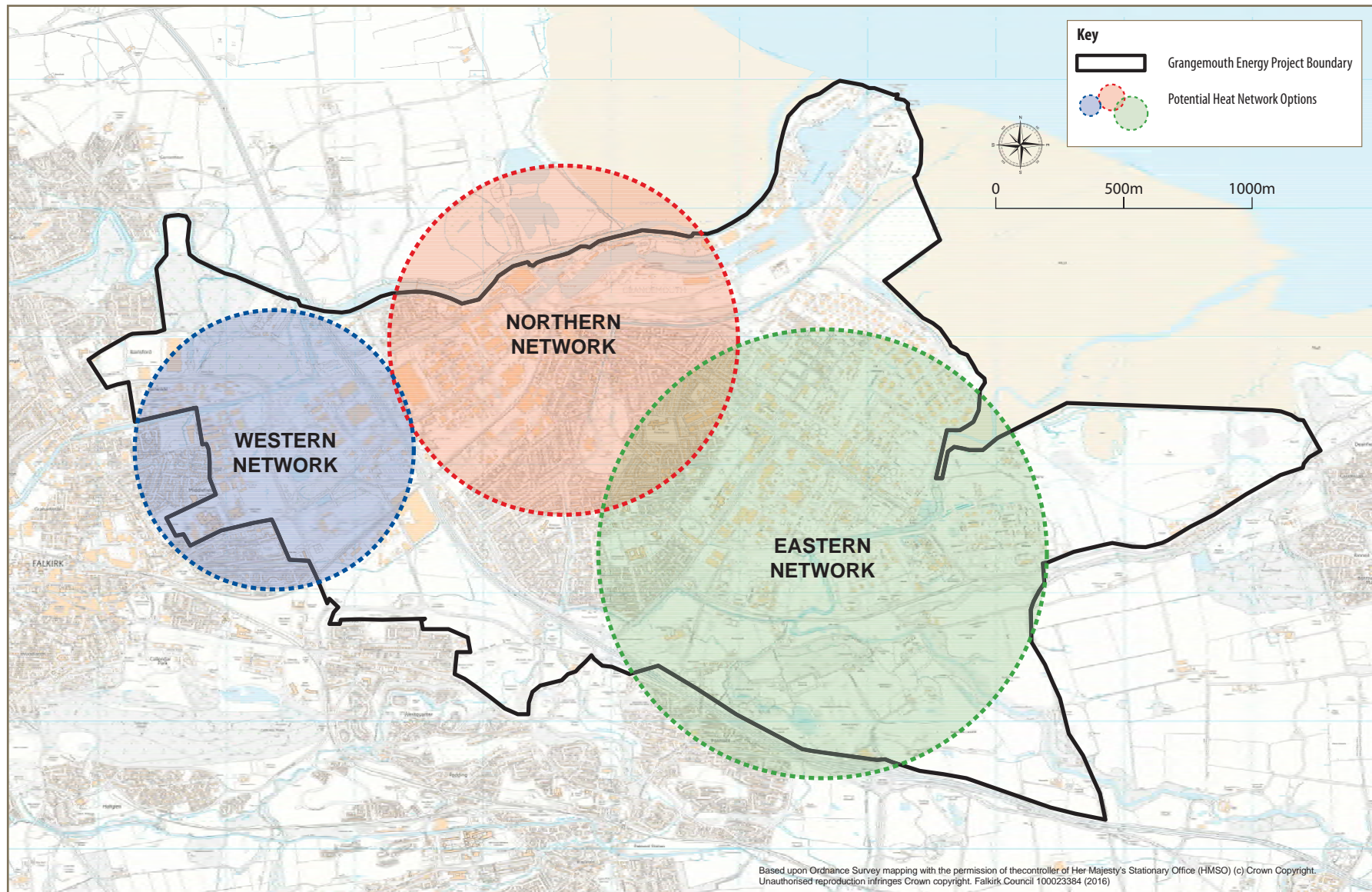


Figure 6.4 Grangemouth Energy Project - Options



### Issue 10: Energy

#### Section 72 Requirements: Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technology

- 6.26** Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 introduced Section 3F into the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 which requires local development plans to include policies to ensure that all new buildings avoid a specified and rising proportion of the projected greenhouse gas emissions from their use through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies (LZCGT).
- 6.27** LDP1 includes such as policy, and supplementary guidance provides further guidance on its implementation. There has been difficulty in implementing the policy, with a range of reasons given by developers as to why it is not practical to include LZCGT. There is a preference to focus on energy efficiency of the fabric of the building, rather than additional LZCGT equipment which increases building costs and may not be wanted by users. The latest Scottish Government review of the operation of Section 72 was unable to find evidence of the benefits of the provision. However, the legislative requirement to have a policy remains, and it will be necessary to consider increasing the required level of emissions reduction.

#### 6.28 Preferred Option

1. Within the policy on Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technologies, increase the proportion of the emissions reduction required by the policy to 12%, to reflect changes to Scottish Building Standards.
2. Review the scope of exemptions and the definition of relevant technical and practical constraints within the policy and supporting supplementary guidance to address current implementation difficulties.

#### Alternative

The policy is required by legislation, so there is no alternative. However, the proportion of emissions reduction required through LZCGT could be increased by a greater amount.

#### How does this differ from LDP1?

The preferred option differs from LDP1 by increasing the proportion of emissions reduction through LZCGT from the current 10% to 12%





### Issue 11: Onshore Gas, Minerals and Waste

**Key Question:** Do existing policies on mineral and gas extraction, and waste management accord with national policy?

#### Onshore Gas and Minerals

- 6.29** Scottish Planning Policy states that the planning system should recognise the national benefits of indigenous coal, oil and gas production in maintaining a diverse energy mix and improving energy security. The Council area has reserves of coal, but scope for its economic extraction by opencast methods currently appears limited. Nonetheless, areas of search for surface coal mining continue to be identified in LDP1, and it is not envisaged that these will be subject to change.
- 6.30** The area is covered by two Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDL) and has onshore gas reserves, including coal bed methane and shale gas, which may be recoverable by unconventional methods. Scottish Planning Policy sets out requirements in respect of onshore gas and oil proposals, covering the identification of PEDL areas, environmental and community safeguards, and the scope of information to be provided with applications. These were incorporated into LDP1's general mineral policies by the Examination Reporter.
- 6.31** In 2015, the Scottish Government announced a moratorium on granting consents for unconventional oil and gas developments, pending further public consultation and research. In 2016, the Government confirmed that it would not support underground coal gasification.
- 6.32** Representations have been made seeking a separate policy in the LDP dealing with onshore oil and gas development. However, in advance of the outcome of the present Scottish Government review, it is not considered appropriate to propose changes to the current policy or how it is presented in the plan. The matter will be reconsidered when the outcome of the review, and consequent changes to Scottish Planning Policy, are published.

#### 6.33 Preferred Option

Maintain the current policy on onshore gas and oil developments, embedded within the general mineral policies, pending the outcome of the Scottish Government review.

#### Alternative

Promote a separate policy dealing with onshore oil and gas developments.

#### How does this differ from LDP1?

The preferred option is the same as the LDP1. The alternative would involve dealing with onshore oil and gas developments through a separate policy, as opposed to integrating it with general mineral policies as in LDP1.

