

## FOREWORD

The new Falkirk Council Structure Plan, when approved, will replace the current Structure Plan, Central 2000. Using a series of justified policies, proposals and recommendations, it will set out the strategic framework for development throughout the Council area to 2020.

This Report of Survey contains the background information, research and findings upon which these policies, proposals, recommendations and their justifications are based. It also takes account of national planning guidance, in the form of NPPGs (National Planning Policy Guidelines), PANs (Planning Advice Notes) and Circulars, all issued by the Scottish Office, as well as central government Acts. The Report of Survey is required under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, whereby each structure planning authority (in this case, Falkirk Council) must survey the area covered by its Structure Plan.

Ten topic areas have been identified for the survey and are as follows:

- \* *employment;*
- \* *shopping;*
- \* *minerals;*
- \* *waste and energy;*
- \* *built heritage and urban design;*
- \* *the natural environment;*
- \* *constraints, pollution and services;*
- \* *population and housing;*
- \* *leisure, recreation and community facilities;*  
*and*
- \* *transport.*

Each of these topic areas have been surveyed and the results form the following chapters of this Report of Survey. Each chapter begins with a short introduction to the topic area, followed by a review of the relevant government policy and guidance. This is followed in turn by a statement of the current situation and, where relevant, a discussion of future trends or projections. The chapters conclude by identifying the main findings of the survey of each topic area.

This second edition Report of Survey is closely based on the edition published with the Consultative Draft Falkirk Council Structure Plan in January 2000 but with minor changes to correct errors and provide essential updates. The intention is, that as the Structure Plan is monitored, successive editions of the Report of Survey will be published so that the background information underpinning the policies of the Structure Plan is kept up to date.