certified timber kits from sustainable

sources. Pedestrian and cycle routes have been provided and a detailed landscaping scheme provided which incorporates green and blue infrastructure and maximises opportunities for planting which will enhance biodiversity in the area.

The presence of the central green and landscaped avenue along Stynie Road will provide a softer and welcoming development and ensures compliance with policy E5, in that, over 20% of the site area has been given over to open space.

In light of the above considerations and subject to conditions as recommended the proposal would comply with the place-making, siting, design and amenity requirements of policies PP3, PP2, H8, H9, E5 & IMP1.

Affordable/Accessible Housing (H8, H9, PP3, IMP1)

All house/flats proposed are to be affordable housing and following consultation with the Housing Strategy & Development Manager, the proposed housing mix is considered to meet the needs of the area. A condition shall be attached as recommended by the Housing Strategy and Development Manager covering the delivery and management of the affordable housing.

As the scheme comprises entirely affordable housing the requirements of policy H9 accessible housing are not applicable.

Transportation (Mosstodloch designation R1, T2, T5, T7, PP3, IMP1, IMP2)

The applicants have incorporated all of the transportation requirements as set out within text accompanying the site designation. Following consultation the Transportation Section has confirmed that it has no objection to the grant of permission subject to conditions as recommended regarding access, parking, provision of a Construction Traffic Management Plan and on and off site footway/cycleway provision.

Subject to compliance with these conditions, the proposals would accord with the above policies.

Drainage, Flood risk and Water Supply (EP5, EP7, EP10, IMP1)

Policy EP5 requires surface water drainage to be dealt with in a sustainable manner using SUDs with a Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) required for developments of 10 or more houses, together with consideration to be given to the impact of construction phase run-off.

The submitted DIA confirms that the development will be served by separate foul and surface water drainage systems, the latter to incorporate SUDs and be designed in accordance with sustainable development principles, reflecting the requirements of policy EP5.

Moray Flood Risk Management (MFRM) have reviewed the surface water drainage information provided and have raised no objection subject to conditions as recommended regarding the implementation of the surface water drainage scheme and measures to manage surface water discharge during the construction phase.

The SEPA flood map indicates that the majority of the site is at low risk from surface water flooding, although small localised areas are identified as being at 'medium or high risk'. A Flood Risk Assessment has been submitted with the application which concludes that the development will result in a neutral or better effect on the risk of flooding both on and off

the site. MFRM has reviewed this information and has raised no objection on flood risk grounds.

Policy EP10 requires a public connection for development located within settlements. Scottish Water has raised no objection to the approval of the application.

Subject to compliance with the recommended condition, the proposal complies with policy EP5, EP10 and IMP1.

Impact Upon Cultural Heritage (BE1, IMP1)

There are no built heritage assets near the site, but given the presence of archaeology in close proximity to the site, consultation was carried out with the Aberdeenshire Archaeological Service who has no objection to the development on the basis that the site has already been the subject of a programme of archaeological works.

Natural Environment (E1 and E3)

The site itself is not subject to any site-specific nature conservation designation, although there are natural heritage interests within the wider area, in this case the River Spey SAC, SPA and SSSI located approximately 880m to the east. Compliance with the condition as recommended to control/treat surface water run-off both during and after the construction of the development, coupled with the fact that there are no significant gradients or drainage on site that could increase the risk of impacts, would ensure that the proposal would have no adverse impacts on these areas. Scottish Natural Heritage has been consulted in this regard and has raised no concerns with the approval of the application.

As the site is currently agricultural land it is of limited natural heritage interest with low bio diversity value and unlikely to offer habitat for shelter and breeding of any protected species. A detailed landscaping plan has been submitted in support of the application which details hedge and tree planting throughout the site along with a naturalised SUDs feature along the Stynie Road frontage, which incorporates a mixture of grasses, hostas, ferns and foxgloves all of which will contribute to enhance the overall habitat value of the site.

Informative advice shall be attached highlighting relevant legislative requirements regarding the protection of nesting birds that may be present along the site boundaries.

