

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights
Alex Neil MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Councillor Lawrence O'Neill
7 Heather Avenue
CLYDEBANK
Dunbartonshire
G81 6LH



Our ref: 2015/0029208
10 December 2015

Lawrence O'Neill

West Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan (LDP)

Thank you for your letter of 21 August that provided further information following our meeting on 6 August 2015. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. My officials have been giving careful consideration to the information and considering next steps to address these unique circumstances.

Notwithstanding the positive meeting we had in August, the information set out in your letter of 21 August does not provide sufficient ground for reconsideration of the position leading to the Ministerial Direction of 2 June. As such, I confirm the Direction is maintained at present.

Your letter refers to the changing housing need and demand context and that recent assessments are more realistic. This is immaterial to the current situation as the LDP is to be consistent with the current Strategic Development Plan (SDP), namely the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (May 2012) and the housing requirements set out within it. Your letter also highlights West Dunbartonshire Council's support for brownfield development. However, the letter only refers to an agreement to invest and gives an indication of bringing sites to the market. Neither of these demonstrates the delivery of additional units over the short term or a material change in the position of the effectiveness of housing supply.

To move the situation forward, the Council may wish to consider whether further specific or detailed evidence can be provided that supports the withdrawal of the Ministerial Direction. If further information is available, please provide this to Carrie Thomson at carrie.thomson@gov.scot by Friday 15 January. On receipt of the information, consideration

will then be given to whether there is a need for any further processes to inform a decision on the Direction.

I trust this provides an agreeable way forward to resolving this matter.



ALEX NEIL