



# Renfrewshire Local Development Plan

## Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance (2015)

December 2015



Renfrewshire  
Council



*Aerial view of Spatston, Johnstone South West*

## Introduction

The Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (LDP) is in two parts; the LDP document and New Development Supplementary Guidance (SG). Together these documents set out the overall spatial strategy for Renfrewshire, with key policies, proposals and guidance.

The LDP sets out the strategy, priorities and principles for development in Renfrewshire and the detailed development framework and criteria is contained within supplementary guidance.

Both the local development plan and supplementary guidance outline what developers need to do in designing, delivering and implementing development, with an emphasis on sustainable development and place making.

\*Effective Housing Land Supply – The part of the established land supply which is free or expected to be free of development constraints in the period under consideration, and therefore be available for the construction of housing.

## Purpose of the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance

Scottish Planning Policy requires Councils to identify a generous supply of land to meet the housing land requirements within the context of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and Renfrewshire Local Housing Strategy (LHS).

The Renfrewshire LDP is required to allocate a range of sites for housing which are effective or expected to become effective\* to meet the housing land requirements up to 10 years beyond the predicted year of the plan adoption, ensuring a minimum of 5 years effective land supply at all times.

The LDP identifies a housing land supply that focuses on brownfield land to meet the majority of the housing land requirements along with a small number of green belt release sites to help stimulate supply in the short term.

In Examining the Renfrewshire LDP, the Reporter concluded that there was a shortfall in housing land in Renfrewshire. The LDP did not identify sufficient land to meet the housing need and demand.

## Scottish Government Reporter's Recommendation

To address the potential shortfall in housing land supply, the Reporter recommended that the Council prepare Supplementary Guidance (SG), within 1 year of the adoption of the LDP. The SG is to include a detailed framework to guide the release of additional housing land where a 5-year supply of effective housing land is not being maintained.

The Council is required to monitor and review that guidance annually in light of changing circumstances. The Council are then to grant planning permission in accordance with the detailed guidance, provided that:

- The site is shown to be effective and can be delivered to address the identified shortfall;
- It will not undermine the spatial strategy of the plan; and,
- Its design would comply with the criteria for implementing the spatial strategy in the local development plan and the Council's New Development SG.

## **Role of Supplementary Guidance**

In line with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the role of this Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance is to provide further information or detail in respect of the policies and/or guidance already set out in the Adopted Renfrewshire LDP and New Development Supplementary Guidance.

In this respect it is considered that identifying or allocating additional housing sites or providing locational preferences in the SG is not appropriate. Renfrewshire Council consider that this detail would be inconsistent with the conclusions and recommendations of the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government. This is because the reporter indicated the potential impact of finding sufficient land could affect the spatial strategy of the plan and have significant effect on the environment. The reporter also considered it would be contrary to Scottish Government policy and advise to require identification and allocation of probably contentious housing sites without the scrutiny of an examination.

## **Preparation of the Supplementary Guidance Framework**

In the preparation of the SG along with the early review of the Adopted Renfrewshire Local Development Plan to address the shortfall in housing land supply, the Council undertook an additional Suggestion for Land Use Change exercise. This helped to gauge developer interest in relation to investing in Renfrewshire.

Following the Suggestions for Land Use Change exercise, Renfrewshire Council have had discussions with all parties that made representations to the exercise. Each party has been given feedback on submission and an indication as to whether a site could come forward in the short term or medium term or that it does not fit with the overall spatial strategy, policies or guidance framework for Renfrewshire. This approach is considered to provide a more appropriate way forward with dialogue and conversation, resulting in a better understanding of opportunities and issues in Renfrewshire rather than to simply suggesting sites in the supplementary guidance.

In this regard, the Renfrewshire Housing Land Supply SG sets out the framework for how the Council will consider planning applications for housing on sites not allocated in the adopted Renfrewshire LDP, in circumstances where the 5 year effective land supply is not being maintained.

## **Housing Land Requirement**

Renfrewshire's 5 year effective land supply is monitored and reviewed on an annual basis through the preparation of the Housing Land Audit (HLA). The HLA will be the monitoring mechanism to gauge the need to release further land to meet the housing land requirements. On this basis the Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance will require to be reviewed annually and updated where required, ensuring any shortfall in the housing land supply is identified in the HLA that the SG addresses this and the detailed framework is refreshed where necessary.

**The Housing Land Audit 2015 indicates that there is currently a shortfall of 755 private sector units.**

Year	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
<b>Housing Supply Target</b>	745	632	632	632	632
<b>Agreed Programming Of Current Housing Sites</b>	462	492	556	498	510
<b>Shortfall</b>	283	140	76	134	122



*Housing at Bishopton*

## **Delivery of existing sites in the Established Land Supply / Housing Action Programme Sites**

Renfrewshire Council is committed to utilising a variety of enabling mechanisms and innovative approaches to support the delivery of housing on stalled or more complex or challenging sites.

Almost all of these housing sites, which are in the established housing land supply, are previously developed sites in existing residential areas. Many of these sites are vacant and/or derelict and are only challenging due to the nature of the economy and not due to significant constraints.

This SG therefore includes the methods that the Council will use to make the sites in the established housing land supply and the identified housing action programme sites effective and deliverable.

## **Regeneration of Previously Developed Land**

The Renfrewshire LDP Spatial Strategy supports investment which helps to regenerate, create and enhance communities and places, providing high quality new developments in the right locations.

