

National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy

Report by Ian Johnson, Head of Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members that Scotland's Third National Planning Framework (NPF3) and revised Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) were published on 23 June 2014, and to briefly summarise the main implications for the preparation of the Midlothian Local Development Plan. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Members' library.

2 Background

- 2.1** The NPF3 sets the context for development planning and provides a statutory framework for the spatial development of Scotland as a whole. It sets out the Government's development priorities over the next 20-30 years and identifies 14 'national developments' which support and deliver the development strategy. Development plans must have regard to the NPF3 which will inform the investment decisions of the Scottish Government and Scottish Ministers expect planning decisions to support its delivery. The NPF3 is also expected to be considered by councils and their community planning partners in taking forward their Single Outcome Agreements.
- 2.2** The finalised revised SPP sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for the operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. The SPP is described as promoting consistency in the application of planning policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances. Whilst it is non-statutory, the SPP is a material consideration that carries significant weight and, where development plans and proposals accord with the SPP, their progress through the planning system is expected to be smoother.
- 2.3** The Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) Proposed Plan, currently being finalised for approval, must take account of the new SPP insofar as it is consistent with the recently approved first SESplan Strategic Development Plan which sets the land requirements and strategic-level policy framework for the MLDP. The NPF3 and finalised SPP will therefore be taken into account as far as possible in the MLDP Proposed Plan. The preparation of the second Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SESplan) which is now underway must seek to deliver the policies and proposals of the NPF3 and should be consistent with the new SPP.

- 2.4** The first stage in the programme of preparation of NPF3 was a call, issued in Autumn 2012, for potential developments of national significance for inclusion in the Framework. At its meeting on 13 November 2012, Cabinet resolved to submit to Scottish Government information to support the inclusion of (i) infrastructure to further develop the Bush Estate Centre of Scientific Excellence; (ii) improvements to the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass; and (iii) projects under the auspices of the Central Scotland Green Network as national developments in NPF3. These three submissions were duly prepared and sent to Scottish Government in response to the call for national developments.
- 2.5** At its meeting on 28 May 2013, Planning Committee was advised that Scottish Government had published for consultation the NPF3 Main Issues Report and Draft Framework, and Draft Scottish Planning Policy. The deadline for responses on both documents was 23 July 2013 and the Committee agreed, given the deadline date, to delegate responsibility for the preparation and submission of appropriate responses to the then Head of Planning and Development, in consultation with a small Sub-Group comprising the Chair, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Imrie. Responses to both documents were duly agreed with the Sub-Group and submitted by the deadline.
- 2.6** It should be noted that the list of Proposed National Developments as shown in the draft framework does not include either the The Bush infrastructure nor improvements to the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass. The Central Scotland Green Network was included as a Proposed National Development.

Third National Planning Framework

- 2.7** The NPF3 contains a section relating to the spatial priorities for change. In terms of Edinburgh and the south east of Scotland, this section gives recognition to the potential for growth in key economic sectors including financial services, tourism, energy, life sciences, creative industries, the universities and food and drink. Reference is made to national developments which will specifically impact on this area, namely:
- High Speed Rail;
 - the Central Scotland Green Network;
 - enhancement of Edinburgh Airport; and
 - new freight capacity in the Forth.
- 2.8** In terms of transport connectivity, the NPF3 acknowledges the importance of Borders Rail as a sustainable transport connection from the City to the Scottish Borders, and the Queensferry Crossing to promote connectivity down the east coast economic corridor.
- 2.9** The NPF3 notes that the SESplan area is expected to have the second highest rate of growth of the Strategic Development Planning Authorities, after Aberdeen and the north east (20% population increase and 32% increase in households in 2010-2035). It seeks a '*greater and more concerted effort to deliver a generous supply of housing land*' here which will need a spatial

strategy that addresses the region's infrastructure constraints with specific reference to cross-boundary transport infrastructure improvements. The capacity problems of the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass are identified as a case in point and reference is made to Sheriffhall Roundabout where, it states, '*interventions are being taken forward*'. This is taken to be a reference to a study which is in progress to look at the potential design solutions to overcome the capacity limitations of this key junction; there is no clear commitment to central Government funding for the implementation of grade separation, and improvements to Sheriffhall Roundabout or other key junctions on the A720 are not identified as a national development.

