

FC8. Falkirk Local Development Plan 2 – Examination Report and Modifications

Council considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the outcome of the Examination into unresolved representations to the Proposed Falkirk Local Development Plan2 (LDP2). The report sought approval for a set of modifications to the LDP2 recommended by the Reporters appointed by the Scottish Ministers to examine the LDP2 and commencement procedures for its adoption.

Council had agreed on 26 June 2019 (ref FC 26) to submit the LDP2 to the Scottish Ministers along with a request to appoint persons to examine the plan. The submission also included a Summary of Unresolved Issues constituting the Council's response to the unresolved representations which had been made in regard to the LDP2.

The Examination began in October 2019 and an Examination report was published on 31 March 2020. This set out the Reporters' recommendations on each of the unresolved issues and the Council was required to make the modifications to the plan as set out in the recommendations subject to limited exceptions.

Strategic housing land was the most significant issue dealt with at the Examination and the Reporters disagreed with aspects of the Council's methodology for calculating the housing land target. The Reporters recommended that an increased housing land target of 6,894 homes be set for the period 2017-2030. This represents an increase in the annual target from the 450 houses set out in the Council's LDP2 to 530 houses. Given the increase in the housing land target and requirement, the Reporters identified a need for additional housing allocations and assessed the merits of a range of potential housing sites.

Decision

Council:-

- (1) approved the modifications to the Proposed LDP2 , as contained in appendix 2 to the report;**
- (2) agreed to publish its intention to adopt the Modified LDP2, as contained in appendix 3 to the report, and its submission to the Scottish Ministers;**
- (3) agreed that the Modified Plan would be adopted 28 days after its submission to the Scottish Ministers, unless the Scottish Ministers direct otherwise, and**
- (4) agreed, upon adoption of LDP2, and pending the adoption of updated LDP2 Supplementary Guidance, the continued use of LDP1 Supplementary Guidance, where applicable as non-statutory guidance.**