

**West Highland & Islands Local Plan  
Examination  
Fort William Hearing Sessions**

**Day 1 (am) – Tuesday 19 January 2010**

**The Alleged Over-Provision of Land Allocated  
for Housing Development in Fort William**

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**Statement by Fort William Waterfront Limited**

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Fort William Waterfront Limited (FWWL) will be represented at the hearing by:

- Charlie Barbour, Development Manager, (FWWL); and
- Brian Muir MRTPI FRSA, Partner, Muir Smith Evans.

There are no additional documents to which FWWL wishes to refer, other than those already notified to the Reporter by other parties.

**Statement**

- 1 FWWL notes the statement prepared by The Highland Council in response to the questions set out by the Reporter.
- 2 FWWL's principal objective, as the council's selected partner for the development of Fort William Waterfront, is the regeneration of Fort William as a whole to the economic and social benefit of the town and the surrounding area.
- 3 Within this context, the waterfront development itself is envisaged as a mixed-use area, extending the town centre and refreshing the viability and vitality of the area. The waterfront development aims to provide a variety and choice of housing not currently available in the area.
- 4 It is therefore the position of FWWL that, regardless of the Reporter's eventual findings under this topic heading, there should be no reduction in the quantum of residential development associated with the proposed waterfront scheme (approximately 300 homes).
- 5 In addition to this, FWWL also supports the council's position on the wider general supply of housing land. It is clear, in relation to guidance from the Scottish Government, that housing land supply allocations may appropriately take a more aspirational approach to the future of a settlement or an area, rather than defaulting to the "predict and provide" approach of the past. In particular, FWWL would associate itself with the terms of paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of the council's statement.

- 6 FWWL has nothing more to add under the specific subject headings set out by the Reporter.

### **Conclusion**

FWWL considers it to be very important that the proposed mixed-use regeneration scheme at Fort William Waterfront incorporates within it a significant residential element.

Accordingly, whatever the Reporter's conclusions in relation to this topic heading, FWWL requests that there should be no reduction in the scale of residential development envisaged within the waterfront area.