- 2.10** Specific reference is made in NPF3 to the potential for further growth in South East Edinburgh and into Midlothian, and at the Midlothian BioCampus.

Scottish Planning Policy

- 2.11** Housing: The SPP refers to a need to focus on the delivery of allocated housing sites, embedded in action programmes and informed by strong engagement with stakeholders. This is an important emphasis and is in line with a general drive to encourage delivery of housing completions, and the use of action programmes to do so. This is being taken forward through the MLDP Action Programme, currently in preparation alongside the Proposed Plan, which will focus on programming of housing sites and the timely provision of the infrastructure required to secure delivery.
- 2.12** The SPP now states that the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) forms part of the evidence base for the housing requirements set out in the development plan; the Draft SPP had suggested that the HNDA was the evidence base, without acknowledging the role of other information such as the size of the council house waiting list. The finalised SPP does not stipulate what else should inform the housing requirement.
- 2.13** The SPP requires that development plans set out the housing supply target (market housing and affordable housing, separately) for each functional housing market area. This is not presently required for the MLDP. The new SESplan HNDA, which is currently being finalised to inform the second Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland, will allow us to do so in future as each tenure is identified separately. However, this shows that most housing need/demand is in the social rented, below market rent and private rented sectors, which will be difficult to deliver as most of the development land identified for housing is held by the private sector.
- 2.14** The SPP requires that development plans should indicate the number of new homes to be built over the plan period, within the housing supply target; and that this figure should be increased by a margin of 10-20% to establish the housing land requirement, in order to ensure a 'generous supply' of land for housing is provided. Robust explanation is needed to justify the extent of the margin.

- 2.15** In terms of maintaining a five-year effective housing land supply, the SPP suggests that planning authorities should ‘actively manage’ the land supply which is a difficult requirement, given that the majority of the supply is in the private sector and developers rather than planning authorities are in control of the land supply. Where a shortfall in the five-year effective housing land supply emerges, development plan policies for the supply of housing land will not be considered up-to-date. This implies that the planning authority could be undermined in its efforts to ensure a plan-led system with the well-managed release of sites with appropriate infrastructure provision.
- 2.16** This is of particular concern, especially as Local Development Plans within the SESplan area could all be struggling to ensure delivery of their housing land supplies almost from the start of the plan period given the scale of the requirements in this most pressurised area of Scotland. In effect, this could mean that Local Development Plans may be regarded as out-of-date almost immediately post-adoption, which would also undermine the substantial work undertaken to secure community involvement in plan preparation.
- 2.17** In terms of affordable housing, the SPP defines this as housing of a reasonable quality affordable to people on modest incomes. Development plans should set out the scale and distribution of the affordable housing requirement and the role that planning will take in addressing the need. Whilst it is still anticipated that development plans will identify expected developer contributions towards delivery of affordable housing, there is a change in emphasis in the new SPP which states that a developer contribution should generally be for a specified proportion of serviced land (rather than units) within a site to be made available for development on a scale of not more than 25% of the total number of houses. Planning authorities are required to consider what level of contribution is likely to be deliverable as part of a viable housing development.
- 2.18** Supplementary guidance is to be used to provide information on how housing will be retained as affordable in perpetuity. Local development plans should also address any need arising for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and for people seeking self-build plots. The MLDP Main Issues Report noted that the target increase in licensed HMOs (from around 40 to around 70) as set in the Local Housing Strategy did not generate a requirement for an MLDP policy but this would be kept under review.
- 2.19** One significant change from the Draft SPP is that the finalised SPP states that planning authorities should consider the housing requirements of service personnel. More emphasis is also placed on planning authorities considering the need for accessible and adapted housing, wheelchair housing and supported accommodation, including care homes and sheltered housing. The MLDP will make specific reference to the housing needs of older people.
- 2.20** Where there is significant unmet affordable housing demand in rural areas, a rural exceptions policy can be used to support housing on sites that would not normally be used for housing. Compared with the previous SPP, there is a

much clearer emphasis in the finalised SPP on making a distinction between rural development in accessible or pressurised areas and that in remote communities where development can help to sustain fragile communities. For pressurised areas, where there is a risk of unsustainable growth with car-based commuting and suburbanisation of the countryside, a more restrictive policy in terms of housing development is considered appropriate. Local Development Plans are expected to:

- guide most new development to locations within or adjacent to settlements; and
- set out the circumstances in which new housing outwith settlements may be appropriate, avoiding the use of occupancy restrictions.

