

West Lothian Local Development Plan Main Issues Questionnaire

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West Lothian
Council

The council has commenced preparation of its first *Local Development Plan* (LDP). The LDP will replace the *West Lothian Local Plan* and will set out a local interpretation of the requirements of the *Strategic Development Plan* (SESplan) and national guidance. The LDP is a land use plan that identifies site specific development opportunities, sets out the council's key development priorities and provides the policy context for the consideration of applications for planning permission.

The current *West Lothian Local Plan* was adopted by the council in January 2009 is available to view on the council's website at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/WLLP>

The *Main Issues Report* (MIR) for the West Lothian LDP is the first key stage in the preparation of the LDP and we are seeking your views on this. All documentation for the MIR can be viewed at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/MIR>

Full details on the timetable and stages for preparing the LDP are set out in the Development Plan Scheme 6 which is also available online: <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2725/Development-Plan-Scheme>

A questionnaire to accompany the MIR is set out below and we would be happy if you would complete and return to us.

There are 98 questions that accompany the *Main Issues Report*. You do not have to respond to all of the questions set out only those which you feel are of particular relevance to you. Completed questionnaires should be returned to us by e-mail to wlldp@westlothian.gov.uk by no later than **5pm on Friday, 17 October 2014**.

Alternatively, please download a copy of the form and send it to us at: Development Planning, West Lothian Council, County Buildings, High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7EZ (postal address only).

You can keep up to date on the LDP by subscribing to our LDP e-newsletter. If you have not already subscribed, you can do so by going to the following link and following the relevant instructions:

<https://newsletters.westlothian.gov.uk/eNewsletterPro/optin/optinealert.htm>

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Please note that any comments you make will be open to public scrutiny, but we will keep your contact details private and confidential and will only use your name or business name.

By filling in this questionnaire you are helping to shape the future of West Lothian

It would also be helpful if you would complete the *Equal Opportunities Questionnaire*, set out at the end of this document.

Local Development Plan Vision Statement

By 2024 West Lothian's population will have grown and an improved employment position within a more diversified local economy will have been established. It will be better connected by road and public transport and will have a greater choice of housing and an appropriate range of education, community, health, retail, recreation and leisure facilities and a network of green spaces to meet the needs of its growing population. Development will take place in a sustainable way that protects and improves the area's built and natural heritage assets, meets the challenges of climate change and renewable energy and helps regenerate deprived areas and improves the quality of life for people living in West Lothian.

Question 1

Do you agree with the vision for the LDP, or, are there other aspects that should be considered?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

West Lothian Council needs to demonstrate that its development strategy, working in partnership with the house building sector, can meet the housing land requirement set out in SESplan Policy 5 and Policy 6 as well as the requirements of Scottish Ministers as defined in NPF3, SPP and PAN 2/2010.

The Council has been concerned about the need to augment its infrastructure requirement to 2019 and 2024. This LDP should encourage partnership working promoting incremental augmentations to the delivery of these infrastructure requirements.

Question 2

Do you have an alternative vision, and if so, what is it?

In responding to Question 1, there should be no need for an alternative vision if the Council allocates sufficient effective sites which can be delivered cost effectively in sustainable locations. This applies to land for housing, economic development and leisure.

Effective sites will be able to meet infrastructure requirements.

The aims of the *Main Issues Report* and Associated Main Issues are set out in pages 13 of the MIR.

Question 3

Do you agree with the proposed 'Aims' of the LDP? If not, why not?

Yes.

Underpinning the housing and economic growth in the future is the need to ensure that the promotion of new sites for future development are effective. The LDP needs to ensure that a 5 year effective housing land supply can be maintained at all times.

Question 4

Do you have an alternatives, and if so, what are they?

Main Issue 1: Economic Development and Growth (paragraphs 3.1 - 3.31)

Which areas of West Lothian would be best to direct new economic development towards?

How can the LDP support the council's *Economic Strategy* and facilitate the creation of jobs?

Preferred approach

The council's *preferred approach* to employment land is to review the range of uses which could be accommodated on employment land with a view to accommodating a more flexible approach. This flexible approach will involve removing the single user status of two large sites (Linhouse and Eliburn in Livingston), and allowing a wider range of uses on currently allocated employment sites at locations to be identified in the LDP. Such an approach, for example, would apply to certain traditional employment allocations and industrial estates such as East Mains Industrial Estate, Broxburn and Deans & Houstoun Industrial Estates, Livingston and at Whitehill and Whiteside Industrial Estates, Bathgate and Murraysgate, Whitburn reflecting the broad range of uses which already exist at these locations and to allow for other employment/commercial orientated uses to be accommodated e.g. car showrooms, trade centre outlets and certain leisure uses.

The LDP will continue to support development of existing employment allocations, including sites within the core development areas, and support the servicing of employment allocations to assist in attracting inward investment. New employment land allocations will also be identified to supplement and in some cases complement the existing supply, including a new strategic employment site at Balgornie adjacent to the recently opened Junction 4a on the M8 at Whitburn.

In addition, the LDP will seek to encourage small business development by promoting small workshop developments within communities and home working in appropriate locations. In a limited number of cases, existing employment land is identified as being suitable for potential residential development.

The council's preferred use of the former Vion plant in Broxburn is to allocate the site for housing.

The preferred approach would also include meeting the requirements of the SDP in full.

Alternative approach

The council's *Alternative* approach to employment land is to restrict the range of uses which can be accommodated on employment sites, and to seek to augment the existing portfolio (including Linhouse) by identifying new strategic or local employment sites beyond existing allocations and SESplan requirements to maximise land availability and choice for potential employers. This would, however, result in an oversupply of employment land and could see large employment estates located in non-sustainable, greenfield locations that could have associated local traffic, infrastructure and environmental impacts.

In relation to the former Vion plant at Broxburn the council's alternative approach is to continue to allocate the site for employment use.

Question 5

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to employment land which would introduce an opportunity for a broader range of land use to be supported within existing employment land allocations and industrial estates?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports the Council's preferred approach to employment land and its proposed review of the range of uses which could be accommodated on employment land in order to accommodate a more flexible approach.

Wallace Land supports removing the single user status of two large sites at Linhouse and Eliburn in Livingston.

Question 6

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to employment land?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 7

Do you have any other alternative approaches? What are they and how would you make them work?

No comment.

