

SESplan  
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Dear Sirs

**SESPLAN MAIN ISSUES REPORT  
COMMENTS FROM LINLITHGOW CIVIC TRUST**

Linlithgow Civic Trust wishes to state its opposition to Main Issues Report's preferred approach to development in the 'West Lothian Corridor' insofar as it affects Linlithgow. It is noted that the only mention of Linlithgow in the document, on the final page, states that "it is likely that areas of restraint will also continue to be necessary, for example, in and around Linlithgow".

After consulting widely in the town through press publicity, through the Trust's website, and through a well-advertised public meeting, the Linlithgow Civic Trust continues to take the view (as expressed in its objection to the finalised West Lothian Local Plan) that 'restraint' in this context effectively means unceasing 'neglect' of the town of Linlithgow. The restraint policy contained in the currently-adopted Structure Plan has effectively negated the Civic Trust's attempts to advocate much-needed town improvements, financed by strictly controlled expansion of Linlithgow. The Trust's proposals, as set out in the document 'A Vision for Linlithgow 2005-2015' were therefore effectively ignored in the consultation and inquiry process of the West Lothian Local Plan.

The Civic Trust has updated and rigorously revised its 'Vision' for the period 2010-2030, and this is enclosed as background material to support the view that town expansion should regrettably be recognised as inevitable and should therefore be harnessed and carefully controlled so that a proportion of the building land value can be redirected towards the provision of necessary town improvements. It is considered that the so-called 'restraint' policy should be discontinued in its present form, and replaced with a strategic policy which better caters for the needs of Linlithgow.

Linlithgow Civic Trust therefore formally requests that the Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland be amended to:

- 1) remove Linlithgow as an example of places where development restraint is necessary; and
- 2) state that Linlithgow has unique strategic infrastructure needs which may need to be funded through modest housing development (capped at 900 units), undertaken and strictly controlled as part of an action plan for the town.

The Trust looks forward to the positive consideration of its representations as above.

Yours faithfully  
Dian Gorrie  
Secretary, Linlithgow Civic Trust