- 2.21** This does not prevent the Council from continuing to operate the current policy approach to development in the countryside, including the housing groups and low-density rural housing policies, but provides a framework for resisting uncontrolled development in the countryside close to towns and cities which come under pressure for this type of development.
- 2.22** Related to the above, the SPP places less emphasis on providing for housing in the countryside and focuses more on promoting rural economic development. The new SPP has replaced provision for allocating a generous supply of land to meet housing requirements in rural areas with a more measured approach which seeks to take account of protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of rural areas whilst meeting the different development needs of local communities. This will be reflected in the MLDP.
- 2.23** Place-making: The finalised SPP contains a strong emphasis on place-making, with green belt policy subsumed under it. There is a strong emphasis on designing places, with policy principles for site selection and developing a settlement strategy set out. The criteria to guide the selection of sites are generally not new; they include coordinating with infrastructure availability, considering brownfield land before greenfield land, promoting mixed uses, etc. These criteria closely mirror those used for site selection in the MLDP. However, there is a new criterion, namely, considering whether the permanent, temporary or advanced greening of all or some of a site could make a valuable contribution to green and open space networks, particularly where it is unlikely to be developed for some time, or is unsuitable for development due to its location and viability issues.
- 2.24** This criterion is relevant to some of the larger sites identified as part of the MLDP development strategy. In cases where the requirement to allocate housing land is resulting in the loss of Green Belt and/or prime quality farmland, there is an imperative to make more productive use of that land in terms of delivering its full development potential in terms of the number of housing units built. However, there are a number of sites, particularly in the A701 Corridor, where the development sites include land with significant ground condition problems. These sites are expected to include a substantial amount of land which will be reserved for green network uses, including recreational open space or sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) features.

- 2.25** Supporting Business and Employment : There is no significant change from the previous SPP in terms of supporting economic growth, with an emphasis on delivery remaining. Development plans should provide a positive policy context for development that delivers economic benefits, with a focus on:
- increasing economic activity;
 - providing land for the diverse needs of different business sectors;
 - being flexible and responsive to accommodate changing circumstances; and
 - giving due weight to the net economic benefit of proposed development.
- 2.26** The SPP advises that Local Development Plans should have a policy on home working, micro businesses and community hubs and should support integrating efficient energy and waste innovations in business environments. Business land audits are identified as a means to inform reviews of the development plan and as an essential monitoring tool. This is a new direction and continues the evidence-based approach to issues and actions.
- 2.27** The SPP recommends that development plans should be aligned with economic strategies. This will help planning authorities to meet the needs of indigenous firms and inward investors and recognise the potential of key sectors, as identified in paragraph 2.7 above.
- 2.28** The MLDP, Midlothian Economic Development Framework and ‘Ambitious Midlothian’ are already well aligned. Through the development of the zero waste facility at Millerhill and an expanded Shawfair Park, it may be able to “grow” the energy and financial/ business sectors. Tourism remains part of the economic mix and will be fully represented in the MLDP. The MLDP should be informed by the Tourism Development Framework for Scotland.
- 2.29** Town centres and retailing: The finalised SPP has a strong focus on the ‘town centre first’ principle when planning for uses (not just retailing) which attract significant numbers of people. A mix of uses is encouraged in town centres (retail and commercial leisure, offices, community and cultural facilities) which will need to be reflected in some amendment to the current Midlothian Local Plan policies. Opportunities for residential use within town centres should be considered, where appropriate.
- 2.30** This change from focusing simply on retailing to including a wider range of uses is reflected in the sequential approach to be taken forward in development plans. The sequential approach will apply to all uses generating significant footfall, and locations for new development are to be considered in the order of preference of: town centres first (including city centres and local centres); then edge of town centres; then other commercial centres identified in the development plan (Straiton); and, lastly, a new fourth tier is out-of-centre locations that are, or can be, made easily accessible by a choice of transport modes. Consideration will need to be given to providing clarity in the MLDP as to how these fourth tier locations might be interpreted in the Midlothian context. The SPP goes on to state that it is important that

community, education and healthcare facilities are located where they are easily accessible to the communities they serve.