From the above the proposal complies with policies E1 and E3.

Developer Obligations (IMP3)

A Developer Obligations assessment has been carried out in accordance with current Local Development Plan policy and associated supplementary planning guidance and has identified the need for contributions towards healthcare. The applicants have confirmed that they are agreeable to the contribution, which will need to be secured via a legal agreement prior to the grant of permission.

Conclusion

On the basis of the above and subject to the conditions recommended the proposal is acceptable.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

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

The application represents an acceptable departure from the Mosstodloch R1 designation in that, the proposal departs from policy E9 on the basis that the SUDs are located out with the designation and settlement boundary, however the existing extant consent already permits SUDs in this area and the SUDs proposals will result in minimal visual impact. In all other respects the proposal accords with the Moray Local Development Plan 2015 and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise.

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APPENDIX

POLICY

Adopted Moray Local Development Plan 2015

Primary Policy PP1: Sustainable Economic Growth

The Local Development Plan identifies employment land designations to support requirements identified in the Moray Economic Strategy. Development proposals which support the Strategy and will contribute towards the delivery of sustainable economic growth and the transition of Moray towards a low carbon economy will be supported where the quality of the natural and built environment is safeguarded and the relevant policies and site requirements are met.

Primary Policy PP2: Climate Change

In order to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developments of 10 or more houses and buildings in excess of 500 sq m should address the following:

- Be in sustainable locations that make efficient use of land and infrastructure
- Optimise accessibility to active travel options and public transport
- Create quality open spaces, landscaped areas and green wedges that are well connected
- Utilise sustainable construction techniques and materials and encourage energy efficiency through the orientation and design of buildings
- Where practical, install low and zero carbon generating technologies
- Prevent further development that would be at risk of flooding or coastal erosion
- Where practical, meet heat and energy requirements through decentralised and local renewable or low carbon sources of heat and power
- Minimise disturbance to carbon rich soils and, in cases where it is agreed that trees can be felled, to incorporate compensatory tree planting.

Proposals must be supported by a Sustainability Statement that sets out how the above objectives have been addressed within the development. This policy is supported by supplementary guidance on climate change.

R1: Stynie Road

This is an existing designation carried forward, and planning consent has previously been granted for a development on site. A 15m landscaped strip should be provided along the northern boundary, and the avenue of trees along Stynie Road should be extended along the site frontage. In addition, structural landscaping will be required within the site to ensure visually discrete groupings of houses.

Road improvements to Stynie Road will be required, including the widening of the road; provision of footways/cycleway; extension of street lighting; relocation of speed limit. 2 points of access from Stynie Road will require to be provided.

Due to proximity to River Spey SAC information should be submitted to support proposals demonstrating that adequate protection measures can be put in place to avoid impact on water quality.

Policy E9: Settlement Boundaries

Settlement boundaries are drawn around each of the towns, villages and rural communities representing the limit to which these settlements can expand during the Local Development Plan period. Development proposals immediately outwith the boundaries of these settlements will not be acceptable, unless the proposal is a designated "LONG" term development site which is being released for development under the terms of Policy H2.

(In accordance with policy H11, for proposals involving Gypsy/Traveller sites, a distance of 1km will be applied as being "immediately outwith".)

Primary Policy PP3: Placemaking

All residential and commercial (business, industrial and retail) developments must incorporate the key principles of Designing Streets, Creating Places and the Council's supplementary guidance on Urban Design.

Developments should;

- create places with character, identity and a sense of arrival
- create safe and pleasant places, which have been designed to reduce the fear of crime and anti social behaviour
- be well connected, walkable neighbourhoods which are easy to move around and designed to encourage social interaction and healthier lifestyles
- include buildings and open spaces of high standards of design which incorporate sustainable design and construction principles
- have streets which are designed to consider pedestrians first and motor vehicles last and minimise the visual impact of parked cars on the street scene.
- ensure buildings front onto streets with public fronts and private backs and have clearly defined public and private space
- maintain and enhance the natural landscape features and distinctive character of the area and provide new green spaces which connect to green and blue networks and promote biodiversity

- The Council will work with developers and local communities to prepare masterplans, key design principles and other site specific planning guidance as indicated in the settlement designations.

