

**Highland wide Local Development Plan - Main Issues Report  
Consultation Summary and Actions Sheet**

Reference Number:	<b>HWLDP-MIR-288</b>
Organisation/Individual:	Gordon Menzies

**Action:**

Immediate Response Required	
Meeting required with Respondent	
Issue for Area Local Development Plan	
Further Information Required	
Other (Please Specify)	

*If no box ticked - issues raised will be dealt with in preparation of the Proposed Plan.*

**Issues Raised in Response:**

Purpose of Main Issues Report	
NPF2 for Scotland	
Vision for the Highlands	x
Inverness and A96	
The A96 Corridor	
Phasing of Development	
Developer Contributions	
East Inverness	
Nairn	
Tornagrain	
Smaller Settlements in A96	
Caithness and North Sutherland	
Easter Ross and Nigg	
Development of Local Centres	
Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas	
Population and Housing	
Housing in the Countryside	
Affordable Housing	
Planning for an Ageing Population	
Gypsies/Travellers	
Retailing	
Developer Contributions	
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	

Previously used Land	
Wild Land	
Water Environment	
Renewable Energy	
Flooding	
Waste Management	
Air Quality	
Sustainable Design	
Business and Industrial Land	
Accessibility and Transport	
Agricultural Land	
Subdivision of Existing Crofts	
Allocation of Inbye Land	
New Crofting Township	
Small Scale New Crofts	
Coastal Development	
Forestry and Woodland	
Minerals	
Open Space and Physical Activity	
Access to the Outdoors	
Comments on Consultation Process (+ve)	
Comments on Consultation Process (-ve)	

**Key:**

Background	Spatial Strategy	Policy Options	Consultation
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**Notes:**

<p>Infrastructure needs to be fully considered Realistic vision needs to be formulated</p>
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Action Sheet Completed by:	SH
Date:	14/12/09

**Dawn Sutherland**

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**From:** Simon Hindson on behalf of devplans  
**Sent:** 01 December 2009 16:11  
**To:** Dawn Sutherland  
**Subject:** FW: Highland Wide local development Plan

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** 01 December 2009 14:48  
**To:** devplans  
**Subject:** Highland Wide local development Plan

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Hello,

Please find attached my comments on the above.

Many thanks

Gordon Menzies  
J.R.G. Menzies  
Temple Pier  
Drumnadrochit

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This email has been scanned by Netintelligence  
<http://www.netintelligence.com/email>

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Temple Pier  
Drumnadrochit  
Inverness-shire  
IV63 6XR.

30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Director of Planning and Development  
The Highland Council  
Inverness  
IV3 5BR.

Dear Sir,

**Highland Wide Local Development Plan.**

**3. The Vision for the Highlands.**

*"By 2030, the Highlands will be one of Europe's leading regions."*

This claim is totally at odds with the heading "The Vision for the Highlands" so quite why it is made I cannot fathom. I can only assume that whoever wrote it lives in "Alice in Wonderland".

Aspirations are one thing, the real world is quite another. Dubai is a classic example, but the difference is we do not have an oil rich neighbour to bail us out!

Throughout this document and others relating thereto we see all the "magical words" poured out "ad nauseum", sustainability, safeguarding, environment, economy, opportunities, yet the one thing on which any level of success will be achieved is the availability of employment. Without this, building new towns and expanding existing urban areas will not be viable. There are only so many more jobs an already bloated Council can provide!

I visited the presentation made for the Tornagrain development at Petty Church Hall and when I asked where exactly employment was to come from, the glib reply was - that if you bring in people of the right calibre, jobs will follow, "cloud cuckoo land!"

In the last 50 years we have seen the loss of  
The Foyers Aluminium Works  
The Invergordon Smelter  
The Ardersier Yard  
The Nigg Yard  
The Millburn Distillery  
The Wiggins Teape Plant  
The Brora Tweed Mill  
Strathaird Salmon.      To name just a few.

Incoming employers  
Inverness Medical  
Nexfor Wood Processing.      Not a promising return to balance.

Throughout the UK we have seen manufacturing and other jobs go overseas to countries with a lower cost base so the likelihood of bringing significant, if any, job opportunities to the Highlands and add to GDP is very small indeed given the current economic climate.

This does not necessarily mean we in the Highlands should despair but it is time Highland Council and its officials returned to the real world and started to sort out the basic infrastructure, such as our road, rail, air and possibly maritime links to the rest of the country.

We do not even have one dual carriageway out of the Highlands to the rest of the country so until this very basic requirement has been resolved bringing tens of thousands more people into Inverness and the surrounding areas will exacerbate already ever increasing problems with an infrastructure which is simply not now fit for purpose.

Planning decisions are made with barely lip service being paid to the other very basic services required by human settlements – water and sewage. I am well aware that provision of these is not the responsibility of Scottish Council planners at present but until there is a change in this policy and the provision of them with a timescale and cost becomes an essential part of any residential development we will continue to see both water supplies and sewage system being unable to cope with the pressures being put upon them to the significant detriment of the natural environment.

It is important that the current proposals for major developments, particularly along the A96, are subjected to long hard scrutiny and indeed the breathing space which the current economic situation has brought about by slowing down the previous unbridled dash for growth must be used to develop a planning system which is fit for purpose.

This document and its overblown hyperbole does little to convince me that Highland Council and its planning officials, aided and abetted by similar documents from the Scottish Government, really know what they are doing.

By all means have outline plans for the future, provided they consider their overall effect on the environment - flooding , pollution, inadequate water supplies, flow of transport, etc., so that many of the present problems which afflict Inverness and its surrounding areas, all too often caused by inept planning decisions are not repeated.

Progress should not be measured by the size of the areas which have been covered in bricks, mortar and tar.

Without a sensible "vision" the rest of the document and the others to which it alludes are simply "pie in the sky".

Yours faithfully,

J.R.G. Menzies