Question 8

Has the council identified enough employment land in West Lothian to meet requirements and are the larger employment sites in the right locations?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 9

Do you agree that the single user employment site at Linhouse, Livingston (ELv54) should be sub-divided for employment and mixed uses, including residential use of up to 250 houses?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports the sub-division of the site at Linhouse, Livingston (ELv54) for employment and mixed uses, including residential use. The Main Issues Report identifies the change in status of Linhouse, Livingston (ELv54) from a Proven Site of National Importance to a more compact site.

Wallace Land notes that Linhouse, Livingston (ELv54) is proposed to be allocated for residential development on the north west boundary and this is supported. Given the need to meet the economic land supply target set by SESplan, Wallace Land supports on the loss of 8.3 ha of land from site ELv54 for residential use. If further economic land is lost to residential development, this would have an adverse impact on the targets set by SESplan.

Question 10

Do you agree that the former strategic employment allocation at Eliburn, Livingston (ELv25) should continue to be promoted for employment uses but not as a single user site?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 11

Do you agree that a site at Balgornie Farm, north of Whitburn, should be allocated for strategic employment land purposes?

If not, why not?

What other locations would you suggest?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Main Issue 2: Community Regeneration (paragraphs 3.31 - 3.34)

Where should the focus for community regeneration in West Lothian be and what should this seek to deliver?
How can the LDP incentivise development to take place within regeneration areas?
How can the LDP support the council's Regeneration Plan?

Preferred approach

The council's preferred approach to community regeneration is to focus regeneration initiatives on areas identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012. This principally includes the smaller settlements in the west of West Lothian identified as Armadale, Blackburn, Blackridge, Fauldhouse, Stoneyburn and Whitburn. Other areas include Bathgate and Boghall and settlements within the Breich Valley where headline levels of disadvantage including unemployment, financial exclusion, poor health and lower education attainment have been identified.

These communities are often characterised by a range of factors which can include high levels of unemployment, low income, lower levels of education attainment, and access to services. To create more balanced communities, address issues of multiple deprivation and to attract private sector investment it is proposed to seek to identify initiatives to generate more investment in these communities.

Alternative approach

The council's alternative to community regeneration is to not pursue regeneration objectives through the development plan and to rely solely on other council led regeneration initiatives.

Question 12

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to community regeneration in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

In promoting community regeneration, the Council appreciates that the location of these settlements are in areas of low demand for market housing. In areas of low demand, marketability is restricted and the cross financing of developments in these locations is a challenge. Sites in these locations, if combined with high development costs (abnormal costs associated with mining) as well as the high cost of planning obligations to deliver infrastructure, then the likelihood is that these sites will be non-effective. This is evidenced by the Westfield allocation for 550 homes. Refer to the supporting statement Non-Effectiveness of Westfield.

If the preferred approach is to succeed, the Council's community regeneration strategy needs to secure significant funds from the public sector and for the public sector to take the lead role in the process. Market housing in these tertiary locations cannot sustain a housing led regeneration strategy.

Question 13

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to community regeneration in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 14

Do you have any other alternative approaches?

What are they and how would you make them work?

No comment.

Main Issue 3: Housing Growth, Delivery and Sustainable Housing Locations (paragraphs 3.35 - 3.63)

How much new housing is required in West Lothian?

Where should new housing development take place, and where should it not be encouraged?

How can the risks associated with the existing development strategy as set out in the *West Lothian Local Plan* be reduced?

How can the rate of house building in West Lothian be increased to ensure that the required five year effective housing land supply is achieved and that the assessed housing need and demand is met in full over the plan period?

Preferred Strategy

The council's preferred strategy is scenario 3 to provide for more housing than the minimum required by the supplementary guidance required to support the SDP and the LDP should allocate housing land for an additional 3,500 houses above existing committed development. This would result in a level of development beyond requirements set out in the housing supplementary guidance to support the SDP. However, this scenario is only preferred if the council can be satisfied that the infrastructure required to support this scale of development can be delivered in full and also in recognition that it is not anticipated that this increased allowance will be delivered by 2024 but is there to allow for the delivery of development into the period 2024-2032.

This recognises that the strategy in the existing adopted local plan is reliant to some extent on a limited number of large, complex sites with high infrastructure costs being brought forward. It is now considered that a range of smaller housing sites, in various locations across West Lothian, is needed in order to provide for greater choice and effectiveness of sites, introduce local flexibility for the LDP and to ensure that a generous housing land supply is available, providing as a minimum, an effective five year housing land supply at all times, as required by SPP.

There is also a need to sustain the momentum built up in some of the existing large housing growth areas and make sure that these developments are viable going forward. Modest additional allocations in some of these areas will provide a degree of future proofing of the plan and help meet part of the need and demand for housing beyond the end of the plan period. Much of the existing housing land supply in core development areas and elsewhere will not be built out within the plan period and allocating additional housing sites in these areas through the LDP will help to maintain investor confidence and inform investment planning.

The allocation required by the draft supplementary guidance prepared by SESplan of 2,130 new houses beyond existing allocations of 22,847 units provides for a total of 24,977 units over the period 2012-2024.

By contrast, the preferred strategy proposes 26,347 houses which provides 3,500 houses above the base supply houses which is an increase of around 15% above the base supply.

This scale of housing allocation will reduce the risk of the LDP development strategy not being successful and is justified on the basis of:

- the need to maintain a five year supply of effective housing land at all times as required by Scottish Government planning policy;
- the need to ensure that there is a generous supply of housing land to accommodate the needs and demands of those seeking a house in West Lothian;
- the need to maintain West Lothian's attractiveness as an area which provides a range and choice of housing sites for those wishing to invest;
- linking the council's Economic Strategy to that of the housing market by providing a range and choice of house types suitable to indigenous and inward investors and the construction industry;
- providing for future affordable housing build programmes;
- continuing to redevelop appropriate brownfield sites;
- allowing the WLLP core development allocations and the strategic allocation at Heartlands, Whitburn to deliver over the long term whilst achieving the five year effective supply through the allocation of predominantly small to medium sized sites where requirements for infrastructure to assist delivery are less onerous on developers;
- allocating above 3,500 will generate the need for a 4th new secondary school which will be expensive to deliver in addition to existing infrastructure commitments;
- replacing allocations in the adopted *West Lothian Local Plan* which may no longer be supported by the site owners or due to reasons of development viability; and
- recognising that as the LDP progresses some housing sites may be delayed or may no longer come forward for a variety of reasons including unexpected development viability.

The preferred strategy is based around an aspiration for growth aimed at delivering sustainable economic prosperity and quality of life for communities in West Lothian and in particular building on the existing significant core development area allocations and strategic sites and will provide a broader range of housing sites.

