

# BISHOPTON ACTION GROUP

c/o "Kilallan", Sachelcourt Avenue, Bishopton, PA7 5AA

National Planning Framework Team  
The Scottish Government Directorate of the Built Environment  
Victoria Quay  
Leith  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

14 April 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Response to National Planning Framework 2 Consultation

We request that any statement in National Planning Framework 2 regarding Bishopton should be accurate and should accurately reflect the reporter's findings and recommendations stated in the Examination in Public report. Our reasons for this request are as follows:

1. In the previous National Planning Framework (NPF) document published in 2004 the entry regarding Bishopton was as follows:

*"Good transport connections make Gartcosh and Bishopton the preferred locations for long-term expansion to the east and west of Glasgow"*

Through Freedom of Information we have established that there was no justification for the use of the word "**preferred**" as according to the letter (dated 23/05/2006) from JE Swanney, Planning Division at the Scottish Government. The purpose of the statement was merely to reflect the identification of Bishopton as one of two strategic locations with long term potential for development in Strategic Policy 2 of the approved Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan 2000. However it did not accurately reflect the Structure Plan, since Strategic Policy 2 stated that "*Planning Authorities will **assess the potential** of the following areas (Schedule 2 and key Diagram) for strategic environmental renewal and the development of housing, business and industrial uses*". There is quite a semantic shift between the two statements. Therefore the statement in the National Planning Framework does not merely reflect "*the identification of Bishopton as one of two strategic locations with Long Term Potential for Development in Strategic Policy 2*" as detailed in the letter from the Scottish Government, it states a preference for development at Bishopton, although no assessment had taken place.

From the Examination in Public (EiP) in 2007 we have also established that the transport connections at Bishopton cannot be described as 'good' since during peak hours the trains are overcrowded and the motorway is also very congested. To provide 'good' transport connections would require massive investment by the

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Scottish Government and there is no commitment to provide these funds at present.

This inaccurate statement in the NPF 1 was used by structure plan and local authority officials to add weight to their case for designating Bishopton as a community growth area. It was also used by the developers to support their application for a development of 2500 houses at Bishopton. This statement may also have influenced the councillors who voted to designate Bishopton as a CGA. We therefore request that any statement in NPF 2 regarding Bishopton should be accurate in order that our elected representatives can base their decisions on information which is factually correct.

2. The current draft of the NPF 2 document states:  
*"Bishopton as a community growth area on the west side of the city has been the subject of an examination in public."*

However now that the result of the EiP is known we request that any statement in the NPF 2 regarding Bishopton should accurately reflect the reporter's findings and recommendations. Inaccurate or inadequate statements may lead those who have not read the full EIP report to have unrealistic expectations regarding development of a community growth area at Bishopton.

The Reporter's comments regarding remediation and transport, and recommended changes to the Structure Plan Alteration 2006 will have serious implications for any proposed development at Bishopton ROF. Therefore it is important that the NPF 2 accurately reflects the Reporter's findings and recommendations.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Sowersby

Vice Chair Bishopton Action Group

On behalf of Bishopton Action Group