

**Inner Moray Firth  
Proposed Local Development Plan**



# Equalities Impact Assessment

**November 2013**

**An Samhain 2013**

## Measadh Buaidh Co-ionannachd

**Linne Mhoireibh A-staigh  
Plana Leasachadh Ionadail air a Mholadh airson**

# Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan

**Service**

Planning and Development

**Person Responsible**

Hilary Wilkinson

**Created**

Monday 2nd September, 2013

**Last Review**

Monday 2nd September, 2013

**Status**

Screened

**Next Review**

Tuesday 2nd September, 2014

## Screening Data

1. Please give the title/description of the policy. The word "policy" will be used throughout as shorthand for policy, service, function or proposal.

The Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (IMFLDP) is the first of three new area Local Development Plans that, along with the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP and Supplementary Guidance, will form the Highland Council's 'Development Plan' and guide all future development in Highland. Following on from the 'Call for Sites' and the 'Main Issues Report' the Proposed Plan is the third stage in the plan preparation process. An EqlA screening was carried out at the Main Issues stage of the plan and an EqlA screening was also carried out for the HwLDP. The scope of this screening the publication of the Proposed Plan and the use of the online representation form.

The Proposed Plan takes into account the earlier consultation exercises and there is opportunity for anyone to submit representations on it. The Proposed Plan and representation process is a statutory process in line with The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, Planning Regulations and Planning Circular 1 2009: Development Planning. The Council's stated preferred method for people to submit representations will be via an online form through 'Wufoo'. Wufoo is a web application which enables the construction of an online form for the collection and monitoring of information. The Proposed Plan will be advertised in newspaper(s) that circulate in the plan area. This will take the form of a press advert. Additionally a press release that explains the process to the public will be issued to media and placed on the Council's website. Both the advert and press release will refer to further information available on The Highland Council website. There will be a guide for filling in the form online and there will also be guidance for other formats of submission available.

2. Name of the person carrying out the screening

Hilary Wilkinson

3. Date of screening

4. What are the aims and objectives of the policy?

The IMFLDP will be a land use plan providing location and type of development used to give certainty to where development should and should not occur over the next 10-20years. The Proposed Plan was drawn up following consideration of the many comments received from the public and other interested parties and organisations on the Main Issues Report published in April 2012. Significant changes to the proposals have been made following the consideration of the representations received and additional information has been added for all of the retained sites to provide certainty to both the community and the development industry.

It is intended that the Proposed Plan and online representation form will allow a variety of contributions from a wide range of the population local to the region. To make sure that all equality groups are encouraged to take part we will be where possible contacting these groups directly to actively encourage them to become involved in the process. The publication of the Proposed Plan allows anyone to make a representation and the issues raised in representations will be considered by the Council and if necessary by an independent Reporter before the Plan is finalised.

5. Which parts of the public sector duty is the policy relevant to? Refer to guidance if necessary.

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, Harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

6. Is the policy relevant to equality groups? The protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 are listed below. Socio-economic status, homelessness and Human Rights are also included. Please tick if there is potential for this policy to affect any of these groups differently? The effect could be positive or negative.

- Age

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Homelessness
- Socioeconomic

7. If you ticked any group in Question 6, is there any evidence of, or potential for, negative impact?

YES

The form is an online form which requires access to a computer and the internet. Those filling in the form would need a basic level of computer literacy and keyboard skills. The form will be in the English language and input to the form will also be required to be in typed English. The Proposed Plan and Guidance for filling in the form will also be in English.

8. Is there evidence that the policy contributes positively to the promotion of equality on any particular group?

YES

The Publication of the Proposed Plan will be publicised in newspaper(s) circulating in the Plan area. The Proposed Plan will be available online and in local libraries and Council service points. The form for comments is an online form and means that it can be filled in at any time and any location. In addition to the process mentioned above the council will be directly contacting groups that represent those with protected characteristics directly to make them aware of the Proposed Plan and how to comment on it. This process enables a wide variety of people to get involved without the need to attend formal events.

9. If there is evidence of, or the possibility of, negative impact, can immediate remedial or mitigating action be taken without the need for a full EQIA?

YES

The Proposed Plan will be made available for viewing at local libraries and at Council service points. Different formats of the Proposed Plan are available on request. In addition to the online representation form there is also the option to get in touch with the Council via email, telephone, post or at a service point to request alternative formats of the form (eg large print) and alternative arrangements for making a representation (eg on a postal form). This means that those that do not have access to a computer or are not computer literate are able to take part. Assistance with filling in the form as well as assistance from the translation service will also be available. This is designed to assist people with physical or learning disabilities as well as those who do not have English as a first language.