Alternative Strategy 1

Alternative Strategy 1 reflects scenario 2 set out above and proposes that the LDP should allocate housing land for an additional 2,600 houses, above existing committed development. This would result in a level of development beyond SDP requirements set out in the draft supplementary guidance.

This proposes allocating land for 25,447 houses i.e. 2,600 houses above existing commitments to provide a housing land supply which is around 1.4% more than SDP requirements. This alternative strategy 1 is a variation on the preferred strategy but with a smaller increase in housing allocations above the minimum requirement in the SDP. Whilst Alternative Strategy 1 will provide more choice than Alternative Strategy 2 (see below) there is a risk that the housing supply will not be regarded as sufficiently generous and that an effective five year housing land supply will not be available at all times because existing large sites are taking longer to get underway and build out. This could mean that other sites not allocated for development could be promoted for development and receive planning permission contrary to the development plan. Where the five year land supply is not maintained this could leave the council open to planning by appeal.

Alternative Strategy 2

Alternative Strategy 2 reflects scenario 1 set out above and proposes that the LDP allocates housing land for an additional 2,130 houses above existing committed development. This would result in the requirement set out in the draft supplementary guidance being met but would not allow for any flexibility. A total of 24,977 houses, i.e. 2,130 houses above existing commitments, as required by the supplementary guidance for the SDP but with no flexibility allowance for additional development. This strategy represents a view that West Lothian should grow more slowly.

Whilst this alternative strategy may have certain attractions in terms of minimising impact on the environment and the need for additional infrastructure, it may mean that an effective five year housing land supply is not maintained at all times and could lead to relative economic decline whereby neighbouring authorities supporting higher growth scenarios, are better placed to take advantage of a potential economic upturn and recovery. Where the five year land supply is not maintained this could leave the council open to planning by appeal.

All of these reasons require to be balanced against the need to secure sustainable well located development, protect important environmental assets and landscapes of West Lothian and to have regard to impacts on existing communities and existing and future infrastructure requirements which are likely to arise. This will allow the LDP to focus on improving the quality of our existing established communities, facilities and environment as opposed to being negative in terms of other authorities benefitting from an upturn and the issue of planning by appeal and review a potential increase in housing numbers in the next LDP if economic recovery has indeed taken place in the first plan period.

Question 15

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' strategy for housing growth in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports a development strategy in West Lothian which complies with SESplan and the requirements of Scottish Ministers. As it stands, the Preferred Strategy does not comply with SESplan and the requirements of Scottish Ministers for the following reasons. 1. the Council has not adopted a housing land requirement which includes a generosity allowance as set out in SPP. 2. the Council has not yet demonstrated that the updated housing land requirement will be met in full to 2019 and to 2024 as required by SESplan. 3. the Council has not demonstrated that a 5 year effective housing land supply will be maintained at all times at the date of adoption of the LDP.

The Council must liaise with Homes for Scotland to establish the completions expected from proposed allocations as well as the effective housing land supply from 2014 to 2024. Refer to the supporting statement Assessment of the Housing Land Supply explaining the steps to comply with SESplan and SPP.

Question 16

Do you agree with 'Alternative Strategy 1' for housing growth in West Lothian?

If so, why?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

See Question 15 and supporting statement Assessment of the Housing Land Supply for clarification.

Question 17

Do you agree with 'Alternative Strategy 2' for housing growth in West Lothian? If so, why?

See Question 15 and supporting statement Assessment of the Housing Land Supply for clarification.

Question 18

Do you have another alternative strategy?

What is it and how would you make it work?

Wallace Land proposes modifications to the Preferred Strategy in order to ensure that it complies with the requirements of SESplan and Scottish Ministers.

Evidence supporting these modifications is set out in the supporting statement Assessment of the Housing Land Supply produced by Geddes Consulting.

Question 19

How can the council maintain an effective five year housing land supply given the current economic climate?

Wallace Land proposes that the Council takes the following actions:

1. engage with the house building sector through Homes for Scotland in order to clarify the rate of house building from sites in the established housing land supply; 2. engage with the house building sector to agree and identify flexible operational solutions to provide necessary infrastructure, especially for education; 3. ensure that the emerging policy framework for the LDP supports the requirements of SESplan Policy 7 and the requirements of Scottish Ministers; 4. ensure proposed allocations are effective, meeting the expectations of SESplan and the Scottish Ministers.

Preferred and alternative options for housing sites, including potential de-allocations from the *West Lothian Local Plan* (paragraphs 3.64 – 3.73)

Preferred Option

The council's preferred option is that some housing sites allocated in the adopted *West Lothian Local Plan* and identified in Housing Land Audit 2012 are not included in the LDP. Details of sites are set out in the Settlement Statements accompanying the MIR.

Alternative Option

The council's alternative option is that all housing sites allocated in the adopted *West Lothian Local Plan* and identified in Housing Land Audit 2012 be included in the LDP.

Question 20

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' option for the removal of existing housing allocations from the development plan?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

It is the responsibility of those promoting any development interest in existing allocations to demonstrate that their proposals remain effective. If effectiveness, in accord with Scottish Ministers' requirements as set out in PAN 2/2010, cannot be demonstrated then it is the Council's responsibility to determine whether these sites can remain part of the Council's development strategy.

As an example, refer to the supporting statement Non-Effectiveness of Westfield.

The Council should continue to adopt the most recent housing land audit agreed with Homes for Scotland as confirmation of the effective housing land supply.

Question 21

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' option' for the removal of existing housing allocations from the development plan?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 22

Do you have any other alternative options?
What are they and how would you make them work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Preferred Approach to the Core Development Areas

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the core development areas is to continue to support their delivery and allow for further longer term allocations at Winchburgh.

Alternative Approach to the Core Development Areas

The council's 'Alternative' approach is not to allow for any further development beyond that set out in approved master plans and the *West Lothian Local Plan*.

Question 23

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to the core development areas?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The Council has not demonstrated that the existing Core Development Areas can deliver the increased scale of house building proposed in the MIR to 2024. The Council needs to engage with the house building sector through Homes for Scotland to reach agreement on the scale and rate of house completions likely to be delivered over the plan period. In accord with para. 56 of PAN 2/2010, it is only the output from the portion of site that can deliver within the plan period that is considered to be effective.

Allocating more land at Winchburgh doesn't help to increase the rate of house building or viability of the development. It only increases the length of the development period and is contrary to SESplan para. 91. Further allocations in the CDAs cannot contribute towards the housing land requirement up to 2024. Refer to the supporting paper Proposed Development Strategy for Core Development Areas.