Policy H1: Housing Land

Designated sites

Land has been designated to meet the strategic housing land requirements 2013-2025 in the settlement statements as set out in Table 1. Proposals for development on all designated housing sites must include or be supported by information regarding the comprehensive layout and development of the whole site. This allows consideration of all servicing, infrastructure and landscaping provision to be taken into account at the outset. It will also allow an assessment of any contribution or affordable housing needs to be made. Proposals must comply with the site development requirements within the settlement plans and policies and the Council's policy on Place- making and Supplementary Guidance, "People and Places".

Windfall sites within settlements

New housing on land not designated for residential development within settlement boundaries will be acceptable if;

- a) The proposal does not adversely impact upon the surrounding environment, and
- b) Adequate servicing and infrastructure is available, or can be made available
- c) The site is not designated for an alternative use
- d) The requirements of policies PP2, PP3 and IMP1 are met.

Housing Density

Capacity figures indicated within site designations are indicative and proposed capacities will be considered against the characteristics of the site, conformity with policies PP3, H8 and IMP1.

Policy H8: Affordable Housing

Proposals for new housing developments of 4 or more units (including conversions) must provide 25% of the total units as affordable housing.

A higher percentage contribution may be appropriate 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.

Supplementary or other guidance will provide further details of this policy including the proportion of provision, the specification of wheelchair accessible housing and the exceptions that may apply.

Policy H9: Housing Mix/Accessible Housing

Proposals for multiple houses must meet the needs of smaller households, older people and other needs (e.g. extra care housing) identified in the Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment.

All new residential developments must provide a range of housing of different types and sizes which should reflect the requirements of the Local Housing Strategy. Different house types should be well integrated, ensuring that the siting and design is appropriate to the location and does not conflict with the character of the local area.

Housing proposals of 10 or more units will be required to provide a proportion of wheelchair accessible housing. Flexibility may apply on less accessible sites and/or where an alternative acceptable housing mix is proposed.

Off site provision may be acceptable where sites do not have good access to local services and facilities and are not considered appropriate for housing for older people.

Supplementary or other guidance will provide further details of this policy including the proportion of provision, the specification of wheelchair accessible housing and the exceptions that may apply.

Policy E2: Local Nature Conservation Sites and Biodiversity

Development likely to have a significant adverse effect on Local Nature Reserves, native woodlands identified in the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland, raised peat bog, wetlands, protected species, wildlife sites or other valuable local habitat or conflict with the objectives of Local Biodiversity Action Plans will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that;

- a) local public benefits clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site, and
- b) there is a specific locational requirement for the development

Where there is evidence to suggest that a habitat or species of importance exists on the site, the developer will be required at his own expense to undertake a survey of the site's natural environment.

Where development is permitted which could adversely affect any of the above habitats or species the developer must put in place acceptable mitigation measures to conserve and enhance the site's residual conservation interest.

Development proposals should protect and where appropriate, create natural and semi natural habitats for their ecological, recreational and natural habitat values. Developers will be required to demonstrate that they have considered potential improvements in habitat in the design of the development and sought to include links with green and blue networks wherever possible.

Policy E5: Open Spaces

Safeguarding Open Spaces

Development which would cause the loss of, or adversely impact on, areas identified under the ENV designation in settlement statements and the amenity land designation in rural groupings will be refused unless;

- The proposal is for a public use that clearly outweighs the value of the open space or the proposed development is ancillary to the principal use and will enhance use of the site for sport and recreation; and
- The development is sited and designed to minimise adverse impacts on the recreational, amenity and biodiversity value of the site; and
- There is a clear excess of the type of ENV designation within easy access in the wider area and loss of the open space will not negatively impact upon the overall quality and quantity of open space provision, or
- Alternative provision of equal or greater benefit will be made available and is easily accessible for users of the developed space.