The regeneration of previously developed land, in line with Scottish Planning Policy, the National Planning Framework, the Strategic Development Plan as well as all of Renfrewshire Council's plans, policies and strategies, has made a significant contribution to the number of residential units built over the last 20 years in Renfrewshire.

Renfrewshire Council expect to see a continuation of this trend, particularly given the amount of brownfield land available for development within Renfrewshire.

The Council's however recognise that despite the strong commitment and priority given over to brownfield sites, a process is required that would allow greenfield sites to be identified within the context of the Council's strategic regeneration priorities.

## **Partnership Working**

The Council see an opportunity to proactively work with others with a flexible and enabling approach to remove constraints/barriers. As such the council will continue to actively engage with Homes for Scotland and the wider development industry on a site by site basis, to find appropriate solutions to development constraints.

## **Housing Action Programme Sites**

The Housing Action Programme Sites were identified in the LDP as being an integral part of the housing land supply. The Council is aiming to enable the implementation of development on these sites by assessing the infrastructure that would be required as part of site implementation works, as well as looking at staggering capital receipts on land owned by the Council on the basis of a licence agreement or an agreed payment structure and disposal of sites at nil value. Each site will require a different method of support or facilitation.

## **Renfrewshire Local Development Plan – Action Programme**

The LDP Action Programme sets out how the objectives, strategy and policies within the LDP can be successfully implemented and delivered along with various actions and partnerships that can support and achieve successful implementation.

There are 10 actions within the Places Strategy section which specifically refer to how Renfrewshire Council along with partners and stakeholders will progress actions to make more housing sites effective.

## **Development Briefs**

The Council is also committed to enabling and supporting many of the housing development sites that have not been successfully delivered over the years.

The Council have started this process by identifying areas where there have been a number of smaller vacant and derelict sites within or on the edge of our town centres, where planning consent for housing has been given and the sites have stalled.

Development briefs are being prepared outlining a vision of how collectively regenerating an area together with various parties and landowners, that that this could make sites more viable, available and therefore more effective. The Council is to develop, implement and roll out this approach in various locations throughout Renfrewshire.

## **Planning Obligations**

The adopted LDP does not set out any policies on developer contributions. The Council consider this is a proactive approach to encouraging development in the right places where the delivery of development is not reliant on large infrastructure investment.

The Council encourage early discussions with developers and key agencies with an aim of implementing suitable development which will have minimal impact on existing infrastructure, timescales or budgets. Developers are still required to make good any infrastructure deficits associated with any new development.

In considering the implementation of planning obligations associated with existing residential consents, consideration will be given to the use of staged or deferred payments to assist development at a site and generate revenue before paying the full costs of related infrastructure.

## How to use the Supplementary Guidance

All residential developments must be assessed against the policies set out in the LDP and the guidance / criteria within the New Development Supplementary Guidance as well as the framework set out in this Housing Land Supply Supplementary Guidance.

The LDP and New Development SG is also supplemented by a series of non statutory Planning Advice Notes which provide good practice examples in relation to design and place, in particular reference must be made to Renfrewshire's Places Residential Design Guide.

## Framework for the release of further housing land

Each planning application for residential development will be assessed on its merits and in accordance with the following criteria. Additional land release for housing will be supported where it meets the main and other considerations.

### Main Considerations

- Scottish Planning Policy – Sustainability and Placemaking Policy Principles,
- Compliance with the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan – Spatial Development Strategy and indicative compatible development (Diagram 3), Sustainable location assessment (Diagram 4) and Strategy Support Measure 10 – Housing development and local flexibility;
- Renfrewshire Local Development Plan – Spatial Strategy (Implementing the spatial Strategy – page 4), Policy P1 – Renfrewshire's Places, Policy P2 – Housing Land Supply, Policy P7 – Green Network, Policy P8 – Open Space, Policy ENV1 – Green Belt, Policy ENV 2 – Natural Heritage, Policy, ENV 3 – Built Heritage, Policy ENV 4 – The Water Environment, Policy ENV5 – Air Quality, Policy I5 – Flooding and Drainage, Policy I7 – Low Carbon Developments
- Renfrewshire Local Development Plan New Development Supplementary Guidance;
- Renfrewshire's Places Residential Design Guide;

### Other Considerations

- Supporting information to demonstrate the effectiveness of the site and guarantee delivery in the short term (up to 2019) must be submitted with any planning application for residential development;
- Details of the phasing of the development will require to be submitted with any planning application;
- The site must be capable of being substantially built out by 2019. Should development not commence by 2019 the sites will revert back to green belt land designation;
- Compliance with The Scottish Government Planning Advice Note 2/2010 or any superseding advice relating to the assessment of effectiveness is required to be demonstrated;
- Proposed housing sites must create or be contained within robust defensible boundaries and must not set a precedent for subsequent future expansion;
- It must be demonstrated that sufficient infrastructure is available or can be made available by the developer or another party within a timescale that allows for early house completions;

- Proposals for residential development must not be dependent on the prior provision of infrastructure required by existing housing land allocations that do not yet have planning permission or are committed but have not started;
- Scale of the site – This SG does not apply to planning applications for single or small groups of houses (5 or less). The scale should also be such that it can contribute to the short term needs of the housing land supply;
- Development sites should be able to co-exist with existing surrounding uses, having no significant affect on the character and amenity of the surrounding area;
- The use of processing agreements will be used to ensure that the Council deal with planning applications expeditiously, to support the early delivery of housing on sites;



*Ansle Square, Moorpark, Renfrew*

If you would like information in another language or format please ask us.

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੇ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

☎ 0300 300 0144