Question 24

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to the core development areas?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The Council has not demonstrated that the existing allocations at the CDAs can deliver the required number of homes in the period to 2024 as set out in the MIR. Therefore, the Council should focus on identifying a range of sites effective in the short term that can deliver completions within the plan period, rather than allocating more land to CDAs and extending the development programme of the CDAs beyond 2032.

Wallace Land is promoting effective housing land at Burghmuir, Linlithgow (EOI-0103), Pumpherston Farm (EOI-0035) and Wellhead Farm, Livingston (EOI-0051/EOI-0055). These sites will contribute the effective housing land supply in the short term if allocated. Development Framework Reports and Statements of Site Effectiveness have been prepared in support of the allocation of these sites in the Proposed Plan.

Question 25

Do you have any other alternative options?

What are they and how would you make them work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Preferred Approach to Heartlands, Whitburn

The council's 'Preferred' approach to Heartlands, Whitburn is to look favourably on proposals for additional housing within the existing housing allocation, subject to infrastructure constraints being resolved.

Alternative Approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach is that the number of houses at "Heartlands" be restricted to 2,000.

Question 26

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to Heartlands, Whitburn?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The Council needs to engage with the house building sector through Homes for Scotland to reach agreement on the scale and rate of house completions likely to be delivered over the plan period. In accord with para. 56 of PAN 2/2010, it is only the output from the portion of site that can deliver within the plan period that is considered to be effective within that period.

Allocating more land at Heartlands doesn't help to increase the rate of house building or viability of the development in the period 2024. It only increases the length of the development period. Refer to the supporting paper Proposed Development Strategy for Core Development Areas.

Question 27

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to Heartlands?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The Council has not demonstrated that the existing allocation at Heartlands can deliver the required number of homes in the period to 2024 as set out in the MIR. Therefore, the Council should focus on identifying a range of sites effective in the short term that can deliver completions within the plan period, rather than allocating more land at Heartlands and extending the development programme beyond 2024.

Wallace Land is promoting effective housing land at Burghmuir, Linlithgow (EOI-0103), Pumpherston Farm (EOI-0035) and Wellhead Farm, Livingston (EOI-0051/EOI-0055). These sites will contribute the effective housing land supply in the short term if allocated. Development Framework Reports and Statements of Site Effectiveness have been prepared in support of the allocation of these sites in the Proposed Plan.

Question 28

Do you have any other alternative options?

What are they and how would you make them work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to Linlithgow is that the "area of restraint" be re-considered to allow for greenfield release of housing, employment and potential tourist related development. Should the area of restraint be removed, any development would be dependent upon the delivery of a new secondary school at Winchburgh and therefore would be focussed principally in latter plan period. Any land release would follow a sequential approach as set out in paragraph 3.93

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to Linlithgow is that the "area of restraint" approach be maintained and that development be directed to brownfield opportunities within the existing settlement boundary in the first instance and thereafter greenfield release within the town.

Question 29

Should the definition of Linlithgow as an 'area of restraint' be removed, and if so, how should the town be developed in the future?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports the removal of the 'area of restraint' from Linlithgow. This is required to allow the LDP to comply with SESplan.

Wallace Land has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the environmental, infrastructure and transport capacity of Linlithgow. The overwhelming conclusion reached on this evidence is that substantial expansion needs to be on the eastern edge of the town.

Refer to supporting statement Development Strategy for Linlithgow.

Should a sequential approach be applied to the release of land in and around Linlithgow to accommodate any new development?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The preferred approach to land releases should be related to available infrastructure capacity. The Council's preferred approach identifies preferred sites within the catchment areas of Low Port, Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge primary schools where there is no education infrastructure capacity available to support these allocations. Furthermore, these locations are also likely to increase vehicle trips into the town centre, exacerbating congestion and worsening town centre air quality. The preferred approach should firstly focus on areas where there is available education capacity and road network capacity. This is in accord with SESplan para. 90. The only primary school with capacity is Springfield Primary School as confirmed in MIR para. 3.88.

Wallace Land is promoting 600 homes in a sustainable location at Burghmuir. This is within the catchment area of Springfield Primary and only this proposal can deliver the M9 slips needed to relieve High Street congestion.

Question 30

What alternatives are available in order to meet demand for housing (including affordable housing) and employment land opportunities in Linlithgow?

Wallace Land has set out an alternative development strategy which delivers an effective housing land supply and the necessary infrastructure improvements to accommodate the scale of development proposed in the MIR.

Refer to supporting statement Development Strategy for Linlithgow as well as the Development Framework Reports for Burghmuir and Burghmuir A together with respective Statements of Site Effectiveness.

Question 31

Should land continue to be safeguarded for west facing slip roads on the M9 at Junction 3, Linlithgow? If so, should new development be promoted in Linlithgow to ensure that funding for these can be secured?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land agrees that land should continue to be safeguarded for the west facing slip roads onto the M9 at Junction 3, Linlithgow. This is in accord with SESplan Action Programme and SESplan Policy 9a. The provision of these slip roads is important in relieving town centre congestion and improving air quality. Wallace Land is promoting the allocation of around 600 homes in a sustainable location at Burghmuir. Allocation of this proposal enables the delivery the west facing slips onto the M9 at Junction 3.

Refer to the supporting statement Delivery of M9 Slip Roads.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the Deans South estate, Livingston, is that the area be identified for comprehensive redevelopment for approximately 300 new houses.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to the Deans South estate, Livingston, is that the LDP should not identify the area for comprehensive redevelopment for approximately 300 new houses.

Question 32

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach for addressing the Deans South estate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No comment.

Question 33

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach for addressing the Deans South estate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 34

Do you have any other alternative approaches?

What are these and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to affordable housing is to review the terms of the current affordable housing policy and set this out in supplementary guidance.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to affordable housing is to continue to implement existing policy.

Question 35

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to affordable housing? If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

MIR para. 108 states that there ...is a particular problem in Linlithgow with a lack of affordable housing. Demand in Livingston is also high. To assist in addressing this, the Council is considering increasing the affordable housing contributions for developments within Linlithgow and Livingston.

Delivery of affordable housing in Linlithgow has been restricted because of the Council's area of restraint policy. This has artificially constrained the delivery of new market and consequently affordable homes. Removal of the area of restraint policy in Linlithgow will enable the delivery of new market housing which is essential for the delivery of affordable homes. This is in accord with the Council's Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017 which identifies Linlithgow as a Priority 1 location for the delivery of affordable homes.

Question 36

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to affordable housing? If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The continuing implementation of the existing policy framework is in accord with the requirements of SESplan and the Scottish Ministers.