- 2.31** Rural Development: In terms of rural economic development, the finalised SPP moves on from the previous one by identifying in more detail the sectors and specific uses that are likely to be acceptable including tourism and leisure, forestry, farm diversification, nature conservation and renewable energy developments. There is a strong policy presumption against development on prime agricultural land or land of lesser quality that is important locally except where it forms part of the settlement strategy, to meet a need such as essential infrastructure, is directly linked to a rural business or is for the generation of renewable energy or mineral extraction.
- 2.32** Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Travel: There are no substantive changes from the previous SPP. The finalised SPP focuses on reducing the need to travel, promoting more sustainable modes where development can be accessed, and prioritises walking, cycling and public transport modes before car-based travel. It introduces support for Local Development Plans to identify active travel networks and facilitate integration between transport modes. This relates well to the work in progress for the MLDP in defining the Midlothian Green Network and delivery opportunities.
- 2.33** The SPP now advocates that Local Development Plans are subject to transport appraisal based on Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance (DPMTAG); this is already underway for the MLDP Proposed Plan which will incorporate the outcomes and interventions identified as a result of the appraisal. Plans and Action Programmes should identify any new transport infrastructure and how it is to be delivered, phased and what developer contributions will be made. The MLDP implementation policies will address this element.
- 2.34** The SPP also expects Local Development Plans to include policy support for positive changes in transport technologies such as charging points for electric vehicles. A draft policy is already prepared within the sustainable travel section of the Proposed MLDP. Public transport services required for new developments should be provided commercially; where this is not the case, developer contributions may be appropriate. The MLDP will have to be aware of this distinction and make sure justifications are robust.
- 2.35** The SPP refers to safeguarding disused railway lines capable of being reused as rail, tram, rapid transit or active travel routes. This will be addressed through green network development. The strategic case for a new station has to emerge from a robust multi-modal appraisal in line with Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG). Funding partners must be identified and Transport Scotland/Network Rail agreement is needed before rail proposals can appear in a Local Development Plan. This may impact on the ability of the MLDP Proposed Plan to give support in the longer term to a new station at Redheugh on the Borders Rail Line and may rule out commitment to a Penicuik rail link within the context of the first MLDP.

- 2.36** Supporting Digital Connectivity: There are no substantive changes from the previous SPP. The SPP reiterates the importance of digital technologies (socially and economically) and the physical infrastructure requirements (masts, equipment cabinets, base stations etc). It requires Local Development Plans to set out criteria for determining planning applications for communications equipment and matters to be addressed for specific developments. The MLDP will require a new policy to achieve this. Further, the SPP encourages Local Development Plans to contain policies which encourage developers to explore opportunities for the provision of digital infrastructure to new homes and business premises as an integral part of the development. Again, the MLDP will require a new policy to implement this.
- 2.37** The SPP requires Local Development Plans to reflect the infrastructure roll-out plans of communications operators, community groups and others such as Scottish Government, the UK Government and local authorities. The MLDP could include a statement on BT broadband upgrading and future phases, subject to commercial sensitivity and agreement with BT.
- 2.38** Resource Extraction: The finalised SPP reflects a change in the general principles of national policy on resource extraction to '*recognise the national benefit of indigenous coal, oil and gas production in maintaining a diverse energy mix and improving energy security*'. There is also a stronger emphasis on site restoration. Development plans should support the maintenance of a construction aggregates landbank of at least 10 years, through identifying areas of search or, as an alternative, having a criteria-based policy for their delivery. Local Development Plans should identify areas of search where coal extraction is likely to be acceptable and set out a programme for other safeguarded areas beyond the plan period, with particular emphasis on protecting communities from cumulative impacts.
- 2.39** On 28 July 2014, the UK Energy Minister invited applications by 28 October 2014 for the 14th Landward Licensing Round of Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs), as required for activities such as hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') and coalbed methane gas extraction. The blocks under offer in this round include all of Midlothian. For areas covered by a PEDL, the finalised SPP states that Local Development Plans should:
- identify licence areas;
 - encourage operators to be clear about the extent of operations (number of wells and duration) at the exploration phase;
 - confirm that applicants should engage with local communities, residents and stakeholders at each stage of operations;
 - ensure that applicants consider transport of the end product by pipeline, rail or water rather than road; and
 - provide a consistent approach to extraction where licences extend across local authority boundaries.
- 2.40** Work is already in preparation to consider the appropriate policy framework for inclusion in the MLDP Proposed Plan for activities such as hydraulic fracturing and coalbed methane. This was considered apposite, following publication of the report entitled 'The Carboniferous Shales of the Midland

