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| <b>Issue 1</b>   | <b>Vision</b>  |                  |
| <b>Development plan reference:</b>   | <u>Chapter 1 Vision</u> (pages 3 – 7)  | <b>Reporter:</b> |
| <b>Body or person(s) submitting a representation raising the issue (including reference number):</b>   |  |                  |
| <p>AWG Property (00906)<br/> Woodland Trust Scotland (00549)<br/> Scottish Natural Heritage (00646)<br/> Ogilvie Homes Ltd (00614)<br/> Scottish Enterprise (00447)<br/> New River Retail &amp; Cabri 3 Ltd (01265)</p>  |  |                  |
| <b>Provision of the development plan to which the issue relates:</b>   | The vision for the area set out in Chapter 2, including the strategic objectives, current position and aspirations for 2034 set out in Figure 2.2. |                  |
| <b>Planning authority's summary of the representation(s):</b>  |  |                  |
| <p><b>AWG Property (00906/2001/001):-</b> Whilst the Council's vision is supported, the anticipated growth on some sites is unlikely to materialise in the foreseeable future, and this should be planned for. Some communities can absorb further growth. A further sentence should be added to the vision emphasising the provision of sufficient land for housing.</p> <p><b>Woodland Trust Scotland (00549/2001/001):-</b> The Woodland Trust believes that the natural environment is intrinsically linked to the future wealth, health, and wellbeing of Falkirk. A strong statement to this effect from the outset would set the tone for the entire plan, and leave no ambiguity as to the relative importance that both the Scottish Government and Falkirk Council place on its environmental, biodiversity and landscape assets, not to mention the intrinsic value of quality natural environments. There should also be a brief definition of sustainable development at the outset which would be helpful and aid understanding of the Local Development Plan, e.g. sustainable development "should help build a growing economy, but at the same time protect our environment for future generations and make sure that communities can enjoy a better quality of life".</p> <p><b>Scottish Natural Heritage (00646/2001/001):-</b> SNH support the vision presented in the proposed plan and welcome the emphasis on the role of greenspaces in thriving communities. The vision, themes and key strategic objectives are clearly presented with diagrams, maps and colour-coding. The vision themes include strategic objectives which outline where Falkirk is now and where it will be in 2034. In general, these are clearly presented and the use of colour-coding allows the reader to relate them to specific policies. They welcome the strong thematic approach taken throughout the proposed plan. While SNH support the strategic objectives, they would welcome further opportunity to discuss presentation of inter-related issues, particularly climate change. As it currently stands, the plan does not discuss climate change as might be expected, resting instead on renewable energy and flood defence measures as key measures. This could be</p> |  |                  |

expanded, in line with 'Planning and Climate Change: Key Agency and Scottish Government Resources and Guidance' (RD1.1) which outlines the ways in which planning can contribute to mitigation and adaptation.

**Ogilvie Homes Ltd (00614/2001/002):-** The first Strategic Objective in Figure 2.2 in the Vision Chapter of the Proposed Plan should be amended to make it clear that the Council is committed to providing for effective and generous housing opportunities within 'all communities' across the plan area. It is considered that opportunities for future residential growth in the form of effective housing sites should be provided for within all towns and villages within the plan area.

**Scottish Enterprise (00447/2001/001):-** Scottish Enterprise supports the Vision stated at paragraph 2.3, Figure 2.1. It considers, however, that insufficient status and priority is given to the particular economic opportunities of Grangemouth, and particularly its identification as a National Development in NPF2 (CD04) and within the recently issued NPF3 MIR (proposed National Developments 2, 4 and 10)(CD05).

**New River Retail & Cabri 3 Ltd (01265/2001/001):-** Figure 2.2 should reflect a more ambitious vision for Grangemouth as an established and largely independent town with the opportunity for residents to find a new home within their community. A clear explanation of the Falkirk-Grangemouth Investment Zone should also be provided. A full explanation of the representation is provided (RD1.2).

#### **Modifications sought by those submitting representations:**

**AWG Property (00906/2001/001):-** Amend the Vision (paragraph 2.3) to include the following statement: 'The Council will work with the public and private sectors to ensure that sufficient land for new, well designed housing in sustainable locations is provided in tandem with employment opportunities in communities to ensure that the vision is achieved'.

**Woodland Trust Scotland (00549/2001/001):-** Amend supporting text to the Vision chapter to reflect that the importance of the natural environment to the sustainable development of Falkirk's economy should be a key overarching principle. A definition of sustainable development should be stated.