Wallace Land is promoting effective housing land at Burghmuir, Linlithgow (EOI-0103), Pumpherston (EOI-0035), Wellhead Farm, Livingston (EOI-0051/EOI-0055). These sites will contribute the effective housing land supply. Allocation of these effective sites in sustainable locations will assist the Council in meeting affordable housing target in the short term.

Question 37

Do you have any other alternative approaches? What are they and how would you make them work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Main Issue 4: Infrastructure Requirements and Delivery

How can we ensure that new development in West Lothian makes best use of existing infrastructure?

How can we make sure that the cost of providing new infrastructure needed to support new development does not fall unduly on the tax payer?

How can we ensure that developer contribution costs are affordable and do not make the development of sites unviable?

Infrastructure requirements and delivery – providing for community needs: education, healthcare and sports facilities

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to infrastructure provision, in particular education provision, is to promote additional growth which can for the most part utilise existing infrastructure capacity, and minimise additional significant new infrastructure requirements over and above existing planned upgrades and requirements. Developer contributions will continue to be sought, the basis for which will be set out in a combination of generic and specific supplementary guidance. The council's preferred approach to infrastructure delivery is supported by Policy 9 of the SDP. The preferred approach is also to further develop funding mechanisms and supplementary guidance to assist in delivery.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to infrastructure provision is not to promote growth particularly that which would require substantial investment in new infrastructure given the current limited ability of the development industry to deliver up-front funding for infrastructure projects. Such an approach, however, is unrealistic and contrary to national planning policy.

Question 38

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to infrastructure provision? If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land agrees that the Council should promote growth which can utilise existing infrastructure capacity, and minimise additional significant new infrastructure requirements over and above existing planned upgrades and requirements. Wallace Land supports a development strategy that allocates effective housing land in areas where there is existing infrastructure capacity or can be augmented. The Council should work in partnership with the house building sector to remove any identified infrastructure constraints, in accord with the requirements of Scottish Ministers set out in NPF3 (para. 2.19).

Wallace Land is promoting land at Burghmuir, Linlithgow; Wellhead Farm, Livingston; and Pumpherstons. In all of these locations there is infrastructure capacity available or can be augmented to support the scale of growth being promoted. Refer to supporting Development Framework Reports for details of these proposals.

Question 39

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to infrastructure provision?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 40

Do you have any other alternative approaches?

What are they and how would you make them work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 41

How can the level of infrastructure required to support the scale of development proposed be delivered?

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land is willing to support provision of necessary infrastructure through financial payments secured through planning obligations that accord with the provisions of Circular 3/2012.

Wallace Land is promoting land at Burghmuir, Linlithgow; Wellhead Farm, Livingston; and Pumpherston. In all of these locations there is infrastructure capacity available or can be augmented to support the scale of growth being promoted. Refer to supporting Development Framework Reports for details of these proposals and the delivery of infrastructure.

Infrastructure – transport and access in and around West Lothian (paragraphs 3.132 – 3.159)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to promoting access to/from/within West Lothian is to address outstanding constraints in the strategic and local road network which are essential to accommodate community growth and in particular economic and housing growth and tackle existing traffic issues whilst promoting sustainable transport measures on an incremental basis in conjunction with new development, and as resources allow. Within this, the preferred approach is to promote development on or very near to existing public transport facilities or where there is potential for new facilities. This approach will help to sustain and improve services which in turn will become more attractive alternatives to the private car.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to promoting access to/from/within West Lothian is to shift emphasis away from addressing road network issues to focus exclusively on sustainable transport measures, however, this is not considered a reasonable alternative given the commitment to strategic road improvements through NPF2, the SDP and the need to accommodate existing committed development across West Lothian.

Given physical, policy and resource constraints, it is not considered that there are any other reasonable alternatives to the preferred approach.

Question 42

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to promoting access to/from/within West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports the preferred approach which addresses outstanding constraints in the strategic and local road network.

Infrastructure improvements are essential to accommodate community growth and in particular economic and housing growth. Wallace Land agrees that resolving existing traffic issues whilst promoting new development is the way forward.

For example, Wallace Land is promoting effective housing land at Burghmuir, Linlithgow (EOI-0103) for 600 homes. This proposal will deliver the urgently needed west facing slip roads at Junction 3 of the M9. This will provide an alternative east-west route relieving congestion from Linlithgow town centre, and subsequently improving air quality. The delivery of these slip roads is an action required in SESplan's approved Action Programme and in accord with SESplan Policy 9a. Refer to supporting statement Delivery of M9 Slip Roads.

Question 43

Do you agree that the council should continue to work towards the provision of a new rail station at Winchburgh?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 44

Do you have any other alternative approaches?
What are they and how would you make them work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Main Issue 5: **Town Centres and Retailing** (paragraphs 3.160 – 3.171)

What do we need to do to promote and sustain our traditional town centres in West Lothian and consolidate the sub-regional centre at Almondvale, Livingston?

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to town centre retail provision in West Lothian is to:

- sustain and improve town centres by applying the sequential approach to proposals for retail and leisure development;
- reduce leakage from some areas in accordance with the council's Retail Capacity Study;
- facilitate the creation of a new town centre in Winchburgh;
- safeguard existing and promote new local neighbourhood centres: and
- bring about village and town centre improvements by highlighting development opportunities, supporting the development of brownfield sites, implementing improvements through the capital plan and, where appropriate, securing developer contributions.

The preferred approach includes removing retail policy restrictions currently in place in Bathgate and Linlithgow town centres to allow for a broader range of uses which will support the take up of empty units. In addition, initiatives to support and promote development above shops will be encouraged, subject to availability of infrastructure and to the operation of existing business premises not being unduly prejudiced.

Alternative approach

The 'Alternative' approach is to:

- sustain and improve town centres by applying the sequential approach to proposals for retail and leisure development;
- reduce leakage from some areas in accordance with the council's Retail Capacity Study;
- facilitate the creation of a new town centre in Winchburgh;
- safeguard existing and promote new local neighbourhood centres: and
- bring about village and town centre improvements by highlighting development opportunities, supporting the development of brownfield sites, implementing improvements through the capital plan and, where appropriate, securing developer contributions.

This approach excludes removing current retail policy restrictions in place in Bathgate and Linlithgow town centres.

Question 45

Do you agree that the 'Preferred' approach to town centres and retail provision in West Lothian is appropriate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No comment.

Question 46

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to town centres and retail provision in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No comment.

Question 47

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No comment.

Main Issue 6: The Natural and Historic Environment (paragraphs 3.172 – 3.213)

How can planning policy promote sustainable patterns of development to protect our valued landscapes, built and cultural heritage and create a green network across West Lothian?