Valley of Scotland: Geology and Resource Estimation', published by the British Geological Survey and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on 30 June, 2014. The report identifies Midlothian as lying within an area of potential for gas and oil extraction, albeit the reserves in Scotland are much less than those available in the North of England. A report from the Scottish Government's Expert Scientific Panel on Unconventional Oil and Gas is still awaited but due out this summer.

- 2.41** Waste: Waste is increasingly seen as an economic opportunity and the finalised SPP states that Local Development Plans should help to deliver the aims of the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) and ZWP targets. This includes helping to deliver the necessary infrastructure, working with the industry to identify sites which would enable co-location with end users, and enabling links to be made for waste heat to be used. Local Development Plans should identify or allocate suitable sites, and provide the appropriate policy framework. It was already clear that the MLDP Proposed Plan would need to reflect the latest position with respect to the Zero Waste facility at Millerhill.
- 2.42** There is a strong focus in the SPP on heat networks and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, both with implications for the MLDP waste policy in terms of reusing waste heat and requiring the laying of pipes in new development to facilitate the use of waste heat. Work has been underway for some time in terms of heat mapping for the Midlothian area, to inform the policy on the reuse of waste heat.
- 2.43** Wind Energy: The SPP requires that development plans should support wind turbines at locations where impacts on the environment and communities can be satisfactorily addressed. All scales of turbine development, in the context of what is appropriate, should be supported. In particular, the SPP requires that spatial frameworks are prepared which identify where turbine development, and at what scale, is more or less likely to be supported by the Council. These areas are to relate to three groupings, as follows:

Group 1: Areas where wind farms will not be acceptable

- National Parks and National Scenic Areas (does not affect Midlothian)

Group 2: Areas of significant protection

- World Heritage Sites;
- Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- National Nature Reserves;
- Inventory of Gardens & Designed Landscapes;
- Inventory of Historic Battlefields;
- 'wild land' as shown on the 2014 SNH map of wild land areas;
- carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitats; and
- areas not exceeding 2km (reduced from 2.5 km in the Draft SPP) around cities, towns and villages identified with a settlement envelope in the Local Development Plan. The extent is to be determined by the planning authority based on landform and other features which restrict views out from the settlement.

Recognising the need for significant protection in these areas, wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances. There is a need to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design and other mitigation. Note that scheduled monuments, conservation areas and the curtilages of listed buildings were included in the Draft SPP list but are not in the final SPP; this is also true of civil aviation and defence consultation zones; land covered by broadcasting installations; and flood risk areas.

Group 3: Areas with potential for wind farm development

Beyond groups 1 and 2, wind farms are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria. The Draft SPP identified four groupings but one of these has now been omitted altogether. This included the following:

- regional and local landscape and natural heritage designations;
- scenic routes identified in NPF3;
- long distance walking routes; and
- land with local landscape or natural heritage interest which is not designated, including land falling within high or medium sensitivity categories in landscape capacity studies.

It is important to note that less weight is attached to landscape capacity studies for areas outwith those with a formal designation (as identified in the three grouping above).

- 2.44** The spatial framework for wind energy should be based on an assessment of local characteristics and should be supported by a single map which consolidates information on capacity to accommodate wind farms. Maps providing information that led to the production of the single map can be set out separately in the framework or in an appendix.
- 2.45** Reference is made to the importance of cumulative impact of wind turbine development and landscape capacity studies may determine that the carrying capacity for wind farms has been reached.
- 2.46** Finally, where a wind farm proposal is acceptable in land use planning terms, and consent is being granted, the SPP notes that local authorities may wish to engage in negotiations to secure community benefits in line with Scottish Government good practice principles.
- 2.47** Other Renewables: The finalised SPP indicates that Local Development Plans are also expected to identify areas which might support hydro-electric schemes; it may be that stretches of the River North Esk which once supported paper mills might also be suitable for micro hydro. The MLDP can indicate a supportive approach in principle to potential projects of this nature, subject to any proposals being assessed on their individual merits. These considerations are likely to include ensuring that the morphology of the river is not altered in such a way as to exacerbate any flood risk or otherwise compromise the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan which are to restore rivers to their natural condition or at least allow fish to migrate upstream.

