

E: developmentplans@gov.scot

Tim Stott
Principal Planning Officer
Highland Council

By email: tim.stott@highland.gov.uk

Our ref: A48458725
21st May 2024

Dear Tim,

**Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
Notice of Intention to Adopt – Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (as modified)**

I refer to your correspondence of 28th March 2024, regarding Highland Council's intention to adopt the proposed Inner Moray Firth Development Plan 2 (as modified).

Scottish Ministers have decided that the proposed plan as notified is unsatisfactory and hereby direct, under section 20(5) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997¹, that Highland Council consider modifying the proposed Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 as indicated in the Annex to this Direction.

This Direction is considered necessary to provide a development plan context for the potential use of Masterplan Consent Areas for housing to support growth ambitions for the area.

Section 20(6)¹ provides (subject to any further direction under section 20) that your authority may not adopt the Inner Moray Firth LDP2 unless you satisfy Scottish Ministers that you have made the modifications necessary to conform with this direction, or the Scottish Ministers withdraw it.

I would be grateful if you would therefore confirm that your authority will modify the plan.

Yours sincerely

Ruairidh Anderson
Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division

¹ Section 20 is continued in effect to enable the constitution of local development plans in respect of which notice of the proposed local development plan was published in a local newspaper in accordance with regulation 12(2)(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008(1) before 12 February 2023 by regulation 4 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 12 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/10).

ANNEX

Table of modifications

Reference	Modification	Reason for modification
Paragraph 45 on page 40	Add the words in bold 'The Council will also consider creating Masterplan Consent Areas for key ports and other strategically important sites, including for housing , to help assist the industry by streamlining the planning process'.	To provide a development plan context for the potential use of Masterplan Consent Areas for housing to support growth ambitions for the area.