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the West Lothian natural environment is to direct development to appropriate brownfield sites within settlements in the first instance but also to bring forward the release of greenfield sites in sustainable locations where there are no alternatives in order to meet strategic requirements. When considering greenfield release the council will have regard to the LLDR and other relevant factors, particularly sustainability but also issues of townscape and settlement coalescence. This may allow for some release of new development sites on the edge of settlements, thereby maximising use of existing infrastructure, whilst protecting visual amenity and the biodiversity value of the countryside and preventing coalescence of settlements.

In some instances it may be necessary to extend countryside and landscape designations to protect the purposes for which the land was designated be it landscape value, landscape character and landscape enhancement, buffers to coalescence of settlements, protection of prime quality agricultural land and historic gardens and designed landscapes in West Lothian.

Alternative approach

The 'Alternative' approach to the West Lothian natural environment and landscapes is to focus less on brownfield land and allow parts of designated areas to be released for housing or employment development.

Question 48

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to the natural environment in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land agrees with the principle of directing development to appropriate brownfield sites within settlements in the first instance. Given the scale of the housing shortfall it is necessary to release greenfield sites in sustainable locations - refer to Assessment of the Housing Land Supply. Wallace Land does not support the proposal ...to extend countryside and landscape designations to protect the purposes for which the land was designated be it landscape value, landscape character and landscape enhancement, buffers to coalescence of settlements, protection of prime quality agricultural land and historic gardens and designed landscapes in West Lothian. The designations in their own right are sufficient to protect the specific purpose of the designation. Extension of these designations as set out in the preferred option is not in accord with the requirements of SPP para. 196 ...Buffer zones should not be established around areas designated for their natural heritage importance.

Question 49

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to the natural environment in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 50

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Landscape approach and designation (*paragraphs 3.172 - 3.170*)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to landscape designations is to reduce the number of landscape designations in order to reflect the findings of the Local Landscape Designation Review and identify candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLA). Special Landscape Areas will replace AGLVs and Areas of Special Landscape Control. This approach is in accord with best practice and guidance prepared by Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Government.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to landscape designations is to continue with the current approach, relying on existing policies and designations. This would not achieve the goal of updating and simplifying landscape designations in accordance with current best practice and national guidance.

Question 51

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to landscape designations in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land agrees with this approach which is in accord with best practice and guidance prepared by Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Government.

Question 52

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to landscape designations in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 53

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Development in the countryside (paragraphs 3.180 – 3.181)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to housing development in the countryside is to continue to support development in appropriate circumstances for example, sensitive redevelopment of steadings; limited enabling development to secure restoration of historic buildings or structures; and replacement of houses in a habitable condition. Existing Supplementary Guidance will be updated to clarify the circumstances in which development will be permitted, and the design standards expected. The current flexibility in policies on business and tourism development in the countryside will be maintained and it is proposed to carry forward the existing policy on 'very low density rural housing in the countryside' otherwise known as 'lowland crofting' but only in the west of West Lothian.

Alternative approach 1

The council's first 'Alternative' approach to housing development in the countryside is to allow relaxations to current policies, potentially by permitting more redevelopment of rural brownfield land for housing. However, this approach is inherently non-sustainable as it would result in development which is remote from services and could lead to a proliferation of undesirable, sporadic development in the countryside.

Alternative approach 2

The council's second 'Alternative' approach to housing development in the countryside is not to maintain the current policy approach. This would include a review of the current 'lowland crofting' policy.

Question 54

Is the 'Preferred' approach to housing development in the countryside appropriate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land agrees with the preferred approach to housing in the countryside. Wallace Land recommends that further flexibility is provided within the Policy to allow for the release of greenfield land adjacent to settlements in instances where the Council is failing to maintain a 5 year effective housing land supply at all times in accord with SESplan Policy 7 and the requirements of Scottish Ministers.

Question 55

Do you agree with any of the 'Alternative' approaches to housing development in the countryside?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 56

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land recommends that further flexibility is provided within the Policy to allow for the release of greenfield land adjacent to settlements in instances where the Council is failing to maintain a 5 year effective housing land supply at all times.

[Business, tourism and recreational uses in the countryside \(paragraph 3.182\)](#)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to business, tourism and recreational uses in the countryside is to generally continue with the current policy approach set out in existing supplementary guidance.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to business, tourism and recreational uses in the countryside is to allow relaxations to current policies. However, this approach could lead to a proliferation of undesirable development in the countryside.

Question 57

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to business, tourism and recreational uses in the countryside?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 58

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to business, tourism and recreational uses in the countryside?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 59

Do you have an alternative approach?
What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The Council should adopt an approach that accords with the requirements of Scottish Ministers set out in SPP and the Tourism Development Framework for Scotland.

Green Networks, and extension to Pentland Hills Regional Park (*paragraphs 3.183 – 3.189*)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the green network is to define the part of CSGN in West Lothian as a network of multi-functional green corridors focussing on the existing network. This would build on the existing initiatives extending the network into the rural hinterland to connect with adjacent local authorities existing and emerging networks, and penetrating into urban areas, linking with the council's Open Space Strategy and Core Paths Plan.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to the green network is to maintain the existing green spaces in their present form, with a clear urban fringe focus. This would continue to prioritise resources closest to the places people live and work, but would fail to capture the wider focus of the CSGN to link existing and new green spaces into wider multi-functional green networks.

Question 60

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to the green network in West Lothian?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports the preferred approach to the green network.

Question 61

Does the proposed West Lothian wide green network capture the best strategic opportunities or are there any missing links?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 62

Do you have any suggestions for a green network across West Lothian?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 63

Do you have any suggestions for a green network across West Lothian?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 64

Do you have an alternative approach? What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 65

What are your views on the proposed extension to the Pentland Hills Regional Park in West Lothian?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity (*paragraphs 3.190 – 3.197*)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to biodiversity and geodiversity sites is to review and update the existing list of locally designated sites (Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites RIGS) and to protect and promote improvements to them through Supplementary Guidance where appropriate. Policy protection for carbon-rich soils will be reinforced.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to biodiversity and geodiversity sites would be not to promote Supplementary Guidance, but simply to map local sites within the LDP as at present. Whilst this might give the sites more prominence within the LDP, the process would be less functional.

Question 66

Do you have any general or specific issues with the proposed list of Local Biodiversity Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 67

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to Biodiversity and Geodiversity in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No comments.

Question 68

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to Biodiversity and Geodiversity in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No comments.

