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Date: 15 April 2008
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Freepost RRHE-GBSA-BJLR
National Planning Framework Team
Scottish Government
Planning Directorate
Area 2-H
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir or Madam,

National Planning Framework 2: Discussion Document

On behalf of East Renfrewshire Council I thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the draft of NPF2. In general the Council supports the contents of NPF2. It improves upon the original NPF as a Policy document and makes clearer the National priorities for spatial planning and development. The emphasis placed on sustainable economic growth, in particular, is welcomed. However, there are certain issues that this Council considers should have been more adequately addressed in NPF2 and these are discussed below.

This Council endorses the comments submitted by the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan in relation to the need for a more strategic approach to the transport infrastructure, particularly a sustainable transport solution that would provide better rail integration between Glasgow and the rest of Scotland. This would release capacity in Glasgow's metropolitan rail network and help address the severe congestion on the M8 corridor.

While NPF2 does discuss the issue of severe shortages of affordable housing in certain areas, including East Renfrewshire, this Council would like to have seen more guidance to Local Authorities and developers on how this pressing issue can be resolved, particularly in areas where not only demand but land values are high. While this matter is being addressed to a certain extent through the revision of SPP3 – "Planning for Housing" and the consultation on "Firm Foundations", urgent action is required to move constraints to the delivery of affordable housing.