Provision of new Open Spaces

Quantity

New green spaces should be provided to the following standards;

- Residential sites less than 10 units - landscaping to be determined under the terms of policies PP3 and IMP1 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 including allotments, formal parks and playspaces within residential sites.

Quality

New green spaces should be;

- Overlooked by buildings with active frontages
- Well positioned, multi functional and easily accessible
- Well connected to adjacent green and blue corridors, public transport and neighbourhood facilities
- Safe, inclusive and welcoming
- Well maintained and performing an identified function

- Support the principles of Placemaking policy PP3.

Allotments

Proposals for allotments on existing open spaces will be supported where they do not adversely affect the primary function of the space or undermine the amenity value of the area and where a specific locational requirement has been identified by the Council. Consideration will include related aspects such as access and car parking and not just the allotment area itself.

Policy EP5: Surface Water Drainage: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

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

Specific arrangements should be made to avoid the issue of permanent SUD features becoming silted-up with construction phase runoff. Care must be taken to avoid the introduction of invasive non-native species during the construction of all SUD features.

Applicants must agree provisions for long term maintenance of the SUDS scheme to the satisfaction of the Council in consultation with SEPA and Scottish Water as appropriate.

A Drainage Assessment (DA) will be required for developments of 10 houses or more, industrial uses, and non-residential proposals of 500 sq metres and above.

The Council's Flood Team will prepare Supplementary Guidance on surface water drainage and flooding.

Policy EP9: Contaminated Land

Development proposals on potentially contaminated land will be approved provided that:

- a) 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
- b) 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.

The Council recommends early contact with the Environmental Health Section, which can advise what level of information will need to be supplied.

Policy EP10: Foul Drainage

All development within or close to settlements (as defined in the Local Development Plan) of more than 2,000 population equivalent will require to connect to the public sewerage system unless connection to the public sewer 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 specifically allocated within its current Quality Standards Investment Programme and the following requirements apply:

- Systems shall not have an adverse impact 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 identified in the Local Development Plan) of less than 2000 population equivalent will require to connect to public sewerage system 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 risk of detrimental effect, including cumulative, to the natural and built environment, surrounding uses or amenity of the general area. Consultation with Scottish Environment Protection Agency will be undertaken in these cases.

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 (Scotland) Regulations 2004) should be explored prior to considering a discharge to surface waters.

Policy T1: Transport Infrastructure Improvements

The Council will promote the improvement of road, rail, air and sea routes in Moray and priority will be given to:

- a) dualling the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness route with early delivery of bypasses for settlements prioritised.
- b) improving the A95 (Keith to Grantown) route.
- c) Improving A941 (Lossiemouth to Elgin to Craigellachie) and A98 (Fochabers to Cullen) routes. Proposals must avoid or address any adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Spynie SPA or the River Spey SAC including hydrological and water quality impacts on habitat or disturbance to species.

- d) improving the Aberdeen to Inverness railway for passengers and freight by providing route and service enhancement.
- e) improving harbour facilities for freight and leisure including the diversification of the commercial harbour at Buckie for offshore renewables. Harbour improvement works must avoid or address any adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation through noise or vibration disturbance to bottlenose dolphins, cumulative increase in vessel movements, or through dredging and disposal operations.
- f) improving access to air facilities, at Aberdeen and Inverness, in particular through public transport, and the establishment of a railway station at Dalcross.
- g) improving the transport network within Elgin where there is evidence of positive economic benefits including release of sites designated in the local development plan.

Proposals that compromise the implementation of these priorities will not be acceptable.