Question 69

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

West Lothian Open Space Strategy 2005-2015 (paragraph 3.198)

Question 70

Do you have any views on what should be considered for the second Open Space Strategy for 2015/16?

Why should these be considered?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the historic environment is to review the current range of policies related to the historic environment, updating where necessary to reflect changes in legislation, and to prepare supplementary guidance to protect and promote built heritage assets and to consider designating conservation areas at Abercorn village and Hopetoun Estate. In addition, conservation area appraisals of all conservation areas will be progressed where resources allow.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to the historic environment is to maintain the current approach to the historic environment and not to promote a conservation area at Abercorn village and Hopetoun Estate.

Question 71

Is the 'Preferred' approach to the historic environment in West Lothian appropriate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 72

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to the Historic Environment in West Lothian?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 73

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to Bangour Village Hospital site is to support at least 550 houses at the site, with the precise number of houses being agreed through detailed assessment of a master plan and other supporting information. Delivery of the site will be allied to the delivery of the infrastructure required to support the development whilst having regard to the built and natural environmental sensitivities of the site.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach is that housing development at the Bangour Village Hospital site should be restricted to 500 units.

Question 74

Is the 'Preferred' approach to Bangour Village Hospital appropriate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 75

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to Bangour Village Hospital?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 76

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the former Bangour General Hospital site is to assess development proposals against development in the countryside policies in the LDP.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to the Bangour General Hospital site is to maintain the policy presumption in favour of development as set out in the *West Lothian Local Plan*.

Question 77

Is the 'Preferred' approach to Bangour General Hospital appropriate?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 78

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to Bangour General Hospital?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 79

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to the Union Canal is to promote its tourism and recreational potential and to allow for sympathetic ancillary development at the most appropriate locations along its length, having regard as to how this best fits with the wider strategy being developed by Scottish Canals for the whole waterway and in consultation with other neighbouring local authorities.

The canal also has potential to be used as a means of sustainable transport, both for leisure and commercial purposes, and it is important that opportunities to enhance local use, access and bio-diversity are maximised.

Securing the long term maintenance of this important historic structure is also paramount and it is concluded that this is best achieved by ensuring that it is well used and has as diverse a range of functions as practicable.

The rural setting of the section of the Union Canal between Winchburgh and Broxburn should continue to be protected as countryside belt or as a candidate special Landscape Designation Area as identified in the draft Local Landscape Designation Review.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to the Union Canal is that no development, on or directly abutting it, and particularly in the countryside between Broxburn and Winchburgh, should be permitted. This is considered necessary in order to maintain the established setting of the Union Canal and to conserve its historic fabric. The only concession would be for necessary maintenance or for works to improve the canal and public access to it.

Question 80

Is the 'Preferred' approach to the Union Canal appropriate?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 81

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to the Union Canal?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comment.

Question 82

Do you have an alternative approach?
What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comment.

Public Art (paragraph 3.213)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to public art is to continue to seek developer contributions appropriate to the scale and type of development and to review supplementary guidance.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to public art is to cease requiring developer contributions for public art or to limit the circumstances under which contributions are required.

Question 83

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to public art?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

The Council's preferred approach continues to require developer contributions for public art. These requirements place additional financial burdens on the cost of development and do not comply with all of the tests set out in Circular 3/2012. For example, the requirement is not necessary to make a development acceptable in land use planning terms.

Question 84

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to public art?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Wallace Land supports the 'Alternative' approach which is to cease requiring developer contributions for public art for the reasons set out in response to Question 84.

Question 85

Do you have an alternative approach?
What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Main Issue 7: **Climate Change and Renewable Energy** (paragraphs 3.214 - 3.225)

How can future patterns of development in West Lothian increase climate resilience and contribute towards meeting Scottish Government targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing renewable energy?

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach for renewable energy is to retain the supportive policy framework for renewable energy developments, extending it to all low carbon energy technologies and implement the terms of supplementary guidance for wind energy developments.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach for renewable energy is to retain the current criteria-based wind energy policy, without the support of a spatial framework. This is not considered to provide the necessary guidance for landowners or the industry, as required by Scottish Government and would not be in accordance with current best practice, Scottish Planning Policy and guidance.

Question 86

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to renewable energy?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Question 87

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to renewable energy?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Question 88

Do you have an alternative approach?
What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Flood risk and management (*paragraphs 3.226 – 3.229*)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to flood risk is to maintain and update existing policies and supplementary guidance on flood risk, taking account of legislative requirements and emerging Scottish Government guidance, including the RBMP as appropriate.

Alternative approach

The council's 'Alternative' approach to flood risk is to go beyond requirements and identify and protect areas of land for natural flood management as this will be a consideration in the new management plans.

Question 89

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to flood risk appropriate?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No comments.

Question 90

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to flood risk?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Question 91

Do you have an alternative approach?
What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Air quality and noise (*paragraphs 3.230 – 3.232*)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach to air quality is to maintain and update existing policies on air quality, taking account of legislative requirements and any emerging Scottish Government guidance.

Alternative approach

There are no reasonable alternatives to the preferred approach.

Question 92

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to air quality appropriate?
If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

Urgent mitigation through the delivery of the west facing slips at Junction 3 of the M9 is necessary to relieve traffic congestion in Linlithgow High Street, and with it address the impending designation of a Local Air Quality Management Area. Refer to supporting statement Delivery of M9 Slip Roads.

Wallace Land's proposal for allocation of 600 homes at Burghmuir will deliver these slip roads, in accordance with the requirements of SESplan Action Programme and SESplan Policy 9a.

Question 93

Do you have an alternative approach?
What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?
No additional comments.

Main Issue 8: Minerals and Waste (paragraphs 3.233 – 3.246)

How can planning policy promote and ensure sustainable approaches to waste management and mineral resources in West Lothian?

Minerals (paragraphs 3.233 - 3.242)

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach towards mineral extraction is to continue to implement the policy approach set out in the SDP and the adopted WLLP. The policy approach set out in these will however, be reviewed to take account of the guidance contained within SPP. This may be pursued through supplementary planning guidance.

Alternative approach

The council's alternative approach towards mineral extraction is to take a more liberal approach to opencast coal and hard rock extraction by widening the opencast coal "broad areas of search" and identifying the whole of West Lothian as an area of search for other minerals to be extracted, subject to environmental and residential amenity considerations and constraints, by identifying these areas and appropriate buffers beyond which the search for minerals could take place.