- 2.48** Green Belt: The overall objectives for the green belt remain as previously, as do the uses that are to be excluded from such designation. There are no significant implications, therefore, for the MLDP as the Main Issues Report consulted on changes to the Edinburgh Green Belt on this basis. The uses that are acceptable in green belts now include the NPF3 national developments, digital infrastructure and intensification of existing uses. The last of these may be the most significant change from the previous SPP with regards to places like Eldin Industrial Estate, but this site is proposed for removal from the Green Belt in the Main Issues Report. There is also reference to horticulture and directly connected retailing and the MLDP is to specify the type and scale of such development.
- 2.49** Green Infrastructure / Green Network: The finalised SPP indicates that planning should protect, enhance and promote green infrastructure, including open space and green networks as an integral component of successful place making. Where new development severs or impairs woodland connectivity, mitigation should be identified and implemented, preferably to a wider green network.
- 2.50** In terms of open space, the SPP reinforces the role and importance of open space audits and strategies in the planning process; Local Development Plans should identify and protect open spaces included in the open space audit and strategy. The enhancement of existing spaces and promotion of new green infrastructure should be achieved through a design-led approach and application of standards addressing provision, any surplus/deficit and connections with other green infrastructure assets. The MLDP (supported by the open space strategy) will follow this approach and offer new standards to address the quantity, quality and accessibility aspects.
- 2.51** The finalised SPP requires that outdoor sports facilities are safeguarded and there is reference to safeguarding existing and potential allotment sites (and community growing spaces) to ensure they meet their statutory duty to provide allotments where there is a demand. This will need further consideration in the context of the large development sites being brought forward in the MLDP.
- 2.52** More emphasis is placed in the finalised SPP (than was the case in the Draft SPP) on the NPF3 wanting to significantly increase green infrastructure networks, particularly in towns and cities. This is with reference to green infrastructure being able to help build stronger and healthier communities, contribute to long-term climate resilience and encourage investment and development. The SPP is clear that strong justification will be required if land allocated for green infrastructure is proposed for use for unrelated purposes.
- 2.53** Built Heritage: The finalised SPP contains a new provision for the preservation of Historic Battlefields. This was anticipated in the MLDP Main Issues Report which stated that the MLDP would identify the sites included in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields and afford them appropriate protection. This has a bearing on some of the development sites contained within the development strategy, particularly in the vicinity of Roslin.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

3.2 Risk

There is a risk of challenge to the content of the Proposed MLDP if it is not consistent with the SPP insofar as there is no conflict with the Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland. The publication of the NPF3 and SPP at this time reduces the risk of further uncertainty when preparing the policy framework of the MLDP.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

The report is relevant to the following themes:

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

3.4 Key priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The NPF3 and SPP together provide a supportive context for the business growth and positive destinations priorities by promoting sustainable economic development.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

This report contributes to the priority of concluding the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SDP1) in partnership with the five other Member Councils, and commencing preparation of SDP2. It also assists in taking forward the preparation of the MLDP to Proposed Plan stage.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

By providing a context for the MLDP Proposed Plan, these publications will help to inform the future spending priorities of the Council and its community planning partners as well as other public, private and voluntary sector bodies.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Scottish Government undertook extensive public consultation at the early stages of preparation of NPF3 and SPP.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

Scottish Government undertook equalities impact assessment during the preparation of NPF3 and SPP.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Scottish Government undertook Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft NPF3 and SPP and updated their Environmental Report in finalising these policy documents.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1** It is recommended that Cabinet notes the publication of the Scottish Government's Third National Planning Framework and finalised Scottish Planning Policy and their implications for taking forward the Midlothian Local Development Plan to Proposed Plan stage later this year.

1 August 2014

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Background Papers:

Ambition Opportunity Place: Scotland's Third National Planning Framework, Scottish Government, June 2014
Scottish Planning Policy, Scottish Government, 2014