Policy T2: Provision of Access

The Council will require that new development proposals are designed to provide the highest level of access for end users including residents, visitors, and deliveries appropriate to the type of development and location. Development must meet the following criteria:

- Proposals must maximise connections and routes for pedestrian and cyclists, including links to active travel and core path routes, to reduce travel demands and provide a safe and realistic choice of access.
- Provide access to public transport services and bus stop infrastructure where appropriate.
- Provide appropriate vehicle connections to the development, including appropriate number and type of junctions.
- Provide safe entry and exit from the development for all road users including ensuring appropriate visibility for vehicles at junctions and bends.
- Provide appropriate mitigation/modification to existing transport networks where required to address the impacts of new development on the safety and efficiency of the transport network. This may include but would not be limited to, the following measures, passing places, road widening, junction enhancement, bus stop infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential road improvements have been identified in association with the development of sites the most significant of these have been shown on the Settlement Map as TSPs.
- Proposals must avoid or mitigate against any unacceptable adverse landscape or environmental impacts.

Developers should give consideration to aspirational core paths (under Policy 2 of the Core Paths Plan) and active travel audits when preparing proposals.

New development proposals should enhance permeability and connectivity, and ensure that opportunities for sustainable and active travel are protected and improved.

The practicality of use of public transport in more remote rural areas will be taken into account however applicants should consider innovative solutions for access to public transport.

When considered appropriate by the planning authority developers will be asked to submit a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan.

Significant travel generating proposals will only be supported where:

- Direct links to walking and cycling networks are available;
- Access to public transport networks would involve walking no more than 400m;
- It would not have a detrimental effect on the capacity of the strategic road and/or rail network; and
- A Transport Assessment identifies satisfactory mechanisms for meeting sustainable transport requirements and no detrimental impact to the performance of the overall network.

Access proposals that have a significant adverse impact on the surrounding landscape and environment that cannot be mitigated will be refused.

Policy T5: Parking Standards

Proposals for development must conform with the Council's current policy on parking standards.

Policy T7: Safeguarding & Promotion of Walking, Cycling, & Equestrian Networks

The Council will promote the improvement of the walking, cycling, and equestrian networks within Moray. Priority will be given to the paths network including Core Paths and the wider Moray Paths Network. There are several long distance routes that cross Moray including the Speyside Way, Dava Way, Moray Coastal Trail and Aberdeen to Inverness National Cycle Route.

Development proposals that would have an unacceptable impact on access rights, core paths, rights of way, long distance routes and other access routes that cannot be adequately mitigated will not be permitted. Where a proposal will affect any of these, proposals must:

- incorporate the route within the site layout and the routes amenity value must be maintained or enhanced; or
- provide alternative access that is no less attractive and is safe and convenient for the public to use.

Policy IMP1: Developer Requirements

New development will require to be sensitively sited, designed and serviced appropriate to the amenity of the surrounding area. It should comply with the following criteria

- a) The scale, density and character must be appropriate to the surrounding area.
- b) The development must be integrated into the surrounding landscape
- c) Road, cycling, footpath and public transport must be provided at a level appropriate to the development. Core paths; long distance footpaths; national cycle routes must not be adversely affected.
- d) Acceptable water and drainage provision must be made, including the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) for dealing with surface water.
- e) Where of an appropriate scale, developments should demonstrate how they will incorporate renewable energy systems, and sustainable design and construction. Supplementary Guidance will be produced to expand upon some of these criteria.
- f) Make provision for additional areas of open space within developments.
- g) Details of arrangements for the long term maintenance of landscape areas and amenity open spaces must be provided along with Planning applications.
- h) Conservation and where possible enhancement of natural and built environmental resources must be achieved, including details of any impacts arising from the disturbance of carbon rich soil.
- i) Avoid areas at risk of flooding, and where necessary carry out flood management measures.
- j) Address any potential risk of pollution including ground water contamination in accordance with recognised pollution prevention and control measures.
- k) Address and sufficiently mitigate any contaminated land issues
- l) Does not sterilise significant workable reserves of minerals or prime quality agricultural land.
- m) Make acceptable arrangements for waste management.

Policy IMP2: Development Impact Assessments

The Council will require applicants to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications in the following circumstances:

- a) An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be required for developments that are likely to have significant environmental affects under the terms of the regulations.
- b) A Transport Assessment (TA) will be sought where a change of use or new development is likely to generate a significant increase in the number of trips being

made. TAs should identify any potential cumulative effects which would need to be addressed. Transport Assessments should assess the effects the development will have on roads and railway infrastructure including stations and any crossings. Transport Scotland (Trunk Roads) and Network Rail (Railway) should be consulted on the scoping of Transport Assessments. Moray Council's Transportation Service can assist in providing a screening opinion on whether a TA will be sought.