Question 94

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to mineral extraction?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 95

Do you agree with the 'Alternative' approach to mineral extraction?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 96

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Preferred approach

The council's 'Preferred' approach towards waste management is to support the objectives of the Zero Waste Plan, to accommodate new provision through extensions to existing recycling facilities, or in other suitable areas and to provide a policy framework which supports the development of these facilities.

Alternative approach

The council has not identified a reasonable alternative approach to the preferred approach.

Question 97

Do you agree with the 'Preferred' approach to waste management?

If not, why not?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Question 98

Do you have an alternative approach?

What is it and how would you make it work?

YES NO Don't know

Do you have any additional comments?

No additional comments.

Additional information

Extra page for additional information you want to give on question(s). Please state the question number text refers to.

Wallace Land submits the following documents in support of the representations set out above:

*Non-effectiveness of Westfield
Assessment of the Housing Land Supply
Proposed Development Strategy for Core Development Areas*

*Pumpherstons Development Framework Report - Phase 1
Pumpherstons Development Framework Report - Phase 2
Pumpherstons Statement of Site Effectiveness for Phase 1*

*Wellhead Farm, Livingston Development Framework Report - Phase 1
Wellhead Farm, Livingston Development Framework Report - Phase 2
Wellhead Farm, Livingston Development Framework Report - Phase 3
Statement of Site Effectiveness for Wellhead Farm, Livingston for Phase 1 and Phase 2
Joint Development Framework at Linhouse*

*Burghmuir, Linlithgow Development Framework Report
Burghmuir A, Linlithgow Development Framework Report
Statement of Site Effectiveness for Burghmuir and Burghmuir A
Development Strategy for Linlithgow
Delivery of M9 Slip Roads*

Additional information

Extra page for additional information you want to give on question(s). Please state the question number text refers to.

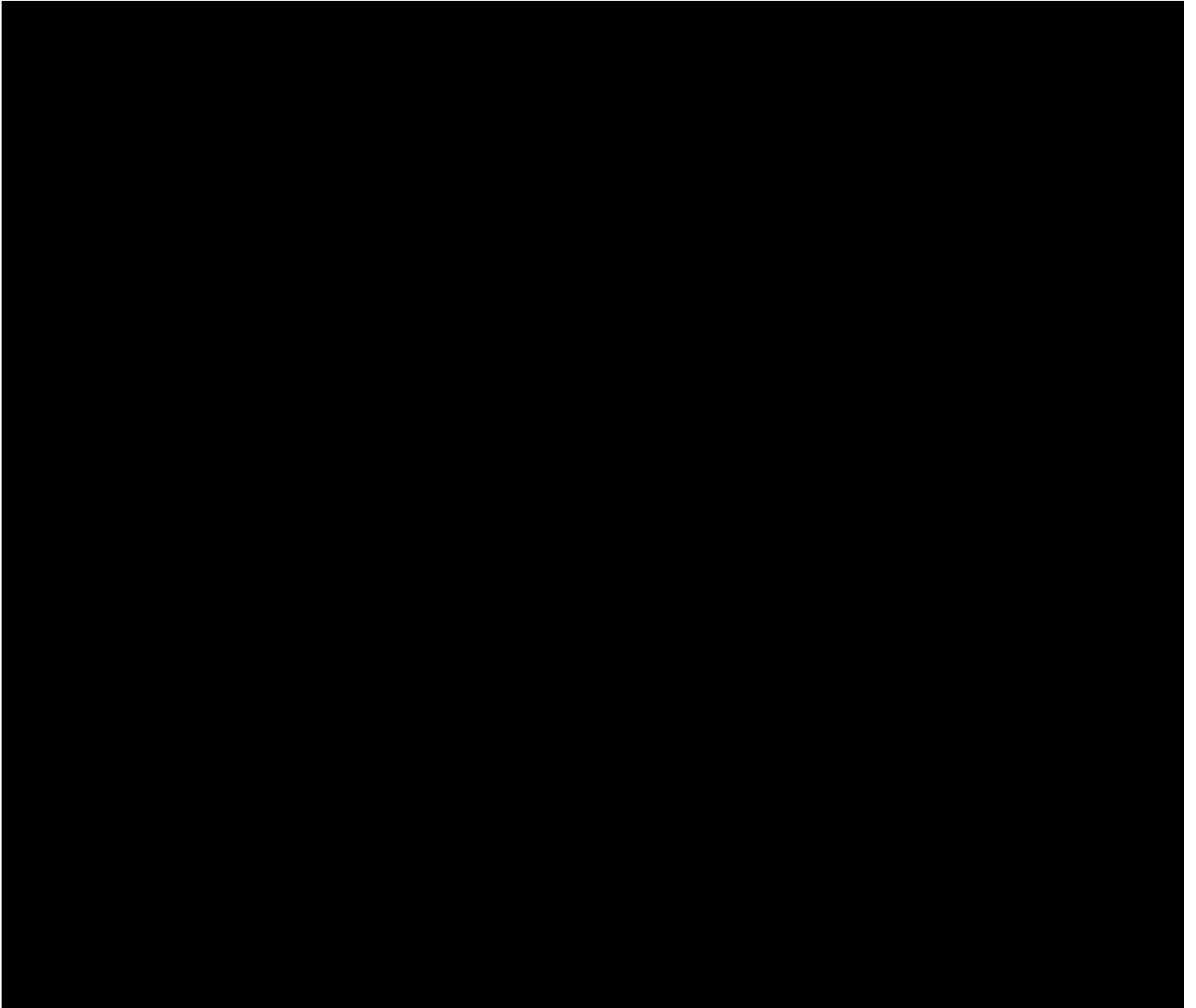
Comments on the MIR package – other documents

Should you wish to make any comments on the *Environmental Report* (SEA) or any of the background papers prepared in support of the MIR please use the template below, giving details of the relevant document(s) along with your comments.

Document name	Page number	Paragraph number	Comments
<i>Housing Background Paper</i>			<i>See supporting document - Assessment of the Housing Land Supply</i>
<i>Environmental Report</i>	398		<i>See Development Framework Report - Wellhead Farm</i>
<i>Environmental Report</i>	587		<i>See Development Framework Report - Pumpherston</i>
<i>Environmental Report</i>	603		<i>See Development Framework Report - Burghmuir</i>

WEST Lothian Local Development Plan Main Issues Report – Equalities opportunities questionnaire

We ask that you complete the following Equal Opportunities Questionnaire in order that we can build an accurate picture of the make-up and diversity of the people and groups that our policies impact on, and to ensure that the way in which we carry out our consultation is inclusive and not unwittingly discriminatory. If you are responding to this consultation, it would be helpful if you could complete the following questions.



Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire