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## Issue 01: Vision

### 1. Schedule 4

### 2. Representations

Amelia Walker (931321)

David Doohan (980228)

Jacqueline Ridgley (930800)

Kenneth Nicol (977530)

London and Scottish Investments Limited (979770)

Mountaineering Council Of Scotland (964649)

RSPB Scotland (956544)

Scotia Homes Ltd (909099)

Scrabster Harbour Trust (980302)

SNH (909933)

SSE Plc (983775)

### 3. Relevant Council's Supporting Documents

CD12: Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance, Nov 2016

CD18: Highland-wide Local Development Plan, Apr 2012

CD20: Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement

<b>Issue 1</b>	<b>VISION</b>	
<b>Development plan reference:</b>	Vision page 1	<b>Reporter:</b>
<b>Body or person(s) submitting a representation raising the issue (including reference number):</b>		
Amelia Walker (931321) David Doohan (980228) Jacqueline Ridgley (930800) Kenneth Nicol (977530) London and Scottish Investments Limited (979770) Mountaineering Council Of Scotland (964649) RSPB Scotland (956544) Scotia Homes Ltd (909099) Scrabster Harbour Trust (980302) SNH (909933) SSE Plc (983775)		
<b>Provision of the development plan to which the issue relates:</b>	Vision text and Outcomes	
<b>Planning authority's summary of the representation(s):</b>		
<p><b>Vision General</b>  <u>Scotia Homes Ltd (909099), London and Scottish Investments Limited (979770), David Doohan (980228), Amelia Walker (931321)</u>  Supports the vision.</p> <p><u>Kenneth Nicol (977530), Jacqueline Ridgley (930800)</u>  There should be a statement to increase the attractiveness of the area as a place to live, work and invest.</p> <p><u>SSE Plc (983775)</u>  The vision should give recognition that onshore wind energy development within Caithness is a significant land use and contributor to the local economy. The relationship between the development of renewable energy and in particular onshore wind, employment and climate change, would benefit from recognition.</p> <p><b>Growing Communities Outcome</b>  <u>RSPB Scotland (956544)</u>  Supports the outcome but "sustainable" should include consideration of the natural environment as well as economic and social factors. The protection and enhancement of natural resources should be specifically referred to in the Plan's Vision.</p> <p><b>Employment Outcome</b>  <u>RSPB Scotland (956544)</u>  The protection and enhancement of biodiversity should be an integral part of economic</p>		

development in Caithness and Sutherland. Wildlife tourism should be included. RSPB Scotland seeks modifications to the Vision as follows: The addition of “wildlife” to the “Employment” part of the Vision, so that it ends with “...and a tourist industry that combines wildlife, culture, history and adventure”.

Mountaineering Council Of Scotland (964649)

"... an internationally renowned centre for renewable energy" should read, "for marine renewable energy" since onshore wind and hydro development is short-term construction activity which does not produce the local technological intellectual capital needed to create profitable exporting enterprises. The final sentence should be amended to, "... a tourist industry that combines culture, history, scenic landscapes and adventure." Scenic landscapes are a major factor in visits to the area.

Scrabster Harbour Trust (980302)

Oil and gas sector should be specifically mentioned in the vision as activity west of Shetland and on the Atlantic Frontier is increasing. Caithness, through its ports and developed engineering supply chain, is already supporting this increase and there is further opportunity for this sector to grow. Companies have plans for West of Shetland that extend beyond the next forty years and the plan should acknowledge this opportunity.

**Environment and Heritage Outcome**

SNH (909933)

Supports the outcome. Welcomes recognition of the unique natural environment and its contribution to the success of communities in the plan area.

RSPB Scotland (956544)

The addition of “and enhanced” at the end of the “Environment and Heritage” part of the Vision, so that it reads “High quality places where the outstanding environment and natural, built and cultural heritage is celebrated and valued assets are safeguarded and enhanced.”

**Modifications sought by those submitting representations:**

**Vision General**

Kenneth Nicol (977530), Jacqueline Ridgley (930800)

Amend vision to include a statement to increase the attractiveness of the area as a place to live, work and invest.