**Scottish Natural Heritage (00646/2001/001):-** A potential approach to the presentation of inter-related issues, which would not result in substantial change to the plan, would be to include a matrix which shows the contribution policies make to strategic objectives, either in full or in part. For example, strategic objective 7 (climate change) has some obvious cross references with strategic objective 8 (green network), not least of which is the green network's role in climate change adaptation.

**Ogilvie Homes Ltd (00614/2001/002):-** Amend the first objective of Figure 2.2 to make it clear that the Council is committed to providing for effective and generous housing opportunities within 'all communities' across the plan area.

**Scottish Enterprise (00447/2001/001):-** Amend the Growing Economy section of Figure 2.2 to highlight the importance of Grangemouth as a National Development

(in NPF2 and the emerging NPF3) and the need to prioritise its economic growth.

**New River Retail & Cabri 3 Ltd (01265/2001/001):-** Amend the supporting information in Fig. 2.2 to reflect a more ambitious vision for Grangemouth, which seeks to sustain and enhance its role as an established and largely independent town. Clarify the Falkirk/Grangemouth investment zone.

**Summary of responses (including reasons) by planning authority:**

**AWG Property (00906/2001/001):-** The additional sentence suggested would be inappropriate and out of place in paragraph 2.3 which is intended to be a concise statement of the overall vision. Figure 2.2 (Strategic Objectives and Vision) of the LDP (page 4, top row) already acknowledges the importance of a good housing land supply to support the intended population and household growth. Further information on housing land supply and the maintenance of a 5 year supply is included in the Housing section of the Spatial Strategy (pages 9-11), and the adequacy of housing land provision is dealt with under a separate issue (Issue 2 Strategic Housing Land). For these reasons, the Council does not agree to modify the plan in response to this representation.

**Woodland Trust Scotland (00549/2001/001):-** There is sufficient emphasis on the importance of the natural environment in the Vision chapter through the identification of 'Sustainable Place' as a key theme, and the associated strategic objectives listed in Figure 2.2 (Strategic Objectives and Vision, pages 6-7). A definition of 'sustainable development' is unnecessary; a definition is available in the SPP (CD01, paragraph 35) and does not need to be repeated in the LDP. For this reason, the Council does not agree to modify the plan in response to this representation.

**Scottish Natural Heritage (00646/2001/001):-** It is recognised that cross cutting issues such as climate change have wider connections across the different themes of the plan than is shown in Figure 2.2. Indeed the cross-cutting nature of climate change was specifically acknowledged and represented in the Main Issues Report (CD13, Figure 5.1, page 49). Whilst a matrix showing these interconnections could be created, it is not considered essential to the expression of the vision of the plan, and would not be in the interests of brevity and conciseness. For this reason, the Council does not agree to modify the plan in response to this representation.

**Ogilvie Homes Ltd (00614/2001/002):-** There is no need to alter or expand the strategic objective of facilitating continued population and housing growth in Figure 2.2 (Strategic Objectives and Vision) of the LDP (page 4, top row). The statement as currently drafted expresses the vision succinctly. The provision of a generous and effective land supply concerns 'how' the vision will be delivered, and is dealt with more appropriately in the Housing section of the Spatial Strategy (pages 9-11). The Spatial Strategy also deals with the issue of distribution of housing across communities. For this reason, the Council does not agree to modify the plan in response to this representation.

**Scottish Enterprise (00447/2001/001):-** The Growing Economy and Thriving Communities sections of Figure 2.2 (page 4-5) already make appropriate and adequate reference to the Grangemouth port and chemical/petrochemical cluster,

and their potential. Further reference to the importance of Grangemouth to the local and national economy is contained in the Business section of the Spatial Strategy (pages 15-16) and in the Grangemouth Settlement Statement (pages 32-33). For this reason, the Council does not agree to modify the plan in response to this representation.

**New River Retail & Cabri 3 Ltd (01265/2001/001):-** Figure 2.2 already reflects a positive and ambitious vision for Grangemouth in terms of enhanced infrastructure, the unlocking of the economic potential of the town, and its adaptation to changing technologies and markets, and the regeneration of the town centre. The Falkirk-Grangemouth Investment Zone is clarified as one of the Strategic Business Locations within the Business section of the Spatial Strategy (pages 15-16) and detailed within the Grangemouth and Falkirk Settlement Statements (pages 30-33) For this reason, the Council does not agree to modify the plan in response to this representation.

**Reporter's conclusions:**

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**Reporter's recommendations:**

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