- c) In order to demonstrate that an out of centre retail proposal will have no unacceptable individual or cumulative impact on the vitality and viability of the identified network of town centres, a Retail Impact Assessment will be sought where appropriate. This may also apply to neighbourhood shops, ancillary retailing and recreation/tourism retailing.
- d) Where appropriate, applicants may be asked to carry out other assessments (e.g. noise; air quality; flood risk; drainage; bat; badger; other species and habitats) in order to confirm the compatibility of the proposal.

Policy IMP3: Developer Obligations

Contributions will be sought from developers in cases where, in the Council's view, a development would have a measurable adverse or negative impact upon existing infrastructure, community facilities or amenity, and such contributions would have to be appropriate to reduce, eliminate or compensate for that impact.

Where the necessary contributions can be secured satisfactorily by means of planning conditions attached to a planning permission, this should be done, and only where this cannot be achieved, for whatever reason, the required contributions should be secured through a planning agreement.

The Council will prepare supplementary guidance to explain how the approach will be implemented in accordance with Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations. This will detail the necessary facilities and infrastructure and the scale of contributions likely to be required.

In terms of affordable housing, developments of 4 or more units will be expected to make a 25% contribution, as outlined in policy H8.

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 a sufficient information for the Council to carry out a Quality Audit including a topo survey, slope analysis, site sections, 3D visualisations, a Landscaping Plan, a Street Engineering Review and a Biodiversity Plan as these will not be covered by

suspensive conditions on a planning consent. 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.
- For developments of 20 units and above, provide a number of character areas that have their own distinctive identity and are clearly distinguishable. Developments of less than 20 units will be considered to be one character area, unless they are part of a larger phase of development or masterplan area.
- 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.
- Landscaped areas must not be 'left-over' spaces that provide no function. 'Left-over' spaces 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 connect into wildlife corridors/ green 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 75% of car parking must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line with a maximum of 25% 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
- Secured 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 standardized.
- Dead-end streets/cul-de-sacs will only be selectively permitted on rural edges or where topography dictates. These must be short, serving no more than 10 units and provide walking and cycling through routes to maximise connectivity to the surrounding area.
- Roundabouts must be designed to create gateways and contribute to the character of the overall development.

- 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) Masterplans have been prepared for Findrassie (Elgin), Elgin South, Bilbohall (Elgin), and Dallas Dhu (Forres) and are Supplementary Guidance to the Plan. Further Masterplans will be prepared in partnership for Lochyhill (Forres), Barhill Road (Buckie), Elgin Town Centre/ Cooper Park, Elgin North East, Clarkly Hill, Burghead and West Mosstodloch. A peer review organised by the Council will be undertaken at the draft and final stages in the masterplan's preparation. Following approval, the Masterplans 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 Utilities Plan must be submitted with planning applications setting out how existing and new utility (including gas, water, electricity, pipelines and pylons) provision have been incorporated into the layout and design of the proposal.

a) Development proposals will need to provide for the following infrastructure and services:

- 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 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, community and communal parking facilities. Access to charging points must also be provided for residential on plot parking provision. Car share parking spaces must be provided within communal parking areas where a need is identified by the Transportation Manager.

- 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.

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.
- 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, sports and recreational facilities and access routes. Obligations will be sought to reduce, eliminate or compensate for this impact.

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 developments, including extensions and conversions and will be applied proportionately.

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.
- i) 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

(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. Minimal (25%) 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 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 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 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 identified by the planning authority, unless otherwise indicated in the site designation.

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 Economic Development and Planning 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 44.

e) Housing Mix and Tenure Integration

Proposals for 4 or more housing units must provide a mix of house types, tenures and sizes to meet local needs as identified in the Housing Need and Demand Assessment and Local Housing Strategy.