SSE Plc (983775)

Amend vision to state that in Caithness onshore wind energy development is a significant land use and contributor to the local economy.

**Growing Communities Outcome**

RSPB Scotland (956544)

Include consideration of the natural environment.

**Employment Outcome**

RSPB Scotland (956544)

The addition of “wildlife” to the “Employment” part of the Vision, so that it ends with “...and a tourist industry that combines wildlife, culture, history and adventure”.

Mountaineering Council Of Scotland (964649)

Amend outcome to read, “an internationally renowned centre for marine renewable energy”.

Final sentence amended to, "... a tourist industry that combines culture, history, scenic landscapes and adventure."

Scrabster Harbour Trust (980302)

Specifically mention the oil and gas sector.

**Environment and Heritage Outcome**

RSPB Scotland (956544)

The addition of “and enhanced” at the end of the outcome.

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

The four outcomes reflect the priorities identified in the Community Planning Partnership’s Single Outcome Agreement (CD20). All four outcomes must be read together and alongside the rest of the Plan. It is acknowledged that the outcomes are high level, but this is intentional and therefore not everything is specified and listed. Having been distilled from various partner and community planning priorities during the plan preparation, the outcomes reflect a shared view of what any development or investment should help to achieve for the Caithness and Sutherland area. The subsequent chapters of the plan show how the plan will address these outcomes.

**Vision General**

The general support for the vision from some of the representees is noted.

The Council feels that the combination of the four Outcomes and in particular the Growing Communities Outcome generally covers the idea of making Caithness and Sutherland an attractive area to live, work and invest. No modification is proposed by the Council.

Paragraph 51 in the Employment section refers to renewable energy delivering economic benefits for the area and the Council feels that this is sufficient recognition of the role of onshore wind energy development in the plan area, without the need to add a more explicit reference to this and other key sectors in the four outcomes/vision. CaSPlan needs to be read alongside the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) (CD18) and the Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (CD12).. The plan must be read as a whole and in particular the outcomes must be read with the strategy map. No modification is proposed by the Council.

**Growing Communities Outcome**

The Council acknowledges that the RSPB feel that “sustainable” should include consideration of the natural environment. However the Environment and Heritage Outcome

clearly refers to the outstanding environment and that valued assets in the natural environment should be celebrated and safeguarded. The four outcomes need to be read together and are not intended to be stand alone. It should also be noted that CaSPlan needs to be read alongside the HwLDP (CD18) which contains Policy 28 Sustainable Design which is relevant to all development proposals. No modification is proposed by the Council.

### **Employment Outcome**

The word “sustainable” was added to this outcome following comments received at MIR stage.

The environment and heritage outcome already states that the natural environment should be celebrated and valued assets safeguarded. Wildlife tourism is not mentioned per se but the Council does accept that wildlife tourism is a key part of the area’s tourism ‘offer’. Therefore if the Reporter is so minded to add wildlife to the end of the outcome after “adventure”, the Council would be agreeable to this.

The Council does not feel that it is appropriate to narrow the reference to renewable energy to just marine renewables at this high and over-arching level. In terms of adding “scenic landscape” in the final sentence, the environment and heritage outcome refers to the outstanding natural environment which is celebrated and safeguarded. No modification is proposed by the Council.

The outcomes are designed to be overarching and to be read alongside the strategy map and the rest of the plan. Within the Employment section of the plan, in paragraph 64, there is acknowledgment that the plan supports employment-generating uses like offshore industries and encourages growth of the area’s ports and harbours. The Council feels that this includes the oil and gas sector and does not feel it is necessary to provide an explicit reference within the outcome. No modification is proposed by the Council.

### **Environment and Heritage Outcome**

The support from SNH is noted.

Paragraph 13 bullet point 1 refers to protecting and enhancing the unique natural environment and the Council feels that this is the most appropriate place to have this, rather than in the environment and heritage outcome. During the plan making process the Council has discussed the wording of the outcomes with SNH and they are supportive of the outcome as it currently reads. No modification is proposed by the Council.

### **Reporter’s conclusions:**

### **Reporter’s recommendations:**