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 will be required to provide 10% of the private sector units to wheelchair accessible standard, with all of the accessible units to be in single storey form. 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 44.

EP1 NATURAL HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS.

a) Natura 2000 designations.

Development likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of that site must be subject to an appropriate assessment of the implications for its conservation objectives. Proposals will only be approved where the appropriate assessment has ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

In exceptional circumstances, proposals that could affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site may be approved where:

- i) There are no alternative solutions; and
- ii) There are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest including those of a social or economic nature; and
- iii) Compensatory measures are provided to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura network is protected.

For Natura 2000 sites hosting a priority habitat or species (as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive), prior consultation with the European Commission via Scottish Ministers is required unless the imperative reasons of overriding public interest relate to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment.

b) National designations.

Development proposals which will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area (NSA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve will only be permitted where:

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

c) Local Designations

Development proposals likely to have a significant adverse effect on Local Nature Reserves, wildlife sites or other valuable local habitats will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that;

- i) Public benefits clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site, and
- ii) There is a specific locational requirement for the development, and
- iii) Any potential impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated to conserve and enhance the site's residual conservation interest.

d) European Protected Species

European Protected Species are identified in the Habitats Regulations 1994 (as amended in Scotland). Where a European Protected Species may be present or affected by development or activity arising from development, a species survey and where necessary a Species Protection Plan should be prepared to accompany the planning application, to demonstrate how the Regulations will be complied with. The survey should be carried out by a suitably experienced and licensed ecological surveyor.

Proposals that would have an adverse effect on European Protected Species will not be approved unless;

- i) The need for development is one that is possible for SNH to grant a license for under the Regulations (e.g. to preserve public health or public safety).
- ii) There is no satisfactory alternative to the development.
- iii) The development will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the species.

e) Other protected species.

Wild birds and a variety of other animals are protected under domestic legislation, such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended in Scotland by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011), Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. Where a protected species may be present or affected by development or activity arising from development, a species survey and where necessary a Species Protection Plan should be prepared to accompany the planning application to demonstrate how legislation will be complied with. The survey should be carried out by a suitably experienced ecological surveyor, who may also need to be licensed depending on the species being surveyed for.

Proposals which would have an adverse effect on badgers or their setts must be accompanied by a Badger Protection Plan demonstrating how impacts will be avoided, mitigated, minimised or compensated for.

EP2 BIODIVERSITY

All development proposals must retain, protect and enhance features of biological interest and provide for their appropriate management. Developments must safeguard and connect into wildlife corridors, 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 which incorporates a Biodiversity Plan, that they have included habitat creation in the design of the development. This 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 results in the loss of natural habitats of ecological and amenity value, compensatory habitat creation will be required on an alternative site in Moray.

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 designation in rural groupings to anything other than an 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; and
- 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.

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.

Across a development open space must achieve a very good quality score of 75%. Quality will be assessed by planning officers 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/blue 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.

EP8 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT.

a) Scheduled Monuments and National Designations.

Where a proposed development potentially has a direct impact on a scheduled monument, the written consent of Historic Environment Scotland is required, in addition to any other necessary consents.

Development proposals will be refused where they will adversely affect Scheduled Monuments and nationally important archaeological sites or their settings unless the developer proves that any significant adverse effect on the qualities for which the site has been designated are clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance.

b) Local Designations.

Development proposals which adversely affect sites of local archaeological importance or the integrity of their settings will be refused unless;

- Local public benefits clearly outweigh the archaeological value of the site, and
- There is no suitable alternative site for development, and
- Any adverse effects can be satisfactorily mitigated at the developer's expense.

The Council will consult Historic Environment Scotland and the Regional Archaeologist on development proposals which may affect Scheduled Monuments, nationally important archaeological sites and locally important archaeological sites.

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 as they are unsustainable in the long term due to sea level rise and coastal change.

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

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 (except single houses) be drained by a sustainable drainage system (SUSDS) 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 SUSDS 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 104). 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 Technical 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.